FORMAT FOR THE SUMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES

(In compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operation Guidelines)

Prepared by: The Ministry of Water and Environment and the

Environment Protection Authority (Yemen)

Prepared for: The World Heritage Committee

Site: Socotra Archipelago UNESCO World Heritage Site (Yemen)

Date Submission: January 2022

Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

1. Executive Summary of the report

The Socotra Archipelago UNESCO World Heritage Site is still at a high level of national priority. Although, the current political unrest in the country weakened the efficiency of government, however the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE), and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) started to rebuild its' capacity in Aden and supported its branches especially in Socotra Governorate.

The EPA headquarter monitors the situation in Socotra and its unique OUVs depending on regular reports submitted by EPA Socotra branch. The EPA aims to maintain communication with international donors and experts currently working on Socotra related to biodiversity conservation.

The current economic crisis affects activities in Yemen, and that applies also to Socotra Archipelago which leads to more pressure on natural resources. The Socotra EPA branch worked closely with local partners and succeeded to put environmental issues as local priority that is not to be linked to political conflict.

During this year, with no government budget allocated for environmental protection, the Government of Yemen has tried to support and facilitate the work of international projects. An example is the ongoing GEF/UNEP project which aims to support the government in biodiversity and Protected areas conservation, monitoring of invasive alien species (strengthened by procedures for monitoring the introduction of invasive species in the port and airport in cooperation with local authorities), and campaigned by several awareness activities in cooperation with local NGOs. Other examples include the work of EPA and the Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with replantation projects such as the Franklinia Boswellia Project and collaboration with the organization Friends of Soqotra. Work continues in restoration of unique biodiversity -especially after the cyclone that hits Socotra- such as the restoration of Mangrove, Frankincense, and Dragon Blood trees in cooperation with local NGOs.

The conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable use of Socotra WHS nature resources remains a top priority to the State Party. With the current political instability, economic crisis and increasing global challenge the Government of Yemen requests UNESCO, neighboring countries especially those support Government of Yemen and international community to work as a team to support the government toward an effective management of Socotra unique OUVs.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Decisions of the WHC for this Property are addressed by the State Party by paragraph in the response matrix (see Annex 1, Table 1).

- 3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State (s) Party (ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.
 - a. Steps towards IAS control was one of the components of the GEF/UNEP programme that worked in cooperation with the local authorities and international organisation (Centre for agriculture and Biosciences International), up to date, invasive species list and distribution was documented (in 2018), potential invasive species and their possible pathways from around Socotra was also identified, and a joint agreement between the project and the agriculture directorate was established to initiate a quarantine at the port that will help to control the invasive species. The project will also work to build the capacity of local partners on how to run the quarantine, work with invasive species, and document its pathways.
 - b. Map is enclosed to this report.
 - c. In 15th September 2021, the Environmental Impact Assessment system based on the environmental law 26/1995 and its bylaws 148 was approved to be implanted in Socotra island and to be applied on all development project, where the formal letter from the Environmental Protection Agency Head quarter (GB/ 2021/153, Dated 15th Dec. 2021) stressed on the commitments toward the international treaties with focus on the UNESCO/ World Heritage UOV of Socotra.
 - d. The population of Socotra increase and the need for constructing new houses and services especially in Hadibu responding to that the Master plans for Hadibu and Qalansia created by previous EU project should be part of Hadibu and Qalansia city planning. However, and despite of the critical political situation of Yemen, the EPA worked closely with all partners including the international alliance in the field of local development. Coordination is continuous to conserve the UOV of Socotra, yet some impact occurred in the national parks or protected areas.o violations against the protected areas decision 275 for year 2000 were recorded. The government aims to revise the zoning plan taking into consideration all the updates and challenges that occurred after the previous plan. The zoning plan will be updated in participation with all stakeholders including local authorities and representatives from local

communities. In addition, specific protected areas management plans will be initiated or updated to handle all the sensitive biodiversity areas and sustain the local use of the natural resources.

4.Reiterates its concern that insufficient information is provided to determine the current state of conservation of the property's OUV:

Although, Socotra Island was deeply studied by international research, and hundreds of publications are available on Socotra in different fields, few of those researchers handed the collected data over to EPA, and much information was lost in political changes in EPA. Relevant documents will be collected, archived, and shared. The EPA is committed to submit all requested reports and activities to UNESCO that will empower EPA and facilitate its work toward the conservation of UOV of Socotra. Information about the current conservation status have been reported in previous state reports, current project reports and existing publications about the main challenges that face biodiversity such as climate change (cyclones impacts), dragon's blood survival and other scientific papers that used to improve conservation management of UOV.

5.Reiterates its utmost concern about the multiple reported threats to the OUV of the property including uncontrolled development, unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change, plastic pollution, lack of sustainable funding and the absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of IAS, and considers that ail these factors represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property:

- Development is taking place as a response to the population expansion of Socotra and the opportunities of further development and enhanced livelihoods. However, most of this development is taking place in and around Hadibu which is a development area. As for plastic pollution still concentrated in the city of Hadibu and partly in Qalansia in the buffer zone the Government represented by Socotra of office of EPA and public work trying their best to manage solid waste with very limited resources. Through the GEF/UNEP project the project team is exploring the opportunities of sustainable funding either by linking the project with further donors, promote a new project, and enhance self-sustainable projects and initiatives at all level such as environmental fees and taxes, ecotourism, and promote the traditional handicraft as touristic souvenirs. In relation to the IAS control, and in addition to the planned quarantine mentioned above, the GEF/UNEP project is preparing the participatory invasive alien species control strategy in cooperation with CABI. This strategy will include early detection programme, trained staff, and quarantine to correctly dispose these invasive species. Other projects such as current Frankincense/Franklinia project deals with environmental conservation.
 - e. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or corridors of other areas, where

such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

See response matrix in Annex 1

f. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party allows public access of the state of conservation report including one page summary and annex to reiterate its commitment to collaboration and transparency and to positively work towards protection of the OUV of the Property.

g. Signature of the Authority

On behalf of the legitimate government of Yemen

Eng. Faisal S. Al thalabi



Chairman of Environmental Protection Authority

Republic of Yemen

30-10-2022

Additional file - Annex 1. Response Matrix to WHC Recommendations (Table 1)

Annex 1- Socotra Archipelago Response Plan to The World Heritage Recommendations (2008 - 2020) Complied and submitted by State Party as Annex to the State of Conservation Report (1 Feb 2022)

Background Information:

Below World Heritage Recommendations for the Socotra Archipelago World Heritage Site since its inscription in 2008. ALL documents and the nomination file for Socotra are available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/

1. 32 COM 8B.5 (2008)

Examination of nomination of natural, mixed and cultural properties to the World Heritage List - Socotra Archipelago (YEMEN)

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Documents WHC-08/32.COM/8B and WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2,
- 2. <u>Inscribes</u> the Socotra Archipelago, Yemen, on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (x)
- 3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Values

Socotra is globally important for biodiversity conservation because of its exceptionally rich and distinct flora and fauna. 37% of Socotra's plant species, 90% of its reptile species and 95% of its land snail species do not occur anywhere else in the world. Socotra is of particular importance to the Horn of Africa's biodiversity hotspot and, as one of the most biodiversity rich and distinct islands in the world, has been termed the "Galápagos of the Indian Ocean".

Criterion (x): Biological diversity and threatened species: Socotra is globally important for biodiversity conservation because of its exceptional level of biodiversity and endemism in many terrestrial and marine groups of organisms. Socotra is particularly important for its diversity of plants and has 825 plant species of which 307 (37%) are endemic. Socotra has high importance for bird species as underlined by the identification by Birdlife International of 22 Important Bird Areas on Socotra. Socotra also supports globally significant populations of other land and sea birds, including a number of threatened species. Extremely high levels of endemism occur in Socotra's reptiles (34 species, 90% endemism) and land snails (96 species, 95% endemism). The marine life of Socotra is also very diverse, with 253 species of reef-building corals, 730 species of coastal fish and 300 species of crab, lobster and shrimp, and well represented in the property's marine areas.

Integrity

The property is of sufficient size to adequately represent all the terrestrial and marine features and processes that are essential for the long-term conservation of the archipelago's rich and distinct biodiversity. The terrestrial nature sanctuaries, national parks and areas of special botanical interest included in the property encompass about 75% of the total land area. They protect all the major vegetation types, areas of high floral and faunal values, and important bird areas. The marine nature sanctuaries included in the property encompass the most important elements of marine biodiversity. The property's integrity is further enhanced by terrestrial and marine buffer zones that are not part of the inscribed property.

Requirements for Protection and Management

All component areas of the property have legal protection; however, there is a need to strengthen the legislative framework, and management and enforcement capacity. Whilst the property's terrestrial and marine habitats are generally still in good condition, management planning needs to deal more effectively with current threats including roading, overgrazing and overharvesting of terrestrial and marine natural resources. Potential future threats include unsustainable tourism and invasive species. Impacts of these threats on Socotra's biodiversity need to be closely monitored and minimized. A sustainable financing strategy is required to ensure the necessary human and financial resources for the long-term management of the

property. Appropriate linkages need to be developed between the management of the property, its buffer zones and the Socotra Biosphere Reserve.

- 4. Commends the State Party for its major efforts for the long-term conservation of the property; and recognises in particular the positive commitments from the State Party as set out in the Government of Yemen's Cabinet Decrees No. 45-49 of 12 February 2008 which relate to the conservation and sustainable development of the Socotra Archipelago;
- 5. Requests the State Party to implement these Decrees as quickly as possible and, in particular, that:
 - a) management planning for the World Heritage property be enhanced to deal more effectively with key threats, in particular ensuring that:
 - i. **future roading works** minimise environmental impacts on biodiversity and where possible are located outside the property;
 - ii. **grazing impacts** on biodiversity are monitored and effective measures taken to reduce environmental impacts from grazing; and
 - iii. **invasive species** are effectively controlled, including **through limiting the entry** of invasive species at ports and the airport;
 - b) a separate **management authority** be established for the World Heritage property which would give priority attention to the conservation of the unique biodiversity of the property. This Authority should have adequate sustained human and financial resources, and enforcement capacity;
 - the **buffer zones** (which are not part of the inscribed property) be managed in a complementary manner to the property, with appropriate linkages developed with the management of the Socotra Biosphere Reserve; and
 - d) a **sustainable financing strategy** be developed for the World Heritage property, which includes ongoing and adequate support from the Government of Yemen and international support from donors and partners;
- 6. Acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the State Party in formulating a **bio safety framework and ratifying the Cartagena Protocol** and encourages the State Party to strengthen such regulations particularly those related to endemic species in Socotra Archipelago to prevent loss of the unique biodiversity;
- 7. Further requests the State Party to invite a **mission** to the property in 2012 to assess progress with the above recommendations and report back to the World Heritage Committee.

2. **37 COM 7B.9 (2013)**

Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

<u>Decision</u>: 37 COM 7B.9 The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 32 COM 8B.5, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the State Party's formal pledge to conservation of the property through reconfirming commitment to the full implementation of the 2008 Cabinet Decrees addressing the various challenges facing the property;
- 4. <u>Notes</u> the challenging period the State Party is facing which hindered its ability to activate and follow up on the agreed strategies and actions for the conservation of the property;
- 5. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to immediately devise and adopt an **action plan** for the full activation and implementation the 2008 Cabinet Decrees;
- 6. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to commence the establishment of an **independent** management authority mandated for the management and long-term sustainable development of the property;
- 7. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to ensure that the **road network in the property is not expanded** and that the road master plan is revised in line with the property's zoning plan, with a particular focus on mitigating impacts from existing roads;
- 8. <u>Urges</u> the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the 2012 IUCN mission, including:
 - a) Put in place an effective **biodiversity monitoring system** with the objective to assess the current impacts of other threats, such as cattle **grazing and invasive species**, and devise threat **specific strategies** to ensure their minimal long term impacts,
 - b) Adopt a strategy on strengthening the **marine enforcement capacity** supported by a clear policy framework,
 - Undertake a comprehensive tourism carrying capacity assessment and establish a
 monitoring system to ensure tourism sustainability and its minimal impact on the natural
 heritage and associated cultural values of the Archipelago,
 - d) Develop and implement a **tourism development and marketing strategy** for the Archipelago in collaboration with local and international private sectors;
- 9. <u>Requests furthermore</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, a report on the progress made with the improvement of the management of the property and in addressing key conservation challenges and opportunities, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

3. **39 COM 7B.6 (2015)**

Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal frameworks, governance and management systems
- Ground transport infrastructure: roading
- Livestock grazing: sheep, goat and cattle

- Invasive species
- Fishing and collection of marine resources
- Solid waste: primarily in and around main settlements

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1 Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,
- 2 Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
- 3 Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by its Decision 37 COM 7B.9;
- 4 <u>Notes with concern</u> that the Socotra Archipelago has become **vulnerable** owing to the deteriorating security situation in Yemen;
- Melcomes the information provided by the State Party that the energy crisis that forced local residents to collect fire wood has been resolved and the assurances given by the Governor of Socotra that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure the preservation of the property's rare flora and fauna, but expresses its concern that recent energy shortages are reported on Socotra, which given the risk of recurrence are likely to lead to increasing pressure on the property's natural resources;
- Reiterates its requests to the State Party to: immediately devise and adopt an action plan for the full activation and implementation the 2008 Cabinet Decrees, commence the establishment of an independent management authority mandated for the management and long term sustainable development of the property, ensure that the road network in the property is not expanded and that the road master plan is revised in line with the property's zoning plan, with a particular focus on mitigating impacts from existing roads, implement all other recommendations of the 2012 IUCN mission;
- 7 <u>Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

4. 40 COM 7B.86 (2016)

Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

- 1 Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,
- 2 Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
- 3 <u>Expresses its sincere condolences</u> to the State Party and the inhabitants of Socotra for the damages and loss of life caused by the passage of **cyclones Chapala and Megh**, which ravaged the island in November 2015;
- 4 <u>Commends</u> the State Party for the progress achieved with the implementation of the 2012 mission recommendations, despite the challenges resulting from the current security situation in mainland Yemen, and <u>welcomes</u> in particular the appointment of a Deputy

Governor for Environment and Development, the initiatives taken to **strengthen the Environmental Protection Agency's role in the management of the property**, and the ongoing consideration of a policy to cancel all previous decisions to expand main access roads within the property;

- 5 <u>Also welcomes</u> the support provided **by international donors and partners** for the conservation of the archipelago's biodiversity and the sustainable development of its communities;
- 6 Reiterates its significant concern over the increased vulnerability of the property due to the security situation in mainland Yemen, considers that the impacts of the recent cyclones are likely to have further increased the property's vulnerability to pressures from unsustainable resource use, soil erosion and habitat degradation, notes that these impacts require further and urgent assessment, and calls on the international community to support Yemen in implementing the actions identified in the Needs Assessment for Socotra Archipelago World Heritage site, developed in February 2016, at the workshop hosted by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH);
- Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, in particular in view of the impacts from wood cutting, overgrazing, unsustainable use of marine and terrestrial resources, and the impacts from the cyclones, and to support the State Party in identifying priorities for rehabilitation and management activities;
- 8 <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to hire, as soon as it is feasible to do so, a professional specialized company to assess the possibilities of and risks involved in salvaging the two ships grounded inside the property near Haulafe and take appropriate measures to restore any damages caused by their grounding;
- 9 Urges the State Party to promote the revival of traditional land management practices including seasonal transhumance in an effort to reduce threats from soil erosion and habitat degradation as a result of overgrazing, and to ensure the enforcement of the archipelago's protected area regulations and its zoning plan, in order to address threats from unsustainable resource use both in the terrestrial and marine environments;
- 10 <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to continue its efforts to implement all **recommendations** of the 2012 mission;
- 11 <u>Requests moreover</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an **updated report** on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

5. 41 COM 7B.23 (2017)

Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,

- 2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.86, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
- 3. <u>Reiterates its significant concern</u> that the vulnerability of the property to pressures from unsustainable **resource use, soil erosion and habitat degradation** is likely to have increased following the impacts of the cyclones, and <u>recalls its request</u> to the State Party to ensure that the road network in the property is not expanded;
- 4. <u>Calls on</u> all UNESCO Member States to support **emergency safeguarding measures**, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
- 5. Recalls the State Party's commitment expressed in 2016 that the **rehabilitation of the sea port**, which was damaged by the cyclones, would be limited to restoring it to its previous condition, and **would not include any extensions**;
- 6. <u>Requests</u> the State Party and to **provide further information on the development projects** on Socotra to the World Heritage Centre and on alleged **military operations**, for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions regarding their implementation that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- 7. Also requests the State Party to ensure that any development on Socotra, including humanitarian aid-related development, is subject to a rigorous assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit a copy of the completed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
- 8. <u>Reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, including in view of the impacts from the cyclones, and to support the State Party in identifying priorities for rehabilitation and management activities;
- 9. <u>Also reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to **submit** to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

6. 42 COM 7B.100 (2018)

Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add2,
- 2. <u>Recalling Decisions 40 COM 7B.86</u> and 41 COM 7B.23, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the State Party's repeated invitations for the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property requested at its 40th and 41st sessions, but regrets that the mission could not be undertaken due to the security situation in Yemen;
- 4. <u>Expresses concern</u> about the casualties and flash flooding caused by Cyclone Mekunu that hit the property at the end of May 2018 and <u>calls on</u> all UNESCO Member States to support

- **emergency safeguarding measures** at the property, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
- 5. Expresses its utmost concern about the multiple reported threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, resulting from uncontrolled developments, unsustainable use of natural resources, and the absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS), and considers that all these factors represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property;
- 6. <u>Urges</u> the State Party to **halt any activity** that may have a potential impact on the property's OUV and to refrain from allowing any further **development** at the property, until planned activities and projects in the property and its buffer zone have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions regarding their implementation that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- 7. <u>Reiterates</u> the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to take place as a matter of urgency, in order to assess its current state of conservation, in particular in relation to the above-mentioned threats, and **to review whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger** and requests the State Party to assure satisfactory security measures are in place;
- 8. <u>Also requests</u> the World Heritage Centre to **urgently facilitate a technical meeting with the Yemeni authorities, IUCN and concerned parties on how to ensure the protection of the property's OUV while also promoting appropriate sustainable development** for the people of Socotra;
- 9. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of potential or ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

7. 43 COM 7B.1 (2019)

Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2,
- Recalling Decisions 40 COM 7B.86, 41 COM 7B.23 and 42 COM 7B.100, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,

- 3. Welcomes the State Party's repeated invitations for the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property requested at its previous sessions, and regrets that the mission could not be undertaken due to the ongoing security situation in Yemen and logistical constraints;
- 4. Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to address illegal development in the property, but notes with concern reported unregulated construction including at Delisha beach and Serhin Lagoon, and requests the State Party to take immediate action to address any resulting impacts, including through implementation of the Socotran special committee recommendations, and reiterates its request to halt any activity that may have a potential impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to refrain from allowing any further development in the property, until planned activities and projects in the property and its buffer zone have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions regarding their implementation that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 5. Also notes with concern that **no information has been provided to determine the overall state of the property's natural resources,** including potential impacts of **unsustainable fishing pressure on the state of conservation of marine resources**;
- 6. Also acknowledges the State Party's efforts to implement measures to control Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and, also recalling the potentially devastating impacts of IAS on the highly unique natural environment of Socotra, urges the State Party to strengthen measures to address biosecurity controls;
- 7. Reiterates its utmost concern about the multiple reported threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, resulting from uncontrolled developments, unsustainable use of natural resources, and the absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS), and considers that all these factors represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property;
- 8. Reiterates again the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to take place as a matter of urgency, in order to assess its current state of conservation, in particular in relation to the above-mentioned threats, and to review whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- 9. Also welcomes the State Party's intention to hold a technical meeting following the mission, focused on how to ensure the protection of the property's OUV while also promoting appropriate sustainable development for the people of Socotra, and also reiterates its request for this meeting to be urgently undertaken with the Yemeni authorities, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and concerned parties;
- 10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020, with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of potential or ascertained

danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

8. 44 COM 7B.88 (2020)

Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B
- 2.Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.200**, **43 COM 7B.23** and **42 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,
- 3. Welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment to strength management measures in collaboration with international partners in spite of significant capacity constraints due to ongoing insecurity in Yemen;
- <u>4.Noting with concern</u> the clashes in Socotra in May 2020, <u>expresses its utmost concern</u> about the continued impact of insecurity in mainland Yemen on the overall management capacity of the property;
- <u>5.Acknowledges</u> the State Party's efforts to manage Invasive Alien Species (IAS) but <u>notes</u> that the effectiveness of implemented management measures in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains unclear and, <u>also recalling</u> the high level of endemism in the property and the potentially devastating impacts on IAS on its OUV, <u>request</u> the State Party to further strengthen the capacity to enforce biosecurity measures;
- <u>6.Taking note</u> of the information provided by the State Party that no violation of uncontrolled developments has been recorded in sensitive areas and that authorities are engaging with developers in the buffer zone, however <u>also notes with concern</u> that development continues in the buffer zone in the absence of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) due to enforcement capacity constraints, and <u>urges</u> the State Party to:
 - i. Halt any ongoing development in the property or buffer zone that may have a potential impact on the OUV of the property and refrain from allowing further development until the potential impact on the OUV has been assessed, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and the assessment submitted by the World Heritage Center for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.
 - ii. Provide a map of all new developments that have been constructed in the property and its buffer zone since inscription.
 - iii. Evaluate the impacts on OUV of existing infrastructure developments that have not undergone EIAs and submit the results to the World Heritage Center for review by IUCN, in order to consider an appropriate response to any such impacts.

iv. Ensure that appropriate environmental standards to regulate activities in the property and its buffer zone are incorporated into the updated Conservation Zoning Plan and that their enforcement is ensured.

<u>7.Reiterates its concern</u> that insufficient information is provided to determine the current state of conservation of the property's OUV.

<u>8.Reiterates its utmost concern</u> about the multiple reported threats to the OUV of the property including uncontrolled development, unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change, plastic pollution, lack of sustainable funding and the absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of IAS, and <u>considers</u> that all these factors represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property.

<u>9.Regrets</u> that the invited joint World Heritage Center/ IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property could not yet be undertaken due to the ongoing security situation in Yemen and logistical constraints, and <u>reiterates its requests</u> that the mission take place as soon as possible, to assess the current state of conservation of the property, in particular in relation to the above-mentioned threats, and to determine whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

<u>10.Further calling</u> the State Party's intention to hold a technical meeting following the mission focused on how to ensure the protection of the property's OUV while also promoting appropriate sustainable development for the people of Socotra, <u>also requests</u> the World Heritage Center, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to facilitate a technical meeting with the Yemeni authorities, IUCN and relevant stakeholders to identify priorities for the protection and management of the OUV of the property.

11. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Center, by **1 February 2022**, and updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session, with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of potential or ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

(Additional)

172. The World Heritage Committee invites the State Parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is fully preserved.

^{*}Information received from State Parties and / or other sources

STATE PARTY RESPONSE PLAN TO THE World Heritage Committee RECOMMENDATIONS (table 1):

World Heritage Committee Recommendations	Actions <u>implemented</u>	Actions <u>ongoing</u>	Actions <u>needed</u>	Remarks	Timeframe and Specific Action
A need to strengthen the legislative framework, and management and enforcement capacity. (2008)	Governorate of Socotra (established in 2013) appointed a deputy governor for environment (2016) Government secured funding as co-Executing Agency for several projects to increase capacity building for managing the Site, most recently the UNE-GEF project (see actions ongoing). Under the TABE'A programme, IUCN conducted a workshop on World Heritage sites management (2012-2015) with Socotra Site representatives present Yemen has signed CITES convention in 1997 relating to biodiversity, one of these conventions is CITES and it has enforcement role, which is monitoring the protection of Yemen's	Revision of the Zoning Plan is a core activity of the recent UNEP-GEF project that is co-executed by EPA and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature / Jordan; funds have been allocated to strengthen governmental and nongovernmental capacities sustainably to manage the Socotra Archipelago WHS in 1. Biodiversity/protected area management, 2. Invasive species management, 3. Sustainable land management, 4. Capacity building/awareness. It includes updating and implementing the existing Zoning Plan of 2000. An ongoing study of types and impacts of grazing is currently underway and its results are still awaited. This study aims to reduce overgrazing. This study has been carried out by UNEP, Mendel University, and the Government of Yemen. It was recently updated by the Royal Society for the Conservation of	prioritize activities to be in line with WHC recommendations, such as increasing the capacity of managing the Site. Conservation fund is planned in recent and potentially future projects to secure sustainable financial funding for the site conservation; however this activity is yet to be implemented. Other needed activities are a training needs and human resources needs assessment. The latter are important to draft	The State Party regrets that, due to the situation in the mainland, impacting the economy and therefore limiting financial resources for Government branches in charge of conservation of nature in the Site, the management and enforcement capacity has not received adequate national funding. External funding by donors has been actively procured by the State Party since 2008 through several projects (GIZ, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, European Union, UNESCO, Italian Cooperation and Czech Development Fund) and is further actively being sought by EPA and the Ministry of Water and Environment primary to help strengthen management and implementation of the Socotra Conservation Zoning Plan and protection of the Property and buffer zones in light of climate change and other challenges. There is a further need for developing mechanisms of long-term sustainable financing to ensure effective and stable management system to cope with the ongoing challenges to biodiversity on Socotra. Socotra Archipelago was recently declared as an autonomous administrative unit (October 2013) called the Governorate of the Socotra Archipelago, which was expected to be reflected in the financial and human resources allocation for the Site. However, due to instability in Yemen adequate human and financial resources could not be delivered.	Establishing capacity building programs and developing local professions. Update the zoning plan by the end of 2022. Implement the recommendation of UNEP/GEF grazing analysis report to be completed by the end of the GEF/UNEP project mid 2023.

	biodiversity actively to this day. EPA trained two specialists from Socotra ports on CITES agreement in 2006 and 2014	Nature (RSCN). The initial plan is to activate the traditional grazing behavior, enhance the grazing calendar, and start fast tracking initiatives like veterinary care.	activities, which forms part of the enforcement capacity (through local people).	The government has approved the planning of a conservation fund for Socotra to secure sustainable financial funding for the site conservation, however this activity is yet to be implemented under ongoing projects. The limited financial input and capacity of EPA Socotra remains a point of concern to the State Party, one which requires concerted efforts. An evaluation of the current state and funding of EPA Socotra should be conducted.	
2. Management planning for the World Heritage property be enhanced to deal more effectively with key threats. (2008) Output Description:	See 1.	Under the GEF/UNEP project. Activities are running to prepare management plans for the protected areas, currently four pilot sites are selected namely Homhil, Firmhin, Rosh and Dihimri where management plans will be prepared or updated in participation with local communities and local authorities.	See 1. Management planning and reformation of EPA Socotra is needed; suggestions to structure include key threats such as IAS risks, sustainable terrestrial and marine resource management and unsustainable development in accordance to the Socotra Conservation Zoning Plan (and updating the latter)	Maintenance of the World Heritage Property and implementation of an action plan to conserve biological diversity according to key threats	2020 to 2030
3. Future roading works minimise environmental impacts on biodiversity and where possible are located outside the property (2008)	In the past years, all road works were stopped as a result of the events in Yemen, and therefore, in the same context, the General Authority for Environmental Protection and the local authority took a major action in stopping	There is an agreement signed between the Yemeni Government and external organization for the rehabilitation of roads according to environmental standards. This agreement is currently being implemented. The rehabilitation should	A policy/regulation on road construction in collaboration with the Ministry of Works and Local Government on sensitive areas in Socotra (and in extension, Yemen) could be developed.	Regrettably, road works in the Site did expand since 2008. Any recent road developments (in the last 10 years) should be assessed for impact on biodiversity, and where possible, remediation for negative environmental impacts sought (such as replantation of vegetation on roadsides). Road reparation or uncontrolled expansion should be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment in line with	Prepare a draft of environmental standards for all activities in protected areas, decrease adverse effects in core areas and buffer zones and increase EIA outputs 2020- 2030

	some small businesses in development areas such as Hadibo and Qalansiya Some projects have been conducted in sensitive areas these projects were implemented in cooperation with UNEP, UNDP, The Czech government, and local communities and aim to reduce the illegal exploitation and roadworks	include clear impact assessments before implementation	Environmental Impact Assessment of existing and ongoing road works should precede any activities in this regard.	protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Site. Due to insufficient management capacity related to the situation in the mainland (see under 1), there were local initiatives by private funding to expand the road network to some sensitive areas in breach of the OUV, for example, Haggeher mountains - these have not been asphalted. A team can be assigned to work on assessing the road network in sensitive areas and develop mitigation measures of its impacts. However, capacity needs to be increased in this field and is currently limited.	
4. Grazing impacts on biodiversity are monitored and effective measures taken to reduce environmental impacts from grazing; and (2008)	The Environmental Protection Authority, in cooperation with the Social Fund, is doing their best in restoring some degraded areas as a result of soil erosion, as well as paving some roads, such as the Homhil Protected area, and there are also some initiatives by the people in cooperation with environmental protection A number of activities since 2008 facilitated by the State Party have focused on the grazing impacts and linked effects such as soil erosion. Small activities in	Grazing impacts are recorded and monitored through projects and external institutes. One example is a component in the recent first phase of the UNEP-GEF project dedicated to Sustainable Land Management. Different institutions are conducting studies on the impacts of grazing on the vegetation covers of specifically endemic trees The state Party signed agreements with the researchers and international projects for researches protocol and data sharing, and grazing and land degradation	All available data and studies on grazing impacts should be shared by the concerned national and international institutions. This may help to develop a response plan in close consultation with the local community to mitigate the impacts of grazing activities.	Data scattered – there is a need for an established monitoring plan and data compilation, for which the local capacity is not present yet (training and staffing). A very low internet connection speed on Socotra and poor network coverage in Yemen in general at present, makes such data compilation and exchange of files through internet recently very difficult.	Support alternative livelihood activities and explore mechanisms to reduce grazing impacts in nature 2020-2025

	cooperation with EPA	maps been part of the			
	included traditional	agreement.			
	reduction of soil erosion	a ₀ . cement			
	through using stone walls	See 1			
	(FoS, 2010), and pilot				
	activities to restore the				
	landscape (Mendel				
	University).				
	Several institutions that				
	have worked with EPA,				
	compiled and published				
	information on land				
	degradation and grazing				
	carrying capacity on				
	Socotra, which are				
	available and shared at the				
	annual conferences				
	(Mendel University,				
	Sapienza University)				
	organized by the Friends of				
	Socotra.				
	C l 27				
	See also 27.				
5. Invasive species are	IAS monitoring and control	The Yemeni government,	Prioritize activities outlined	Overseeing entry of exotic species or exotic	Rehabilitation and training of employees
effectively controlled,	is seen as a priority by the	represented by the Ministry of	in ongoing projects and	breeds/populations at pathways (seaport or the	at entry pathways to prevent the entry of
including through limiting the	national and local	Water and Environment, the	stimulate future projects	airport), has been challenging due to the limited	invasive species; dialogue with import
entry of invasive species at	Government; therefore	Ministry of Agriculture and	which include invasive alien	capacity of EPA and lack of trained staff in this respect	countries to provide phytosanitary
ports and the airport; (2008)	several activities have been	Irrigation, and the Ministry of	species management,	(see Remark 1) – direct training and activities are	measures; strengthen quarantine
	strongly encouraged in this	Transport, issued a Cabinet	awareness and capacity	planned within ongoing projects for airport and sea	measures on Socotra
	regard over the last	decision in 2008 to protect and	building, such as	port staff to increase the capacity and improve these	
	decade.	inspect sea and air ports, and		measures.	2020-2025
		not to introduce alien and	- Prioritizing training		
	Under GEF/UNEP project	invasive species into the	activities of airport	During future reformation and seeking of financial	
	the species and their	Socotra archipelago except	and port staff in	support for EPA, a specific Invasive Alien Species Unit	
	distribution was updated.				

Potential invading species was also proposed, and invasion pathways were identified.

A joint proposal between the project, EPA, and Directorate of Agriculture to establish a quarantine was approved and in progress of implantation. Capacity building of in charged personnel was also planned.

EPA issued a letter in 2020 urging instant control of invasive species in collaboration with local authorities and international stakeholders.

2008-2009. Small GEF
Grant
YEM/GEF/SGP/OP4/CORE/Y
1/08/06 focused on
Invasive Species Control on
Socotra Island, leading to
the eradication of the
invasive bird species Indian
House Crow and
distribution of awareness
materials (posters).

2016-2020 activities under invasive alien species component of the EPA co-

through a special permit from the concerned authorities.

In 2021, more than 10 public events took place to eradicate invasive species. The issue of invasive species was integrated in the public awareness strategy of the GEF/UNEP project.

Based on the wide communication about the IAS, calls from local communities to EPA about the existence of IAS is initiated, and immediate response took place to remove the species.

Measures for effective control and specific IAS management plan for Socotra, including limiting entry at ports and airport and awareness tools are among the main planned outcomes are part of recent efforts in collaboration with CABI (see; https://www.cabi.org/news-article/cabi-works-in-partnership-to-help-rid-unesco-natural-world-heritage-site-socotra-of-common-pest-pear-opuntia-stricta/).

effective control of IAS.

- Increase local capacity to recognize and control IAS at entry points needed.
- Develop and produce communication materials and toolkit for visitors (airport and seaport).
- Quarantine facilities and material
- IAS monitoring team in Socotra

could be established. Additional financing is sought to maintain an Exotic Species Unit in EPA.

	executed UNE-GEF project,	Completion of these activities	
	focus entirely on exotic	will depend of continuation of	
	species management in	the project.	
	Socotra through		
	cooperation with CABI;		
	implemented activities		
	include a complete		
	compilation of all exotic		
	species in Socotra		
	(published freely on GBIF at		
	https://www.gbif.org/datas		
	et/29d2d5a6-db22-4abd-		
	b784-9ab2f9757c3c), new		
	surveys, eradication		
	(<i>Opuntia stricta</i>) (Prosopis		
)		
	(https://www.cabi.org/new		
2	s-article/cabi-works-in-		
	partnership-to-help-rid-		
	unesco-natural-world-		
	heritage-site-socotra-of-		
	common-pest-pear-		
	opuntia-stricta/), pathway		
	analysis, development of a		
	management plan, revision		
	of procedures and		
	awareness activities. Due		
	to the emphasis on IAS		
2	since 2016 and several		
	activities, awareness		
	among all levels has grown		
	on Socotra. Posters by EPA		
	and CABI are now present		
i	in the airport to raise		
	awareness.		

6. A separate management authority be established for the World Heritage property which would give priority attention to the conservation of the unique biodiversity of the property. This Authority should have adequate sustained human and financial resources, and enforcement capacity; (2008)	The General Authority for Environmental Protection is implemented by the financial statements of branch resources in all environmental offices in the Republic. Currently, that process is examined for its application in the Socotra archipelago so that reserves and the branch of the Commission can rely on special resources The Yemeni Government in October 2013 declared Socotra Archipelago as independent Governorate Appointment of deputy Governor for environment and development (2016) A separate WH Property management authority is yet to be established, or should be integrated within EPA.	See 1. The salaries of the Environmental office were transferred with the branch allocations to the Finance Office in Socotra Adopt a financial director of the Office for Environmental Protection by the Ministry of Finance Office Socotra	See 1.	See 1. A separate WH Property Management Unit could be established within EPA or/and the Governorate, aimed to collate all data and streamline reporting, help to protect the OUV with EPA/Governorate and communication. However, currently the funds and capacity for such a set-up is not present and should be actively stimulated by the State Party and the international community.	Establishing a unit for following up the World Heritage Property 2020-2025
7. The buffer zones (which are not part of the inscribed property) be managed in a complementary manner to the property, with appropriate linkages developed with the management of the Socotra	The buffer zones correspond to the Resource Use Reserve and the General Use Zone in the Socotra Conservation Zoning Plan of 2000 and therefore natural and	See 5 and 16 on efforts in invasive species and sustainable land management in the buffer zone. Revision of the Zoning has been recently started through	Special regulations can be developed and implementation of environmental laws for the buffer zone can be achieved in accordance with the zoning plan. In particular,	The boundaries between the buffer zone and the inscribed property are not demarked nor clear to local communities on Socotra, therefore general protection levels in the National Park are applied to the Resource Use Reserve as well.	2021-2023

Biosphere Reserve; and	cultural values are	projects and could integrate	sustainable resource use,	Development zones (General Use Zone) need close
(2008)	protected by law.	these issues if continued.	waste management and	attention, in particular Mouri, Hadiboh and Hawlaf
	p. 000000 2 y 10111		invasive alien species are	areas, as they also contain the port and airport, which
	The Yemeni government is		important in the buffer	are entry points for invasive species. See also 1, 5, 7.
	still committed to stopping		zone to protect the	
	all activities, including in		Property.	
	2021 work was stopped in		, ,	
	Wadi Sirhan. Currently,			
	contacts are being			
	conducted with the			
	authorities to finance the			
	process of restoring the			
	estuary of Wadi Sirhan to			
	its previous nature, as well			
	as the rest of the activities			
	harmful to environmental			
	values, especially in valleys			
	and wetlands.			
	Linkages with the Socotra			
	MAB have been			
	emphasized by the			
	government where			
	possible, and training in			
	this aspect has been			
	conducted in previous			
	years, however continuity			
	is needed.			
	The level Covernment			
	The local Government			
	actively has stopped			
	destruction of areas with			
	high natural and cultural value within the buffer			
	zone, such as the stop of destruction of Hawari Hill in			
	April 2017 through an			

	immediate decree from the Governorate (see http://www.friendsofsoqot ra.org/Bibliography/pdfs/L Banfield-etal Jemen-Report 2018-24.pdf). Several activities were undertaken under different projects and from the Government since 2008 in the buffer zone, in particular to investigate waste management issues in the cities Hadiboh and Qalaansiyah – plastic waste cleaning activities are often undertaken; however waste issues remain to be solved. The local council has adopted many procedures to reduce the collection of wood, in 2014. However, implementation is a challenge.				
8. A sustainable financing strategy be developed for the World Heritage property, which includes ongoing and adequate support from the Government of Yemen and international support from donors and partners; (2008)		See 1.	See 1. The government is planning to establish a conservation fund for Socotra to secure sustainable financial funding for conservation of the site. However, previous	See 1. Sustainable funding for protecting the OUV in the Property remains a challenge during the political crisis in the mainland and depends strongly at present of support by donors. The Government calls on	Explore sustainable financing mechanisms 2020-2025

9. Devise and adopt an action plan for the full activation and implementation of the 2008 Cabinet Decrees (2013, 2015)	other resignations and a Socotra environment from working better and strong through those financial vessels A Socotra Conservation Fund was established in the past (SCF) under UNDP, but could not be maintained. New sustainable financing mechanisms are planned to be set up but have not been realized yet. The 2008 Cabinet Decrees represent a firm commitment from the Government of Yemen to safeguard Socotra and adopt a strategy for its protection and sustainable development. This commitment has been challenged by development pressure in 2009 and 2010, and in 2016-2019. Priorities in implemented and ongoing projects are broadly in line Aichi targets (CBD), integrated in the national strategy planning for Yemen (2011-2020)	Ongoing projects from donors help to support management plans such as an invasive species management plan and sustainable land management plan, besides specific protected area management plans. The current document (this response matrix) can be used as a guideline to develop an action plan and strategy.	attempts have not been sustainable and are impacted by the economic effects of the recent political crises in Yemen. A brief strategy and action plan to respond to the current and future challenges (climate change, unsustainable resource use, capacity building, exotic species, and waste management) could be developed, priorities outlined by the WHC and in line with Aichi Targets, MAB program and EPA Socotra priorities.	Primary priority is to increase EPA and Government capacity as the primary executing conservation organization to deal with environmental challenges in the Property. Action plans can be drafted, yet a proposed structure and staffing and training needs assessment for EPA, for which support is requested, should be developed first.	Make an annual work plan to preserve sensitive areas and species, and provide a management plan for priority IAS 2020-2025
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	world/ye/ye-nbsap-v2-				
	en.pdf)				
	en.pui)				
	Since 2015, the State Party				
	has actively procured				
	funding for helping to				
	develop such a strategy in				
	the form of management				
	plans and increased				
	protection measures				
	mainly under UNDP, GIZ,				
	UNEP and GEF projects and				
	support by the European				
	Union.				
	Havenay auforeament				
	However, enforcement				
	capacity remains low at this moment and needs input				
	and involvement of local				
	communities (see 1)				
	communities (see 1)				
10. The establishment of an	See 1, 6.	See 1, 6.	See 1, 6.	See 1, 6.	Coordination with stakeholders to
independent management	The Yemeni Government				implement EIA policy and reduce
authority mandated for the	in (2013) declared the				impacts.
management and long-term sustainable development of	Socotra Archipelago as				See under 6
the property (2013, 2015)	independent				See ander 0
the property (2013, 2013)	Governorate				
	Appointment of deputy				
	Governor for				
	Environment and				
	development (2016)				
11. Ensure that the road network	See 3. The Yemeni	See 3.	See 3.	See 3.	Implement local laws and strengthen
in the property is not	government can confirm				governance to minimize impacts of all
expanded and that the road	that the process of	Direct supervision and			development activities in Socotra
master plan is revised in line with the property's zoning	implementing the road	coordination with the Office of			2020 2025
plan, with a particular focus	network, especially the ring				2020-2025
on mitigating impacts from					
	1	1	1	ı	i

existing roads (2013, 2015, 2017)	road, is no longer feasible in Socotra	Works and Roads for all works and repairs to roads			
	Likewise, the Yemeni government, represented by the General Authority for Environmental Protection, monitors these roads, works and takes care of the privacy of Socotra and the interests of its citizens. And that all roads stopped	Agreement and the creation of a joint working document between the Office of Roads, Works and Environmental Protection not to carry out any road works before evaluation and observations by specialists in environmental protection Send messages and direct			
	Manda in 2016 until today	meetings with the Khalifa Foundation for Humanitarian Works and the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Development Emaar Notifying those authorities of the importance of preserving the natural resources of the Socotra Archipelago and evaluating their work before implementation			
12. Put in place an effective biodiversity monitoring system with the objective to assess the current impacts of other threats, such as cattle grazing and invasive species, and devise threat specific strategies to ensure their minimal long-term impacts (2013)	The Environmental Protection Authority, in cooperation with the donors, is developing a number of programs to monitor, for example, the program for monitoring alien and invasive species in the port and airport of Socotra.	Under the activities of GEF/UNEP project some monitoring programmes were reactivated like (Sea Turtle programme), while other are in preparation. The plan is to establish the Key biodiversity area KBA and set up their monitoring programmes, set a monitoring programme for key birds	Biodiversity monitoring systems should become regular part of EPA activities, yet training is required.	Capacity building and training for EPA staff required — at this point, EPA capacity is moderate to do monitoring and deal with priority challenges at the same time. There is a need for a long-term strategy and financing to ensure such monitoring capacity in different areas of expertise (see also 1.) Suggestion: application of the Enhancing Our Heritage toolkit (EOH) to assess the management effective to be as guiding tool for achieving effective management	 EPA to monitor biodiversity in sensitive areas, with exploration of appointing rangers among local communities to implement environmental protection There is a thought to produce some local fodder and distribute it to local communities at low prices to reduce overgrazing The necessity of preparing a study on the possibility of

	Monitor and restore the environments of the brothers' blood and frankincense trees in reserves Bird watching by specialists from the Public Authority for Environmental Protection annually, a list is made in cooperation and partnership with international experts Biodiversity monitoring systems are partially established (e.g., turtle monitoring), however systematic monitoring is needed and require a strong capacity and training of EPA which has decreased.	indicators, and re activate the marine monitoring programme within the framework of the project. Threat specific strategies in the form of specific management plans are part of ongoing projects co-executed by EPA (invasive species management, sustainable land management)		Suggestion: To empower the local CBOs mainly the Socotra wildlife society to take care of some basic monitoring prorammes while being trained for advance monitoring programmes.	creating alternative job opportunities for owning herds of livestock after studying the feasibility and marketing of raising livestock 2020-2025
13. Adopt a strategy on strengthening the marine enforcement capacity supported by a clear policy framework (2013)	Marine protection is part of the Marine Zoning Plan; capacity of EPA at present and data sharing by institutes in this aspect is fair. Through joint efforts by Yemeni and international experts in coordination with the State Party, Socotra become and EBSA	The effectiveness of marine protected areas was curried under the activities of the GEF/UNEP project. Marine protected areas will be integrated in the Socotra conservation zoning plan. Marine protected areas management plans will be	Need for a stronger marine enforcement capacity and polity in EPA Need to train more local and national experts in order to gain adequate skills for better marine biodiversity conservation.	The marine capacity in EPA has been low since 2013, basically not more than one-two people full staff — considering the importance of the marine ecosystems and the many challenges. State Party may request donors to support increasing marine enforcement capacity on the ground through a sustainable financing mechanism. Clear policy framework can be developed in line with Aichi Targets (CBD).	-Work plan for capacity building of marine protection and implementation of environmental laws should be established -Activating a monitoring system to prevent the fishing of endangered species in cooperation with the Ministry of Fisheries and fishermen's associations 2020-2025

	(Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas) at COP 17 (2017) (http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/ebsaws-2015-02/other/ebsaws-2015-02/other/ebsaws-2015-02-template-yemen-03-en.pdf) Yemen's Minister of Fisheries is a Socotri, striving for a stronger enforcement capacity for marine protection in coordination with the local Government. In recent years (2018-2019), EPA held several meetings with the coast guard and security to preserve Socotra marine species.	prepared at least for 2 pilot sites. Capacity building in protected area management plans was established and targeted two marine protected areas representatives.			
14. Undertake a comprehensive tourism carrying capacity assessment and establish a monitoring system to ensure tourism sustainability and its minimal impact on the natural heritage and associated cultural values of the Archipelago, (2013)	The Environmental Protection Agency monitors that activity, and until today, tourism has not exceeded the minimum expectations, and it is always volatile and unstable for many reasons and what Yemen is going through. Therefore, this activity remains within the minimum limits of our	Currently and under the GEF/UNEP project, an evaluation of ecotourism opportunities is in progress to test the capacity of ecotourists, the infrastructures need, and the proposed approach to sustain this kind of low impact eco-tourism. The analysis will target at least four sites of high potential,	Ongoing projects and institutes committed to complete such studies on behalf of the State Party, are requested to do so. Promote Ecotourism concept as a sustainable income source that enhance the livelihood while maintaining and conserving	Even though the number of tourists on Socotra has dropped since the start of the political instabilities on the mainland in 2015, a comprehensive tourism carrying capacity assessment is still needed for the future. Mechanisms of tourism are ongoing in Socotra which are of little benefit to the local communities, which should be sustainable and in collaboration with socotri people. Due to the instability in Yemen, tourism was not a pressing issue in the last few years. However, tourism commences, rising on the surface as a challenge again	EPA will work to promote low impact ecotourism to Socotra in accordance with a sustainable tourist business plan that benefits local communities without harming OUV 2020-2025

	expectations for it because of its help in the development of reserves The Ministry of Tourism have conducted tourism promotion campaigns in Socotra. However sustainable tourism planning in line with local sensitivity of cultural and natural heritage is yet to be prioritized.	propose packages for ecotourists, and Minimizing tourism impacts related to natural and cultural heritage on Socotra are suggested among the activities in the ongoing projects coexecuted by EPA (GEF and the British Council project) however these should be completed and shared.	the UOV of Socotra and its cultural heritage.	and current systems for control/management are limited.	
15. Develop and implement a tourism development and marketing strategy for the Archipelago in collaboration with local and international private sectors; (2013)	See 14. Assessments of marketing strategies are part of ongoing cultural and natural heritage projects but have not been delivered yet. Minister of Tourism at Socotra Conference in Palermo (2019) stressed the need for sustainable tourism on Socotra. Previous ecotourism management ideas reported as part of EU Socotra Master plan	See 14. EPA has established to promote interior tourism; there is little presence of foreign tourist due to the war, however regional tourism (from Arabia) has increased through alternative channels, and should remain strongly sustainable.	See 14. International investors are requested to take into account the local people in any sustainable tourism activities and to coordinate with the Government to ensure sustainability, create awareness and minimize the impacts. Framework needed to maximize the local benefit minimize and environmental impacts of tourism activities with the islands.	See 14. The State Party regrets that some recent tourism activities on Socotra by international private sectors have been carried out independently, without involvement of Socotri people or trained Socotri ecotourism guides in general.	See point 14

16. All necessary measures will be taken to ensure the preservation of the property's rare flora and fauna, but expresses its concern that recent energy shortages are reported on Socotra, which given the risk of recurrence are likely to lead to increasing pressure on the property's natural resources (2015)

In cooperation with the Global Environment Fund (small projects) and in cooperation with the **Environmental Protection** Office, a number of alternative energy projects have been implemented in a number of villages in the archipelago. Also, the Biogas project is currently being implemented from animal waste in Socotra. The Khalifa Humanitarian Foundation supports cooking gas and distributes it in nominal amounts to The island areas were also distributed free gas tanks

This relates to cooking fuel shortages in 2015, which resulted in increased wood collection.

Several projects coexecuted by EPA and stimulated by the Government have focused on sustainable land management research including wood as an energy resource, in coordination with international partners (eg. Mendel University, Czech Recent activities under the sustainable land management component in the UNEP-GEF-EPA project (up to 2019) are linked to increasing awareness on wood consumption

The local council in Socotra is committed to providing 3,000 gas cylinders per month to local people and thereby to reduce wood consumption. However this provision was fund based so it was stopped as soon as the fund stopped.

Need for mapping and documenting current wood consumption and needs to assess sensitive areas and ecosystems

Socotra cooking gas must be adequately secured

The impact of energy shortages on wood consumption in Socotra, and wood consumption in general, is partly a cultural issue – Socotra used to have strong traditional rules against overconsumption of timber products for fuel. However cultural shifts as well as the shortage (during monsoons) of cooking gas, have increased the use of wood for cooking.

Implementation of the Zoning Plan, in particular in sensitive areas, should help to reduce these impacts, however more important here are awareness activities to highlight the need to protect wood as a resource. The ongoing UNEP-GEF-EPA project has several activities planned in this regard, however yet to be implemented in full (such as the suggestion of wood plots).

Continue activities on promoting sustainable land use and stimulating replantation efforts

2020-2025

Republic; Franklinia	
Project).	
GIZ carried out pilot studies	
on cooking stoves in recent	
years (up to 2016) to assess	
the possibility for reducing	
amounts of firewood.	
The local council on Socotra	
took several measures to	
reduce the collection of	
wood, on the other hand,	
they have facilitate the	
import of gas for cooking,	
which has become more	
expensive during the war	
on the mainland.	
Damasuahla anaumu aasumaan	
Renewable energy sources:	
ARC-WH in collaboration	
with the NGO Acasia	
installed a solar panel	
system in Samha Island in	
addition to a few other	
locations in Socotra Island	
to secure renewable source	
of energy (2016).	
FoS promoted reparation of	
solar panels in Homhil	
(2016). Several Small GEF	
Grant projects promoted	
solar energy in pilot sites	
since 2015 as well.	
Several small solar power	
project also implemented	

17. Further impacts assessment of the cyclones (2016)	by local communities and private sectors. Until today, the Environmental Protection Agency is still requesting funding to assess the damages of these hurricanes, and all that has been done is sporadic and incomplete studies by government, universities and Socotra's friends. This	Wind Erosion map was produced in GEF/UNEP phase I, by (Mendel University) in coordination with EPA, however three is no impact assessment has been done.	Comprehensive impact assessment for the cyclones and development projects is needed. Marine data on cyclone impacts collected y external institutes (SGN) in coordination with EPA, however this programme was not completed as the	EPA can request external technical support by hiring experts or special agencies, including securing external funding. Build the capacity of local staff to perform the monitoring programme and document the findings in a form of technical report that can be tracked over years.	Assessing climate impacts and resilience and collecting external data to facilitate assessments 2020-2025
	is why the Environmental Protection Agency is calling for support for the monitoring process for these hurricanes, to restore the environments of degraded areas, especially soil erosion, which constitutes the biggest challenge to the Environmental Protection Agency. An initial report on cyclone impacts was provided by GIZ in 2016, however an in- depth report on the impacts on marine and terrestrial ecosystems by EPA has not been completed so far.		was not completed as the SGN was withdrawn from the project. Currently the monitoring programme under the phase II of GEF/UNEP project is working to establish a proper monitoring programme in coordination with EPA.		
	A workshop organized by IUCN and the Arab Regional				

Centre for World Heritage	
held in 2016 also invited	
UNESCO, UNEP and FoS to	
develop a response plan to	
the cyclones that was	
adopted by the World	
Heritage Committee and	
calls on the international	
community to support	
Yemen in implementing the	
actions identified in the	
Needs Assessment for	
Socotra Archipelago World	
Heritage site	
FoS and ARC-WH with EPA	
implemented two pilot	
projects (2017-2019) to	
respond to the impact of the cyclone:	
the cyclone.	
a. Momi Plot ecosystem	
restoration	
b.Mangroves ecosystem	
restoration in Ghubbah	
Mendel University (Czech	
Republic) assessed the	
impacts of the cyclone on	
the populations of the	
endemic Frankincense	
(Boswellia) and on Dragon	
Blood (<i>Dracaena</i>) trees	
(published in scientific	
articles 2019 and presented	

	at annual Socotra conferences) See also 18.				
18. Calls on the international community to support Yemen in implementing the actions identified in the Needs Assessment for Socotra Archipelago World Heritage site, developed in February 2016, at the workshop hosted by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) (2016)	The Government secured funds from WH in the form of a Cyclone Mitigating Project (2017-2019) totaling 75,000 USD implemented by ARC-WH (https://whc.unesco.org/en /list/1263/assistance/), which was used to stimulate several local replantation and plant nursery activities in Socotra Island (2017-2019) ARC-WH/IUCN implemented several projects with FoS (mangroves restoration, Momi rehabilitation) as well as restoration of local system for water harvesting. Several elements of the Workshop were incorporated and implemented in ongoing projects.	Under the GEF/UNEP project, three enclosures were made to restore the environments of some endangered species that were greatly affected by hurricanes, namely the blood of the two brothers and frankincense trees in two reserves. 300 plants of frankincense trees 400 plants of dragon blood trees and the cultivation of 20 mangrove plants Several activities in ongoing projects co-executed by EPA, are in line with the workshop Needs Assessment of 2016 (e.g., Log-frame UNE-GEF Project)	Examination of reports of the Workshop in 2016 is needed to further align with current activities in consideration for update in order to incorporate new challenges	Due to several changes in the Government since 2016, reports of the workshop at ARC-WH have been in the background. However, as the Implementing and Executing Agencies of several projects as well as the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Governorate were present at this meeting, several priority points were incorporated in the most recent (2016-2019) activities.	 Priority issues implemented recently – support from international community still requested introducing the dangers that Socotra was exposed to due to the war and calling on donors for urgent interventions to protect biodiversity 2020-2025
19. the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its	The State Party's repeated invitations for the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive	•	Communication between WHC and State Party	Security situation should be monitored closely as the political landscape in Yemen is currently fluent.	Coordination between WHC/UNESCO and State Party for reactive monitoring mission

state of conservation, (2016, 2017) In 2018 and 2019 add to review either the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and assure satisfactory security measures are in place. (2018)	Monitoring mission to the property requested at its 40th and 41st sessions, but regrets that the mission could not be undertaken due to the security situation in Yemen; (2018, 2019)	•			2020-2022
20. Hire professional specialized company to assess the possibilities of and risks involved in salvaging the two ships grounded inside the property near Hawlaf and take appropriate measures to restore any damages caused by their grounding (2016)	There is a ship that ran aground in Delesha and until today it has not been taken out as a result of the great damage that occurred to it and it is empty. That is why we hope that there will be training and evaluation processes for that ship for the environmental protection team to deal with such accidents that have increased in the past period All ships were rescued in 2016 and new salvaging in 2019 and this did not cause any damage or pollution to the marine environment	No longer a threat	No longer a threat	A policy with a contingency measures could be drafted to deal with stranded ships, as this is also a result from Cyclones and other climatic events, which are likely to happen again on Socotra.	Establish and operation and control unit for stranded ships and assess response mechanisms 2020-2025
21. promote the revival of traditional land management practices including seasonal transhumance in an effort to reduce threats from soil	In this aspect, the Environmental Protection Agency calls on UNESCO to assist it in this process by	Sustainable Land Management is one of the four components in the UNEP-GEF-EPA project, aimed at reducing threats from soil erosion and habitat	Mapping of areas of traditional land management needed to identify where cultural	A complete revival of traditional management practices is no longer feasible on because these practices are largely lost on Socotra. However, integrating a sustainable land management plan into a	Stimulate local communities to preserve their lands sustainably according to programs that support them: (sustainable land management strategies and stimulating cultural activities)

erosion and degradation (2016) habitat obligating the Unations organizate cooperate with Environmental Authority in Sotthese organizate development propulation to reareas and not the and preserve the traditions of grall land use Sustainable Land Management and have been implicated been implicated by the solution of the solution of the solution of the solution of grall land use. Sustainable Land Management and have been implicated been implicated by the solution of the so	completed, but mainly in limited/pilot sites. I Protection ocotra, since etions provide programs and help the local reside in to migrate etheir razing and activities olemented med at ets from soil ebitat JNE-GEF) s since 2016 habitat limited areas s. ued the endix on the etited in trade	practices need more protection.	revised zoning plan could help to emphasize on the use and importance of traditional land management. Socotri traditional practices are largely lost, therefore where possible a revival of traditional practices should be integrated to good practices for sustainable land management.	2020-2025
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22. To ensure the enforcement of the archipelago's protected area regulations and its zoning plan, in order to address threats from unsustainable resource use both in the terrestrial and marine environments (2016)	Enforcement of the Zoning Plan has been carried out in the Site in the form of reducing the import of exotic species (seized at airport and port) and increasing training, however State Party recognizes that more efforts are needed The Socotra Governorate stopped the destruction of a sensitive cultural and natural area on the north coast, called the Hawari Hill, and Hawari Fort (in the Buffer Zone) in 2016 EPA has conducted training courses on illegal trade in endangered species included Socotra species in 2016 and 2014, more are planned	Train local Socotri on the best practices in protected area management under GEF/UNEP project in Jordan. 8 trainees were selected by EPA represents four protected areas, and EPA representatives who are in charged in PA management. Management plans are in preparation stage for four PAs two marine and two terrestrial under the GEF/UNEP project. Revision of Zoning Plan is one of the priority activities for the Government, and was prioritized as part of most recent projects (2016-2019).	Increased capacity of EPA needed and other stakeholder such as the local government as well as other government agencies such as Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Water and Environment, National Water Resources Authority Socotra, etc.	For the enforcement of the Zoning Plan, increased capacity of EPA and other related stakeholders and awareness of environmental regulations and laws in Socotra are needed to address threats in both terrestrial and marine environments. A mechanism of data sharing by international experts and institution is crucial here to provide State Party with the means to safeguard the site. In particular, useful recent marine data is not being shared by institutes and important.	Regulating the use of land and sea and preventing trafficking in specimens and threatened species. Implementation of Zoning Plan 2020-2025
23. Calls on UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund (2017,2018, 2019)	The Government secured funds from WH in the form of a Cyclone Mitigating Project (2017-2019) totaling 75,000 USD implemented by ARC-WH, which was used to stimulate several local replantation and plant	No additional funds received Under GEF/UNEP project, three fences were made to restore the environments of some endangered species that were greatly affected by hurricanes, namely the blood of the two brothers and frankincense trees in two reserves.	New calls for funds should be facilitated – impacts of Cyclones are still tangible on Socotra, and some with delayed effects (e.g., landslides) In particular funding for ecosystem restoration activities is needed	New calls should be facilitated – impacts of Cyclones are still tangible on Socotra Note: Yemen could coordinate with UNESCO -WHC fundraising campaign, for example see https://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/baghdad/revivemosull EPA could apply to request more funds from the World Heritage Fund under international Assistance - it is	

	nursery activities in Socotra Island (2017-2019) Small funds were released through international assistance (ca. 3k USD) for Boswellia replantation efforts over the next 3yrs and training in coordination with EPA (Franklinia project, Mendel University)	* 5 awareness-raising workshops were held for the local population about the importance of Socotra frankincense and the most important threats to this plant by the Environmental Protection Authority and with the support of (Franklinia project, Mendel University) * Under the Franklinia Project, more than 500 people were included in awareness and hundreds of trees replanted (Boswellia)		possible to request around 30,000 USD to implement small conservation actions.	
24. Recalls the State Party's commitment expressed in 2016 that the rehabilitation of the seaport, which was damaged by the cyclones, would be limited to restoring it to its previous condition, and would not include any extensions. (2017)	Until today, the Environmental Protection Agency is following up all the works in Socotra and submitting them to the competent authorities. Until today, there has been no expansion or works that may pose a threat to the marine environment. What has been done is the restoration of what was left by hurricanes. Agreed. Any potential port extensions in the Buffer Zone should undergo	CITES Unit at EPA is planning to conduct two workshops for Socotri stakeholders on illegal trade in endangered species. Quarantine unit is proposed, and is planned under GEF/UNEP project.	Environmental impact assessments for World Heritage needed in the harbor area (Hawlaf). Comprehensive plant and animal surveys in this area are missing (State Party to conduct training in IUCN formats on EIA for World Hertiage)	Any projects/activities that might have impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Socotra require EIAs, however local training of staff in this field of expertise is needed, to all the staff able to assess the required information from any conducted EIA.	EIA training needed for all Development Areas and Buffer Zones in line with Core Zone to minimize impacts and protect OUV 2020-2025

	environmental impact assessments.				
25. the State Party to provide further information on the development projects on Socotra to the World Heritage Centre and on alleged military operations, for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions regarding their implementation that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with *Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines; (2017)	UNESCO also knows that Yemen is under Chapter VII, and this makes it under the trusteeship of the United Nations represented by the four countries, namely America, Britain, Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. Therefore, we ask the sponsoring countries of this item to take into account their work and activities in the Socotra Archipelago and coordinate with the Yemeni government Any potential military operations and installations will have to be assessed during the Reactive Monitoring Mission.	Any potential military operations and installations will have to be assessed during the Reactive Monitoring Mission.	Communication is needed and actively procured by the State Party between all parties to minimize any impacts from political operations potentially affecting the OUVs. See 29.	Any infrastructure works projects/activities that might have impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Socotra require EIAs, however local training in this field is needed, to all the staff able to assess the required information from any conducted EIA. (see paragraph 172 on the Operational Guidelines) Military operations and installations will have to be assessed during the Reactive Monitoring Mission.	Reactive Monitoring Mission 2020-2025
26. State Party to ensure that any development on Socotra, including humanitarian aidrelated development, is subject to a rigorous assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage	The General Authority for the Protection of the Environment submits to UNESCO that all international organizations operating in Socotra have not coordinated with it their work and all their	In 15 th September 2021, the Environmental Impact Assessment system based on the environmental law 26/1995 and its bylaws 148 was approved to be implanted in Socotra island and to be applied on all development	More training in EIA and awareness mechanism to reduce ecological impacts.	Request for more specific training in EIA for developments. See also 1. In particular for IAS, phytosanitary measures are crucial. Here, State Party calls on countries that provide import products to Socotra to take responsibility in accordance to Yemeni law therefore	EIA training and improvement 2020-2025

	activities come through	project, where the formal	not importing any exotic populations or species, and	
Environmental Assessment.	internal contracts for local	letter from the Environmental	ensuring strict phytosanitary control.	
(2017)	and non-local companies	Protection Agency Head		
English	and institutions. Therefore,	quarter (GB/ 2021/153, Dated		
https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/fi	we ask UNESCO to oblige	15 th Dec. 2021) stressed on the		
les/import/downloads/iucn_advic	the United Nations	commitments toward the		
e note environmental assessme nt 18 11 13 iucn template.pdf	organizations to cooperate	international treaties with		
Arabic	with the Environmental	focus on the UNESCO/ World		
https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/fi	Protection Authority	Heritage OUV of Socotra		
les/import/downloads/iucn advic	because of the great			
<u>e_note_environmental_assessme</u>	danger of this work			
nt 18 11 13 arabic.pdf	Especially in the field of	There is an agreement signed		
	settling the displaced and	between the Yemeni		
	distributing aid	government and external		
		organizations on road		
	State Party recognizes that	rehabilitation. In particular for		
	activities in Socotra should	IAS, phytosanitary measures		
	be subjected to EIAs,	are crucial. Here, State Party		
	however capacity and	calls on countries that provide		
	funds to ensure such	import products to Socotra to		
	assessments are currently	take responsibility in		
	limited.	accordance to Yemeni law,		
		therefore not importing any		
		exotic populations or for the		
		rehabilitation of roads		
		according to environmental		
		standards. This agreement is		
		currently being implemented.		
		However EIA are mandatory		
		before any road works are		
		conducted in the Core Zone.		
		Specific measures are being		
		taken to monitor and reduce		
		risk of exotic diseases linked to		
		humanitarian aid-related		

27. Expresses its utmost concern about the multiple reported threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, resulting from uncontrolled developments, unsustainable use of natural resources, and the absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS), and considers that all these factors represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property; (2018, 2019)	The Environmental Protection Authority can emphasize its commitment to preserving the natural resources of the Socotra archipelago, and has worked to stop many works on roads and lands, as well as working with partners in providing cooking gas and other means such as renewable energy in some villages with the Global Fund for Environmental Conservation, as well as water statistics, as well The Environmental Protection Authority's mechanism of stopping all works on the	import of exotic populations of plants for farming. Awareness in this field is increasing on Socotra. Governorate and EPA are in regular dialogue with developers on uncontrolled developments in the buffer zone. See 5 and 16	Capacity needs to be increased to report and deal with major threats listed, in particular in the unsustainable resource use in sea and land, and coastal developments. Biosecurity measures are being developed, but also require goodwill of other countries that do business on Socotra.	See also 1, 28. Increased capacity and training of EPA here is needed, as well as adequate staffing to tackle these issues after the temporary funding from donors during projects. Assessing the impact of already implemented projects could help in developing mitigation measures for these projects.	Stop all activities that negatively affect biodiversity in accordance to Zoning Plan laws and conduct rigorous EIA 2020-2025
biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS), and considers that all these factors represent a potential danger to the	other means such as renewable energy in some villages with the Global Fund for Environmental Conservation, as well as water statistics, as well The Environmental Protection Authority's mechanism of		goodwill of other countries		
	is implementing a program to protect Socotra from alien and invasive species and develop a strategy for that. Threats mentioned: 1. Uncontrolled Developments – No violation have been recorded in sensitive areas, and some projects are				

still working on the	
island to protect	
biodiversity and develop the local	
community.	
community.	
2. Unsustainable use	
of natural resources	
overgrazing,	
wood collection,	
stone collection,	
unsustainable	
water extraction	
and overfishing.	
Several pilot	
activities have been	
implemented in	
collaboration with	
the UNE-GEF	
project, FoS and	
ARC-WH projects in	
2018-2019 to	
reduce the impacts	
of overgrazing and	
wood collection	
through stimulating	
replantation and	
regeneration of	
vegetation.	
However localized,	
these activities are	
aimed at key areas	
with high	
conservation	
priorities.	
3. Biosecurity	
measures should be	

	strengthened and are part of the UNE-GEF-EPA project. Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to implement measures to control Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and, also recalling the potentially devastating impacts of IAS on the highly unique natural environment of Socotra, urges the State Party to strengthen measures to address biosecurity controls; (2019)				
28. Halt any activity that may have a potential impact on the property's OUV and to refrain from allowing any further development at the property, until planned activities and projects in the property and its buffer zone have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions regarding their implementation that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines*; (2018, 2019)	and Serhin Lagoon, (2019) Capacity at EPA is currently	See 27. All activities taking place in the areas of national parks are monitored although capacity of EPA is limited; there are some legal problems, and most of these violations have been submitted to the judiciary. Judge	See 27	See also 27. Halting activities by developers during a time of economic crisis and limited capacity of implementation of the Zoning Plan, has been a great challenge. The State Party welcomes any support and mechanisms to increase dialogue and to increase the capacity and communication between stakeholders in halting potentially impacting development activities. Awareness of the Zoning Plan towards private developers is needed.	See 27.

29. Requests the World Heritage Centre to urgently facilitate a technical meeting with the Yemeni authorities, IUCN and concerned parties on how to ensure the protection of the property's OUV while also promoting appropriate sustainable development for the people of Socotra; (2018)	areas and even in the buffer zones. State Party invites WHC to coordinate such a meeting jointly	State Party invites WHC to coordinate such a meeting jointly	Arrangement of feasible date and place	Stakeholders and concerned parties for this meeting should be coordinated jointly with EPA, the Socotra Governorate and the Ministry of Water and Environment	Maintaining contact with world heritage and planning joint meeting; see also under 25 2020-2022
30. Requests the State Party to take immediate action to address any resulting impacts, including through implementation of the Socotran special committee recommendations.	See replies to recommendations 5, 17, 27	See replies to recommendations 5, 17, 27 The committee's recommendations will be activities on the ground aimed at preserving the island	See replies to recommendations 5, 17, 27 Reformation of EPA Socotra, depending on capacity and financial ability, and creating a specific unit responsible for following up on actions linked to WHC recommendations is one of the priority activities. EPA is working to update the environmental impact assessment policy	It is unclear what is meant here in previous reporting with "Socotran special committee" – such a committee does not exist, has not formally been established or defined and is not official.	
31. Notes with concern that no information has been provided to determine the overall state of the property's natural resources, including potential impacts of unsustainable fishing pressure on the state of conservation of marine resources; (2019)	The Environmental Protection Agency calls on UNESCO to assist it in retrieving all the information and data that was done by all universities and research centers We also call upon UNESCO to assist us in the correspondences of these		The state of conservation of marine resources and impacts of unsustainable fishing should be urgently assessed. More details and info on state of other natural resources (wood, rangeland, water, sand/stone, non-timber	The State Party urgently calls on organizations that hold data to share information on the state of conservation of natural resources, in particular marine resources. EPA can contact other institutions in addition to previous ones to conduct new/further studies and fill knowledge gap. Capacity in EPA to compile reports on marine resources is currently limited, as comprehensive data	State Party to request data from stakeholders to improve marine resource management 2020-2022

bodies and through its international organizations, as we are facing very great difficulties to date in retrieving these data and information from those bodies and people.

A report on the state and threats of the **terrestrial** nature sanctuaries on Socotra was compiled and submitted to EPA in 2017 (Rapid Assessment) and is available to WHC. A rapid assessment of marine nature sanctuaries was carried out under the same project (report yet to be received).

An estimation of rangeland carrying capacity has been completed by Mendel University under the above project (shared in public at the Palermo Meeting in 2019).

Assessment of water capacity and quality on the island has been compiled under GIZ

Minister of Fisheries in the Yemen Government is Socotri, striving for (see also GIZ reports) by Sapienza University, Rome.

A brief overview of sustainable land management on Socotra has been compiled by Mendel University in GEP/UNEP project phase I.

plant products) should be assessed with urgency and existing reports compiled

Ongoing revision of the Socotra Conservation Zoning Plan is planned include management guidelines for natural resources, in particular rangeland

Data requested by the State Party to all institutes with information on state of conservation of marine resources and reports on impacts of fisheries on current marine ecosystems compiled are not shared by technical experts.

Data requested by the State Party to all institutes with information on state of conservation of marine resources

	protection of marine ecosystems and maintenance of sustainable fisheries.				
32. The State Party's intention to hold a technical meeting following the mission, focused on how to ensure the protection of the property's OUV while also promoting appropriate sustainable development for the people of Socotra, and also reiterates its request for this meeting to be urgently undertaken with the Yemeni authorities, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and concerned parties; (2019)	Government representatives, including the Governor of Socotra, the Minister of Fisheries and representatives of EPA and the Ministry of Water and Environment, joined the Palermo conference in September 2019 which as entirely devoted to conservation and sustainable development of Socotra (suggestions by the Yemeni attendants in the last column).	State Party invites WHC to coordinate such a meeting jointly	State Party to welcome WHC and IUCN to hold such a meeting and jointly identify concerned parties / main stakeholders.	Such a meeting will depend on the mission planning and timing	See 25 State Party to follow up on the mission recommendations 2020-2022
33. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020, with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of potential or ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on	The Environment Protection Authority confirms its commitment to provide that report through references and research that are submitted, but there are many of those research, studies and information that have not been delivered. Therefore, we are committed to working with UNESCO and all international organizations to protect the	Process of compiling information for the report has started in November 2019 by EPA, the Ministry of Water and Environment, in coordination with international experts (see current matrix)	Need to allocate specific staff/experts to draft the report.	Requesting all institutes and projects with activities on Socotra to provide specific information to the State Party in order to compile a comprehensive report.	Herein submitted

the List of World Heritage in Danger. (2019)	Socotra Archipelago and its environmental values, and we are fully prepared to work on that report in 2022. Process of compiling information for the report has started since November 2019 (see current matrix)				
Others:					
34.Mentioned in several reports (see 2015): • Solid waste: primarily in and around main settlements	Waste management efforts have been implemented by the Government, and activities promoted by EPA to enhance awareness of single use plastics during cleaning activities (e.g., Sirihin Lagoon, Qalaansiyah Lagoon) and environmental awareness activities. These activities have increased in 2018-2019. The waste disposal department is continuing to carry out its activities, however capacity is limited for the increasing amount of waste (due to import of goods and plastic)	More than ten cleaning campaign were performed in and around protected areas under the activity of GEF/UNEP project and as a part of informal school activities. Ongoing activities related to solid waste management include initiatives promoted by EPA within ongoing projects There are initiatives under way to sort the waste, and some are being considered for reuse.	More attention is needed for this issue, especially plastic waste, which is growing and of concern to Government and local communities. Importers of plastic to the island should be made aware of the environmental impacts and be partly held accountable	The problem of waste management in Socotra, in particular in the buffer zone, remains. Plastic waste is accumulating along the coast – a concerted effort by donors and support by other countries is needed, given the limited finances.	Raise awareness against plastic pollution and involve stakeholders in improving waste management systems 2020-2025

35. Provide a map of all new developments that have been constructed in the property and its buffer zone since inscription		Map on all new developments is created and will be attached to this report			
36. Evaluate the impacts on OUV of existing infrastructure developments that have not undergone EIAs and submit the results to the World Heritage Center for review by IUCN, in order to consider and appropriate response to any impacts	Official letters have been sent to all major investors humanitarian and stakeholders with development activities on Socotra for ensuring EIA for their projects and taking environmental standards during implementation. The EPA will follow up appropriate EIA for those sites and will submit it to WHC for review by IUCN.	EPA is following up the developers for making EIA for their activities.	More support from WHC for communicating with countries that have development activities on Socotra, joint meeting between State Party, developers, UNESCO, WHC, IUCN is necessary, creating a global team for protecting of Socotra OUV More role for WH focal point in Socotra should be visible. More training on management of World Heritage Property is needed	This year have few development activities and more cooperation work with partners	All large development projects will be subject to EIA 2022-2022
37. Ensure that appropriate environmental standards to regulate activities in the property and its buffer zone are incorporated into the updated conservation zoning plan and that their enforcement is ensured	The Socotra CZP is under reviewing and environmental standards are integrated. Activities in the buffer zone are regulated by Yemeni laws includes environmental standards for work. Official letters have been sent to all major investors humanitarian and stakeholders with development activities on Socotra for ensuring EIA for their projects and taking	Current project EPA-UNEP-GEF is working on zoning plan review and update, and will be taking all of these activities into consideration. There is a list of land use activities to be discuss with stakeholder for facilitate integration of environmental standards to CZP.	Capacity building to partners especially the local authorities on Socotra on environmental standards. Monitoring all development activities and reporting by EPA branch. Especial training for EPA Socotra on monitoring, enforcement and reporting.	Development activities are mainly in the development zones (urban areas)	Zoning plan updated, EIA for large development projects 2021-2023

	environmental standards during implementation.				
38. Reiterates its concern that insufficient information is provided to determine the current state of conservation of the property's OUV;	The State party, current and previous projects on Socotra provide reports about their efforts on conservation of Socotra's OUV, however some partners still not providing their data (for example, marine data). Within the first Phase of the EPA-UNEP-GEF project a Socotra portal has been established for sharing information. The periodic Friends of Socotra newsletter (Tayf) publish recent news, activities and conservation efforts on Socotra. EPA Socotra staff have trainings in writing report as an effort to improve their reporting capacity within the current projects. Several Socotran conservationists are conducting their PhD in environmental science within European Universities to increase the capacity building.	EPA are in close cooperation with current projects for orientation work towards implementing WH decisions and sharing the project's reports with other partners.	Follow up with partners to provide their reports. State party asking WH center to share their reports about multiple threats on Socotra OUV for improving the management of property. More training for the EPA staff in World Heritage Management is needed.	Strong support from the local authority, local council and especially offices of public work and land tenure providing valuable data about their efforts on managing the government land on General Use zone	Socotra portal to become a plate form for data sharing and discussion 2021-2023

Report Complied by representatives of EPA Yemen, EPA Socotra Branch, Ministry of Water and Environment Yemen, Socotra Governorate and external expert.

Signature of the Authority On behalf of the legitimate government of Yemen

Eng. Faisal Saleh Obaid Al-Thalabi

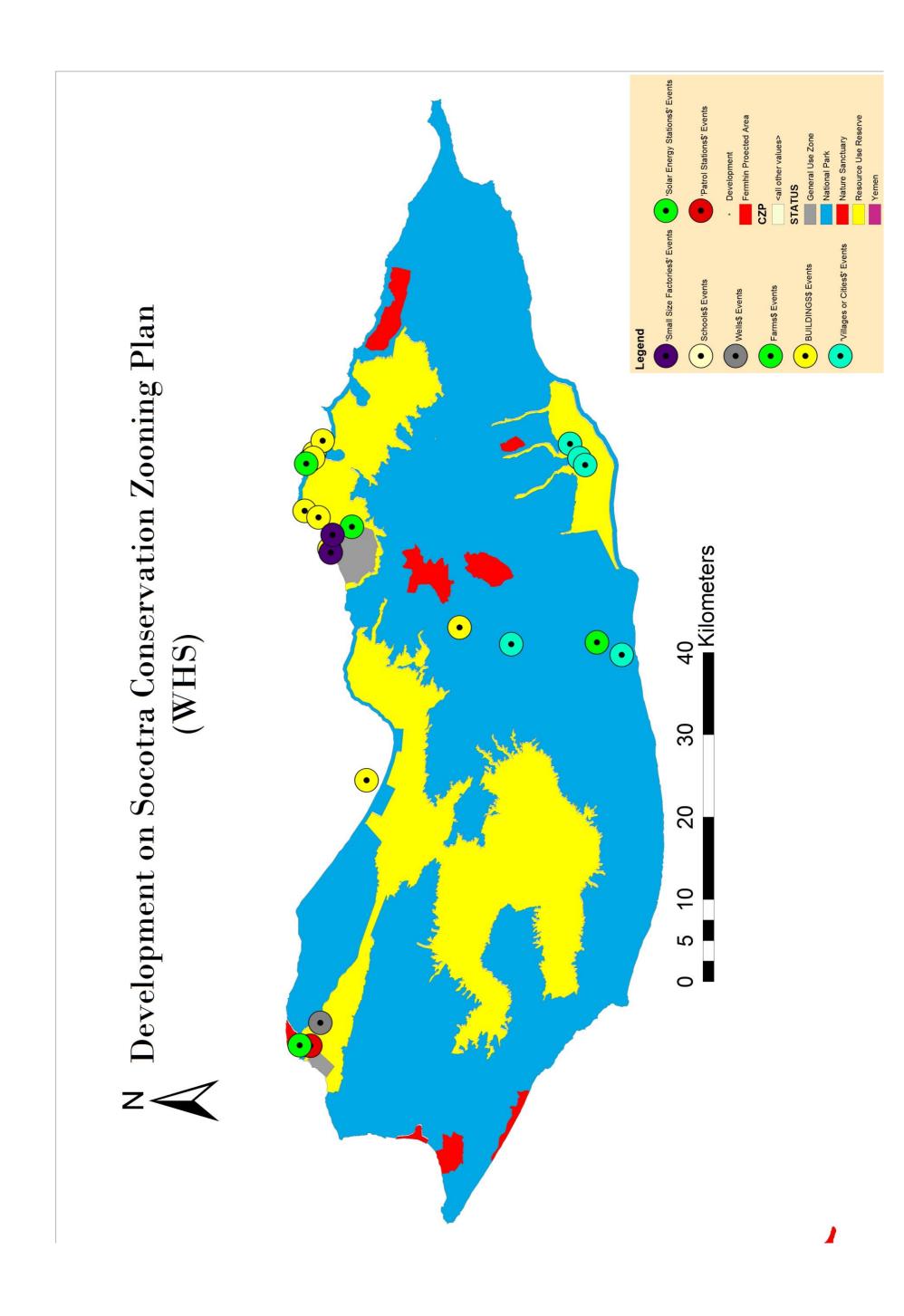
ip farmer

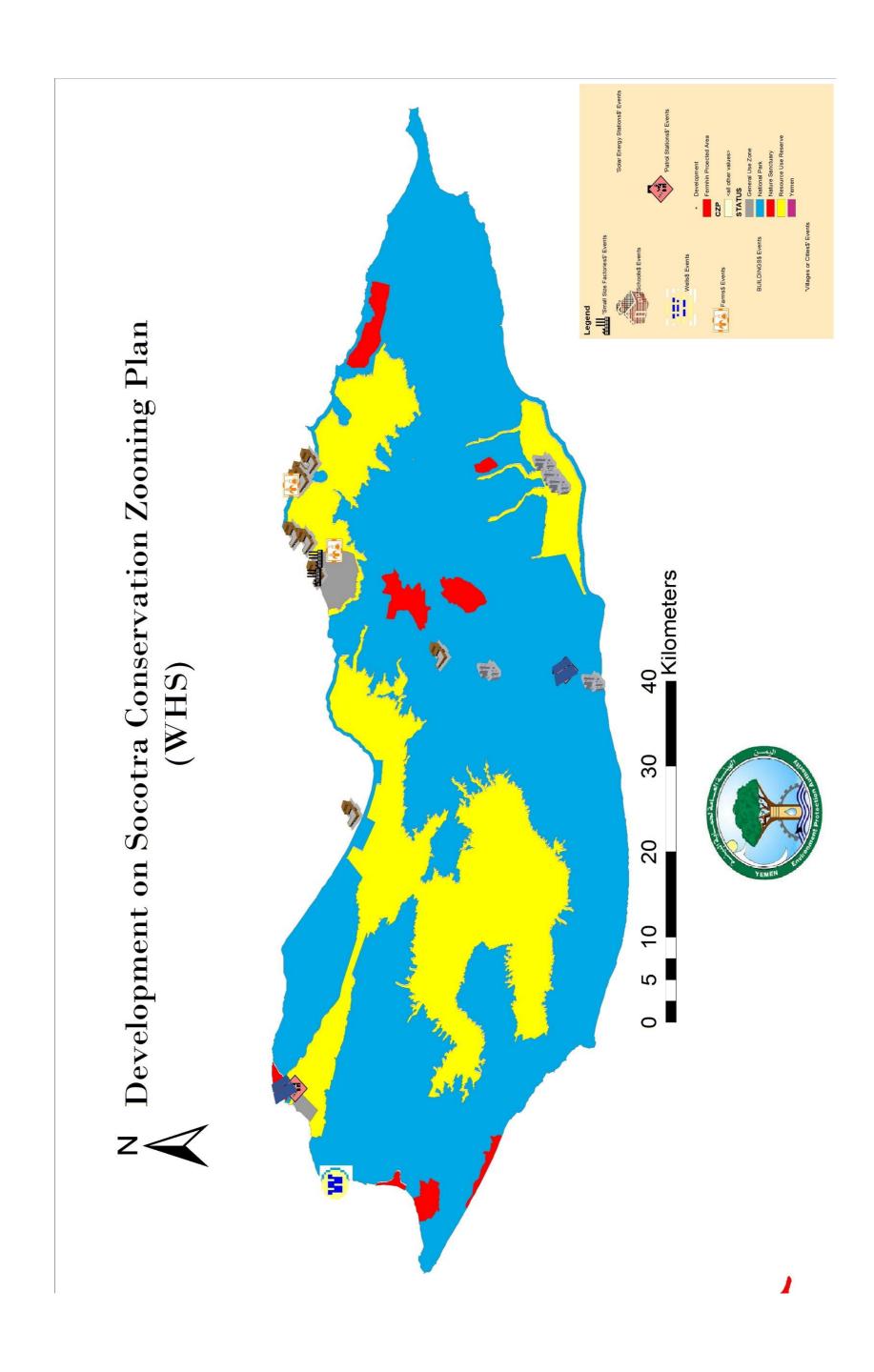


Chairman of Environmental Protection Authority Republic of Yemen 30-01-2022

ANNEXES:

- 1- development on Socotra conservation zooning plan(WHS) -2 IMGs
- 2- Official communication related to environment impact assessment (EIA)





Ministry of Water & Environment Environment Protection Authority

No/Ref:

Date:

No of pages:



الفكائرية الينيتة

وزارة الميساه والبيئسة الهيئة العيئة

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عدد المرفقات:

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المترم

الأخ/ على محمد سالم

مدير عام فرع الهيئة محافظة ارخبيل سقطري

تحية طيبة وبعد،،

الموضوع / اعتماد نظام تقييم الاثر البيني لجميع المشاريع والانشطة التنموية.

نهديكم أطيب التحايا متمنين لكم التوفيق والنجاح في أعمالكم، إشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه، والى قانون حماية البيئة رقم (٢٦) لسنة ١٩٩٥م ولائحت التنفيذية رقم (١٤٨) لسنة ١٩٩٠م ولائحت التنفيذية رقم (١٤٨) لسنة ١٠٠٠م وحفاظاً على البيئة الطبيعية لأرخبيل سقطرى ولما تقتضيه المصلحة العامة يتم اعتماد نظام تقييم الاثر البيئي لجميع المشاريع والانشطة التنموية في محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى والترتيب مع الجهات المختصة مثل ((الاستثمار - الجيولوجيا - الاشغال العامة والطرق - الصناعة والتجارة ...الخ)) وذلك بإحالة جميع المشاريع والانشطة الى فرع الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة بمحافظة أرخبيل سقطرى والتنسيق مع الادارة المختصة في ديوان عام الهيئة (الادارة العامة للرصد والتقييم البيئي)، والالتزام بالاتفاقيات البيئية الدولية والاقليمية ومنها اتفاقية الانسكو لمشروع سقطرى وكذلك بالتزاماً بتنفيذ قرار وزير المياه والبيئة رقم (١٨٠) لسنة ١٠٤٤م بشأن تقييم الأثر البيئي والخاص باعتماد دراسات تقييم الأثر البيئي لمختلف المشاريع قبل الشروع في التنفيذ.

وعليه: يلزم متابعة السلطة المحلية والجهات ذات الاختصاص لتنفيذ ذلك.

وتقبلوا خالص التمية والتقدير،،،

م/ عمار ناصر العولقي

وكيل وزارة المياه والبيئة

عمال رئيس الهيئة العامة لعماية البيئة

Jubile of Yemen Authoritects

Mistry of Water & Environment



نسخة مع التحية:

• وزير المياه والبينة

Ministry Of Water And Environment Environment Protection Authority





الخرهوري تراليست الموسية وزارة المياه والبيئة المهامة المعماية البيئة

الرقم/ المرجع ، 422 كر 27 / 1223 التاريخ ، 24 مرجع الموكد كر ي

رى المترم

الأخ/ مدير عام العقارات وأراضي الدولة محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

حياكم الله

الموضوع/ طلب دراسة تقييم الأثر البيني للمشاريح التنموية.

في البدا تهديكم الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة فرع سقطرى أطيب التحايا متمنيين لمهامكم التوفيق والسداد، وعطفاً على الموضوع أعلاه، نود من سعادتكم الاتي:

- أفادتنا بدراسة تقييم الأثر البيني للمشاريع التي تم السماح لها من قبلكم.
- توقيع مذكرة تعاون بين الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة فرع سقطرى ومكتب العقار المعدر أنشاء مشاريع تتموية إلا بعد عمل دراسة تقييم أثر بيئي لتلك المشاريع المش

ولكم خالص الشكر والتقدير،

على محمد سالم

مدب عام الغبئة العامة لعمامة البسئة

معافظة أرغبيل سقطرى

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رتيس الهيئة

قائم بأعمال وكيل الهيئة

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الحرَهَى رَبِّ بَهِ الْمِسَّ بِيَّ الْمُسَّتِ بِيَّ الْمُسَّتِ بِيَّ الْمُسَّتِ بِيَّ الْمِسْتِ الْمُسْتِ الْمُسْتِ الْمُسْتِذَةُ الْمُسْتِينَةُ الْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِيسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَالِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتُلِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتُلِينَا لِلْمُسْتُلِمِينَا لِلْمُسْتُلِمِينَا لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لَلْمُسْتُلِمِ لَلْمُسْتُلِمِ لَلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لَلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتِينَا لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتُلِمِ لِلْمُسْتِلِيلِيل

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الأخ/ مدير عام الأشغال والطرق محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى المترم

حياكم الله

الموضوع/ طلب دراسة تقييم الأثر البيئي للمشاريع التنموية.

في البدا تهديكم الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة فرع سقطرى أطيب التحايا متمنيين لمهامكم التوفيق والسداد، وعطفاً على الموضوع أعلاه، نود من سعادتكم الآتي:

- أفادتنا بدراسة تقييم الأثر البيني للمشاريع المنفذة من قبلكم أو المشرفين عليها.

ولكم خالص الشكر والتقدير،

حلي مدمد سالم (

مدير عام الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة

محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

نسخة مع التحية:

- رئيس الهيئة
- قائم بأعمال وكيل الهيئة
 - الملف

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الحرَّهُوَرِيِّ مَّ لِيْمِيَّيِّ مِنْ وزارة المياه والبيئة الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة

الأخوة/ البرنامج السعودي لتنمية وأعمار اليمن بمحافظة أرخبيل سقطرى المحترمون حياكم الله

الموضوع/ طلب دراسة تقييم الأثر البيني لمشاريعكم التنموية

في محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

في البدا تهديكم الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى أطيب التحايا متمنيين لمهامكم التوفيق والسداد، وعطفا على الموضوع أعلاه نطلب من سيانتكم الاتي:

طلب موافاتنا بالدراسات تقييم الأثر البيني للمشاريع التابعة للبرنامج السعميج

توقيع مذكرة تعاون بين الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة ومكتب الأعمار.

ولكم خالص الشكر والتقدير،

علي محمد سالم

مدير عام العينة العامة لحماية البيد

محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

نسخة مع التحية:

رئيس الهيئة

- قائم بأعمال وكيل الهيئة

- للملف

Ministry Of Water And Environment **Environment Protection Authority**

Date: Encl:



وزارة الّمياه والبيئة الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة

الأخوة/ شركة بن جريبة والمخروم محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى المحترم

حياكم الله

الموضوع/ طلب دراسة تقييم الأثر البيئي لشاريعكم التنموية

في محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

في البدا تهديكم الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى أطيب التحايا متمنيين لمهامكم التوفيق والسداد، وعطفا على الموضوع أعلاه نطلب من سيادتكم الاتي:

- طلب موافاتنا بالدراسات تقييم الأثر البيني للمشاريع التابعة للشركة.

توقيع مذكرة تعاون بين الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة والشركة بعد أنشاء المؤ

إلا بعد عمل الدراسة.

ولكم خالص الشكر والتقدير،

على محمد سالم

مدير عام الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة

محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

نسخة مع التحية:

رئيس الهيئة

قائم بأعمال وكيل الهيئة

- للملف

Republic of Yemen Ministry Of Water And Environment Environment Protection Authority

المعترم

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الأخوة/ مؤسسة خليفة بن زايد للأعمال الإنسانية معافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

حياكم الله

الموضوع/ طلب دراسة تقييم الأثر البيني لمشاريعكم التنموية

في محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

في البدا تهديكم الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى أطيب التحايا متمليين

لمهامكم النوفيق والسداد، وعطفا على الموضوع أعلاه نطلب من سيادتكم الاتها

طلب موافاتنا بالدراسات تقييم الأثر البيئي للمشاريع التابعة للمؤسسا

- توقيع مذكرة تعاون بين الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة والمؤسسة.

ولكم خالص الشكر والتقدير،

على محمد سالم

مدير عام الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة

محافظة أرخبيل سقطرى

نسخة مع التحية:

رئيس الهيئة

قائم بأعمال وكيل الهيئة

- للملف