

Blue lines indicate the area meeting the ISRA Criteria; dashed lines indicate the suggested buffer for use in the development of appropriate place-based conservation measures

## SOUTH SUAKIN ARCHIPELAGO ISRA

### Western Indian Ocean Region

#### SUMMARY

South Suakin Archipelago is located off the southern Sudanese coast in the Red Sea. This area contains four islands and reef platforms interspersed by deep waters, characterised by fringing reefs. It partially overlaps with the Suakin Archipelago and Sudanese Southern Red Sea Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area and the Suakin Archipelago Key Biodiversity Area. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Scalloped Hammerhead *Sphyrna lewini*).

#### CRITERIA

**Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C5 - Undefined Aggregations**

—	—
<b>SUDAN</b>	—
—	—
<b>0-500 metres</b>	—
—	—
<b>380.54 km<sup>2</sup></b>	—
—	—





## DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Southern Suakin Archipelago encompasses several offshore islands and reef platforms near the Sudanese-Eritrean border. This is part of the largest group of islets in the Sudanese Red Sea. The islets within this area are mostly <1 km long (BirdLife International 2023). This area includes Masamarit Island, Island of Dahrat Abid, Island of Ed Domes, and Adam Reef. The various pinnacle features are separated by deep waters reaching 500 m depth. Islets are largely barren, though the sandy fringes have some vegetation (BirdLife International 2023). This area is characterised by fringing reefs, reef pinnacles, reef flats, and slopes.

This area overlaps with the Suakin Archipelago Key Biodiversity Area (KBA 2023) and the Suakin Archipelago and Sudanese Southern Red Sea Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (CBD 2023).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is pelagic and extends from surface waters (0 m) to 500 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

## ISRA CRITERIA

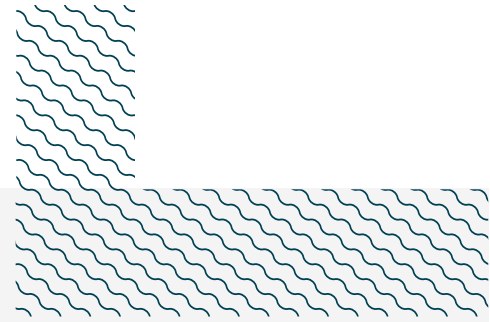
### CRITERION A - VULNERABILITY

The one Qualifying Species within the area is considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The Scalloped Hammerhead is assessed as Critically Endangered (Rigby et al. 2019).

### SUB-CRITERION C5 - UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

South Suakin Archipelago is important for undefined aggregations of one shark species.

This area hosts some of the largest known aggregations of Scalloped Hammerheads in the Red Sea (J Cochran pers. obs. 2023). Opportunistic diver surveys conducted from 2012–2017 by a single dedicated observer have recorded 353 encounters with Scalloped Hammerheads in this area. This includes 73 encounters with large aggregations containing 50–280 individuals from visual estimation (D Coker unpubl. data 2023). Key sites with aggregations of Scalloped Hammerheads include Masamarit islands (n = 8 aggregations encountered), the islands of Dahrat Abid (n = 22) and Ed Domes (n = 16), and a submerged reef platform informally known as Adam Reef (n = 27 encounters, including the largest schools with 280 individuals counted; D Coker unpubl. data 2023).



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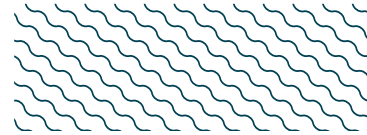
### **Suggested citation**

**IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group. 2023.** South Suakin Archipelago ISRA Factsheet. Dubai: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.

## QUALIFYING SPECIES

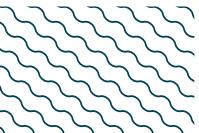
Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met									
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	
<b>SHARKS</b>													
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped Hammerhead	CR	0-1,043	X							X		

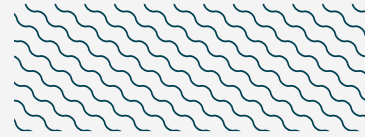
## SUPPORTING SPECIES



Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
<b>SHARKS</b>		
<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	Grey Reef Shark	EN
<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky Shark	VU
<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	Whitetip Reef Shark	VU
<b>RAYS</b>		
<i>Aetobatus ocellatus</i>	Spotted Eagle Ray	EN
<i>Mobula alfredi</i>	Reef Manta Ray	VU

*IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories are available by searching species names at [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) Abbreviations refer to: CR, Critically Endangered; EN, Endangered; VU, Vulnerable; NT, Near Threatened; LC, Least Concern; DD, Data Deficient.*





## REFERENCES

**BirdLife International. 2023.** Important Bird Area factsheet: Suakin archipelago. Available from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/suakin-archipelago-iba-sudan> Accessed November 2023.

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). 2023.** Suakin Archipelago and Sudanese Southern Red Sea. Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs). Available at: <https://chm.cbd.int/database/record?documentID=237820> Accessed October 2023.

**Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). 2023.** Key Biodiversity Areas factsheet: Suakin Archipelago. Available at: <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6803> Accessed October 2023.

**Rigby CL, Dulvy NK, Barreto R, Carlson J, Fernando D, Fordham S, Francis, MP, Herman K, Jabado, RW, Liu KM, et al. 2019.** *Sphyrna lewini*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2019: e.T39385A2918526.