



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

(In compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operation Guidelines)

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Environment Protection Authority (Yemen)

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Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

1. Executive Summary of the report

The conservation of the Socotra World Heritage Site remains a top national priority. The legitimate government, represented by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWe) and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) of the Republic of Yemen, is steadfast in its commitment to preserving the island's exceptional environmental and cultural significance. Socotra's unique biodiversity and Outstanding Universal Value (ouV) are central to these efforts, underscoring its importance as a national and global treasure.

The EPA continuously monitors developments on the island through monthly reports from its local branch in Socotra. It also fosters strong partnerships with international projects, particularly those under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Franklinia Foundation and other initiatives (e.g., Friends of Socotra) to strengthen conservation initiatives.

Yemen's ongoing economic crisis has significantly slowed development activities, including in the Socotra Archipelago, intensifying pressure on its natural resources. Despite these challenges, the EPA branch in Socotra has worked closely with local partners to prioritize environmental conservation, focusing on biodiversity preservation, safeguarding unique habitats, and managing protected areas.

In the absence of a dedicated government budget for environmental conservation this year, the Yemeni government has prioritized facilitating the work of international projects, particularly the GEF/UNEP Integrated Program for Conservation and Sustainable Development (Phase 2) and the Franklinia Foundation project for endangered tree conservation in Socotra. Key achievements include conserving biodiversity, protecting nature reserves, tackling invasive alien species (including enhancing monitoring measures to prevent the introduction of invasive species at the island's ports and airport), and direct habitat protection (including reforestation), in collaboration with local authorities. Furthermore, awareness campaigns have been conducted alongside local NGOs, complemented by efforts





to restore Socotra's unique biodiversity, such as mangroves, frankincense trees, and dragon blood trees, particularly in the aftermath of the cyclones of several years ago.

To ensure continued support for Socotra, the Ministry of Water and Environment oversaw the review of activities under the GEF-7 project, "Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods for Rural Yemen" (ID: 10562). This project, implemented in three areas (Socotra, Hawf, and Utmah) with FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation, under UN) as the executing agency, aims to develop sustainable and resilient livelihoods for rural Yemeni by integrating climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management into key sectors such as agriculture, livestock, and fisheries.

Additionally, the government is in the process of securing additional from GEF \$5,000,000 in funding under GEF-8 to implement the project, "Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development in Socotra Archipelago and Aden Wetlands, Yemen" (ID: 11408). Annex 3 of the report contains detailed links and project endorsements.

The conservation of Socotra's biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural resources remains a cornerstone of Yemen's priorities. Amid political instability, economic hardship, and global environmental challenges, the government calls on UNESCO, neighboring countries—particularly those supporting Yemen—and the international community to collaborate in advancing the effective conservation and management of the Socotra Archipelago UNESCO World Heritage Site unique Outstanding Universal Value.