

TOURIST SITE
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WITH LOCAL
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PARTICIPATION



Tourist site enhancement with local community participation

SHIBDERAZ village in
QESHM Island in southern IRAN

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GLOBAL ECO CONFERENCE
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SUMMARY

Annually hawksbill turtles come to Qeshm Island in the southern of IRAN particularly SHIBDERAZ beach to lay eggs.

This turtle is in IUCN (International union of conservation of nature) red list .its status: “critically endangered”

Previously the local community considered the eggs as a kind of food.



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- A 3 phase project was launched since 2001 cooperating with local community volunteers to protect the turtles from extinction.
- The project supported by **UNDP/GEF/SGP** (UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMM / GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITIES / SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMM)



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The following are the project phases:

- **Phase 1:** conservation: a great number of turtle hatchlings could get to the sea.
- **Phase 2:** ecotourism: the main goal was to manage and develop ecotourism in Shibderaz based on turtle's attraction.
- **Phase 3:** ladies enhancement project: the ladies in village got together to both conserve the endangered turtle as well as revitalize their local handicrafts.



Qeshm island

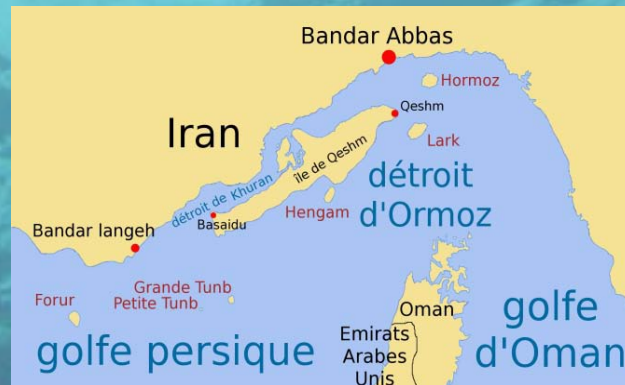
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Qeshm is Persian Gulf biggest island in southern IRAN

Its length: 130 km

Qeshm island is neighboring to Hormoz straight with the short distance from IRAN mainland. Hormoz , Hengam and Larak islands are near Qeshm .

Qeshm looks like a dolphin in appearance and contrary to other islands of the area it is a mountainous one.



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Qeshm is a geomorphologic island with many erosive attractions. Such as Chahkuh straight, Star valley and so on.

The world largest salt cave with 6600 meters length has been discovered in Qeshm island.

The ending half of the island has been registered as the only Middle East Geopark by UNESCO in 2007.



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The typical flora and fauna of island calls “nubo-sindian” has some species like palm, acacia and so on.



Mangrove forest is a typical plant type of the area and a large and important habitat for many species.



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About fauna: Qeshm has the world biggest (Wales) and the smallest (little shrew) mammals in size.

Qeshm is a proper inhabitant for some immigrant and native birds like gull, tern, and plover and so on.

- Gazelle is also a well- known mammals of the island.
A considerable number of dolphins absorb a great number of tourists.



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Throughout the history, Qeshm was closely connected to the neighboring countries and developed a number of cultural and social ties.

Qeshm typical culture is manifested in their language, accent, dressing, architecture, customs and conventions.



they had a great and traditional business with neighboring countries like India , Oman , united Arab emirates , as well as African countries like Kenya , Tanzania and Madagascar.



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Qeshm combines nature and culture
to be considered as the one of the
great destination for tourists
particularly ecotourists.



Turtles

Hawksbill turtle the smallest turtle of the marine species lives in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea.

It is one of 8 species in the world and one out of five in Persian Gulf.

Its habitat is reef islands and their main food is soft corals. Its status is “critically endangered “in **IUCN** red list.



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The dangerous:

- Local dwellers interest in their eggs.
- Foxes and dogs

The time of egg laying: from march till end of may

hatching time: the beginning of June to end of July. (It takes 45- 70 days)

Special features:

- The female can lay eggs after 30.
- Intrinsically they can just lay egg on the same beach they were born on.

Hatchlings weight: 20 gr and their length: 5 cm

One out of 1000 can get to the puberty after 30 years.



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SHIBDERAZ village

Geographical location:

- Southern beach of central part of Qeshm Island.
- 2 km away from Hengan island in north.

Attractions:

- watching the dolphins.
- Pristine coral reefs.
- A proper habitat of turtles (green and hawksbill)

The village:

- Population: 450
- Most villagers are fisherman and goods traffickers.
- The village does not enjoy enough of facilities and Infrastructures.



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SHIBDERAZ TURTLES BEACH

Phase 1: conservation project

The supporters and stakeholders:

- United nations development program/ global environment Facilities/ small grants program (UNDP/GEF/SGP)
- Qeshm free zone organization
- A group of young villagers as volunteers (briefed in organized Workshops)



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The process:

- watching out the egg laying turtles to locate the eggs.
- collect the eggs to transfer them in to the protected area.
- digging a hole like the original one made by mother to create a Resembled nest
- fence the area to keep away dogs and foxes
- keep the record by the hatchlings
- watching the as they get to the sea to keep them safe from Threatens.



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The result:

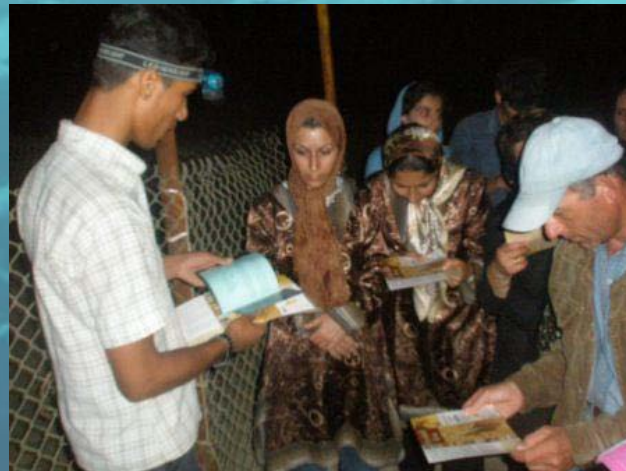
- performing all these functions in the right way 15000 - 20000 Hatchlings can get to the sea safely.



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Phase 2 ecotourism project

- The starting time:
 - publicizing the hawksbill turtle conservation project in 2006 Made the way for tourist to the area.
- The objectives :
 - Sustainable development of the tourism in the area.
 - Provision of income for the local community
 - introducing the source of income for the project to keep self Sustainable.



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- activities:

- identifying Shibderaz village tourist potentials containing:
 - Primary assessment of ecotourism in Shibderaz village,
 - Identifying of the site natural and cultural potent and Attractions.



- analyzing of the current situation and having the real Assessment of local community participation rate:
 - A survey on infrastructure and facilities
 - zoning hawksbill turtle egg laying site
 - setting standards and regulations for ecotourism in The site



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- offering executive management plans
 - planning comprehensive and details plans for execution Closely cooperating with local community.
 - phasing the execution of the plans concerning the Limitation and the future perspective.
- organizing the hawksbill turtle conservation site to pave the Way for local run organization formation.
 - supporting local organization development
 - establishing a financial recourse to fund the project Locally
 - offering cultural products



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- paving the way for continuation of ecotourism activities
And introduction of completed measures to target markets
 - Introduction of Shibderaz village to the
Tour- operators and tourism sending centers.
 - forming a monitoring committee including all
Stakeholders
 - arranging pilot ecotours based on principles of
Ecotourism
 - Provision of the project documents.
- going through the project steps and assessment
at the end of Each phases



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Some of the important taken measures

- holding the workshops
 - a workshop to brief the local community to deal with positive And negative effects of tourism.
 - Special workshops on know how to take the benefits of economic advantages by the villagers . like raft owners , craft ladies and so on.



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-Hawksbill turtles egg laying site zoning.

- To have a comprehensive map of the egg laying sites.

- To collect exact information on natural features of the sites like its flora and fauna.

-Assessment of carrying capacity and the most required facilities for the tourism development.



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-Preparation of local lodging for tourists.

- To provide for the basic needs like food ,
hygienic facility and so on.
- Making the chance for the tourist to stay
with the cultural and traditional lodging . in
harmony with the area customs and
conventions .



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Locally funding the project

- Specifying a part of tourist income to keep the project going on.
- Selecting a council in charge of monitoring the funds .



Publicizing the project

- Publicizing through direct and personal contact With different activity attendance
- Making use of mass media like TV and radio to highlight Hawksbill turtle conservation project importance



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Phase 3: empowering the Shibderaz ladies through applicable handicrafts

- Concerning the necessity of stakeholders involvement particularly the village ladies , a group was formed to produce handicrafts of function inspired by the community traditions .
- The ladies offered their products to tourists and apart of this project income was to specify to hawksbill conservation project.



Photographer: Roslan Ahmadahady



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New year's tourism arrival organization on hawksbill turtle egg laying sites.

Concerning the increasing in number of tourists during new year holiday in IRAN annually two teams will serve the visitors one in charge of conservation project and the other in charge of handling the tourists problems and monitoring on them and giving them all informations.



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Local volunteers team



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The regional chief of UNDP visited the project



Project achievements

Environmental concerns :

- promoting a culture of nature preservation particularly hawksbill turtle conserving in local community .
- Providing for a part of preservation expenses through tourism income.
- Organizing tourist visits to curb site effects of their visit to hawksbill
- Publicizing and educating visitors through local stakeholders
- Distributions of brochures, questioners, holding exhibitions and showing films



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- Economic Concerns:

- Establishing a local fund to collect the tourist income
- Making money for local community to replace other careers
- Making jobs opportunities for local community particularly the young applicants
- Making the way for development of proper infrastructure in Hawksbill turtle egg laying site
 - Local cottage and restrooms development
 - Absorbing the investment
- Selling handicrafts and the island local products



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- Cultural and Social concerns:
 - Persuading the local community to take part
 - Making regulations for the site
- Making the authorities to pay attentions to Shibderaz village
 - Interaction among local community and tourists
- Increasing of security consideration for both local dwellers and tourist
- Making the sense of honor and belonging for the Ecotourism site and conserving an endangered species
 - Persuading the youth of the village to survey and obtain information about the nature and educating the tourists
- Considering traditional arts and handicrafts of the village more than before



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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