

PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Introduction

- i. State Party: **Republic of Sudan**
- ii. Year of ratification or acceptance of the *Convention*: **6, June 1974**
- iii. Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)
Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay/Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (Sudan – Red Sea)
Wildlife Conservation General Administration (WCGA)
- iv. Organization(s) or entity (ies) responsible for the preparation of the report: **Sudanese Man and Biosphere (MAB) National Committee/Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM)**
Sudanese Development Initiative (SUDIA)
- v. Date of the report: **30 November 2020**
- vi. Signature on behalf of the State Party: **Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO**

1. **Executive Summary of the report** [Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

No.	Issue (as per WHC decision 2021)	% Progress	Key progress narrative	Constraints	Planned actions	Partners
1	<u>44 COM 7B.179 – Item 3:</u> Requests the State Party to submit the finalized IMP to the World Heritage Centre, and ensure its implementation, including to secure adequate funding	80%	80% of the adopted integrated management plan for the whole property being implemented by WCGA Significant progress in the management of social values, limited progress on General Management and Ecological values Management	Political instability and turnover in government		
2	<u>44 COM 7B.179 –</u>	50%	Guidelines in	Resources to	Developing	WCGA

	<u>Item 4:</u> Requests the State Party to continue its efforts in relation to diving activities in the WHC		place Fines violations determined for are	monitor implementation for regulations and guidelines	revenue streams and possible implementation via shared management arrangements	Cousteau Society SUDIA Tour Operators
3	<u>44 COM 7B.179 – Item 5:</u> Encourages the State Party to continue building the management capacity for the property through training and knowledge exchange opportunities	80%	Significant capacity development activities carried out in 2021 and 2022	Operational resources limiting the practical use/application of new capacities.	Ensuring action plans emerge from capacity building efforts and seeking resources for the execution.	UNIDO UNESCO National Commission SUDIA European Commission Cousteau Society UNESCO National Commission
4	<u>44 COM 7B.179 – Item 6:</u> Reiterates that any proposed extensions should follow the appropriate procedures for boundary modification and/or re-nomination	100%	Recommendation fully complied with	Not Applicable	Not applicable	WCGA National Commission
5	<u>44 COM 7B.179 – Item 6:</u> Urges the State Party to provide information on the issue of the reported permissions given by the Red Sea State for the development of a resort inside the limits of the property, and to inform the World	100%	Recommendation fully completed	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	WCGA National Commission

	Heritage Centre of any intention to undertake or authorize new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.					
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2. RESPONSE TO THE DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision 44 COM 7B.179: Requests the State Party to:

44 COM 7B.179 – Item 3: Requests the State Party to (A) submit the finalized IMP to the World Heritage Centre, and (B) ensure its implementation, including to (C) secure adequate funding, as soon as possible.

A. IMP Finalization

A formal ratification and adoption of the IMP by the Sudanese authorities had been done, but in the wake of the unstable political situation in the country combined with a high turnover in senior government officials. Moreover, the term of the IMP, 2017 – 2021, has expired, warranting a stock-taking exercise which would serve as a basis for an updated plan for a further 5-year period.

B. Ensuring IMP Implementation

Despite its expiry, most of the actions in the IMP remain valid. Since the last reporting period progress has been made in securing funds towards the implementation of some of these actions. This was largely a result of success in one area of the IMP, namely the strategy of pursuing partnerships with non-governmental, academic and research organizations in support of SMNP-DMNP. Key areas of implementation of the IMP include –

Under General Management

Strategy G1.2 Administration and staffing – Four officers of the WCGA were enrolled in a “Basic Diver Ranger Training Course”. This was a customized training provided by the Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries of the Red Sea University which enabled officers to dive safely; under difficult conditions; whilst also performing added work/tasks under/above water; in remote environments, and without 3rd party support.

Strategy G1.4 Non-governmental, academic and research organisations supporting SMNP-DMNP – A partnership between the WCGA and the national non-governmental organization SUDIA (Sudanese Development Initiative) developed through an MoU in 2020, contributed significantly to the implementation of the IMP. In November 2021, the two parties (WCGA and SUDIA) convened a planning workshop to review the IMP and identify areas of the management programme where they would collaborate. Several areas under the three components of the Management Framework (General Management, Ecological Value, and social values) were identified and specific actions to be pursued under each one embarked upon in 2022.

Strategy G2.6 Signage installed and maintained - with support from the Sudan Protected Areas project, a sign was installed at the entry to Mohamed Qol village and close to the WCGA headquarters.

Strategy G5.2 Rehabilitation of mangroves - Mangrove nursery established in both Mohamed Qol and Dungonab villages, and community awareness activities on conservation of mangroves have started. Mohamed Qol school students undertook a clean-up campaign in one site marked for mangrove replantation.

Strategy G6.3 Strategic campaign for social marketing of SMNP-DMNP - Village and beach clean-up campaigns were organized as part of the World Cleanup Day (September 17th) in the two villages of Mohamed Qol and Dungonab village in the MPA. On the morning of Saturday 17th, community members gathered at the women's centers in each village - men, women, and children, set out enthusiastically to clean their beaches and neighbourhoods. By late afternoon tons of garbage had been collected and a celebration was in order. The celebration took place in Mohamed Qol and was hosted by the General director of Gabiet Al Maadin locality. Closing words were made by community leaders and the director of the NGO SUDIA – and drinks were served to all those attending.

Sudan Marine Parks participated in a regional competition that was run by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) with the objective of promoting the use of Earth Observation and creating awareness of the data sharing geoportals and observatories to allow users to discover GIS datasets and creatively use them to develop innovative solutions. A story map about the WHS was developed as an entry for the competition. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/57ee163a592e46479b315d5ae1ac93bf>

Management of Ecological Values

Mangroves – Mangrove management and replantation program is underway as part of the “Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management in Sudan”. The NGO SUDIA has also engaged with the Mangrove Action Project to build capacity on community-based approach

Sea Turtles – two interventions targeting the sea turtles in the WHS have taken place in 2022. As part of an MS degree from the Faculty of Marine Fisheries at Red Sea University the student Badrelin undertaken research and fieldwork collecting data on sea turtles in the WHS. Fieldwork on sea turtles in the WHS was also undertaken by Abdel-Rahman El Mahdi in July 2022 with support from the State of the Worlds Sea Turtles (SWOT) Science Grants Program. The fieldwork collected evidence on sea turtles nesting habitats in the WHS and the current human-turtle interactions and how these are threatening the habitats and lives of sea turtles in the WHS. The information collected by these two turtles’ conservationists will be used to inform the design of a sea turtles monitoring program. The envisioned sea turtle monitoring program will be designed and implemented together with the management authority (Wildlife Conservation General Administration - WCGA) and the NGO SUDIA that is actively working with local communities and other stakeholders to further conservation, management, and development efforts in the area.

Coral communities – In November 2022 as part of its projects on marine fisheries, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute for Marine Research carried out a coral reef survey of the Sudanese Red Sea coastline. The survey included the WHS and officers from the Management Authority the WCGA participated in the dives to collect imagery and data of the coral reefs. The survey when published will provide data and information on the state of the coral reefs in the WHS.

Management of Social Values

Strategy S1.1 Support increased access to micro-finance within SMNP-DMNP - The NGO SUDIA with funding from the UNDP has established a partnership with the Social Savings and Development Bank (SSDB). Through this partnership a seed capital of around 20,000 USD has been availed for microfinance activities targeting the two villages in the WHS.

Strategy S1.2 Support men's role within SMNP-DMNP and increase benefits – the national NGO SOS-Sahel throughout 2022 has been targeting fishermen in the two villages in the WHS and providing them with capacity development and inputs to increase their productivity.

Strategy S1.3 Support Woman's role in SMNP-DMNP and increase benefits – awareness raising activities targeting women on conservation issues were carried out in 2022. Women's Savings and Loans Association were established in Dugonab and Mohamed Qol villages and female members received training on managing their Association. To-date over 60 females have enlisted in the associations and have accumulated savings more than 3000 USD. The WSLAs have also established a community-fund which acts as a solidarity mechanism for the members and provides emergency access to money.

Strategy S3.1 Support the gradual introduction of low impact ecotourism related activities into SMNPDMNP – In rolling out its community-based tourism in the MPA, the national NGO SUDIA in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism in Red Sea State organized a one-day workshop around the theme "Community-based Eco-tourism for Improved Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation in Sudan". The workshop which brought together several stakeholders provided tourism strategies centred around local communities, biodiversity, and sustainable tourism – showcasing examples from different parts of the country. Discussions centred on potential, obstacles, and—most importantly—how various stakeholders may support the expansion of ecotourism in Red Sea State's Sanganeb and Dugonab Bay-Mukkawar Island Marine National Park.

C. Secure adequate funding

Funding towards implementation of various aspects of the IMP have been secured from different sources in 2022. These included –

"Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management in Sudan" – is a multi-year project being implemented by the Higher Council for the Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR) and which targets three national protected areas in Sudan, one of which is the WHS.

Improving Conservation and Livelihoods in Sudan's Dugonab and Mukkawar Island National Park, a 6-months project funded by the Czech Republic Development Cooperation and being implemented by the national NGO SUDIA. A mangroves nursery and reforestation activity represent the core of this project and brings both social and ecological benefits to the WHS.

Civil Society Alliance Building and Community Engagement in support of Sudan's Transition in Red Sea and Kassala States. Funded by the British Council and being implemented by the national NGO SUDIA, this project targets several locations including the two villages of Mohamed Qol and Dugonab that fall in the WHS. The project is predominantly making contributions to the social aspects of the management framework by providing micro grants that are used to respond to pressing social issues facing the communities.

44 COM 7B.179 – Item 4: Requests the State Party to continue its efforts in relation to diving activities in the WHC, including by

- a. Establishing a clear code of conduct for diving operations in the property
- b. Establishing effective communication with dive operators, both national and international, to raise awareness about the established rules and regulations and encourage best practice in line with international standards,
- c. Establishing appropriate mechanisms, such a licensing system, to avoid violations,
- d. Ensuring regular patrolling to monitor any vessels operating within either component of the property.

Establishing a clear code of conduct for diving operations in the property – the WCGA together with the NGO SUDIA is planning a workshop in late December 2022 that will bring together tour and dive operators, as well as other relevant entities (Sea Ports Authority, Ministry of Tourism, etc.) to discuss and jointly develop a written code of conduct for diving operations in the property. The process of co-developing this code of conduct will be facilitated by the NGO SUDIA given its expertise in participatory facilitation and dialogue process.

Establishing effective communication with dive operators, both national and international, to raise awareness about the established rules and regulations and encourage best practice in line with international standards – guidelines on Ecotourism in Marine Areas of Outstanding Value in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean” were produced by the Cousteau Society and its partners in Sudan. The guidelines consist of two sections – one for tour operators and a second section for guests and specifically targeted for diving activities in the WHS. The guidelines are beautifully illustrated with images of guidance on diving with threatened/endangered species and do’s/don’ts. Produced in printed form these guidelines serve as an effective communication tool for dive operators and raise awareness about the established rules and regulations and encourage best practice in line with international standards.

Establishing appropriate mechanisms, such a licensing system, to avoid violations – although a licensing system is yet to be developed and put in place, dive tour operators are required to obtain a permit for any dive excursions in the WHS.

Ensuring regular patrolling to monitor any vessels operating within either component of the property – patrolling is ongoing in both locations of the WHS. In Sanganeb Bay the WCGA maintains a fulltime presence and a small boat that patrols the area. In Dungenab Bay and Mukkawar Island patrolling is extremely limited due to resource challenges and an extremely limited operational budget for the WCGA officers/rangers.

44 COM 7B.179 – Item 5: Encourages the State Party to continue building the management capacity for the property through training and knowledge exchange opportunities

The National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with UNESCO Chair on Oceanography and Marine Biology organized an information seminar in Port Sudan in 25th Decembe2021 within the framework of Participation Program on Gender equality and empowerment of women in Heritage Site, the Sanganeb Marine National Park and the Dongonab Bay-Makkawar Island Marine National Park.

For equipping girls and women with the knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills to tackle gender disparities and building a sustainable future for all, 4 workshops were organized in December 2021 which covered the following:

- Fisheries,
- Cultural industry
- Traditional medicine
- Food processing

Efforts contributing to building the management capacity for the property in 2022, included –

Eco-system Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) was introduced in Sudan Red Sea State as part of project implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with funding from the Government of Norway. Capacity on the EAFM was built for multiple stakeholders in Red Sea state ((fisheries, WCGA, Red Sea University, Fisheries Research) and the WHS town of

Mohamed Qol was selected for piloting the EAFM in Sudan. EAFM is a fishery management approach which recognizes the biological, economic, social, and physical interactions among the components of ecosystems and attempts to manage fisheries to achieve optimum yield taking those interactions into account. The goal of EAFM is to manage for ecologically sustainable utilization of living marine resources while maintaining ecosystem productivity, structure, and function.

Workshop under the theme Community-based Eco-tourism for Improved Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation in Sudan was organized by the national NGO SUDIA and the Ministry of Tourism in Red Sea state in October 2022. The workshop explored opportunities for the growth and development of the tourism sector in Red Sea state how stakeholders may support the expansion of ecotourism in Red Sea State's WHS of Sanganeb and Dungonab Bay-Mukkawar Island Marine National Parks.

A training workshop for ASPnet coordinators in World Heritage Site (WHS) was organized by the Sudanese National Commission (Associated School, ASPnet) in October 2022, in cooperation with UNESCO Khartoum Office and SUDIA; to build capacity of teachers in sustainable development goals, cultural dialogue, peace building and mechanism of protection and conservation of the WHS.

44 COM 7B.179 – Item 6: Reiterates that any proposed extensions should follow the appropriate procedures for boundary modification and/or re-nomination as per the Operational Guidelines, and also encourages the State Party to seek technical advice from IUCN if required.

Extension of the boundary modification efforts undertaken in 2019 have followed the required procedures for the WHS.

44 COM 7B.179 – Item 6: Urges the State Party to provide information on the issue of the reported permissions given by the Red Sea State for the development of a resort inside the limits of the property, and to inform the World Heritage Centre of any intention to undertake or authorize new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

No formal permissions have been given by Red Sea State for the development of a resort inside the limits of the property. Rumours occasionally surface now and again about such investments/developments however they are unfounded and no evidence indicating otherwise has been found. The reporting entity and the management authority have remained apprised of such issues and will immediately inform the WHC in the event of any such intention by the Red Sea state authorities to undertake or authorize new constructions that may affect the OUV of the property.

3. Signature of the Authority

Name : Wafaa Sidahmed Mohamed Nouredin *wafaaf*
Position/Title : Secretary General
Institution : Sudanese National Commission for Education Science and Culture

