

# Eritrea's Pristine Coastal Environment Is Significant to Science and Technology Cooperation

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Ambassador of the State of Eritrea  
Africa Fair Commemorative  
Symposium  
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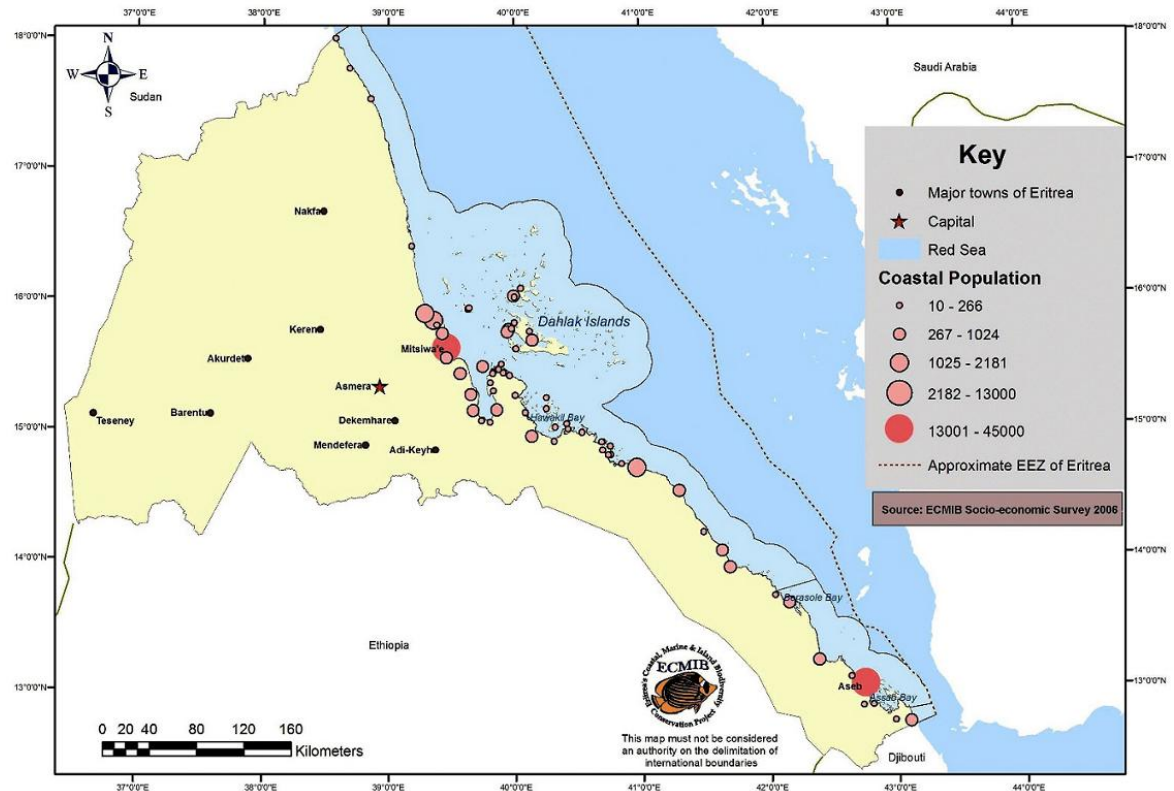


# Contents

- **What is so special about marine and coastal biodiversity in Eritrea?**
- **What is the local wisdom about marine and coastal biodiversity in Eritrea?**
- **Can science and technology serve the local wisdom used in preserving this important biological zone?**

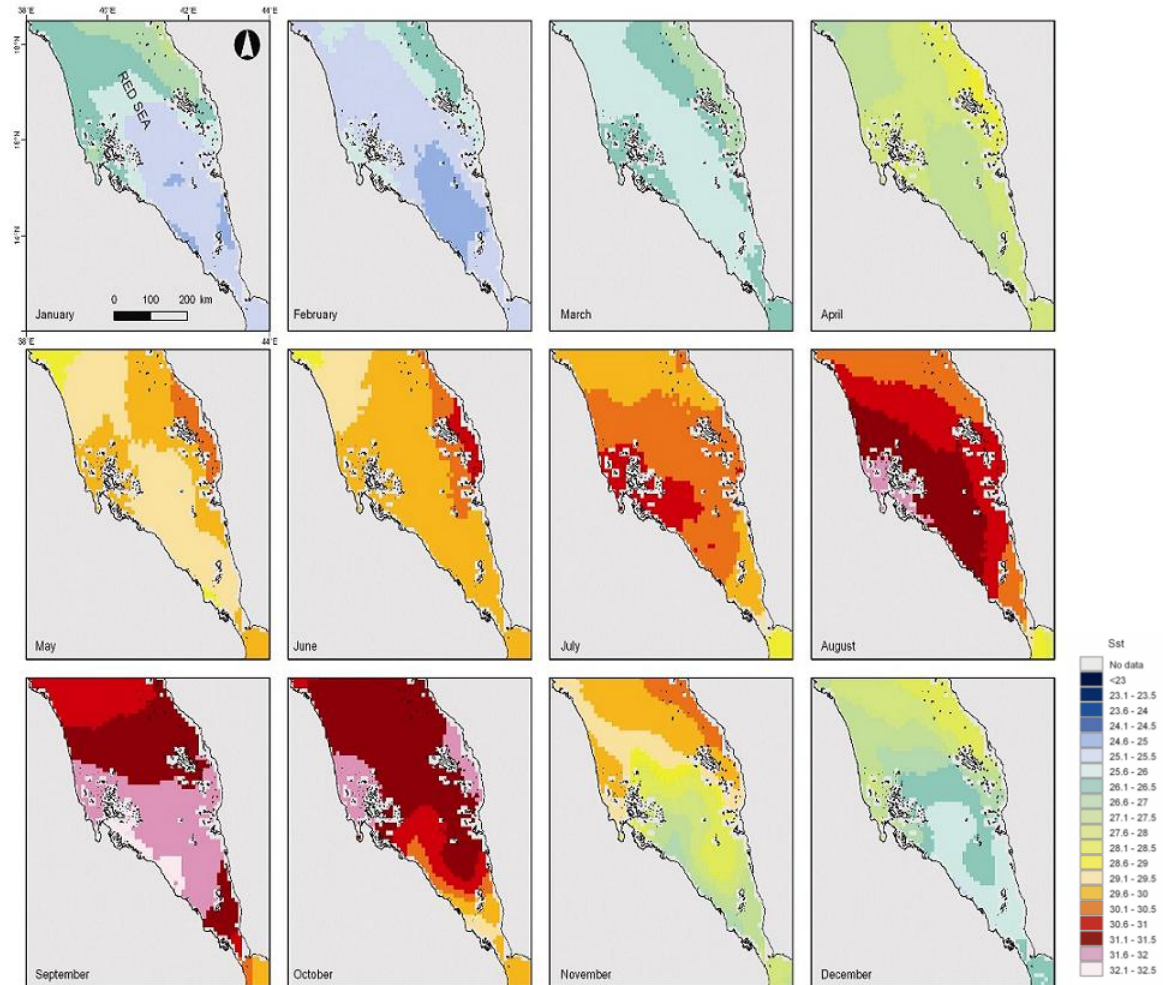
# 125,000-year-old stone tools from Abdur discovered in this biological zone are the earliest, best dated evidence of human occupation of a coastal environment

- Only 10 islands support human population at present, historical evidence suggest more islands where inhabited in the past;



# Despite the hot sea surface temperature this biological zone is home to the highest degree of endemic species

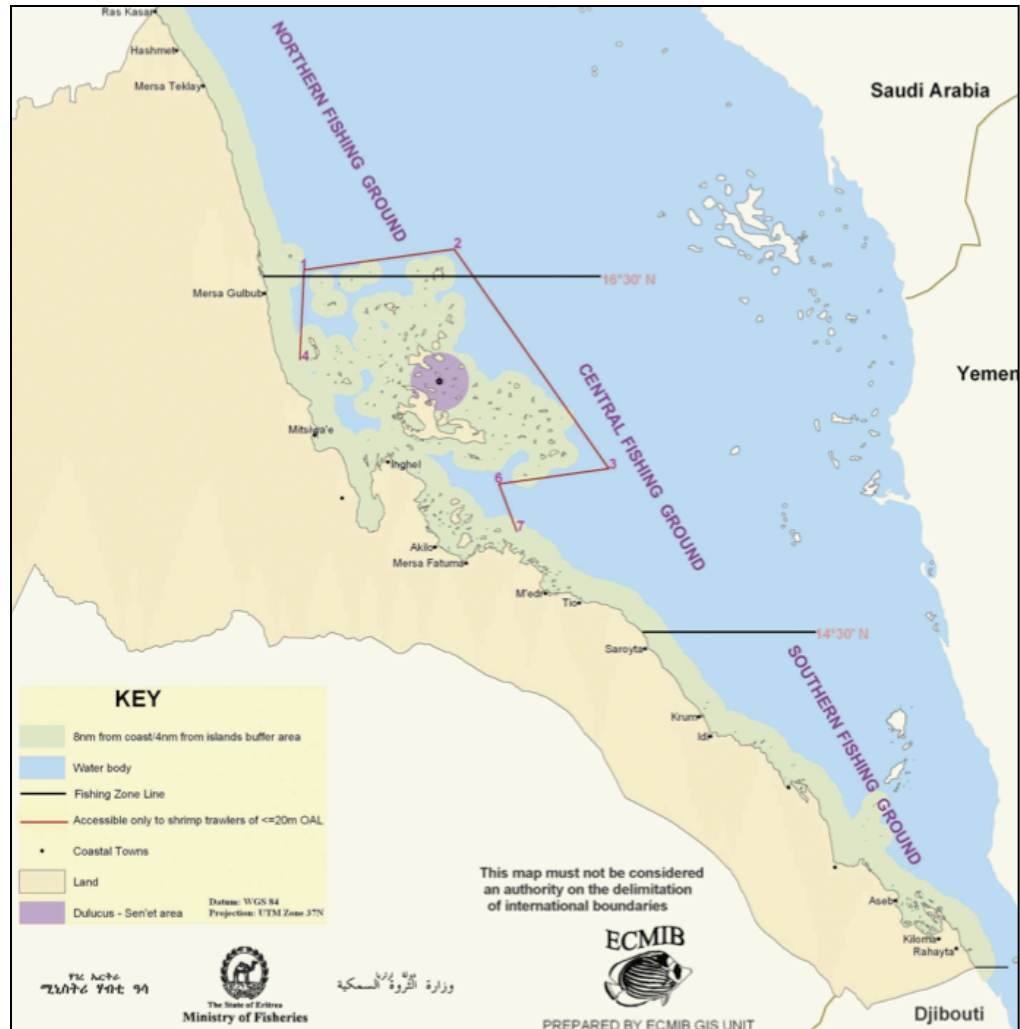
- The coast and 354 offshore coral islands are home to globally important coral reefs, mangroves, sea grasses and other habitats, as well as numerous vulnerable or globally endangered species
- The coast and the islands include three distinct biological zones of the Red Sea and Gulf of Eden containing a globally important and unique assemblage of marine and coastal habitats



Eritrea Sea Surface Temperature by ECMIB

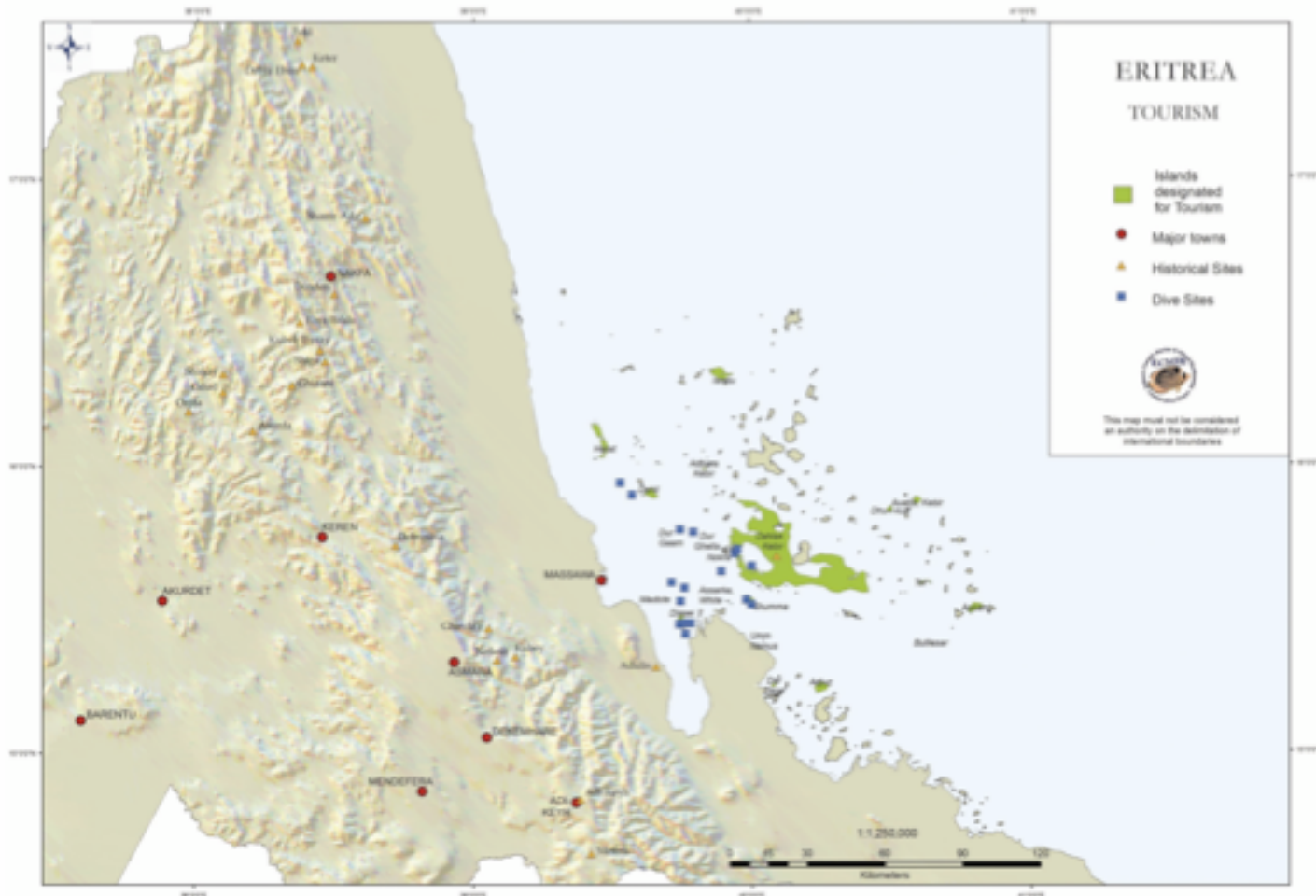
# 17% of the 1,400 known fish species and 20% of the 250 coral species - so far recorded in the coast of Eritrea - are found nowhere else

- Coral reefs: 250 species
- Sea grasses, sea weeds: 10% of the world species
- Sea birds, shore birds: 78 species (22 breed in the islands)
- Endangered marine turtle: 5 species (60 species globally)
- Endangered Dugong: 350-400 in number found in the Northern Coast
- Dolphins: most common mammal
- Endangered Whales: spotted sometimes
- Mangroves: about 389km



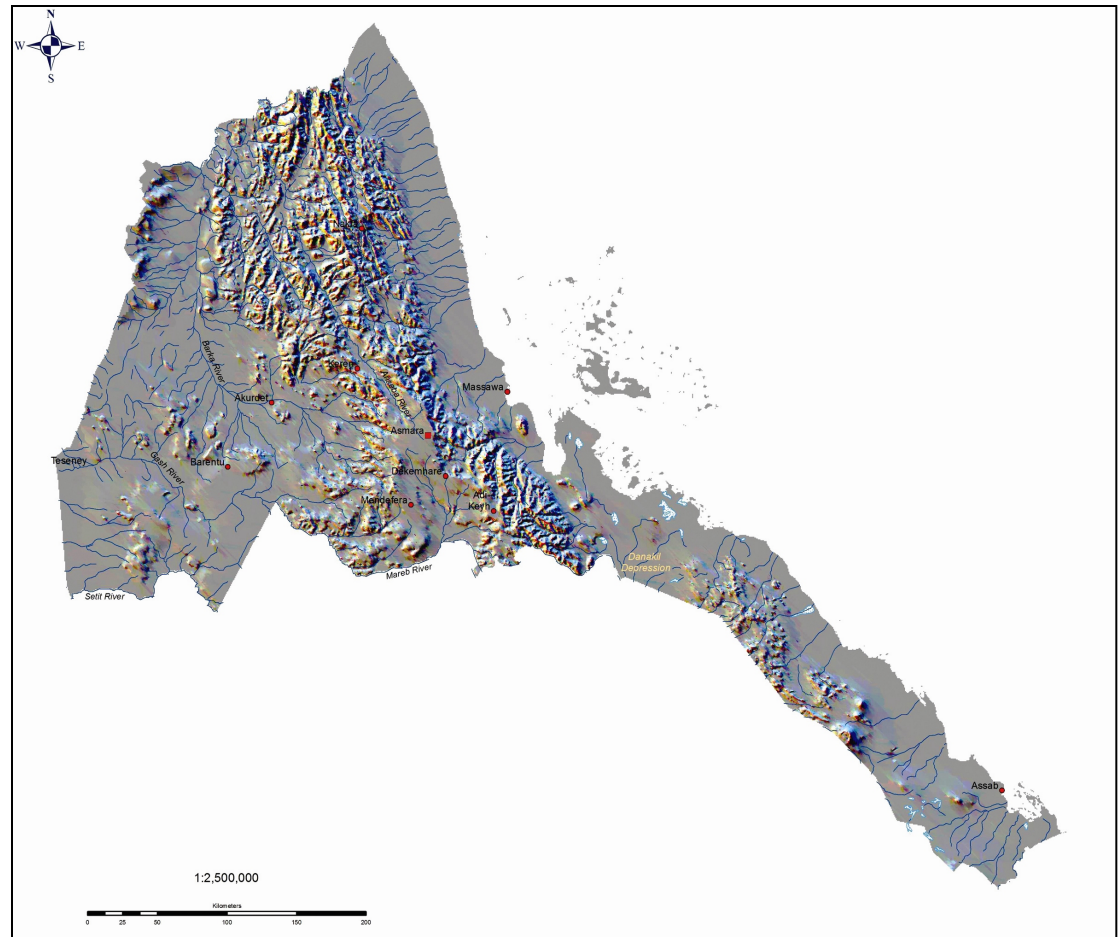
Eritrea's Territorial Water Fishing Grounds

# The coast and the islands include 3 distinct biological zones of the Red Sea and Gulf of Eden containing the historical route of mankind and the Danakil depression (Salt Plain)



# This biological zone has a distinct geographic, climate range conditions with a natural variety of eco-system in short distances

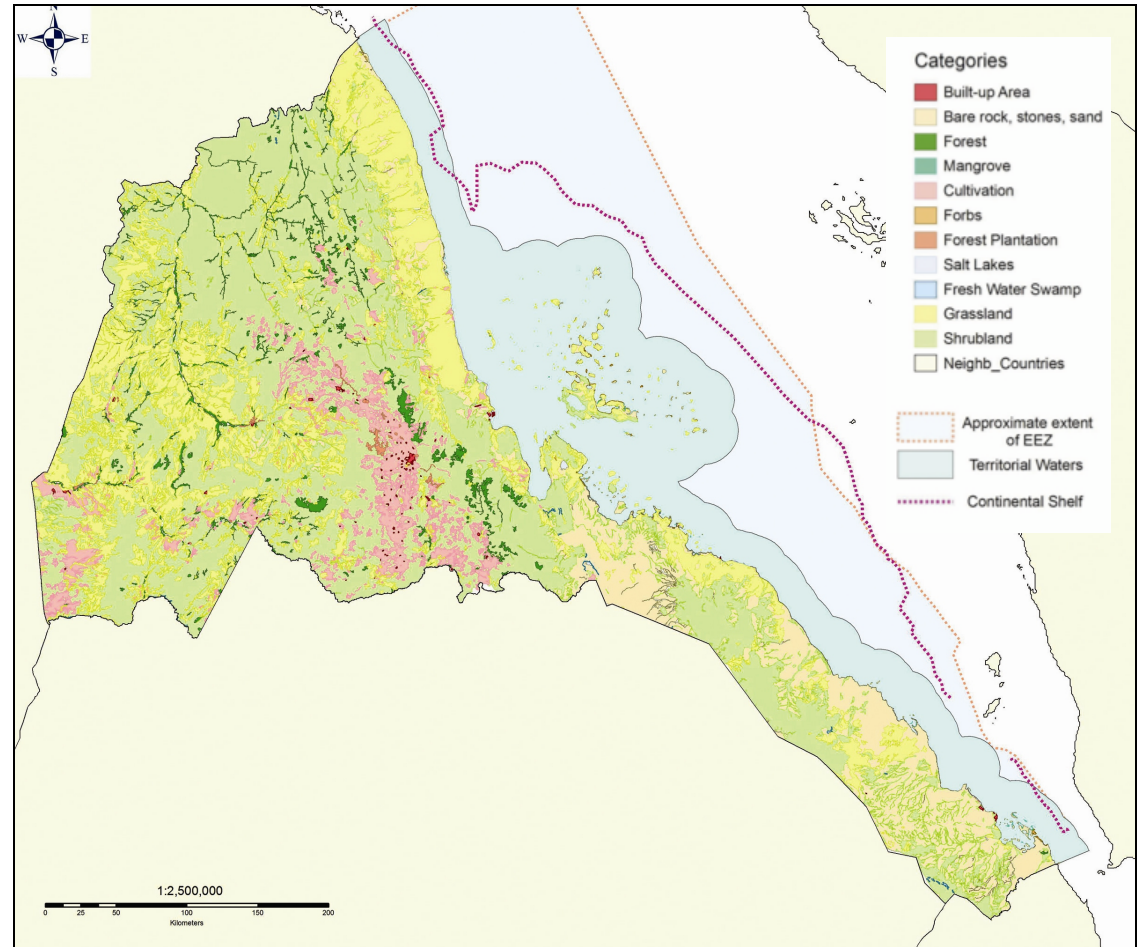
- Distinct geographic features: experiences sea level (below sea level) and mountains reaching 3200 meters
- Climate: wide range of conditions in short distance



# Unique Land Cover

-rolling acacia woodland, brush land, semi desert vegetation, mangrove swamp, juniper and wild olive, East African Laburnum, native hops and eucalyptus, dense evergreen and tropical woodland, baobab, toothbrush, woodland savannah, brush land, thicket, groves of doum palm

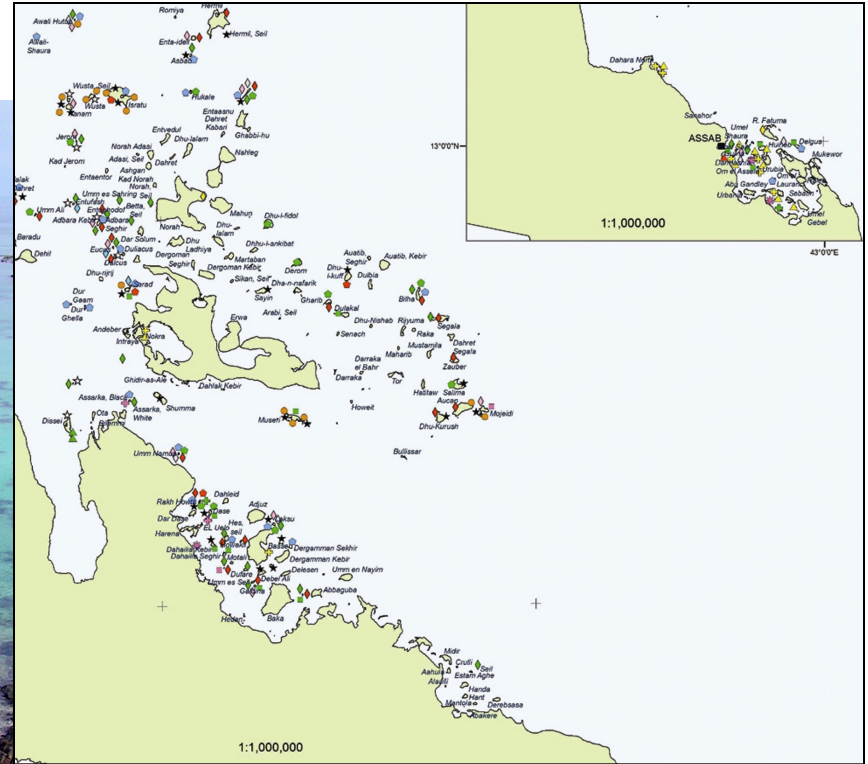
- Mainland coastline: 3330 km
- Islands and islets coastline: 1950 km
- (Country) Area: 124,000 Km square



Eritrea Land Cover



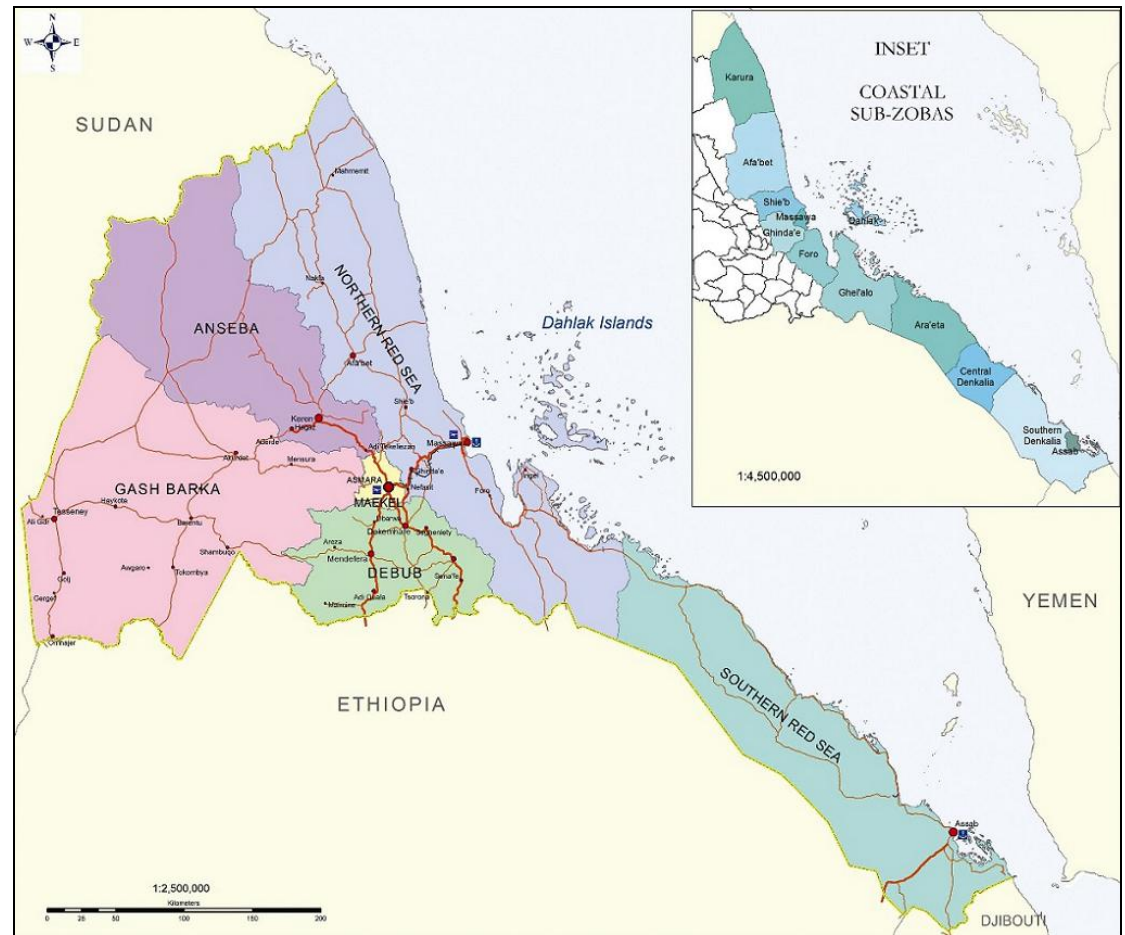
# Sea shore and hinterland landmass is home for bird nesting and fish breeding



Sea and shore bird nesting sites

# This biological zone is also unique in animal habitat

- **Cattle in pasturelands:**  
>2,023,830
- **Sheep in pasturelands:**  
>2,235,39
- **Goats in pasturelands:**  
>4,894,863
- **Camels in pasturelands:**  
>450,000
- **Birds:**> 537 identified
- **Is also home to Vervet ,  
Monkeys, baboons, gazelle,  
jackal, hare, fox,  
mongoose, wild cat,  
warthog, Dikdiks and  
Dorcas gazelles, Ostrich,  
Elephant, Caracal, Serval,  
Oryx, Crocodile, Greater  
kudu, Endangered African  
ass etc**

















# Challenges

- Climate change, coastal erosion, sea level rise
- Studying historical data of environmental evidence
- Urbanization and associated infrastructures and services
- Mining, petroleum extraction, industrial zone expansion threats etc



# What is the local wisdom about marine and coastal biodiversity in Eritrea?

- **A deep respect for all living things and the natural environment upon which they depend.**
- **A firm endeavor to make use of the environment in such a fashion that no species will disappear as a result of domestic actions to maintain perpetually an adequate fraction of both the terrestrial and marine environment in their natural state; and to eschew any trade in species of plants or animals threatened with extinction.**
- **A staunch commitment to cooperate with neighboring states and the world community of nations to protect and enhance the regional environment, the environment of regions beyond national jurisdiction, and the global biosphere, and a constant devotion to resolve any environmental or other interstate dispute solely by amicable means.**

# Can Eritrea's Local Wisdom be used for Global Solutions?

- Formulate joint research projects that examine the unique biodiversity of the coastal areas including the Danakil Depression.
- Enhance the local wisdom rooted at preserving the environment through existing science and technology knowledge base.
- Learn the local wisdom to device state of the art environmental friendly development skills for the better of our planet.

# "Don't Kill Wild Animals"

The Eritrean local wisdom is:

*"God gives rain for the sake of wild animals, and if wild animals are decimated there will be no rain"*

# For link-up with Eritrea in science, technology and marine environment collaboration please contact:

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An aerial photograph of Earth from space, showing a curved horizon and a coastline. The land is brown and rugged, with a prominent mountain range. The ocean is a deep blue. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a blue glow.

Thank you