

## **The Soqotra Karst Project: Karst exploration and cave research on Soqotra Island**

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December 2012

The Socotra Karst Project (SKP) has been for a decennium exploring, mapping and studying the underground of Socotra Island. Initiated in 2000 as an attempt to look for caves on the island, the project gradually grew into a multidisciplinary research group linked with universities, individuals and NGO's around the world. We literally penetrate further into the enigmatic history of Socotra on both a cultural and a natural level. During and thanks to our expeditions caves were discovered, mapped and inventoried, freshwater resources became available for local communities, speleothems got dated and their isotope signatures studied, new endemic cave fauna got described, archaeological artefacts and petroglyphs were revealed, while all of this got intensively photographed and filmed.



The island's isolation played a crucial role in the preservation and evolutionary human equilibrium with nature. Today, the archipelago is declared as a UNESCO World Heritage site and due to an, already daily, air traffic tourists are flocking in and the general exploitation has never been so prominent. The uniqueness of this Arabian pearl is currently at stake.

As a result we are reorienting our project towards protection and sustainable management of the island's underground potentials. Together with the local communities, the Yemeni government and international stakeholders we hope to contribute in making some long term beneficial decisions based on thorough impact assessment studies.

[Additional information you find here](#)

De Geest P. (Ed.), 2006. SKP2000-2004. Berliner Höhlenkundliche Berichte Band 20, 69 pp.

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