



برنامج صون وتنمية أرخبيل سقطرى

SODP

Socotra Archipelago Conservation & Development Programme

www.socotraisland.org

Socotra Archipelago, Yemen





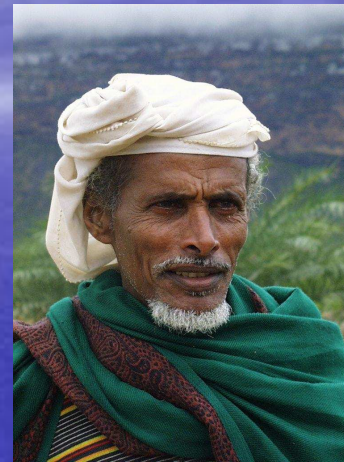
- **Area: ~3625 sqkm (max length ~130km, max width ~40km)**
- **Population: ~ 45.000 (historically always present)**
- **Highest Mountain: ~1500m a.s.l.**

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

- No access by sea for 5 months a year (due to strong winds and high seas)
- Unique language, culture, traditions due to historic isolation
- Access by civil aviation only as of mid 1999 (Only a gravel airstrip until mid 1999 – irregular military flights only)
- Isolated and inaccessible throughout its history, until 1994
- First asphalt road being built
- Inhabited for thousands of years. People had no choice but to live in balance with their natural resources – until present

Socotri people have traditional ways to conserve their natural resources

They have preserved the Biodiversity of Socotra until today



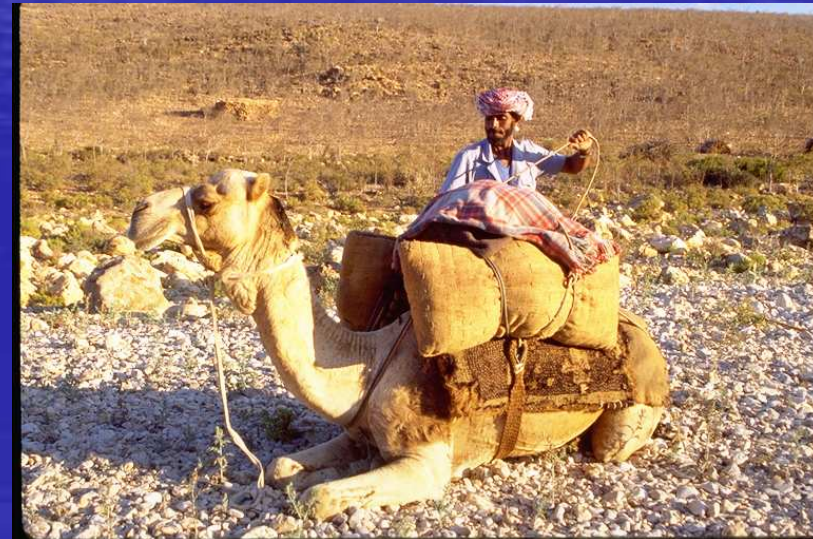
MAIN SOURCES OF LIVELIHOOD FOR THE LOCAL PEOPLE

Date palms

Livestock

Medicinal plants

Fishing



- **Over 300 endemic plants (30% of total)**
- **Among the top 10 islands in the world**
In terms of botanical diversity
conservation importance



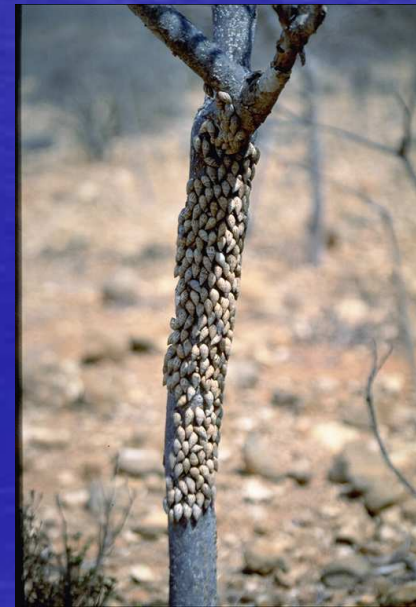


Summary of Flora

Flowering plant and fern species	825
Flowering plant and fern genera	430
Flowering plant families	114
Endemic taxa	307
Endemic genera	12

ENDEMIC FAUNA

- Reptiles, invertebrates: over 70% are endemic
- Largest population in the world of *Egyptian Vulture*
- *No endemic mammals*
- 7 endemic birds (total 180 species)



BIODIVERSITY

(following CBD definition)

- Intraspecific variation (is variation within species)
- Species diversity (most commonly used)
- Ecosystem diversity

MARINE BIODIVERSITY

- A unique combination of species from the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Indian & Pacific Oceans
- 3 species of Sea Turtles nesting in Socotra





Socotra Programme



Government of Yemen - Partners:

Ministry of Water & Environment

Environment Protection Authority

District Governments & Local Councils



Funding Now



UNDP, Italy

Budget 2003-2008: 5,000,000\$



In the past:

Netherlands, Poland

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Budget 1998-2003: 7,500,000\$





- 100 national staff on location + 6 in Sana'a
- 1 international staff in Socotra + 1 in Sana'a (50%) and Socotra (50%)



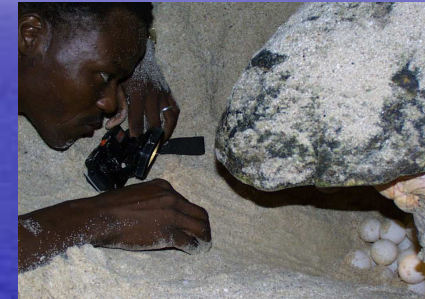
- Offices, labs, diving center, training facilities, in Hadibu



2003-2008

Supporting the engines of growth for the local economy: ecotourism & fisheries

- Building the capacity of the EPA/MOWE Socotra: implement PAs MPs, develop visitor facilities, community-based law-enforcement, biodiversity monitoring, education and awareness, EIA unit, ecotourism training
- Build up SES's capacity



2003-2008

Community mobilization and development

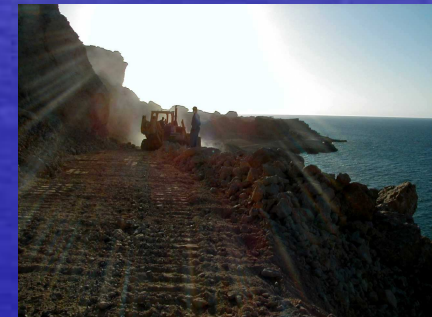
- Water harvesting systems
- Home gardens for women
- Malaria prevention awareness in PAs
- Support HUs near PAs
- Mother & child care
- Support to Hadibu hospital
- Mobile clinic and education unit



2003-2008

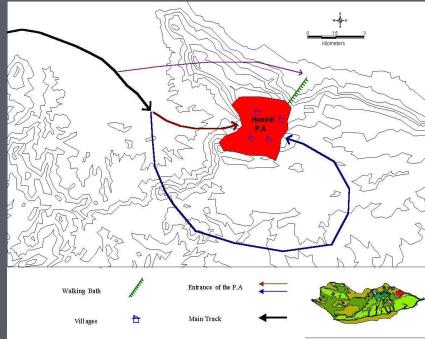
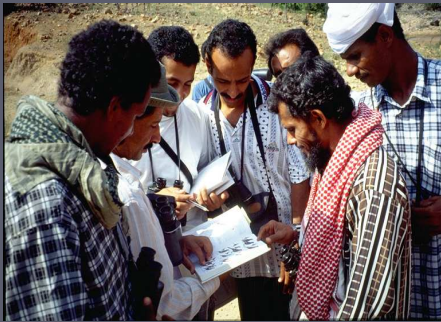
Local governance and resource mobilization

- Training/capacity building for local authorities and facilities upgrading
- Help LAs promote local economic development and environmental protection
- Build the capacity of the SCDP CU in Sana'a
- Develop an integrated Decision Support System
- Socotra-Galapagos Partnership Initiative

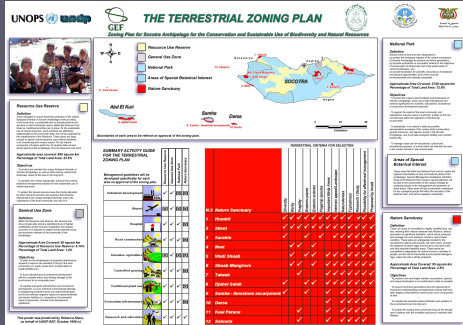


Support the implementation of the Conservation Zoning Plan

PROTECTED AREAS



Identifying priority protected areas
 Developing management plans w. communities
 Supporting the establishment of "PA associations"
 Implementing Management Plan through community
 Monitoring impact of Management



Homhil Protected Area





**Dihamri Marine
Protected Area**

Skund Protected Area



Ditwah Protected Area



Support the implementation of the Conservation Zoning Plan

ECOTOURISM



- Training for local staff and entrepreneurs
- Airport & Hadibu Information Centres
- Support Socotra Ecotourism Society (SES)
- Publications & diplays



Support the implementation of the Conservation Zoning Plan

EDUCATION & AWARENESS



41 Extension Officers working in their villages around the archipelago (7 women)

Over 25.000 people directly reached

All teachers formally trained

Pupils reached in all 37 schools



Virtually all population reached indirectly or through special events

New sets of EEA material produced locally





Coordination Unit in Sana'a



Programme management & support to Socotra team

- Database on all GOY and donor projects
- Support to MOPIC and MOWE/EPA on Socotra-related issues and Environmental Impact Assessments
- Advocacy and resource mobilization (preparation of proposals & liaison with donors)
- Office of the SCF in Sana'a
- All maps, reports, proposals, collection of illustrative materials (films, posters, books, etc.)
- Special Events & ad-hoc presentations in Yemen and abroad
- Programme publications and website



Support to the health Sector

HADIBU HOSPITAL

Mother & Child Care



Small Renovation



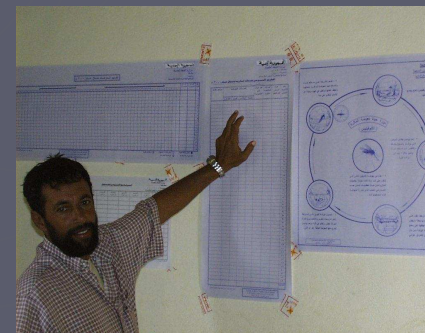
HU Pharmacy

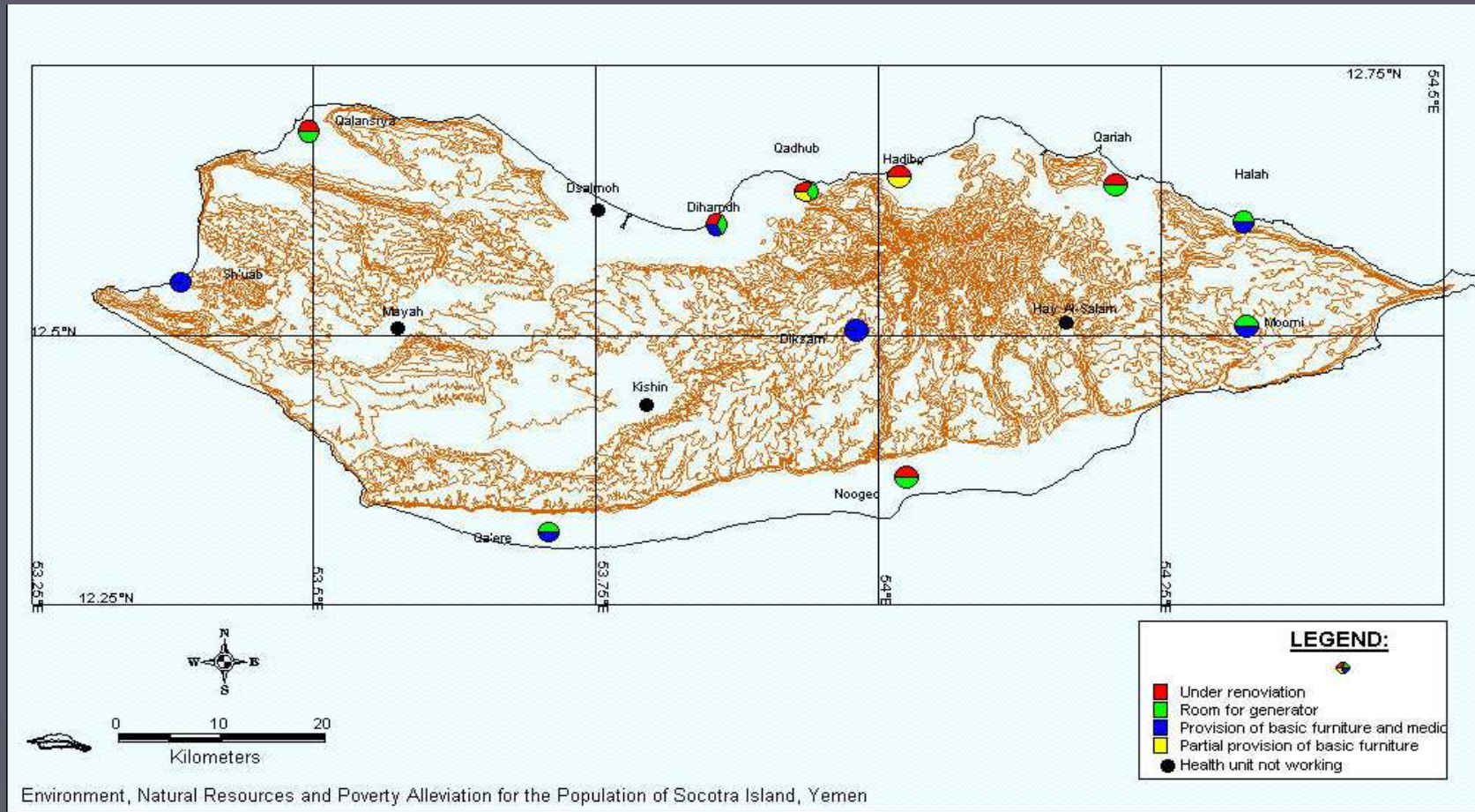


Staff Training



Malaria Control Programme (w. WHO)





Staff Training



Mobile Unit



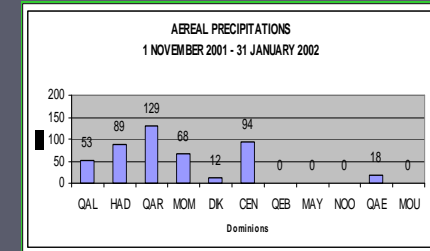
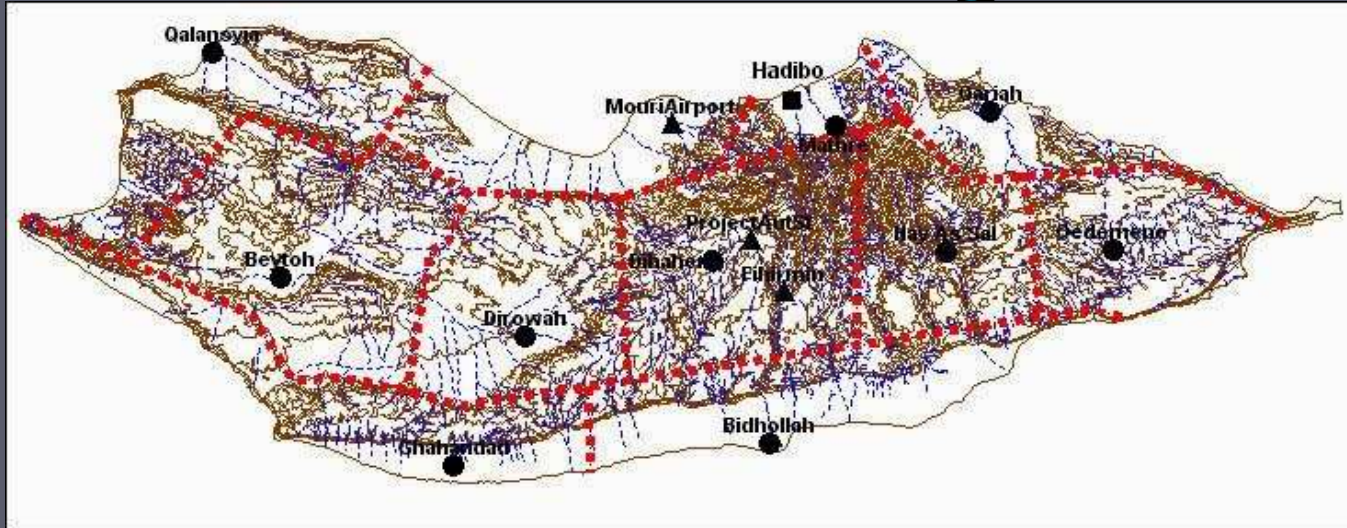
HUs Renovation



Generators



Watershed Management



Rainfall and Ground Water Table Data Collection Network



Watershed Management

Simple rainwater storage systems



Priority Area of intervention

- ▶ Decision Support System (DSS) for environmental and development planning

Where additional donor support is needed:

- ▶ Education, health, food security, vocational training...
- ▶ Fisheries sector development
- ▶ Waste Management
- ▶ Renewable Energy
- ▶ Strengthening GOY coordination mechanisms
- ▶ Ecotourism: partnerships with private sector, training and building human resources at local level, control measures and legislation, diversify products (culture, heritage, caving, etc.)
- ▶ Socotra Conservation Fund (GEF + others)



Threats

1: Population Increase and immigration from mainland



Over-fishing



Uncontrolled infrastructure development



Fuelwood & timber over-use



Poor Health and Nutrition

Water Scarcity

Poor Education

Solid Waste Problems

Costly Alternatives

Poor
Governance

**Poverty
Issues**





SCF

- **Group of Yemeni & international professionals committed to biodiversity conservation and community development**
- **Registered in UK and Yemen**
- **So far mostly active in Socotra and Sanaa**
- **Supported by UNDP, donors, members and volunteers**



scf - activities



- **Fund raising for small community development projects**
- **Working with local groups in delivering community micro-projects**
- **Special events**
- **Lobbying for conservation of Socotra**
- **Website & newsletter**

Thank you!

