The status of sea turtles in the Yemeni coast on the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea

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Coastal beaches of the Gulf of Aden are of great importance to survival of two threatened species of sea turtles: the green turtle (Chelonia mydas), and the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata).

Recently turtles are faced to a heavy over exploitation along the Yemeni coast line as well as the islands in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea due to the increased human activities and the intensive people immigration to the coastal areas and road construction which made it easy to reach the nesting areas.

Ras Sharma and the neighboring areas are characterized as one of the most important turtle nesting areas remaining in the world, in accordance to the exploring surveys and studies that carried out along time ago. Through the implementation of the survey program of the coastal habitat of the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea by Marine Science Research Center it was shown that nesting and feeding areas are suffered from over exploitation of the Green turtles and lacks of full protection.

This paper discusses the status of sea turtles in the Yemeni coast, and also the main important nesting areas in Yemeni coast in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, and how to protect this important marine resource.