

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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