

**Celebration of international day for wetlands 2013**

Socotra archipelago world heritage site one of the most important biotopes in the world includes several endemic plants and animals. Socotra characterized by several terrestrial and marine habitats. Wetlands is very important components of those habitats represent more than 5% from the total land and divided between wetlands, mangroves, salt march and wadies. Wetlands ecosystems in Socotra is very important because it host several important organisms , several of them located close to the cities, and provide water sources for people .especially in the mountains

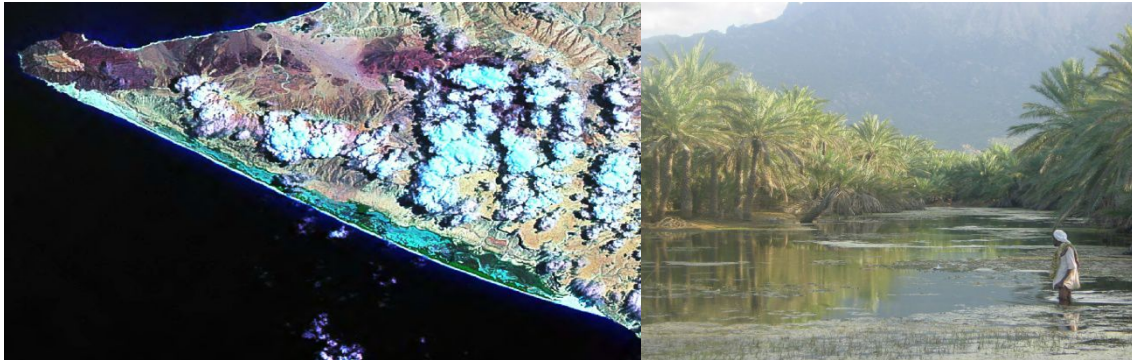


**Map 1:** showing the important coastal wetlands areas in Socotra Island

One site only on Socotra have been announced as Ramsar site which is Ditwah natural sanctuary according to Socotra Conservation and Development Zoning Plan approved by presidential decree 270 for 2000. Several other sites very important for conservation – mostly all wetlands sites in Socotra are important – and those sites need management effort from the government and international organizations. The development in Socotra is very active and the cities are extended very fast towards wetlands but in Socotra we still have .chance to do our best for better future of wetlands

Environmental Conservation Group – Socotra (Mahabah) is unofficial group interested in environmental conservation, education, awareness and local community based projects. The activities of the group depend on individual voluntary work and accept any support. Wed did awareness about some important species such as sea turtles, sea cucumber and dragon's blood trees, we did also several cleaning campaigns and environmental education for .students

Wetlands in Socotra are very important especially that many of them close to the capital Hadibu, we saw the increase of investments around and in those wetlands, and we are not in the level of decision makers so we tried by participation in international wetlands day to open the eyes of decision makers to the important of those wetlands for the benefits of .ecosystems and people



**Photo 1:** leaf wetlands close to capital Hadibu, right map of Neet mangrove wetlands

Celebration program of international wetlands day divided to three parts; cleaning of the area around the main road coming from the airport before entering to the capital Hadibu, this area is the edge of vegetation cover with the city and one of the first areas seen by tourists when they arrive to Socotra and covered by plastic bags, so our aim was to give better view for visitors and give back the natural view to the area. Other cleaning campaigns have been done in Ditwah Ramsar site in Qalansia district organized by our members in Qalansia and implemented by Alnassr Association active in providing tourists services on the .site



the second side about wetlands on Socotra Island. Visiting wetlands close to the capital and bird watching program have been canceled because of resource limit (no car and no enough .(binoculars



**Photo 3:** presentation about wetlands

Internet activities by member of Environmental Conservation Group – Socotra (Mahabah) in facebook providing information about wetland, discussion and uploading photos and videos . for awareness about wetlands and also advertising about our activities before and after

[/http://www.facebook.com/groups/229870490461574](http://www.facebook.com/groups/229870490461574)

#### Acknowledgment

Our thanks go to all who participate in our activities, first to university of sciences and technology coordination office who support printing the leaflet and welcome us in his office for doing our presentation, to waste collection office. Our thanks extend to environmental protection authority-Socotra archipelago, national water resources authority units in Socotra who participate in cleaning campaign. Thanks go farther to wetlands focal point on Sana'a .and to wetlands regional office secretary for their information and advices

**(Environmental Conservation Group – Socotra (Mahabah**

**Reporter:** Abdurraqeb Al-Okaishi