



**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FACILITY
REQUEST FOR PDF BLOCK A FOR MSP**



UNDP PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT

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PROJECT TITLE: Strengthening Local Participation in the Implementation of Socotra's Conservation Zoning Plan
GEF AGENCY: UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES):
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GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM(S): OP1, OP3
GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY(IES): BD-1
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FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT	
PDF A	25,000
Sub-Total GEF	25,000
CO-FINANCING	
GEF Agency	
National Contribution	
In Cash	
In Kind	
Others	5,000
<i>Sub-Total Co-financing:</i>	5,000
TOTAL PDF FINANCING	30,000

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:
 SHIDIWAH, Mahmoud M. Date: 01/08/2005
 Chairman
 Ministry of Water and Environment
 Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for PDF Block A approval.

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1. Global Significance + Problem Statement

1.1. Problem Statement

The fragile ecosystems of Socotra are extremely susceptible to external shocks, thus jeopardising its globally significant biodiversity values. The challenge is to manage the “agents of change” to ensure Socotra’s biodiversity values are sustainably conserved.

1.2. Biodiversity description

Socotra is part of the Horn of Africa biodiversity hotspot¹, one of only two hotspots that is entirely arid. The hotspot is characterized by small concentrations of high endemism. There is estimated to be 5,000 species of vascular plants in the hotspot with 55% endemism, along with 285 species of reptiles with 33% endemism. Socotra is perhaps the most important centre for biodiversity in the hotspot. The archipelago has such a unique assemblage of animal and plant species that it is often referred to as “the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean”. It has 900 plant species (33% endemism) and 13 genera are only found on Socotra. There are 24 species of reptiles (24% endemism). It includes 22 Important Bird Areas and a rich marine diversity that is still being studied.

Several endemic plant species are endangered. The endemic and monotypic *Dirachma socotrana* is considered Vulnerable by IUCN while *Croton pachyclados* survives only in one location (Mies and Beyhl 1998). *Dendrosicyos* is the only representative of the cucumber family to grow in tree form. *Euphorbia abdelkuriensis* grows only on Abd al Kuri. This endangered plant is an unusual Euphorbia, known for its spineless columnar stems, all linked by a single rootstock. In total, IUCN names 52 endemic Socotran plants in the Red List of Threatened Species (Hilton-Taylor 2000). Socotra’s plants have had important economic values for thousands of years. Frankincense (from *Boswellia sacra*), myrrh (from *Commiphora myrrha*) and dragon’s blood or cinnabar (from *Dracaena cinnabari*) are three gum-resins obtained from Socotra. Dragon’s blood, is used as a medicine and dye.

The Socotra Archipelago consists of the mountainous main island of Socotra (3,625 km²) and three smaller islands, Abd Al Kuri, Samha with a few hundred people and the uninhabited Darsa. Socotra has three geographical terrains: the narrow coastal plains, a limestone plateau permeated with karstic caves and the Haghier mountains.

The coastal plains and low inland hills consist of open deciduous shrubland dominated by the endemic *Croton socotranus* and scattered trees of *Euphorbia arbuscula*, *Dendrosicyos socotranus*, and *Ziziphus spina-christi*. Grasses and herbs develop after sufficient rainfall. The most widespread vegetation type is a distinctive species-rich open shrubland found on the coastal foothills and the limestone escarpments. Two endemics, *Croton socotranus* and *Jatropha unicostata*, are the main shrubs present and are the most abundant plants on Socotra. Succulent trees, such as *Euphorbia arbuscula*, *Dracaena socotranus*, and *Adenium obesum* spp. *sokotranum* and emergent trees, such as *Boswellia* spp., *Sterculia africana* var. *socotrana*, and *Commiphora* spp. are also present (Davis *et al.* 1994).

¹ See http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/Hotspots/horn_africa

On the limestone plateau and upward to the middle slopes of the Haggier Mountains there are areas of semi-deciduous thicket dominated by *Rhus thyrsoflora*, *Buxus hildebrandtii*, *Carphalea obovata*, and *Croton* spp. The higher montane slopes support a mosaic of dense thickets, dominated by *Rhus thyrsoflora*, *Cephalocroton socotranus*, and *Allophylus rhoidiphyllus* with the emergent dragon's blood tree (*Dracaena cinnabari*), low *Hypericum* shrubland, and in many areas anthropogenic pastures. Open rocks are covered by lichens and low cushion plants, including an endemic monotypic genus of Umbelliferae (*Nirarathamnos asarifolius*) and several endemic species of *Helichrysum*.

Socotra possesses a unique eco-system, containing outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

The unique biodiversity of Socotra is controlled by and adapted to a number of critical factors.

Isolation

Owing to its remote geographic location (340km from mainland Yemen and 230km) and long isolation (at least 15 Ma, making Socotra one of the most isolated bits of land of continental landmass origin²) Socotra has a remarkably high proportion of endemic flora and fauna. It is ranked among the ten most endangered island flora in the world.

As with many isolated islands, the ecosystems evolved with no terrestrial mammals except bats (and possibly a shrew). This is important as it means the fodder vegetation lacks defences (such as thorns) and soils may be susceptible to compaction from introduced cloven-hoofed ruminants. It also raises concerns regarding alien invasive species.

Climate

Biodiversity on Socotra is controlled not only by its geographical isolation, but more importantly by climate, especially rainfall levels. Rainfall depends on the Red Sea Convergence and the Monsoonal Inter Tropical Convergence Zone – the mechanisms that create the monsoon winds. From June to September when the monsoon blows from the South-West the island is only accessible by plane, because the winds are so strong access by sea is impossible.

Rain falls on the island primarily during the late spring/early summer when the ITCZ passes over the island on its northward migration. A second, weaker wet season occurs during the early winter as the ITCZ returns south. Rainfall varies across the 3 geographical terrains with mean annual rates between 150mm on the coastal plains to more than 1,000mm in the mountains. Yet rainfall is sporadic, there can be years without rain and annual periods with no precipitation and extreme aridness. Nocturnal dew is an important source of water in the high mountains.

² The island probably detached from Africa as a fault block during the Middle Pliocene, in the same set of rifting events that have opened the Gulf of Aden,

Plant species found here have evolved morphological and physiological adaptations to cope with the dry climate and fierce monsoonal winds. *Adenium socotranum* has a special cell sap cycling within the caudex which prevents overheating. The succulents display several morphological adaptations. Plant bodies are globular or columnar, with reduced surface areas that decrease transpiration. Glaceous wax surfaces and microanatomical epidermal emergences reflect radiation. Umbrella-shaped shrubs form dense thickets, with all plants reaching the same height, a structure that protects them from strong winds (Mies and Beyhl 1998)³. Although well adapted to the harsh climatic conditions, the biodiversity of Socotra is likely to be less resilient to stress.

Soil

The main types of soil in Socotra are: Chromic Cambisols, Fluvisols, Calcisols, Leptosols and Regosols. Terra rossa (red soil) or Chromic Cambisol, is the most common soil on the island. It occurs in the limestone regions of Socotra. In areas where the natural vegetation cover still exists these soils are widely distributed. Fluvisol is another very important soil type on Socotra, distributed in wadis. Calcisol is the third important soil type marked by the enrichment of carbonates due to ascendant water movement especially in intra-mountainous basins (Homhil).

At the moment no detailed map of soil types and soil degradation in Socotra Island exists.

Degradation in different natural regions on Socotra (Pietsch 2002)

region	land use pattern	soil & substrata	soil degradation processes
eastern and western plateaus	stock farming incense plantation aloe collection date growings homegardens	Cambisol, Calcisol, Fluvisol substrata of slopes and pediments wadi sediments	truncation of soils due to fluvial and eolian erosion soil compaction (and erosion) due to grazing badland formation
southern foreland of Hagher Mts.	millet terraces stock farming homegardens	Cambisol, Fluvisol, Regosol substrata of slopes and pediments wadi sediments	truncation of soils due to fluvial and eolian erosion (erosion due to felling and grazing)
southern and northern coastal areas	date plantations homegardens	Regosol, Fluvisol, Calcisol wadi sediments marine sediments substrata of pediments	truncation of soils due to fluvial and eolian erosion salinization, desertification
Hagher Mts. (basement)	stock farming date growings	Leptosol, Regosol (Fluvisol) substrata of slopes wadi sediments	truncation of soils due to fluvial erosion (erosion due to felling and grazing)

³ Information provide from http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/at/at1318_full.html

Socotra's base complex consists of magmatic and metamorphic rocks, with three areas of uplift outcrops. However, most of the surface is composed of vast limestone plateaus

Risks associated with limestone soils:

- “burn” of organic matter, especially on slopes, leading to increased erosion
- Compaction
- Erosion
- Risks to karst features, pollution of underground watercourses, changes in water chemistry (acidification), sedimentation

1.3. Threats to biodiversity

The main threatening processes are:

- Habitat destruction (road, house and infrastructure construction)
- Direct species loss (timber collection for housing and urban fuelwood demand, grazing, fishing, invasive species)
- Habitat degradation (grazing pressure and changes to traditional rangeland management practices, climate change, waste disposal, erosion, soil degradation)

Woodcutting (*Croton socotranus*) for timber and fuel appears to be the most pressing immediate threat, particularly with limited energy alternatives.

1.4. Agents of change/Causes of threats

Development planning and investments⁴

In July of 1999, a new airport opened on Socotra. This new facility has made the archipelago easily accessible after centuries of virtual isolation. Other recent developments include the first paved road, a port jetty, fuel storage facilities, new schools, improved telecommunication facilities, limited power supply in the central village of Hadibu, and the opening of small rest-houses. These developments and others have already brought positive changes to the lives of local people. Uncontrolled or inappropriate construction and investments, however, especially threaten the coastal zone.

The progression of development among local communities

Perhaps the most complex “agent of change” to appreciate in terms of its relationship to biodiversity conservation is the rising trajectory of human development on Socotra. This agent is driven by a multitude of factors: increased involvement with the outside world through political changes and development investments (particularly the airport); poverty alleviation support from national and donor interventions; improved education; globalization and improved communication (mobile telephone coverage of the island is expected to be in place in 2005); migration of Socotris to the Gulf region; urban in-migration; trade and interaction with coastal immigrants from the mainland – just to name a few.

⁴ From www.socotraisland.org

Most Socotris still lag behind in most measures of human development. They live largely without electricity, only rudimentary education, very limited health care, basic sanitation and often lack access to safe drinking water. According to the UNDP Project Document *Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation for the People of Socotra Islands* (YEM/03/004/A/01/99), Socotra is probably the poorest and most disadvantaged area in Yemen. Yet things are changing and Socotra's communities are opening up to new opportunities and new influences. While it is hoped this will bring sustainable human development, there is a risk that it could be achieved at the expense of globally significant biodiversity values, or even worse for Socotris – result in loss of ecosystem functions and services that will jeopardize any development gains.

The population of Hadibo – the main town – has increased 10-fold in the last decade reaching to 10,000 inhabitants.

Another example can be seen with communities that were traditionally cave-dwellers. Few of the upcoming generations wish to live in caves and are building new houses. The shift to urbanized, sedentary lifestyles bring new comforts but also erode traditional practices (including rangeland management) and place increased pressure on forest wood supplies for housing construction.

What is critical is the type of development brought to Socotra. The principal “development paradigm” (and source of development funding) for many local communities is the one they receive from relatives returning from the Gulf. This paradigm often translates into “big is better” – wider roads, larger constructions, more cleared areas – with engineered solutions for natural resource management and ecosystem services.

Rangeland management

Some reviews of rangeland practices on Socotra indicate that vegetation is still in quite good condition⁵. Socotra has been suggested as one of the best preserved semi-arid tropical islands in the world. This has led to the conclusion by some that islanders are managing the rangelands sustainably and that current levels of livestock (goats in particular) are not affecting flora composition of the limestone plateau and Haggier mountains. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find seedlings and young trees of many important species, including *D. socotranus* and *D. cinnabari*. Some endemic and endangered tree succulents are used as drought fodder. Although there is no information on how current livestock numbers compare to historical levels, with the growing population it can be assumed livestock numbers are historically high and therefore disrupting traditional equilibriums. In addition, many of the endemic tree succulents have very long life cycles and changes in ecosystem species composition may be slow to become evident. Grazing pressure must be considered a threat.

Even if grazing is not directly causing the loss of globally significant species there is likely to be indirect effects, as Socotra's soils may be vulnerable to the degrading impacts of cloven-hoofed ruminants.

⁵ Davis, S.D., V.H. Heywood, and A.C. Hamilton (eds.). 1994. *Centres of Plant Diversity. Vol 1: Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia and the Middle East*. World Wide Fund for Nature and IUCN, Oxford, UK.

Climate change⁶

Up until now there has been very little information on the long-term cycle of climate, making it difficult to determine whether the ecosystems have evolved in response to climatic variability similar to those currently being experienced. Songs and oral histories of Socotrans indicate periods of prolonged drought, serious famines and livestock decimation, however there is a lack of long-term instrumental and geological climate records (e.g. such as tree rings or lake sediments) for the Socotra Archipelago. This means the timing, length and causes of droughts are unknown, making it very difficult to predict the impact of future climate changes on Socotra's biodiversity and culture.

2. Project Linkage to National Priorities, Action Plan and Programmes and CP/GCF/RCF, CCA and UNDAF situation analysis

Socotra is a programmatic priority for UNDP-Yemen. The CCF identified sustainable natural resource management as a key thematic area. Full management of the Socotra protected area by local and national authorities and the establishment of a biodiversity conservation fund is among the key expected results of the country programme. A large proportion of core funds have been programmed through the Socotra Conservation and Development Programme (SCDP) since the completion of the previous UNDP-GEF project. The SCDP project is addressing human development and biodiversity conservation in an integrated manner.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was adopted by the Cabinet in January 2004. The strategy calls for a sustainable and decent standard of living of Yemeni people while respecting the limits of nature and the integrity of creation. The strategy and action plans aim at conservation of Yemen's eco-systems through developing and maintaining a comprehensive and adequate network of protected areas, supported by effective co-coordinating management mechanism, adequately funded management plans, improved information system, conservation and rehabilitation of key endangered species, implementation of community-base in-situ conservation programs of key endangered flora and fauna, improving knowledge and understanding of species and ecosystems, and through the establishment of an effective control and monitoring system backed up with information system and legislative framework for the trade, use, and control of alien invasive species.

An important constitutional amendment was ratified in 2001 reaffirming the commitment of the people of Yemen to environment protection. Article (35) of the constitution states: "the protection of the environment is the responsibility of the state and society and is a national and religious obligation for every citizen".

3. Stakeholders and Beneficiaries involved in Project

The SCDP involves a large number of partners each with different roles and functions. These include: (i) Government institutions, (ii) local communities and individuals, (iii) NGOs, (iv) private sector (v) donors, and (vi) national and global community.

⁶ This section is based on Fleitmann, D., Matter, A., Burns, S.J., Al-Subbary, A. and Al-Aowah, M.A. 2003. *Geology and Quaternary Climate History of Socotra*, Fauna of Arabia 20: 27-43.

Government Institutions: Implementation of the current programme involves a wide range of government agencies namely: MoWE, EPA, MoLA, MoHP, MoFW, SFD, MoPIC, Governorate of Hadhramout and local councils. The EPA assumes the lead responsibility in programme implementation.

Local Communities and Individuals: community based management; community development and decentralization are important components of the programme. Local communities have important roles in management of common resources, improvement of their organizational set-up, maintenance of community development, conservation and ecotourism activities and increase involvement of women. The local people of Socotra will benefit from the improved community services, infrastructure and facilities improvement of basic services. Population groups involved in fisheries and ecotourism activities have the opportunity to acquire additional sources of income and improve their professional capacities. Communities at large benefit from improved decentralized governance system. Improved health condition is another important area, specially for mothers and children.

Non-Governmental organizations: NGOs support in organization of the local communities and the assist the people of Socotra in efficient management of natural resources. Their role focuses on community mobilization, awareness raising. Women societies, PAM associations, and ecotourism societies are key NGOs in Socotra.

Privates Sector: Appropriate marketing of natural attraction and provision of ecotourism services calls for involvement of the private sector. Given limited capacities on the island the programme assist in fostering the improvement of local professionals and quality of services.

Donors: The programme provides for a comprehensive framework for donor coordination in sustainable development and conservation of Socotra. Presently two major donors (UNDP and the Government of Italy) are co-financing the programme. The private sector and governments of Japan and Germany had also provided support to conservation and improvement of local environment conditions.

National and Global Communities: Support to the national economy through adding a high-profile ecotourism destination and the conservation of the locally and internationally unique and rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

4. Rationale for GEF Involvement and Fit with GEF Operational Programmes and Strategic Priorities

4.1. Current response measures

Development planning and investments

The main assistance to Socotra over the last decade has concentrated on creating mechanisms to guide sustainable development:

- The Socotra Master Plan approved by the Prime Ministerial Decree No 47/2004. Following up the approval of the plan, an official agreement was reached between the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Water and Environment for construction of roads in Socotra according to the recommendation of the Master Plan. The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation was instructed in

2004 by the Prime Minister to implement urgently needed and projects proposed by the Master Plan.

- Conservation Zoning Plan, approved by the Government of Yemen as per Presidential Decree no.275, 28 September 2000⁷. The CZP creates “resource use”, “general use” and “nature sanctuary” zones across the island.

The CZP was developed under the UNDP-GEF “Socotra Biodiversity Project” (1997 – 2001) and represented its major output. It was further supported by UNDP-Netherlands and UNDP-Italy-Poland projects. The *Socotra Conservation and Development Programme* within the EPA has continued to provide support through the different projects.

It is currently supported by the UNDP-Italy “Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation for the People of Socotra” project (\$5m, 2003-2008). This project recognizes that the Government of Yemen is not yet in a position to implement the CZP.

The limitations were evident when the EPA and MoWE proved incapable of enforcing the CZP against road construction through a “nature sanctuary” zone. Construction was only stopped and re-routed after SCDP brought international attention to the issue and the Government of Yemen felt its repeatedly expressed high-level political commitment to conservation of Socotra’s biodiversity was at stake.

The UNDP-Italy project is executed by the EPA and supports the implementation of the CZP by building EPA’s capacity to fulfill its technical role in overseeing the CZP and managing the “nature sanctuary” zones.

The project also recognizes the need to strengthen local government institutions so that it has the ability to make transparent decisions, in-line with Socotra’s sustainable development guides, and can be held accountable to the population of Socotra.

The progression of development among local communities

Since the first UNDP-GEF Socotra Biodiversity Project the needs of local communities have been recognized. The SCDP has been instrumental in establishing the Socotra Conservation Fund. The Fund seeks to conserve the globally significant and endemic biodiversity of the Socotra Archipelago by supporting the proposal and funding of projects that promote environmental education and awareness, protected areas management, sustainable use of resources, ecotourism, as well as scientific research and capacity building. The Fund has been actively involved with the support of the SCDP in mobilizing resources from the Yemeni private sector and the donor community to support protected area management, ecotourism society, women’s association, and solid waste management initiative on the island. Total amount mobilized so far for these initiatives is US\$245,969.

As the UNDP-Italy Project Document states “the communities, which will be the key players in the implementation of the CZP, have yet to address their primary human development needs, after centuries of isolation”. The Project Document states that it will support the sustainable “engines of growth” for Socotra – eco-tourism and sustainable fisheries.

⁷ See www.socotraisland.org/plan/plan.html for details of the Conservation Zoning Plan.

Rangeland management

Current research on Socotra (Dana Pietsch and Christian Opp) aims to indicate the different kinds of soil degradation as a direct consequence of land-use as well as an indirect sequence of events caused by the interaction of natural processes and anthropogenic influences. This will help determine the impact current livestock levels are having on the soil and ecosystems. Further understanding of the effects of pastoralism on ecosystem functions and species composition is required.

Climate change

Recent studies by the Bern University and the University of Sana'a indicate that it may now be possible to develop an almost complete high-resolution climate record for the last 55,000 years from Socotra's speleothems. This has the potential to provide clear information on the ecosystems' vulnerability to climate change.

Apart from this research there has been very little work on the vulnerability of Socotra's biodiversity to climate change, or the effect it may have on the traditional pastoral lifestyle of inland communities.

4.2. Baseline scenario

(In note form only)

- (i) The CZP has been developed and approved. It identifies the globally significant biodiversity "hot spots" in national sanctuaries and areas of special botanical interest.
- (ii) However it faces 2 major problems:
 - a. No respected and capable government structure in place to operationalise and enforce the CZP as the basis for development planning. EPA has highly improved technical skills thanks to SCDP, but it does not have the mandate to ensure all development activities on the island adhere to the CZP.
 - b. Not fully accepted by local communities when it comes to respecting use restrictions in the conservation zones.
- (iii) These reflect the 2 main "agents of change". The first refers to the need to ensure development planning and investment decisions are taken in accordance with and respect the CZP. The second refers to the progression of development for local communities and their need to address basic development issues.

4.3. Without GEF assistance

(In note form only)

- (i) UNDP-Italy project is addressing some of the issues (approx. \$4m remaining as at end of 2004):
 - a. Improved local governance to manage and plan Socotra's sustainable development (sections 3.1 and 3.2). This is also linked to the DLDSP.

- b. Improved EPA/MoWE capacity to provide technical support to the CZP implementation and coordinate with sustainable development management in the govt. (section 1.1 and 3.3)
 - c. Support to EPA’s protected area programme (section 1.2)
 - d. Support to the Socotra Ecotourism Society (section 1.2)
 - e. Community mobilization and development (section 2)
- (ii) The UNDP-Italy project focuses on local governance and EPA. However it has limitations. As the project is executed through EPA is it difficult to truly support other government bodies such as local government administration units or the Island Authority. It also contributes to the imbalance in capacity between the development entities and the EPA⁸.
 - (iii) The UNDP-Italy project says it will support the “engines of growth” for the islands economy: ecotourism and sustainable fisheries. However, apart from some support to eco-tourism (training guides and local communities and supporting the Socotra Ecotourism Society), the projects main support to the local economy is through the “community mobilization and development” component that provides support for access to safe drinking water, improved home gardens, a malaria control programme and support to the health sector.
 - (iv) The current approach has 2 main weaknesses:
 - Support for community development is channeled through the EPA (because the project is NEX with EPA as the designated institution). The SCDP has established Community Awareness and Community Mobilization units, but EPA does not really have the mandate to extend its services into the areas of community health and development. These are the responsibilities of local government through DLDSP support to the local councils in the districts of Hadibo and Qalansya. The support includes the establishment of the district offices, training to the local council members, involvement of the local council in planning and implementation of local initiatives and direct budgetary support through fiscal transfer of funds .
 - The community development assistance that is being provided (both through SCDP and SCF) does not carefully examine or measure the link between community assistance and biodiversity outcomes.
 - (v) The current approach is unlikely to sustainably address the main “agents of change”. Working through the EPA weakens the ability of the project to mainstream the CZP into the development planning process. Weak governance structures are a reality and need to be addressed. The role and mandate of the Island Authority needs to be clarified. Institutional relationships are brittle and jealousies easily enflamed. Housing the largest donor support initiative for the island in EPA – with tentacles in the health

⁸ To the point that EPA has a raised political level on Socotra.

sector and local government - does little to placate matters. The intention is to involve gradually the concerned line ministries and the local council in such matters.

- (vi) The SCDP was successful in standing up to the road contractor once by bringing international attention to the issue. But it is not a sustainable strategy and eventually the best way to counter such matters is to mainstream the CZP into the decision-making process, while at the same time supporting open, transparent and decentralized governance procedures. Responsibility for enforcing the resource use and general use zones may come under the mandate of MPIC, the Island Authority or local government.
- (vii) There is a concern that channeling support to local communities through EPA is also not sustainable. Once the SCDP ends, EPA is unlikely to be in a position to continue to provide support to the water, health and development sectors.
- (viii) Perhaps of more concern is that the current approach does not emphasise the link between community initiatives and the effective management of the conservation zones. The current approach relies on achieving biodiversity outcomes in the following ways:
 - Some initiatives are undertaken near the conservation zones (i.e. support to local communities near the Homhil nature sanctuary zone – home garden, water supply, eco-tour camp site)
 - Some initiatives have “environmentally-friendly” benefits (i.e. the solar lamps)
 - There is likely to be some increase in awareness (i.e. through the name of SCDP/EPA, through interactions with SCDP staff and volunteers, through training activities)
- (iv) But the main philosophy underpinning the initiatives appears to be “we have to provide something to the local communities, otherwise they won’t be interested in the conservation zones”. The SCDP Community Awareness unit explained the message they give to communities as “if donors see that you are conserving the environment, they will provide you with more development projects”.
- (v) There are significant risks that this philosophy could create a “cargo mentality” among local communities that could eventually crowd out conservation objectives⁹.

Without GEF assistance, the SCDP will continue to do good work. It will support the capacity of the EPA and help develop its programmes (management plans for conservation zones, community-based law enforcement, monitoring programmes, education and awareness, EIA and ecotourism). It will also contribute to improved local

⁹ See McCallum, R. and Sekhran, N. (1997) **Race for the Rainforest**: Evaluating Lessons from an Integrated Conservation and Development "Experiment" in New Ireland, UNDP

governance and community development. However, it will struggle to achieve sustainability relying only on its philosophy. While there are no development interests like logging or mining to compete with immediately, it will become increasingly difficult to buy-off local communities as they move along their development trajectories.

Biodiversity outcomes will not be maximized and in some cases they may even be reversed. One potential example is SCDP's provision of *khariif*¹⁰ to local communities. There is no information on what the implications of creating artificial water points may be on livestock numbers, traditional rangeland management practices and land degradation¹¹.

4.4. Fit With GEF Strategic Priorities

The project is consistent with GEF Operational Programme 1 on Arid and Semi-arid Zone Ecosystems, and Operational Programme 2 on Coastal, Marine, and Freshwater Ecosystems – the two main groupings of ecosystems present on Socotra. The project's objectives and activities will be designed to conform fully to GEF's Strategic Priority BD2 – *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes and Sectors* – by mainstreaming the Socotra CZP into the island's key development planning processes. The project follows the guidance provided by the *UNDP-GEF Biodiversity Advisory Note on GEF Biodiversity Strategic Priority 2* issued on 9 March 2005 by: (i) addressing barriers to the uptake of conservation measures in development planning; (ii) strengthening sectoral policies and policy-making capacities to take account of biodiversity; and (iii) integrating biodiversity conservation objectives into spatial planning systems.

The aim of the GEF intervention will be to integrate the CZP considerations (a) into the economic development of Socotra (i.e. roads, infrastructure, rural development, business developments etc); and (b) into the livelihood activities of local communities. The biodiversity values that the project will seek to address lie predominantly within the “nature sanctuary” zones of the CZP, however they can only be sustainably conserved if these zones are legitimately recognized in practice (not just decree) by developers, local communities and island decision-makers in the broader context of advancing Socotra's development progress.

5. Excepted Goal, Objectives and Outcomes of Final Project and Relevance to Outcomes of CPD and UNDAF

The GEF alternative will complement the UNDP-Italy co-financing under one unifying goal:

Goal

¹⁰ New water storing cisterns – sometimes filled by rainwater harvesting, but also supplied by piping water from mountain sources.

¹¹ Australia has done a significant amount of research on the issue that may be useful. See *The Effects of Artificial Sources of Water on Rangeland Biodiversity: final report to the Biodiversity Convention and Strategy Section of the Biodiversity Group, Environment Australia* by CSIRO, 1997 www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/technical/artificial-water/

To secure the biodiversity values of Socotra (Biosphere Reserve) and CZP conservation zones

Objective

To have the CZP operating as the basis for Socotra's development planning and as its primary mechanism for safeguarding its biodiversity values

- The GEF alternative will primarily address the main intervention gap of linking community initiatives with increases in the management effectiveness of the conservation zones (BD-1 type intervention)
- It will do this by supporting the Socotra Conservation Fund, established by SCDP and registered as a UK-based NGO. The SCF offers the opportunity of providing community development directly to local communities in a more flexible and appropriate manner. It also provides a counter-weight to the support received by EPA and offers an independent source of ongoing assistance to local communities.
- Development of a COMPACT-approach to linking community initiatives around the conservation zones to the effective management of the zones (this would include operationalising the SCF). Focus on making the link between local development support and biodiversity conservation.
- COMPACT seeks to demonstrate how community-based initiatives can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in the co-management of globally significant protected areas by working to improve the livelihoods of local populations¹².
- The focus will be on creating procedures and measures for making the link between community initiatives and improved management of the conservation zones.
- Some limited support to strengthen local government that complements the work done under UNDP-Italy – by creating links between the SCF and local government.
- Furthering understanding in the areas of rangeland management and climate change vulnerability
- Considering options for alternatives to fuel wood for energy needs.

6. Description of Preparatory Inception Stage

6.1. Expected Outcomes and Completion Date of PDF A project

The following outputs are expected:

- Baseline reviews and investigations are undertaken to strengthen the problem analysis and ensure the objective, outcomes and results are logically and properly identified. This will include a synthesis of information on local stakeholders

¹² See http://sgp.undp.org/index.cfm?module=activeweb&page=WebPage&s=compact_1

using the Sustainable Livelihood Approach to better understand the factors influencing their use of biodiversity “assets”.

- A consultation process is undertaken among the national and local stakeholders and leads to a consensus on project proposal, respective roles and institutional arrangements. A national validation workshop may also take place and focus on institutional management arrangements, role and responsibilities of stakeholders, consultative structures and partners, final budget, resource mobilization.
- ***The project proposal and document are prepared and fully consistent with the GEF review criteria.*** Once the project approach is discussed and accepted by the local stakeholders, a final GEF proposal and UNDP project document will be prepared in collaboration with the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit for Arab-States and total accordance with GEF and UNDP procedures and project criteria. The PDF-A will either lead to a MSP or Pipeline Entry Concept/PDF-B, depending upon the scope of the required mainstreaming intervention, the availability of requisite information, and other strategic issues as advised by UNDP-GEF.

6.2. Total Cost of PDF A (including co-financing amounts and sources)

PDF-A Item	Total US\$	GEF US\$	Co-financing US\$
International Consultant Consolidation of existing information, analysis of previous experience, system boundary visioning, research, outline logframe, MSP and prodoc preparation	25,000	25,000	0
Partner Consultations	5,000	0	5,000
Total	30,000	25,000	5,000

7. Total Workplan and Budget

Award Amount: USD 25,000						
Award Title: PIMS 1913 BD PDFa Strengthening Local Participation in the Implementation of Socotra's Conservation Zoning Plan						
Award ID : ATLAS tbd						
Project ID: 00041242						
Project Title: Strengthening Local Participation in the Implementation of Socotra's Conservation Zoning Plan						
ATLAS Project Objective	Atlas Activity (GEF Outcome)	Operating Unit	Source of Funds	Budget Account	Budget Description	Amount (USD)
Strengthening Local Participation in the Implementation of Socotra's Conservation Zoning Plan	Activity 1: Workshops and consultation	YEM	GEF	71200	International Consultants	16,000
		YEM	GEF	71600	Travel	6,000
		YEM	GEF	74500	Miscellaneous	3,000
					sub-total	25,000
					TOTAL	25,000

8. Management Arrangements

8.1. Roles and Responsibilities of the Parties, including financial and administrative modalities

This PDF A will be managed by UNDP Yemen Country Office following UNDP support to National Execution (NEX) using direct payment modality and based on UNDP financial Rules and Regulations.

UNDP will ensure a high-quality technical and financial implementation of the PDF-A. The Yemen UNDP CO will be responsible for monitoring and ensuring proper use of UNDP-GEF funds to assigned activities, timely reporting of implementation progress as well as undertaking of any non-mandatory evaluations. All services for the procurement of goods and services, and the recruitment of personnel shall be provided in accordance with UNDP procedures, rules and regulations.

UNDP Yemen will recruit an international consultant who will work in close coordination with the UNDP–GEF Regional Coordination Unit for Arab States to ensure the development of the MSP in line with UNDP-GEF requirements.

8.1.1. Information on Applicant Institution

The Socotra Conservation Fund (SCF) is an NGO registered in Yemen and the UK on a project by project basis. The SCF was incorporated in the UK in 2002 and formally registered as an NGO in Yemen in 2003. It is a flexible, democratic and participatory organisation, owned and controlled by the Full Members through the General Assembly, which is open to eligible individuals and representatives of properly constituted, non-statutory organisations and community groups, at the discretion of the management committee. The General Assembly holds most of the power for setting the direction and implementing the Objects of the organisation. Through the General Assembly, the Full members vote to elect the Management Committee, which administers the organisation's activities. Non-voting Associate Membership is open to other interested individuals and organisations, including relevant statutory agencies and corporate bodies. Advisory Status to the SCF may be offered at the discretion of the management committee

Additional details and full background information can be found in the following web site: www.socotraisland.org/fund

8.1.2. Mandate (capacity assessment) and sources of revenue

Mission of SCF: The Socotra Conservation Fund seeks to conserve the globally significant and endemic biodiversity of the Socotra Archipelago (Republic of Yemen) by supporting the proposal and funding of projects that promote environmental education and awareness, protected areas management, sustainable use of resources, ecotourism, as well as scientific research and capacity building.

Cross-Cutting Objects

- Improve the capacity of the people of Socotra to design and implement conservation projects
- Support conservation and sustainable development in the Socotra Archipelago
- Foster communications and cooperation between Yemeni, United Kingdom and International entities involved in the conservation and sustainable development of the Socotra Archipelago
- Improve community ownership and control of resources in the Socotra Archipelago
- Support environmental education and awareness in the Socotra Archipelago
- Foster scientific research and technological improvements supporting conservation and sustainable development in the Socotra Archipelago
- Link biodiversity conservation with sustainable development in the Socotra Archipelago

Specific Objects

- Identify and preserve endangered and endemic species, as well as their habitat
- Support existing local conservation and sustainable development efforts
- Support the implementation of the Conservation Zoning Plan for Socotra Archipelago (Presidential decree no. 275, 2000 of the Republic of Yemen)
- Improve sustainable fishing techniques and practices
- Support environmental assessment of proposed development projects
- Build eco-tourism capacity at local level
- Improve waste management
- Preserve local culture, knowledge, and traditions
- Ensure that benefits of resource development are equitably shared at local level in the Socotra Archipelago
- Raise public awareness of the conservation and cultural importance of the Socotra Archipelago in the United Kingdom and internationally

The SCF was born as the result of work conducted in the first UNDP-GEF project (1997-2001), and is currently entirely run with the generous support of private donations, work of volunteers who are also staff of the EPA and SCDP. The SCDP/EPA are providing the SCF with office space and equipment in Sanaa and Socotra, and are providing technical assistance to the extent possible. Past donors include the Government of Japan, the Government of Holland, the Government of Poland and HRH Charles, Prince of Wales. These private donations are directed towards the conservation of the island, based on projects that have been developed with local communities.

9. Monitoring & Evaluation

UNDP-Yemen will be responsible for the financial oversight and administrative control, following standard UNDP rules and procedures. All participating partners and UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit will ensure the PDF-A activities are undertaken to expected technical levels. Normal GEF and UNDP-GEF review criteria will be applied to the resultant PDF-B proposal.

The PDF-A will particularly take account of the findings and recommendations from the Final Evaluation of the previous UNDP-GEF Socotra project. It will also take into account evaluations, reviews and assessments emanating from the current UNDP-Italy Socotra project.

10. Legal Context (standard text below)

This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Yemen and the United Nations Development Programme, signed by the parties on April 11, 1977. The host country implementing agency shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the government co-operating agency described in that Agreement.

UNDP acts in this Project as Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and all rights and privileges pertaining to UNDP as per the terms of the SBAA shall be extended mutatis mutandis to GEF.

The UNDP Resident Representative in Republic of Yemen is authorized to effect in writing the following types of revision to this Project Document, provided that he/she has verified the agreement thereto by the UNDP-GEF Unit and is assured that the other signatories to the Project Document have no objection to the proposed changes:

- a) Revision of, or addition to, any of the annexes to the Project Document;
- b) Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the rearrangement of the inputs already agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation;
- c) Mandatory annual revisions which re-phase the delivery of agreed project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility; and
- d) Inclusion of additional annexes and attachments only as set out here in this Project Document

11. Mandatory Annexes

Annex 1: TOR for key staff
Project Development Specialist (International)

Start date of the assignment: dd/mm/2005

Duration of the assignment: 3 months, extension possible

The key outcomes of the PDF A stage is expected to be a Medium-size Project approved by GEF and UNDP.

II. Objective

Under the overall guidance of the UNDP-Yemen, informed by the Socotra Conservation and Development Programme team and with guidance from the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser on Biodiversity, the International Project Development Specialist is expected to work together with project partners in developing a GEF MSP project proposal and Project Document.

III. Scope of work of the contractor

The Project Development Specialist (International) is responsible for leading the PDF-A activities, as set out in the Project Implementation Document. This will be achieved through:

1. 3 days desk-based background analysis
2. 5 working days in Sanaa working with UNDP, SCDP team, SGP National Coordinator, relevant ministries and institutions and other national partners
3. 10 working days on Socotra with SCDP, SCF and other relevant local partners and stakeholders
4. Possible validation meeting
5. 12 desk-based days, which will include:
 - Developing the proposal in-line with GEF Strategic Priorities and other eligibility requirements, UNDP-GEF advice and the UNDP-GEF problem analysis and logframe approach
 - Responding to comments from the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser on an ongoing basis
 - Direct national designated institutions in gathering national information and providing PDF-A inputs
 - Coordinating inputs from national and local partners, including ensuring the quality of inputs
 - Responding to comments from partners, UNDP participating offices, UNDP-GEF peer reviewers, GEFSEC, other GEF Agencies etc

IV. Terms and conditions for provision of services by the contractor

UNDP Yemen may contact the contractor at any time during working hours and request the contractor's expert support (through document preparation), inputs or participation in meetings in relation to any activity or elaboration of a legal or working document pertaining to the development of the project in question.

V. Schedule for delivery of outputs by the contractor

Output 1: Initial MSP outline

dd/mm/2005

Output 2: Finalized MSP for submission

dd/mm/2005

Output 3: Draft MSP Project Document

dd/mm/2005

VI. Reporting by the contractor and payment for contractor's services

For reporting purposes, in line with Outputs schedule above, the contractor produces (1) final MSP submission and (2) final draft MSP Project Document.

In addition, a mission report has to be presented if a mission is undertaken.

The total contract amount is USD 15,000, excluding air tickets and DSA.

The payment is made in the following installments:

USD 5,000 upon presentation of the initial draft

Outstanding balance after presenting the final reports (including mission report if any), as agreed with UNDP.

Annex 2: Government GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsement Letter

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
Ministry of Water and Environment
Environment Protection Authority



الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة المياه والبيئة
الهيئة العامة لحماية البيئة

المرفقات: ٥١/٥٨/٢٠٠٥

التاريخ: ٢٠٠٥/١١/١٠
رسم

To: Mr. Leorand Good, Chief Executive Director, GEF
From: Mahmoud M. Shidiwah, Chairman, Environment Protection Authority, GEF
Operational Focal Point, Republic of Yemen

RE: Proposal for a Medium Sized Project Socotra Yemen

Dear Sir,

It is our pleasure to endorse the attached proposal for supporting the establishment of the Socotra Conservation Fund.

The concept of this important initiative was initially developed by the local communities with support from EPA and project staff in Socotra.

The proposed project will effectively and timely complement ongoing Protected Areas management efforts carried out by the EPA in the Socotra Islands. It will also fit in the framework of the wider "Socotra Conservation and Development Programme" supported by the Government of Yemen and a pool of donors including the Government of the Netherlands, Italy, France, Poland and the UNDP.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the GEF, for their previous support to conservation efforts in Socotra in the period 1997-2001. The initial GEF contribution, in fact, not only laid the basis for ongoing and successful biodiversity conservation efforts, but also provided an opportunity to catalyse donor attention towards this globally important Socotra Islands.

We trust that the present proposal will receive your consideration, especially in view of its importance in complementing GOY/donor initiatives, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of ongoing biodiversity conservation efforts.

With best regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Mahmoud M. Shidiwah
Chairman,
Environment Protection Authority
(GEF Operational Focal Point)



صنعاء- ص.ب: (١٩٧١٩) - هاتف: ٢٠٧٨١٦/٢٠٢٠١٢ - فاكس: ٢٠٧٣٢٧ - بريد إلكتروني: epa-yemen@yemen.net.ye
Sana'a - P.O.Box: (19719) - Tel : (202012 / 207816) - Fax: (207327) - E-mail:epa-yemen@yemen.net.ye

SIGNATURE PAGE

Country: Yemen _____

UNDAF Outcome(s)/Indicator(s):

(Link to UNDAF outcome., If no UNDAF, leave blank)

Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator (s): Improved capacity of Local authorities and community based groups in environmental management and sustainable energy development

(CP outcomes linked t the SRF/MYFF goal and service line)

Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s): Enhanced people’s participation in environmental conservation and natural resources management including biodiversity in a centralized context.

(CP outcomes linked t the SRF/MYFF goal and service line)

Implementing partner: UNDP Yemen Country Office _____
(designated institution/Executing agency)

Other Partners: _____
(formerly implementing agencies)

Programme Period: _____
Programme Component: _____
Project Title: <u>Strengthening Local Participation in the Implementation of Socotra’s Conservation Zoning Plan</u>
Project ID: _____
Project Duration: <u>4 Months</u>
Management Arrangement: <u>NEX</u>

Budget	<u>USD 25,000</u>
Allocated resources:	_____
• Government	_____
• Regular	_____
• Other:	_____
○ Donor	_____
○ Donor	_____
○ Donor	_____
• In kind contributions	USD 5,000 _____

Agreed by (Government):

Agreed by (Implementing partner/Executing agency):

Agreed by (UNDP):