

## The Project for Community-Based Sustainable Development Master Plan of Qeshm Island toward "Eco-Island"

### Overview

Qeshm is an Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, serving as a base for trading and economic activities. The island has the habitats for rare animals including marine mammals and migratory birds in its surroundings, as well as the largest mangrove forests in the Persian Gulf and coral reefs on and near the island. However, the island's environment has been threatened due to the development of oil, gas, and tourism. It suffers more and more from deteriorated tourism resources and environmental pollution.

The project is assisting in improving the environment-friendly livelihood of the local population in the areas except for the Free Trade-Industrial Zones (FTZs, with 15 years of tax exemption), formulating a master plan for conserving natural resources, and including environmental impact assessment in the existing master plan that covers the whole island, so that the project can contribute to the sustainable development of the Qeshm Island based on a master plan.



#### Project Site

Qeshm Island

#### Implementing Organization

Cultural, Heritage, Handicraft, and Tourism Organization of Qeshm Free Zone Organization

#### Duration

Nov. 2015—Nov. 2018

### Purpose

The project supports improving eco-friendly livelihood of the community except the FTZs, formulating a master plan for conserving natural resources, including environmental impact assessment in the existing master plan that covers the whole island and the FTZs, formulating an action plan in priority areas, and organizing investment seminars in Qeshm Island of Iran.

### Activities/Outputs

The project activities include implementing pilot projects with the related local agencies and populations in priority areas, i.e. tourism and fisheries promotions, waste management, sewerage and wastewater management, as well as formulating a feasible plan of action for Qeshm Island.

The project is also making intensive efforts at organizing seminars to promote investments from the private sector, including Japanese companies, and providing information on the island's attractive features.

The expected outcomes through these activities include formulating a plan for promoting the island's sustainable development while conserving its environment rich in nature.

