



Socotra Archipelago, Yemen

Key facts

Recommended by IUCN for inscription on the World Heritage List in July 2008 at the World Heritage Committee in Quebec City, Canada, for its outstanding biodiversity.

Known as the “Galápagos of the Indian Ocean,” Socotra is globally important for species conservation. Home to 825 plant species of which 307 (37 percent) can only be found on Socotra. And of its 34 species of reptiles, a staggering 90 percent can only be found on Socotra.

The nature sanctuaries, national parks and areas of special botanical interest included in the property encompass about 75% of the total land area of the archipelago.

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.

Key quotes

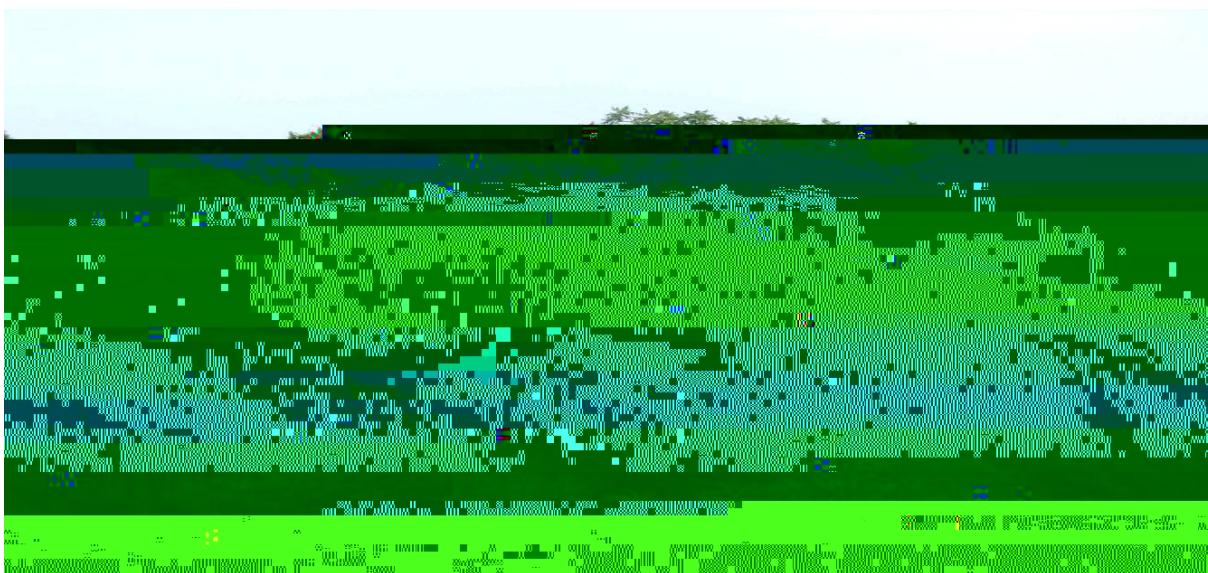
“Socotra is of particular importance to the Horn of Africa biodiversity hotspot,” says **David Sheppard, Head of IUCN’s Protected Areas Programme**. *“It is spectacularly rich in species which can only be found on this archipelago so it is easy to see why it has been called the Galápagos of the Indian Ocean.”*
“Socotra is already well covered by nature sanctuaries, national parks and areas of special botanical interest,” says **David Sheppard, Head of IUCN’s Protected Areas Programme**. *“In that sense, it is already set up for the long-term conservation of its rich and distinct biodiversity.”*

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Photos

For photos of Socotra Archipelago, please visit <http://data.iucn.org/temp/wh2008/>. Please note the images are copyright protected and can only be used to illustrate press releases in relation to IUCN's recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.



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