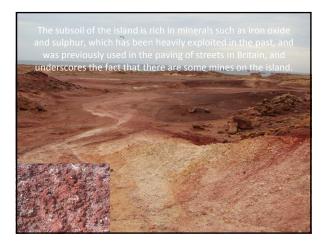




The protected island Sir Bu Na'air is one of the most important marine protected areas in the UAE and Arabian Gulf region for its contents of significant environmental elements, such as its geological formations, natural flora and Marine birds, island characterized by the nature scenery and sandy beaches that have been taken by sea turtles as a center for breeding. Sir Bu Na'air is one of the most important hawksbill nesting sites within the entire Arabian Gulf and certainly by far the most important location in the UAE.



Several important sea-birds have been recorded nesting at Sir Bu Na'air, including lesser crested tern (Sterna bengalensis), great crested tern (Sterna bergi), red-billed tropicbird (Phaethon aethereus) and Socotra cormorant (Phalacrocorax nigrogularis). Today, sooty gulls and bridled terns (Onychoprion anaethetus) nest in large numbers at Sir Bu Na'air although there are threats to nesting bridled terns from feral cat predation.





Sooty Gulls Colony

A large colony of sooty gulls were recorded nesting at the central eastern part of Sir Bu Na'air.

series of transect surveys conducted through the colony indicated a total number of sooty gull nests recorded in 2010 at 1,037 and 1,088 in 2011.

Most pairs of sooty gulls were observed to have successfully raised two or three chicks

Through the monitoring program of wildlife in Sir Bu Nair Island, the Environment and Protected Areas Authority have been tracking hawksbill turtles on the island via satellite, in cooperation with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Emirates Wildlife Society (EWS), where the satellite tags were successfully fixed to the carapace of the turtles and can now be followed at the link: www.gulfturtles.com.



A total of 324 hawksbill turtle nests were recorded from Sir Bu Nair beaches during 2010 and 376 during 2011

In 2010 There was two nests representing the first confirmed modern green turtle nesting events in the UAE and southeastern Arabian Gulf.



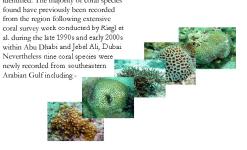






Coral monitoring

A total of 40 species of coral were identified. The majority of coral species found have previously been recorded from the region following extensive Nevertheless nine coral species wer newly recorded from southeastern Arabian Gulf including



In the north of the island at around 5m depth huge coral bommies (Porites of lobata) occur.

Some of them are several meters in diameter and are several hundred years old. They represent some of the largest corals known from the Arabian Gulf.



The Gulf region was badly impacted by coral bleaching events in 1996,1998 and 2002, which resulted in the percentage coral cover in many areas being reduced to ca. 1% or lower.8 Clearly the high percentage cover and biodiversity found in this study indicates Sir Bu Nair was largely unaffected by these mortality events.





The citron goby Gobiodon citrinus, which is a species absent from Dubai and Abu Dhabi waters, was found to commonly occur on the branches of Acropora corals in all areas surveyed around Sir Bu Nair, where Acropora occurred in depth 5-10 m.

The historical dimension of the island is closely linked to the region's history, and to the fact that Sir Bu Nair Island was a meeting point fishermen and Shelter from the wind and storms.



Since 2000, The Environment and Protected Areas Authority started to organize the environmental heritage festival of Sir Bu Nair, which sheds light on the historical and environmental importance of the island as well as to raise awareness of the need to support the Authority's efforts in conservation the biodiversity in the island.



Eco-tourism project



