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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECTION ONE</b><br/><b>THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE</b></p> |
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*[Integral text – translation: EPC/UNDP GEF Socotra Biodiversity Project]*

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**THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**  
**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE**  
**NUMBER 275 OF YEAR 2000**

Regarding the conservation zoning plan for Socotra Islands (Socotra, Samha, Darsa, Abd Al-Kuri and the associated small islands, rocks and rock outcrops) into areas for conservation and development.

The President:

After reviewing the Constitution of the Yemeni Republic,  
And the presidential decree number (20) for the year 1991 regarding the council of ministers,  
And the law number (260) for the year 1995 regarding environment protection,  
And the presidential decree number (72) for the year 2000 regarding the cabinet formation and naming its members,  
And the Council of Ministers decree number (94) regarding the formation of the Environment Protection Council and its structure, and its amendments,  
And based on the presentation of the Chairman of the Environment Protection Council,  
And after the approval of the Council of Ministers.

**DECREE**

**PART ONE**  
**Names and Definitions**

Article (1) This decree is called the conservation zoning plan for Socotra islands (Socotra, Samha,, Darsa, Abd Al-Kori, and the associated small islands, rocks and rock outcrops) into areas for conservation and development.

Article (2) For the purpose of executing this law, the following words and phrases are assigned the meanings indicated in front of each of them unless otherwise expressed by the text:

The republic: The Yemeni Republic

The responsible authority: ministries or departments or public institutions and Environment Protection Council

The council: The Environment Protection Council

Socotra islands: Socotra group of islands including the islands of Socotra, Samha, Darsa, Abd Al-Kori, and the associated small islands, rocks and rock outcrops

Resource Use Reserve: An area managed to ensure long-term protection of the unique biological diversity of Socotra islands while providing, at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services to meet community needs and appropriate development activities.

General Use Zone: it is located within the resource use reserve and includes sites where a significant level of habitat modification has occurred and is designated for appropriate general development purposes.

National Park: natural areas of land or sea designated to protect the ecological integrity of the unique ecosystems of Socotra islands for present and future generations to provide a foundation for scientific, educational, and recreational opportunities, beside the appropriate development activities for ecotourism.

Nature Sanctuaries: these are areas of land or sea characterized by rare plant or animal species still retaining their natural character set aside for scientific research.

## **PART TWO**

### **Objectives**

Article (3) The purpose of this law is to fulfill the following objectives:

1. Protect the biodiversity of Socotra islands.
2. Achieve a balance between the population needs in development and the available natural resources such that they are not negatively impacted.
3. Preserve the traditional practices in management of natural resources.
4. Protect the nature sanctuaries of national and international importance in Socotra islands.
5. Protect the genetic material of rare and endemic species in Socotra islands.
6. Exercise a sound environmental management in these areas to protect natural resources from negative impact of development activities.

## **PART THREE**

### **The Zoning of Socotra Islands**

Article (4) Socotra islands are divided into three main areas as follows:

First:

(a) Resource Use Reserve

The objectives of these areas are as follows:

To protect and maintain the unique biological diversity of Socotra islands, as well as other natural, cultural and landscape values of the area in the long term.

To maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the existing traditional management practices for the sustainable use of natural resources.

To protect the natural resource base from being alienated for other land and resource use purposes and other development activities.

Areas:

Approximate Total Area Covered (terrestrial): 890 km<sup>2</sup>

Percentage of Total Land Area: 23.5%

Approximate Total Area Covered (marine): 16498 km<sup>2</sup>

(b) General Use Zone:

The objectives of these areas are as follows:

To allow for the development of essential infrastructure required to improve the standard of living of the local community (i.e. roads, power lines, and commercial development) to minimize negative impact on the environment to an acceptable level.

Areas:

Approximate total area covered (terrestrial): 55 km<sup>2</sup>

Percentage of Resource Use Reserve (terrestrial): 6.14%

Percentage of total land area: 1.4%

Approximate total area covered (marine): 1 km<sup>2</sup>

Second: National Parks

The objectives of these areas are as follows:

To protect the unique natural habitats and landscapes of Socotra islands, which are of high national and international significance for scientific, educational, recreational or ecotourism development purposes.

To perpetuate representative examples of the unique biotic communities, genetic resources, and endemic species, found in the Socotra islands, and maintain biodiversity.

To manage these areas in a sound environmental manner for educational, cultural and recreational purposes.

Areas:

Approximate total area covered (terrestrial): 2748 km<sup>2</sup>

Percentage of total land area: 72.6%

Approximate total area covered (marine): 1514 km<sup>2</sup>

Third: Nature Sanctuary

The objectives of these areas are:

To preserve rare and fragile habitats, ecosystems, species and unique landscapes in as undisturbed a state as possible.

To maintain the essential natural attributes and qualities of the environment over the long term for future generations.

Areas:

Approximate total area covered (terrestrial): 95 km<sup>2</sup>

Percentage of total land area: 2.5%

Approximate total area covered (marine): 154 km<sup>2</sup>

Article (5) The boundaries of the areas in article (4) of this law are determined according to the following attached maps:

(a) Map number (1) of the terrestrial protected areas in Socotra islands.

(b) Map number (2) of the marine protected areas in Socotra islands.

## **PART FOUR**

### **Management and Implementation**

Article (6) Environment Protection Council and the Ministry of Construction and Housing and Urban Planning oversee the implementation of the conservation zoning plan

for primary and secondary areas included in this law and send regular periodical reports to the Council of Ministers on the achieved results.

Article (7) The Environment Protection Council and the responsible authorities must develop plans and guidelines necessary to manage these areas and organize activities within them each within its jurisdiction according to the provisions of this law.

Article (8) Travel to and from the Socotra islands should be regulated according to the capacity of these islands.

## **PART FIVE**

### **Concluding Provisions**

Article (9) Every citizen or any person is prohibited from hunting with firearms or any other means without permit from the responsible authorities; or cause any harm to the environment in the areas determined by this law according to the attached maps.

Article (10) Importing seeds, seedlings, pesticides or fertilizers into the Socotra islands is prohibited unless the responsible authorities have conducted the necessary analysis and examination and issued permits in coordination with the council.

Article (11) it is prohibited to import qat seedlings to cultivate in all parts of Socotra islands.

Article (12) Socotra conservation zoning plan becomes part of the master plan for the development of Socotra islands under preparation.

Article (13) New protected areas can be declared, or the borders of existing ones be expanded, by a decree from the Council of Ministers as needed for environmental management and development, on a recommendation from the Environment Protection Council.

Article (14) All ministries, departments, public and private institutions must conduct an environmental impact assessment for all projects and activities they implement or supervise their implementation according to environment protection act number (26) for the year 1995.

Article (15) The government should provide sufficient financial resources to allow the implementation of the plan and fulfill the objectives of this law within the budget of the council.

Article (16) The council will issue the necessary regulations to implement this law in coordination with the responsible authorities.

Article (17) All ministries and institutions involved in the development of Socotra islands adhere to the implementation of the conservation zoning plan each in their areas of specialization.

Article (18) all ministries and concerned institutions develop plans and programs for the development of Socotra islands according to the conservation zoning plan.

Article (19) The conservation zoning plan is the prerequisite for the declaration of Socotra islands as a biosphere reserve.

Article (20) Socotra conservation zoning plan is part of the master plan for the social and economic development of Socotra islands.

Article (21) This law goes into effect starting on 18/4/2000 and be published on the official paper.

Issued at the presidency in Sana'a  
Date: 29 Jumada Thani /1421  
28 September 2000

Ali Abd-Allah Salih  
**The President**

Dr. Abd Al-Karim Al-Iriany  
**The Prime Minister**

