

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 were two nests representing the first confirmed modern green turtle nesting events in the UA E 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 coral survey work conducted by Riegl et al. during the late 1990s and early 2000s within Abu Dhabi and Jebel Ali, Dubai. Nevertheless nine coral species were newly recorded from southeastern Arabian Gulf including-



In the north of the island at around 5m depth huge coral bommies (*Porites cf 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.

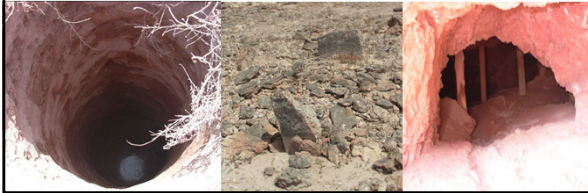


The Gulf region was badly impacted by coral bleaching events in 1996,1998 and 2002, which resulted in the percentage coral cover in many areas being reduced to ca. 1% or lower.8 Clearly the high percentage cover and biodiversity found in this study indicates Sir Bu Nair was largely unaffected by these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



Sir Bu Na'air has a great heritage and historical importance as it was known in the past (Sir Al Qawasim), it was the fisherman meeting point, also it was discovered Pottery which goes back to the Iron Age these Pottery are exhibited in Sharjah Archaelogy Museum



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



جزيرة صير بو نعيم Sir Bu Na'air Island

