Template for Submission of Scientific Information to Describe Areas Meeting Scientific Criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas

Title/Name of the area: Sharma-Jethmoun-Dhargham beach, hadhramout, Yemen

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Abstract
Sharma-Jethmoun-Dhargha Beach has long been recognized as an important marine sea nesting area, intended to be officially declared protected area. It is, so far, the longest beach in Yemen, over 50 km long, where thousands of green turtle visit to nest during April to November, with a peak from June to September every year. Our survey is limited to three sites which make a total of 12.5 km

Introduction
The Republic of Yemen has a 1906 km coastline extending eastward along the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea from the Strait of Bab Al Mandab to Oman boarder, and Northwards along the Red Sea to the Saudi boarders. Several Islands in the Indian Ocean and in the Red Sea also belong to Yemen. Many locations along the coastline are significant for sea birds breeding and feeding and for sea turtle nesting. Moreover, the shallow waters at these coasts are ideal for foraging of about five species of marine turtles.
Sharma-Jethmoun-Dhargham Beach is located in the eastern part of Hadhramout. It extends for a distance of 50 km from South East Alqurn port eastwards to Dhargham.

Location (Map 1)
Sharma-Jethmoun-Dhargham beach is located between N14°49'18.48"; E 50°01'28.76" to N14°51'05.84"; E 50°08'03.94". However, sea turtle monitoring and protection activities are limited to three locations within this area (Map 1). The area is within Yemen's national jurisdiction.

Feature description of the proposed area
The area under study is sandy with many rocky outcrops and spaces unsuitable for turtle nesting. The width of the beach varies between 50 to 100 meters and parts of it become flooded during high tides. Nevertheless, many nests are in safe locations and remain viable as indicated by the large number of hatchlings emerging from underneath the sand.

Feature condition and future outlook of the proposed area
This area is under pressure by the local communities and other poachers who butcher marine turtles for meat and fat, and excavate the nests for eggs. During the weekends, people come to Sharma beach for picnicking. They drive their cars on the sandy beach and destroy the turtle nests. If no action is taken to stop these violations, this biologically significant habitat, which is a refuge for nesting green turtles, will be destroyed.

Assessment of the area against CBD EBSA Criteria
(Discuss the area in relation to each of the CBD criteria and relate the best available science. Note that a proposed area for EBSA description may qualify on the basis of one or more of the criteria, and that the polygons of the EBSA need not be defined with exact precision. And modeling may be used to estimate the presence of EBSA attributes. Please note where there are significant information gaps)

CBD EBSA Criteria (Annex I to decision	**Description** (Annex I to decision IX/20)	**Ranking of criterion relevance** (please mark one column with an X)			
		No informat	**Low**	**Medi um**	**High**

IX/20)		**ion**			
Uniqueness or rarity	Area contains either (i) unique ("the only one of its kind"), rare (occurs only in few locations) or endemic species, populations or communities, and/or (ii) unique, rare or distinct, habitats or ecosystems; and/or (iii) unique or unusual geomorphological or oceanographic features.				
Explanation for ranking					
Special importance for life-history stages of species	Areas that are required for a population to survive and thrive.				X
Explanation for ranking Sharma-Jethmoun-Dhargham Beach is the most important nesting area for the green turtles in the entire country. Adults are butchered, eggs are excavated, and hatchlings are preyed upon by natural predators, such as sea birds and ghost crabs, in addition to feral dogs which are permanent residents along the beach					
Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Area containing habitat for the survival and recovery of endangered, threatened, declining species or area with significant assemblages of such species.				X
Explanation for ranking The loggerhead sea turtle *Chelonia mydas* is an endangered species listed on CITES appendix 1. Destroying the natural habitat at Sharma-Jethmoun-Dhargham will have a negative impact on the green turtle survival.					
Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery	Areas that contain a relatively high proportion of sensitive habitats, biotopes or species that are functionally fragile (highly susceptible to degradation or depletion by human activity or by natural events) or with slow recovery.	X			
Explanation for ranking					
Biological productivity	Area containing species, populations or communities with comparatively higher natural biological productivity.	X			
Explanation for ranking					
Biological diversity	Area contains comparatively higher diversity of ecosystems, habitats, communities, or species, or has higher genetic diversity.	X			
Explanation for ranking					
Naturalness	Area with a comparatively higher degree of naturalness as a result of the lack of or low level of human-induced disturbance or degradation.				
Explanation for ranking					

Sharing experiences and information applying other criteria (Optional)

Other Criteria	Description	Ranking of criterion relevance

		(please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
Add relevant criteria					
Explanation for ranking					

References

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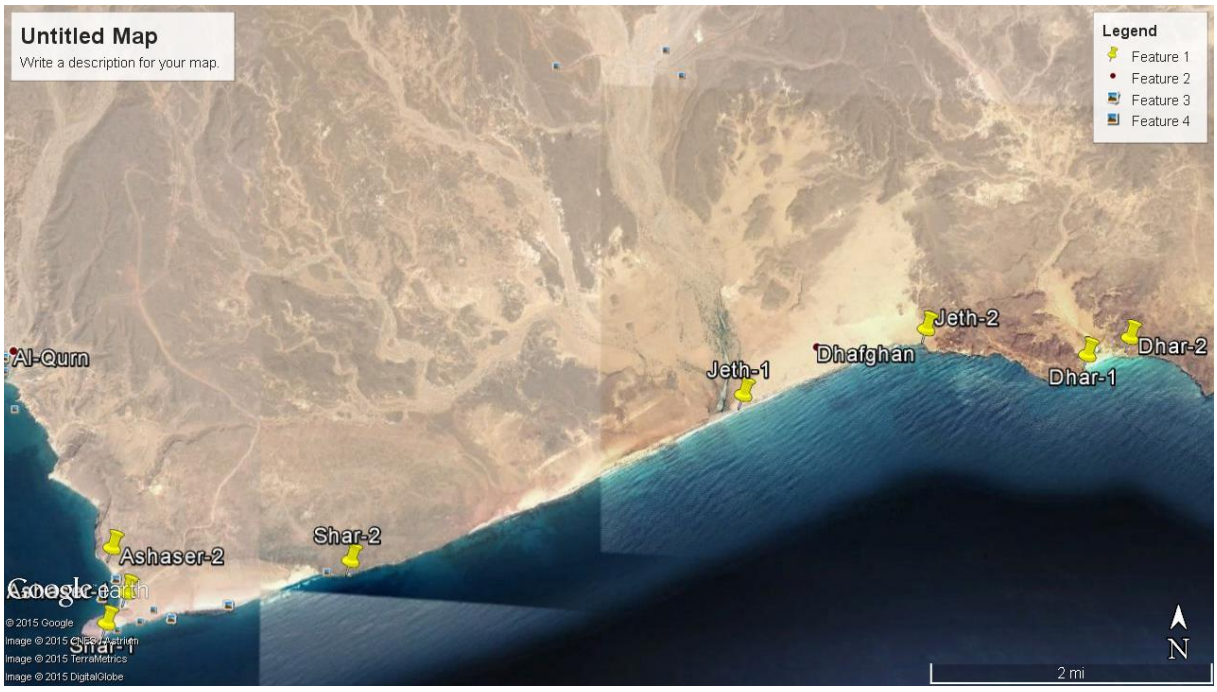
Maps and Figures



Map 1. Sharma-Jethmoun-Dhargham Beach, with surveyed parts marked with pins (Source: Google Earth Pro.).

Fig. 1.Part of Sharma Beach

Fig. 2. Part of Sharma showing rocky habitat

Fig. 3. Jethmoun Beach

Fig. 4. Dhargham beach