



# AL YASAT

## MARINE PROTECTED AREA FACTSHEET



**NAME**  
**AL YASAT MARINE**  
Protected Area (YMPA)

**ESTABLISHED**  
**In 2005**

**ISLANDS**  
**13** main islands

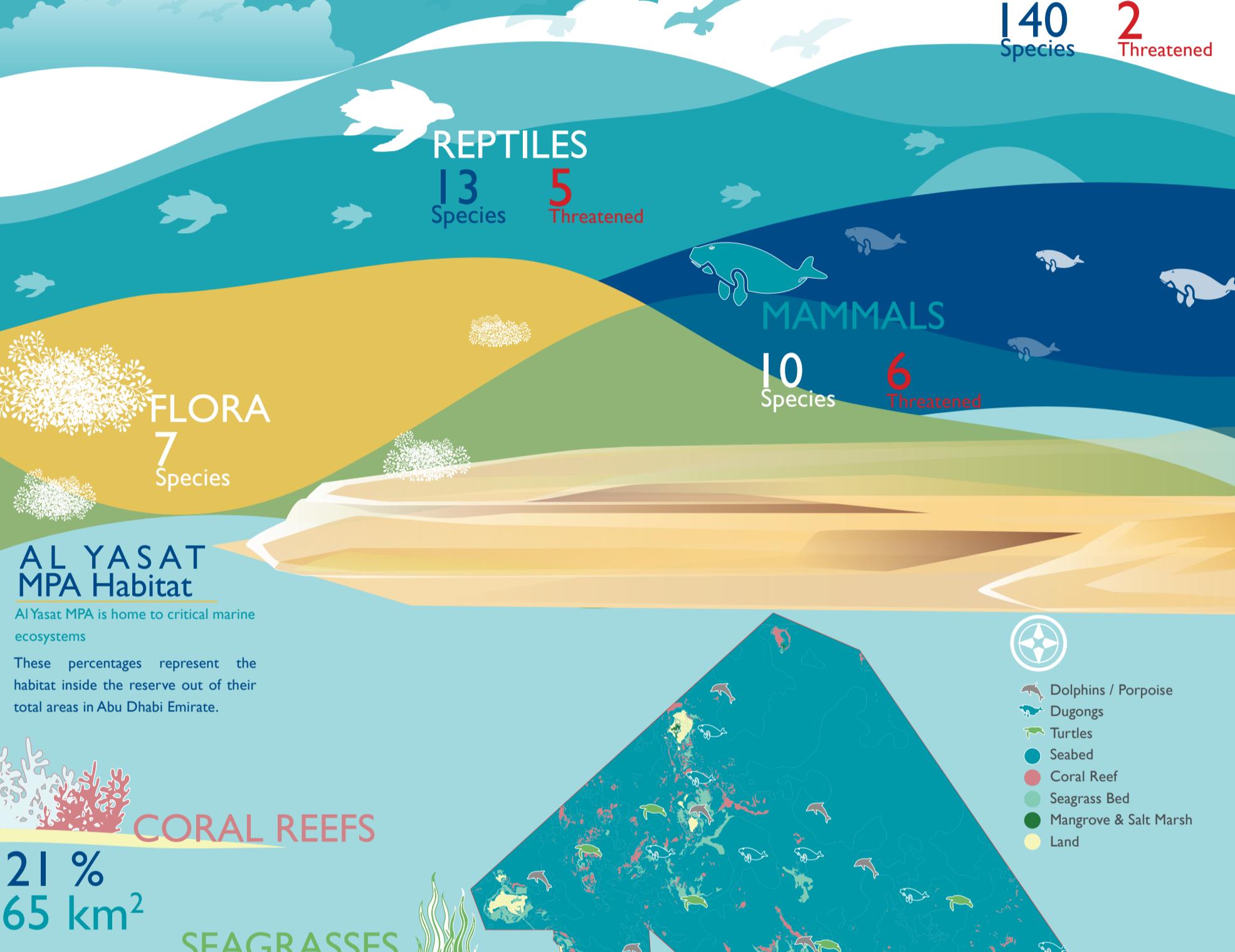
**AREA**  
**2,256 km<sup>2</sup>**

### AL YASAT MPA Features

Al Yasat MPA was established as a marine protected area to conserve the natural diversity and traditional uses in the coastal and marine environment. It is home to many endangered species and critical habitats.

Al Yasat MPA contains islands characterised by rocky wave-cut platforms, and sandy beaches. Those islands are important wave breakers that decrease the impact of storm surges on the main coast of the western region of Abu Dhabi.

Al Yasat MPA is a managed resources protected area. The no-take zones are 3 nanometer around the islands. Other areas are utilised for a variety of uses, including licensed fishery, tourism, as well as oil and gas approved operations.



### WILDLIFE IMPORTANCE

**1. MANY BIRD SPECIES USE ISLAND HABITATS FOR NESTING, SUCH AS SOCOTRA CORMORANT AND AL YASAT MPA HAS THE ONLY BREEDING POPULATION OF SOOTY FALCON IN ABU DHABI**

**2. LARGE POPULATION OF SPINY TAILED DHAB PRESENCE IN YMPA**

**3. CRUCIAL NURSERY AND SPAWNING GROUNDS FOR MORE THAN 150 SPECIES OF FISH**

**4. IMPORTANT SITES FOR FORAGING GREEN TURTLES AND NESTING SITES FOR HAWKSBILL TURTLES**

**5. DOLPHINS & PORPOISE ARE PRESENT:**

- INDO-PACIFIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

- INDIAN OCEAN HUMPBACK DOLPHIN

- INDO-PACIFIC FINLESS PORPOISE

**In YMPA 21 %**

**DUGONG ESTIMATED POPULATION**

**Abu Dhabi Marine Water**

**In YMPA 30 %**

**MARINE TURTLES ESTIMATED POPULATION**

**Abu Dhabi Marine Water**

**In YMPA 14 %**

**CETACEANS INCLUDING DOLPHINS ESTIMATED POPULATION**

**Abu Dhabi Marine Water**

**In YMPA 100 %**

**SOOTY FALCON ESTIMATED POPULATION**

**Abu Dhabi Protected Area**

**In YMPA 50 %**

**SOCOTRA CORMORANT ESTIMATED POPULATION**

**Abu Dhabi Protected Area**

**GENERAL REGULATION**

**DO NOT FISH WITHOUT PERMIT**

**DO NOT EXCEED SPEED LIMIT (10 KNOT OR AS SPECIFIED BY AUTHORITIES)**

**DO NOT REMOVE OR DAMAGE SIGNS**

**DO NOT TAKE COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHS WITHOUT PERMIT**

**DO NOT LITTER**

**DO NOT CHASE WILDLIFE ANIMALS**

**DO NOT COLLECT SAMPLES WITHOUT A PERMIT**