

PERSGA

*The Regional Organization for the Conservation
of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden*



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

AL-SANBOUK

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PERSGA The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden - PERSGA - is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to the conservation of the coastal and marine environments in the region. Its legal basis stems from the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment known as the Jeddah Convention and signed in 1982. The PERSGA member countries include Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. The headquarters are based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

PERSGA is currently executing the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. This project is funded by UNDP, UNEP, The World Bank and The Islamic Development Bank (IDB). SAP is being carried out through seven complementary components: institutional strengthening, reduction of navigation risks and marine pollution, sustainable use of living marine resources, conservation of habitats and biodiversity, the establishment of a network of marine protected areas, support for integrated coastal zone management, and the enhancement of public awareness and participation.

The aim of the newsletter is to provide information on conservation and development activities taking place in the region together with articles on marine issues of general interest. The contents of the newsletter do not necessarily represent the position or views of PERSGA or the editorial board, nor do they imply the expression of any opinion on the part of PERSGA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, frontier or border.

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A Word from PERSGA Editorial

Dear reader,

There has always been a strong and deep relationship between man and the sea along the coasts of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Arab nations have depended on the Sea for a variety of activities and it is viewed as a cornerstone for economic development due to its strategic position and the range of marine resources that it can provide. These resources include food, medicines, minerals, energy, fresh-water through desalination, and tourist and recreational development opportunities. The Sea also acts as a vitally important international route for navigation and a laboratory for scientific research.

Through its staff, PERSGA is making a considerable effort to ensure that development of these resources is carried out in a way that will both satisfy needs and maintain sustainability, as described in the article on marine protected areas.

Both at the HQ in Jeddah and in the cities of the member countries, PERSGA and its staff are directing their energy into the capacity building of individuals and institutions as it is the decisions made by people that will ultimately determine the way in which the resources of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are used, either positively with benefits for the future, or negatively with the attendant problems of pollution and over-exploitation.

Al-Sanbouk is a small window through which PERSGA presents to you a brief information update on the activities and programmes taking place in the region. We welcome any comments or suggestions that you see necessary to help us to develop and improve our contribution to you and your environment.

Dr. Saiyed Al-Khouli
Project Manager



Al-Sanbouk is the name given to wooden vessels powered by sail and engine that have taken goods to and from most ports in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden for hundreds of years.



PERSGA Activities

International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Meeting

An ICRI meeting took place in Cebu, Philippines, during the first week of April 2001. PERSGA was represented at this meeting by Dr. Fareed Krupp (CTA) and Mr. Abdullah Alsuhaibany (HBC-LS). A lecture was given during the meeting on the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Coral Reefs in the Arabian Seas Region, which is being prepared with PERSGA's support. The participants expressed their admiration for the plan and the way PERSGA is going about the conservation of coral reefs in the region. Representatives of international organisations related to global coral reef conservation expressed their support for the proposed plan and mentioned that their understanding of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden was changed in light of the enthusiasm shown by the regional countries in conserving their reefs.

HBC Working Group Meeting and Biodiversity Training Course in Sudan

The third Habitats and Biodiversity Conservation (HBC) Working Group meeting was held in Khartoum over the period 18-19 March. The meeting was opened by Dr. El-Fadil Ali Adam, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development. The meeting discussed activities concerning habitat and biodiversity conservation and agreed upon the studies and training courses that will be conducted during 2001 to upgrade national capabilities and increase knowledge of the state of habitats and the problems that they face.

A training course on 'Planning for Biodiversity Conservation' was also held. The Working Group member, the National Programme Coordinator, and a number of national specialists from the Red Sea University at Port Sudan, from the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), and from the Sudanese Committee for the Protection of the Environment all participated. The unwavering support of HCENR was one of the major factors contributing towards the success of this activity.

Assessing the Status of Key Habitats and Biodiversity in Somalia

How can we gain community support for habitat and biodiversity conservation in a country where the most pressing concerns of the people are food security and basic infrastructure? Keeping this question in mind and being aware that a healthy environment is the basis for long-term sustainable development, PERSGA's regional Lead Specialist for Habitat and Biodiversity Conservation, Mr. Abdullah Alsuhaibany, and the Chief Technical Advisor, Dr. Fareed Krupp, visited northern Somalia between 26 April and 10 May. Their objectives were to assess the status of habitats and key species along the Gulf of Aden coast, particularly coral reefs, reef associated communities and seabirds, to assess local training and capacity building needs, and to discuss the SAP with key stakeholders.

The first leg of the mission started in Bosaso, NE Somalia. A three-day, boat-based survey of the coastline east of Bosaso revealed that coral reefs in this area are in a healthy condition without any signs of die-off following the 1997/98 worldwide coral bleaching event. Reefs in the Shimbiro area were particularly diverse with a very high coverage of live coral. Over 60 reef-associated fish species were counted in a small area at depths between 1 and 6 m.

Facts about the Red Sea

"The Red Sea is called an enclosed or semi enclosed sea, as there is relatively little water exchange with the Gulf of Aden in the south and even less water exchange via the Suez Canal with the Mediterranean"



A highlight of the trip in NW Somalia was a visit to Mait, a rocky island about 15 km off the coast, which is known as a regionally important breeding area for seabirds. At least five species breed here, and it became obvious that this island has the largest breeding colonies of bridled terns and common nobby anywhere in the Gulf of Aden. Coral and reef fish assemblages in the vicinity of the Island were particularly rich.

Fieldwork Survey and Training Course on Elasmobranch Identification & Data Collection Methods

Dr. Khaled Hariri, Dr. Mohamed Abdallah, and Dr. Ramon Bonfil visited the main fishing and landing localities for sharks along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts. They recorded the different species of elasmobranch occurring in the fisheries, the size of the sharks, and statistical information from historical catches. Further information was collected about the characteristics of the fishing boats and the type of fishing gear used. Twenty-seven species of sharks and 13 species of ray were recorded from the region during the survey.

A four-day training course on elasmobranchs identification and data collection methods was carried out at the LMR sub-regional research and training centre in Aden from April 28th to 1st May. H.E. Mr. Taha. A. Ghanem, Governor of Aden Governorate, Dr. Mohsen. A. Hamdani, EPC Chairman, and Mr. Mahmoud Saghiri, Deputy Minister Ministry of Fish Wealth, attended the opening session of the training workshop. A draft Field Identification Guide for Sharks and Rays was prepared and contributed to the trainees.

Fifty-five persons drawn from Djibouti, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somalia, Jordan and Yemen are now trained enumerators.

Numbers of trainees from each of the PERSGA Member Countries at the Living Marine Resources Training Course:

Country	Egypt	Sudan	Somalia	Djibouti	Yemen	Saudi Arabia	Jordan
Number of trainees	7	6	11	4	15	10	2

Public Awareness Campaign

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Day Campaign was conducted in Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti. The campaign included several events among which were clean-up dives, and beach clean-ups with the main objective of involving the public in environmentally related activities. In addition there were educational events conducted in schools in the participating countries.

The activities of the campaign were covered by the press in the relevant countries.



Facts about the Red Sea

"Surface water currents are driven by the wind"

A Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas

Suspicious of Protected Areas? Are they set up to satisfy the conscience of the conservationists? It is true that the areas chosen are often the most spectacular, with the greatest diversity of fauna and flora or with specific unusual geological or geophysical attributes, but 'No' - the scientists aren't just trying to keep the best bits for themselves, as it sometimes appears. Protected areas do, in fact, have very real and positive benefits for the environment and, as a direct consequence, to society at large.

Regretfully individuals do find it difficult to regulate their own behavior when faced with a choice between an immediate benefit and a delayed reward. The 'tragedy of the commons' is well-documented story. A resource that belongs to everyone soon becomes a resource belonging to no one as over-exploitation leads to ruination. Without controls and regulations the resource base, be it grazing land or fisheries stocks, is plundered because there is no incentive to put anything aside for natural regeneration.

The establishment of protected areas is one valuable tool available to governments to manage their environmental resources in a sustainable manner for future generations, fisheries management, species protection, coastal zone management and land-use planning being some of the other available options.

Marine protected areas may be established for a variety of objectives but generically they all have one key concept at their core and that is to safeguard the essential ecological processes for the benefit of current and future generations. Within this context there may be protection for nesting sites, breeding grounds, spawning areas, special habitats for juveniles, or areas where rare or endangered species live.

'Conservation' may be one objective, but MPAs also fulfill a valuable spiritual role. There are beliefs in the intrinsic value of all species as a testament to the work of the Creator and an obligation to pass on to our children an environment at least as healthy and productive as the one we inherited from our parents.

Protected areas are often viewed negatively, as people mistakenly believe that they will be forbidden zones, sanctuaries set aside for the animals only, areas to which they will be forever denied access, with rules that prevent them from carrying out customary practices. This is rarely the case. Management strategies, set up in cooperation with the local communities generally allow for commercial use of resources in a controlled and sustainable manner, often resolving conflicts between different user groups such as the fishing and diving communities. That is not to say that no-take zones and no-dive zones may not form part of a well-managed strategy.

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are globally renowned for the beauty and diversity of their marine communities, their coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, the high level of species endemism, and the economic value of the resources. The governments of the region are well aware of the need for appropriate conservation measures to be taken.

Systems, or networks of protected areas have added advantages over and above the generally accepted justifications for individual MPA site establishment. They can help conserve representative examples of regional biodiversity and have the potential to benefit both migratory species that require scattered habitats, and transboundary stocks that move from the territorial waters of one country to those of another.

Facts about the Red Sea

"The Red Sea joins the Gulf of Aden at the Bab el Mandeb. In 1869 the Red Sea was joined to the Mediterranean when the Suez Canal was opened"

A coordinated approach to management of MPAs as a network has potential added benefits such as consistency in legal frameworks and enforcement, opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience, improved cost effectiveness through joint training initiatives, improved communication at times of pollution crisis, and a regional approach to sustainable resource usage leading to a more equitable sharing of the benefits.

During the development of the SAP twelve areas of regional or global significance were identified that should form the basis of a regional network of marine protected areas. Some are already declared MPAs, others are still at the 'proposed' stage. The network includes representatives of all major biogeographical sub-units, prime examples of all types of coastal and marine habitats and species communities. This regional network consists of the following areas.

- 📍 Djibouti (Iles des Sept Frères and Ras Siyan)
- 📍 Egypt (Ras Mohammed National Park, Giftun Islands and Straits of Gubal)
- 📍 Jordan (Aqaba Marine Park)
- 📍 Saudi Arabia (Straits of Tiran; Wajh Bank, Farasan Islands)
- 📍 Somalia (Aibat and Saad ad-Din Islands)
- 📍 Sudan (Sanganeb Marine National Park, Mukkawar Island and Dugonab Bay)
- 📍 Yemen (Socotra Islands Group, Belhaf and Bir Ali area)



Declared Marine Protected Areas

Ras Mohammed National Park

Ras Mohammed was declared a protected area in 1983 and now extends over 480 km². It includes both marine and terrestrial areas at the Ras Mohammed Peninsula and the island of Tiran. The Park is notable for its sharply-defined, raised, fossil-coral platforms, which represent ancient shorelines. These old reefs range in age from 15,000 to 2,000,000 years in age. The Ras Mohammed National Park is the only operational marine protected area in the Red Sea, and many tourists visit it to enjoy diving and other water sports.

Sanganeb Marine National Park

Sanganeb, which lies 35 km to the north east of Port Sudan, is the only atoll in the Red Sea. It was declared a Marine National park in April 1990. The Wildlife Conservation General Administration is responsible for its administration. Sanganeb is famed for its spectacular seascape and its depths that teem with different corals, enlivened by a multitude of fish and other marine creatures.

Aqaba Marine Park

Aqaba Marine Park occupies approximately 7 km of the southern coast of Jordan. It was declared a marine park in 1986 and has a management plan in place. The objectives of the Park are to preserve the near-shore marine environment while allowing for certain uses at a sustainable level, to maintain the health, resilience and integrity of the marine environment.

Socotra Islands Group National Protected Area

The islands of Socotra lie some 400 km from the Yemeni-Hadramout coast. The four largest islands are: Socotra, Abdul Kori, Samha and Darsa. Socotra itself has an area of 3,625 km². Endemism is high in both faunal and floral species, a fact that qualifies the islands for the title "the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean". The UNEP/GEF Project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of Socotra Group of Islands" has prepared a superb zoning plan, which could be used as a model for MPAs elsewhere in the region.

Farasan Islands - Saudi Arabia

The islands of Farasan was declared a protected area in 1996. Major habitats and regional significance: Terrestrial and coastal reserve, archipelago of coral islands, mangroves (Rhizophora and Avicennia), coral reefs, seagrass beds, marine mammals, nesting seabirds, two species of mangroves, endemic gazelle.

Facts about the Red Sea

"The Suez Canal is 162 km from Port Said to Port Tewfik in the south"

To establish this network of MPAs it has been necessary to develop a Regional Master Plan that agrees with international guidelines and incorporates regional environmental and socio-economic conditions. The plan is a long-term policy document that will be used as the basis for the development of site-specific Management Plans for each of the MPAs in the network. The site-specific Management Plans are short-term, practical documents that describe the specific management actions required to tackle both regional and local objectives.

A potential constraint to the conservation and sustainable use of the MPAs is the limited technical capacity and experience that currently exists in the region. In some cases individual countries lack the necessary pool of experts to provide the knowledge, training and skills required for MPA management. Much of the currently available experience is at the Ras Mohammed National Park (Egypt), which is the best example of a fully operational MPA in the region.

The SAP has addressed this issue directly by initiating a series of training courses for MPA managers, scientists and rangers from the region. Courses will cover management issues, marine and coastal surveys and monitoring, scuba diving, ranger duties, policing and public relations. The first course was held at the Ras Mohammed National Park and covered topics associated with MPA management.



Proposed Marine Protected Areas

Isles des Sept Frères and Ras Siyan - Djibouti

This area of rocky islands and the adjacent coastal stretch has mangrove fringed bays and diverse coral reefs, rich with fish and invertebrates. Due to the many tourists that visit the area to enjoy diving and other water sports there are some local problems such as reef trampling and coral collection.

Giftun Islands and Straits of Gubal - Egypt

A group of islands off the western coast with well-developed and diverse coral reefs, turtles and nesting seabirds. Current threats include increasing recreational pressure, possible over-fishing and anchor damage to corals.

Straits of Tiran - Saudi Arabia/Egypt

Islands with extensive coral reefs located at the southern end of the Gulf of Aqaba; diverse reef-associated faunal communities intermediate in nature between those of the Red Sea and the adjoining Gulf; an area noted for turtle nesting and dugong feeding it is potentially threatened by tourist activities.

Wajh Bank, Sharm Habban, & Sharm Munaybirah - Saudi Arabia

An extensive shallow water area, islands and a stretch of the mainland coast; includes part of the most extensive coral reef system of the entire Red Sea with typical reef-associated fauna, seagrass beds, mangroves, turtles, and bird nesting sites; a key area for dugongs in the northern Red Sea. Potentially damaging human activities currently include the collection of turtle and bird eggs and heavy reef fishing.

Aibat and Saad ad-Din Islands - Somalia

Not only the largest coral reef area in the Gulf of Aden, but also including a fascinating area of low-lying mangrove islands, salt marsh and swamps. A very important site for nesting seabirds and probably also for turtles. Threatened by over collection of bird and turtle eggs and harvesting of turtles for meat.

Mukkawar Island and Dugonab Bay - Sudan

Coral reefs, whale sharks, and the largest schools of manta rays known in the Red Sea characterise this particular proposed MPA. There are also notable bird nesting sites and oyster beds. The natural resources are exploited through shark fishing, oyster farming and bêche-de-mer (sea cucumber) collection.

Belhaf and Bir Ali area - Yemen

This proposed MPA includes a stretch of scenic coastline, a unique crater lake, high aspect islands, coral reefs, rich fisheries and turtle nesting sites. It is threatened by development proposals for tourism and for an oil terminal.

Facts about the Red Sea

"The Red Sea is saltier than other oceans; the salinity is higher in the north (40 ppt) than the south"

Current Activities

- Twenty regional trainees will attend a course on standard methods for surveying coral reefs, seagrasses and algae. It will be held in Aqaba, Jordan, during the period 24 June to 6 July. These methods will then be used throughout the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region (RSGA) to obtain comparable data from different areas.
- A Living Marine Resources Working Group meeting and workshop on 'Sustainable management' will take place from 30 June to 3 July.
- A Navigation Working Group meeting and workshop on 'Navigation safety and oil spill contingency planning' will be held from 1 to 4 July in Djibouti.
- As of August this year, a project on 'marine turtle conservation in the RSGA' will start. A large number of national researchers specialised in turtle conservation will take part in this project together with fishermen and local volunteers.
- A social-marketing assessment, organized by the Public Awareness and Participation Lead Specialist, will be conducted during the period July to September. The main objective of this assessment is to produce a strategic workplan for information communication and to design a focussed and appropriate Micro-Grants Program for the region.



International Activities

Meeting of Arab Ministers

In response to concerns expressed by Arab countries about environmental issues and to follow up on decisions and commitments made at regional and international conferences stemming from the Rio Declaration, the Arab Ministers responsible for environmental affairs met in Abu Dhabi on the 3rd of February for Environment Conference 2001. The conference confirmed the need for environmental development and environmental conservation to run hand-in-hand with social and economic development, and poverty alleviation. The Arab Ministers noted that the deterioration of the marine environment, and its effect on tourism, was one of the more serious environmental problems in the Arab World and should have a priority in remediation.

A report, prepared by Arab experts and titled Future of Environmental Work in Arab Countries has highlighted the principal issues which are:

- The problems associated with landfilling which destroys marine resources and threatens biodiversity
- Industrial waste, sewage and petroleum waste, which are the primary sources of marine pollution
- The limited establishment of marine protected areas
- Insufficient fish production
- The absence of studies on economic areas
- High levels of tourism due to the attractive coral reefs of the Red Sea
- The slow pace of work towards the enhancement of the marine environment through partnerships between Arabic and international organisations

It was suggested by the Conference that short-term solutions, besides the long-term plans given in international conventions, could include:

- The preparation of accurate maps to conserve biodiversity in marine protected areas
- Protection for coral reefs
- Planning for tourism programmes
- Detailed studies on hot-waters found in deep-sea areas
- Provision of support to the Technical Secretariats of the two regional conventions -PERSGA - Jeddah Convention (Red Sea and Gulf of Aden) and ROPME - Kuwait Convention (Gulf)

Facts about the Red Sea

"The average seawater temperature is 18-21°C in winter and 21-26°C in summer though it is always warmer farther south"

GOOS (The Global Ocean Observing System)

GOOS is a system designed to provide information about the present and future state of the world's seas and oceans. It was created by the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in 1991 in response to the desire of many nations to improve both management of the oceans and climate forecasts. In order to do this it was necessary to establish a system of observations dealing with physical, chemical and biological aspects of the oceans in an integrated way.

The vision of GOOS may be given as "a world where the information needed by governments, industry, science and the general public to deal with marine related issues, including the effect of the ocean upon climate, is supported by a unified global network to systematically acquire, integrate and distribute oceanic observations, and to generate analyses, forecasts and other useful products."

Benefits of GOOS

There are many kinds of activities carried out in marine and coastal areas that are indispensable for our health and well-being as well as for economic and social development. These activities are subject to the changing nature of the marine environment. The inherent risks and uncertainties can be reduced by access to reliable the information. GOOS provides information useful for mitigation of natural disasters, prevention of marine pollution, increasing fisheries efficiency, better management of the coastal zone, and other marine related activities. In addition, GOOS will improve the prediction of weather and climate changes such as El Niño, bringing significant economic and social benefits.

Beneficiaries of GOOS

- Shipping
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Tourism and recreation
- Environmental protection
- Coastal and marine defenses
- Safety services
- Offshore oil and gas production
- Ports and harbors
- Polar research
- Mineral extraction

Examples of Information Provided by GOOS

- Forecasts of change in water levels
- Positions and strengths of currents
- Occurrence of unusually high waves
- Extent of sea ice
- Incidence of harmful algal blooms
- Vulnerability of fish stocks and farms
- Rainfall predictions in dry areas
- Length and coldness of winters
- Likelihood of disease outbreaks

GOOS is sponsored by:

IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission), WMO (World Meteorological Organization), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), and ICSU (International Council of Science)

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Facts about the Red Sea

"The Red Sea is very deep in the central trough - 2000 m or more, but along the coastline it is relatively shallow (100-500 m). The Suez Canal is only about 20 m deep!"

Summary of a Message from UNEP's Executive Director

on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5-June 2001

"Connect with the World Wide Web of Life"

In his address for World Environment Day Dr. Töpfer expressed his optimism and hope that the recent dramatic developments in information technology, and the rapid growth in globalisation and world trade could bring significant new environmental advantages. However this message is tempered with the knowledge that our old problems of poverty, lack of food security, and the challenge of sustainable development remain urgent and enduring.

This year World Environment Day has taken as its slogan "Connect with the World Wide Web of Life". This is a reminder that the Earth with all its complex, interlocking ecosystems, is the foundation of our lives, and our common heritage. Every part of nature however small and insignificant it may appear, has its part to play in the balanced functioning of the system. We ourselves are not divorced from it but form an integral part of this web of interconnected species. There are limits to the changes that we can cause to our environment without there being serious effects that may jeopardize our own future.

Dr. Töpfer goes on to say that we need a fundamental shift in our concepts and attitudes towards our 'way of life'. To quote: "Ultimately, the question of conserving and protecting the World Wide Web of Life depends on asking ourselves simple but fundamental questions: How should we live? How much is enough? What way of life ought human beings to pursue?"

He reminds us that although governments can assist with this work, it is ultimately our own collective responsibility as we all consume the same vital resources such as air and water.

"The Earth is in our hands" he concludes "by joining together, we can take the commonsense steps we need to take - and be proud to pass along a safe, clean world to our children and our children's children."



Dr. Klaus Töpfer



A SAP for the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem

Ghana, together with five other countries, started a GEF funded project in 1995 with the aim of restoring and sustaining the health of the Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem. The Accra Declaration (1999) called for the development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME), including a full Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, to include all the sixteen countries between Guinea Bissau in the north and Angola in the south.

Working towards the ultimate objective of this Strategic Action Programme, a 'Stocktaking Meeting' took place in Accra (Ghana) from 16-17 May 2001. At the meeting the current issues and problems facing the marine and coastal environment were discussed together with the activities, projects and programmes that are being used to address them.

The meeting was preceded by a specialist Working Group Meeting where experts from the participating countries presented national reports on the state of the marine and coastal environment in their respective countries, and was followed by a Steering Committee Meeting, which gave the necessary political support to the outcome of the Stocktaking Meeting.

PERSGA contributed to the proceedings of the Stocktaking Meeting by presenting its experience and lessons-learned during the preparatory and implementing phases of the Red Sea SAP.

Based on the outcome of the Working Group and Stocktaking Meetings, the Steering Committee Meeting adopted the following resolutions:

1. The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project should incorporate the 16 countries within the natural limits of the GCLME.
2. The GCLME project will be developed under the policies and legal framework of the Abidjan Convention.
3. The proposal for a PDF-B grant with UNDP and UNEP as implementing Agencies and UNIDO as the sole executing Agency, has been adopted by members of the Steering Committee as the appropriate tool for the preparatory activities needed to develop a Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project Brief and Project Document for submission to the GEF.

Facts about the Red Sea

"The Red Sea is getting wider each year, but only by a few centimetres"

"The Red Sea is approximately 1,932 km long and has a maximum width of 306 km"