EVALUATOR RATING SHEET

Signatory State:	**Yemen**
Site name:	**Sharma-Jathmoun-Oharqum Reserve**
Date evaluation concluded:	**12th June 2024**
Evaluator:	**Jeff Miller & Robert Baldwin**

CRITERIA	SCORE RANGE	SCORE	SUB-TOTAL
I. Ecological and Biological Criteria			
EB1a. Turtle abundance (at nesting sites)*	1 to 3	3	
EB1b. Turtle abundance (foraging sites)*	1 to 3	2	
EB2. Species and/or management unit richness	1 to 3	3	
EB3. Resistance	1 to 3	2	
Sub-Total [*cf. Minimum category value = 6*]			10
II. Governance Criteria			
G1. Management framework	1 to 3	1	
G2. Conservation actions	1 to 3	2	
G3. Research and monitoring	1 to 3	1	
Sub-Total [*cf Minimum category value = 5*]			4
III. Socio-economic and Political Criteria			
S1. Social-Cultural importance	1 to 3	3	
S2. Compatible activities	1 to 3	2	
S3. History of recognition	1 to 3	2	
S4. National significance	1 to 3	3	
S5. Perceived ancillary benefits because of the site's inclusion in the network	1 to 3	3	
Sub-Total [*cf. Minimum category value = 8*]			13
IV. Network-wide Ecological Criteria			
N1. Representativeness and replication	1 to 3	3	
N2. Ecological connectivity	1 to 3	3	
N3. Area	1 to 3	2	
Sub-Total [*cf. Minimum category value = 5*]			8
GRAND TOTAL [*cf. Minimum total score = 23*]			35

Feedback to proponent:

This extensive portion of the southern coast of Yemen is very important for nesting green turtles. However, the proposal needs support from documentation of (1) the turtles and other species that use the area, (2) the existing habitat (in relation to other available coastal habitat), and (3) existing threatening processes.

The weakest area of the proposal is the conservation management support provided by the regional and national governments. To address this, the main points of the Management Plan should be presented. The research that has been conducted should be highlighted and any available details of research/survey activities should be provided. Also, efforts to reduce threats to the population(s) via educational outreach programs should be included.

Although there is a lack of recent data on the distribution of nesting and assessment of current threats, the greatest impediment to the conservation management of the area is the lack of resources (i.e., equipment, personnel, funding, etc.). The designation as a part of the IOSEA Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles is likely to aid obtaining the funds necessary to support both the research and management of the area. In support of this, please provide reference to any publicly available reports or scientific papers that provide information about the turtles and the beach habitat in the protected area.

Useful information may be found in:

PERSGA. 2002. Strategic Action Programme for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Status of the Living Marine Resources in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and Their Management. *Strategic Action Programme for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden***,** 134.

PERSGA. 2004. Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Turtles and their Habitats in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

PERSGA. 2006. STATE OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR THE RED SEA AND GULF OF ADEN: 2006 Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Miller, J. D. 2021. Yemen. Pp. 377-410. In: Phillott, A. D. & Rees, A. F. (eds.) 2021. *Sea Turtles in the Middle East and South Asia Region MTSG Annual Regional Report 2021*: IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group

Recommended Methods (available in Arabic and English):

PERSGA /GEF. 2004. *Standard Survey Methods for Key Habitats and Key Species in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden,* Jeddah *PERSGA Technical Series* 10, 1-320.

PERSGA. 2019. Standard Survey Methods for Key Habitats and Key Species in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (2 nd Edition). *PERSGA Technical Series* 19,1-344.

Recommendation to Meeting of IOSEA Signatory States, and final comments:

The marine turtle nesting in the Sharma-Jathmoun-Oharqum Reserve is of international and regional importance. Yet, the conservation management of the area, as well as the support for research and local/regional education programs, is poor. This is understandable given the current national situation.

Because the designation as a part of the IOSEA Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles is likely to aid obtaining the funds necessary to support both the research and management of the area, the proposal should be revised to include previous work and to address the current needs and identify threatening processes.

Our recommendation is that the proponent revise the proposal to strengthen it with the help of an IOSEA Advisory Committee member. The proposal could be accepted pending revision.