Some Benefits of Membership

Learn about Soqotra’s unique and globally important species and habitats.

Keep up-to-date with news and events on Soqotra via our email updates.

Gain insights into Soqotran history and culture.

Discuss your views and opinions.

Be in contact with specialists of different subjects.

Make new friends with people for whom Soqotra is special.

Help make improvements to both the environment and the lives of the people of Soqotra.

Receive the annual newsletter ‘Tayf’ in English or Arabic, including updates of current research projects, news and special features.

Receive a guided tour of the Soqotra Folk Museum.

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Donations also welcome
Registered charity number 1097546 (UK)
Leaflet updated July 2010

Become a member
Support the people and environment of Soqotra
At 3,625 km², Soqotra is the largest of 4 islands of the Soqotra Archipelago, found in the Indian Ocean. It has an estimated population of 50,000 people. It is part of Yemen, one of the poorest of the world’s low-income countries.

Soqotra is globally recognised for its unique and beautiful flora and fauna and diversity of its marine environment, and is perhaps most famous for forests of dragon’s blood trees. It is thanks to the care of Soqotri people that this unique landscape has been preserved. However, rapid development is now threatening the culture and environment of this unique island.

Friends of Soqotra was established in 2001 to:

- Promote the sustainable use and conservation of the natural environment of the Soqotra island group.
- Raise awareness of the Archipelago's biodiversity and the unique culture and language of the islanders.
- Help improve the quality of life of the island communities and support their traditional land management practices.

We have members in Soqotra, Yemen, Oman, the Gulf, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, USA, UK and the EU.

About the Friends of Soqotra

Did you know...

In 2008 Soqotra was declared a World Heritage Site.

100% of the cave crustaceans, 90% of the reptiles, 60% of spiders and 37% of the plants on Soqotra are endemic (found nowhere else in the world).

The longest cave in the Middle East has recently been discovered on Soqotra, at 13.5km! (Peter De Geest, 2008)

The people of the 3 smallest islands are completely isolated during the monsoon winds, as was Soqotra before the runway was built in 1999.

Soqotra has a unique language called Soqotri.

Other Projects Include...

Assistance in creating a major Soqotra exhibition shown in Edinburgh, Sana’a and Aden, visited by more than 60,000 people.

Donation of 22 sewing machines and implements to the Local Councils and The Woman’s Association of Soqotra (Jam’iyah Soqotra An Nisawiya).

Annual rent paid for the Public Library in Hadibo, plus the provision of books, a DVD player and educational DVDs including all BBC Wildlife programmes.

Donation of 800 US dollars to the new Soqotra Folk Museum in Riqeleh in Hallah, opened on 10th January 2008.

1000 US dollars donated to coastal villages following powerful storms that caused damage to fishing boats and houses.

Campaigning against and raising awareness of unsustainable and environmentally damaging development, for example the current road-building programme.

950 US dollars donated to a project fighting serious soil erosion problems in Homhil Protected Area in partnership with local people.

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