

## **Chapter VI**

### **Infrastructure**

## **Roads**

Yemen possesses a good road network that has become an integral component of realizing socio-economic development. The roads sector takes priority in the government's agenda, given its importance in development and in linking up all regions of Yemen. During the early 1990s, the government focused attention on building the road network in the southern and eastern governorates. Yemen has also directed investments towards road connections with neighboring countries. In the early 1990s, there were only 578 km of asphalt roads and 1,387 km of gravel roads. Since 1996, the government has proceeded at a faster pace to achieve greater accomplishments in the establishment of a modern national road network. Almost 4,854 km of new asphalt roads and 6,475 km of gravel roads were completed, in addition to around 1,000 km of roads receiving overlay maintenance.

The government spent about YR 200 billion for the construction of an advanced road network to meet the needs of development and linking the different parts of the country. The road network in Yemen currently consists of 10,000 km of asphalted roads and about 3,200 kilometers of gravel roads in addition to 54,000-60,000 km of dirt roads implemented by local councils or local communities.

## **Regional Linkage Projects**

The road network in Yemen is divided into strategic roads, which link more than one governorate, international linkage roads and international roads that pass through Yemen. The length of these roads extends to 4,000 km and includes a coastal strip of 1,800 km linking up Yemen with Saudi Arabia and Oman starting with Haradh in the north and extending to Houf at the Omani-Yemeni border in the east. Work is underway to complete a coastal highway that extends 503 km and includes Seyhout-Nashtoon Road, with a length of 173 km funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the government. Strategic roads comprise desert routes that extend to 1,277 km linking Yemen with neighboring countries starting from 'Alboqe in Sa'ada Governorate ending with Shahn at the Yemeni-Omani border. Work is also progressing to complete designs for the remainder of the road of 675 km. Strategic roads extend from "Albein" at the Saudi border passing through the capital city of Sana'a and a number of governorates up to Aden in order to alleviate heavy traffic. The length of such dual carriage way is 738 km, and will be funded by the Saudi Fund for Development and the Yemeni Government.

The Rural Access Roads Project is also executing roads that interconnect numerous governorates within Ta'ez, Al-Dhali'a, Lahj, Ibb, Hadhramaut, Shabwa Al-Mahara and Abyan Governorates, in addition to Al-Mahweet, Hajjah, Amran and Sa'ada. Access roads were also built in other parts of the country.

The Road Maintenance Fund has also set aside 30% of its total investment budget for local councils to undertake maintenance of some of the asphalt and dirt feeder roads. The government is also paying attention to maintaining the road networks, where the General Corporation for Roads and Bridges and the Roads Maintenance Fund have

carried out regular maintenance and overlay works nationwide, including 112.3 km of asphalt roads and 559.7 km of gravel roads. Overlay and maintenance were also carried out for the Shagrah-Aden\_Al-Naqba-Bir Ali Road, in addition to emergency maintenance works to roads damaged by heavy rainfall and floods. The government has also paid attention to enhancing the technical specifications for roads and has drafted a Roads Law and bylaw. A committee has been formed from the Ministry of Public Works and Roads and the relevant concerned entities to draw up Yemeni specifications and standards for roads conforming to the International Road Agreement in the Arab Orient (Arab World East of Suez). There are three axle weighing stations for heavy trucks off three major cities. Arrangements have also been made to construct 5 additional weight stations in Hodeida, Haradh Ta'ez, Al-Mocha and Al-Mukalla, in addition to five mobile weighing stations.

## **Transport**

The advances that Yemen has realized in the service and infrastructure sectors have been linked to the need to interconnect widely scattered parts of the new state through advanced local and international transport systems and networks that will benefit from a policy of openness being pursued since the early 1990s. The transport sector covering air, land and sea transports has made significant progress keeping up with international developments in the sector.

### **Air Transport**

Yemen has become an active international aviation region. Yemeni airports have been upgraded with equipment and enhanced technical capacities meeting international classifications, standards and requirements, mainly in terms of advanced infrastructure, security and safety of travelers. The establishment of Sana'a regional aviation was priority for the government and was approved by the Navigation Committee of countries of the Middle East, which includes specifying the borders of Yemen, the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean region up to Latitude 60° east. An Air Control Center was set up with five terminals for communicating with aircrafts by satellite, and 14 international routes and 26 local routes were opened up to link African states with Southeast Asia and Gulf States through Sana'a Aviation Region. The government has also modernized and maintained the country's airports. The expansion of Sana'a Airport is underway and will be completed in 2006 at a cost of \$ 115 million. The expansion will introduce a new passenger terminal with all facilities on an area of 26,000m<sup>2</sup>, in addition to a new landing runway and reinforcement of existing runways. Different equipment and instruments will also be modernized including power and communication systems and safety regulations and mechanisms. Aden International Airport has been modernized over recent years at a cost of \$ 25 million and includes a modern passenger services and terminal building taking up 1 ½ million passengers a year. Other airports were also expanded and modernized including Al-Rayyan Airport, Seyoun Airport, 'Ataq Airport and Al-Gheitha Airport. Socotra Island Airport was also introduced into full services in June 1999 ending isolation of the islands and linking up its population with the motherland.

## **Yemen Airways (YEMENIA)**

Yemen Airways (Yemenia) presents a good and successful model of merging two government airlines into a more dynamic airliner. Yemenia was formed as a result of the merger of the two airlines of the former two parts of Yemen. Over recent years, the national carrier was able to overcome a heavy burden of inheritance, and has become one of the competitive airlines in the Middle East. Yemenia has kept up the modernization of its fleet with introducing modern aircrafts like Airbus and Boeing aircrafts. The expansion of its fleet reflects the rise in demand and increasing passengers, triggering doubling of flight hours and passenger seat capacities.

The government has already invested YR 2.2 billion to modernize Yemenia aircraft fleet. Since 1997, Yemenia modernized its fleet by introducing four Airbus 310 and three Boeing 737 aircrafts. In recent years, two new Airbus 330/200 passenger planes were added as part of expanding passenger and cargo services. Today, Yemenia flies to 28 destinations worldwide and future plans include expansion to 4 new destinations. Yemenia has been able to achieve considerable success in increasing passenger traffic and volume of cargo transport in 2004. The number of passengers that flew with Yemenia reached 1 million passengers and the volume of cargo reached 15,000 tons. In March 2005, the Yemenia Board of Directors representing Yemeni and Saudi share holders has endorsed raising the airline capital to YR 40 billion as instructed by the political leaderships in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

## **Land Transport**

Yemen's modern land transport system has seen continued expansion in terms of infrastructure and a change in new philosophy that evolved out of the economic reform program. The reform program has contributed to liberalizing land transport activities, allowing private sector companies to compete in the sector. The move has resulted in lower passenger tariffs. There are now five private companies engaged in freight transport and 15 private companies engaged in land passenger transportation. Measures for privatizing the General Corporation for Land Transport should also contribute to better quality and a more efficient land transport sector. Bylaws that regulate passenger and cargo transport are being drafted and discussed.

## **Sea Transport**

Yemen's coastline extends 2,500 kilometers. Seaports are widespread along the coastal strip of the country. Sea transport in Yemen is a major link connecting the country with international shipping lines that stimulate world trade and investment. Sea ports are means for transporting Yemen's imports of commodities and raw materials and exports of agricultural and manufactured products. The government has doubled investment in the sector in excess of YR 48 billion by 2004. The investment helped improve and expand capacities in the various ports. In the Port of Aden, the government built a Container Port north of the Al-Mu'alla Port, of which the cost of the first stage reached YR 36 billion. The port consists of two deep docks for handling

containers, dockyards with advanced handling equipment for giant vessels. The port handling capacity is 750,000 containers.

The government constructed a new port at Al-Salif along the western coastal part of the country at a cost of YR 1.6 billion. The port is capable of catering to large ships up to 50,000 tons. Preparations are also underway to build ports in Brum in Hadhramaut and Khalfout in Al-Mahara, and a third one on Socotra Island. Efforts to maintain and modernize existing ports in Aden, Hodeida, Al-Mukalla and Al-Mocha have led to growth in the volume of cargo handling. Handling dry commodities reached 7.8 million tons in 2004 as compared to 4 million tons in 1990. The number of containers handled increased from 28,000 to 420,000 containers. The quantity of oil handled amounted to 19.5 million tons compared to 17.1 million tons over the same period.

Yemen has become an active member among 15-member countries that overlook the Indian Ocean and six countries overlooking the Red Sea. Yemen controls navigation and shares information on vessel traffic. Yemen is also part to a number of international conventions and treaties on maritime safety and risk mitigation resulting from illegal activities in regional and international waters.

## **Communication and Information Technology**

Telecommunication, information technology and postal services have increasingly received government attention. Such services have improved after the unification of the country. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) has prepared plans and programs for various strategic projects to cope up with developments in the sector. The Ministry has developed a long term vision up to 2025 that has been approved by Cabinet in January 2002. Among the prominent projects executed by the Ministry has been the introduction and operation of 500,000 fixed telephone lines. The project is part of expanding and improving telecommunication services nationwide. The project was completed recently and included 98 switchboards and the expansion of 111 existing switchboards. The project has raised installed capacity of the fixed telephone network to 1,240,000 lines.

A Prime Minister Decree was issued approving the Public Telecommunication Corporation's purchase of the shares of Cable and Wireless Ltd (UK) in Teleyemen, as the partnership agreement expired in 2003. An international tender was announced for an international operator. The Ministry also implemented a project that aims at spreading PCs to employees of the government. The project which has been dubbed as "the President of the Republic's Project" aims to enhance the use of computers across government and society. The Ministry also launched Phase I of a Telecommunication and IT City. The Ministry also regulates telecommunication centers and internet cafes in the country.

## **Development of Rural Telecommunication**

Telecommunication services remain restricted to urban centers in the country. It has been rather difficult to expand to rural areas given the difficult terrain and landscape

of the country, in addition to absence of electricity supplies across many villages and the high investment cost for delivering the service. The Public Telecommunication Corporation has used analogue rural telecommunication systems fed through solar energy. PTC then introduced fiber optics technology and mobile wireless fixed phone systems. Currently, rural telecommunication is witnessing significant expansion including service delivery to scattered population settlements. Around 115,000 lines and the introduction of modern diversified wireless telecommunication systems have been in place in an attempt to ensure wider cost effective coverage of rural areas.

## **Fiber Optics Cable Link Projects**

A regional linkage project was launched connecting Yemen with neighboring Saudi Arabia, the rest of the Arabian Gulf Countries, and Jordan using digital transmission at a cost of YR 630 million. Inter-connection using fiber optics cable also linked up the remaining regions of the country spanning 2,455 kilometers. Yemen and other countries have contributed to the financing of the CMD2 undersea cable project extending from Singapore in Southeast Asia and passing through the Middle East to Marseilles (France). Yemen, along with Djibouti, also contributed to financing a subsidiary Aden-Djibouti cable, linking Yemen with the CMD2. The significance of CMD2 cable link is seen in supporting international telecommunication to and from Yemen. The capacity allotted for Yemen in submerged cable network is 345 telephone channels. PTC has signed an agreement with Arabsat Corporation investing in half of a satellite channel in Arab satellite for local calls and the interconnection of a number of remote regions through V-Sat system.

## **GSM and Mobile Telephone Service**

There are 3 mobile telephone operators in Yemen, i.e. PTC Yemen Mobile which was launched in 2005 and two other GSM private operators that started the service in 2001. The services provided by these companies cover most of the country, in addition to a mobile phone service via satellites. The number of subscribers to both GSM providers increased from 120,000 subscribers in the first year to 400,000 subscribers in the following year and reached more than 1 million subscribers today. Yemen Mobile, which operates using CDM system is expected to double the existing subscription.

## **E-Government**

The government adopted an IT National Program (e-government). Arrangements have been made to prepare a comprehensive plan of the program to allow for implementation. A public website has been designed for the e-government on the Internet. There are 31 sites for government ministries and agencies and 20 sites for the governorates. Phase I of the Communication and IT City in Sana'a was inaugurated in 2002. Phase II is also underway. This city is part of the realization of the IT National Program. The shift to an e-government involves four stages that would last

through 2012. These stages will contribute to enhancing telecom and IT and their contribution to improving productivity, the creation of economic resources, provision of job opportunities, improving administrative procedures and scientific research and serving the education sectors.

The Ministry of Telecom and IT under Phase II of the IT plan and IT city will also establish a Standards and Measurements Center, a Computer Manufacturing and Production Assembly Line, and a Communication Network Installation and Maintenance Center. There will also be electronic services that include information, leisure and educational services, and travel and tourism services, in addition to an inquiry center. The project in phase II will include a telecom and IT City and the establishment of a distance learning university as well as a national remote sensing center.

### **Yemen's Internet Gateway**

The Yemeni Gateway to the Internet is a project for the provision of Internet Services and the linkage of service providers in Yemen with the World Wide Web. In the project's first phase, the internet gateway will allow for the connectivity of 51 service providers from the private sector on competitive basis at the speed of 2 megabytes and international connection channels with 42 megabytes capacity. Internet service was launched in Yemen in 1996 operated by one single service provider, and 40 leased channels provide the internet service. Subscription currently does not exceed 35,000. The number of sites linked with the information messaging (email) services has reached 60 sites for a number of entities and their branches in addition to PTC centers and those of the General Postal Authority. Hosts to the Yemen Gateway on the Web represented 55 entities with a capacity of 550 megabytes, and internet cafes reached 1,200 cafes by mid 2003. Those cafes are scattered nationwide, whereas 400 exist in the city of Sana'a.

### **The President's Computers Project**

The President's project aims at distributing PCs and spreading their use within government agencies and in society at large. The idea behind the project is to provide means to owning PCs at affordable prices and through monthly installments. The project will take three stages under which a total of 100,000 computers will be distributed to help bridge the digital gap and advance the use of IT in society.

### **Postal Service**

The General Postal and Postal Savings Authority was established in 1990. Since then, the Authority has taken advanced steps to improve services to meet growing demand and developments in the country. Automation of the service and the introduction of computer networking, the provision of financial services, agency services, electronic services, and express local and international mail courier service (Al-Momtaz)

throughout Yemen. Recent years have also seen significant efforts and implementation of several projects including the following:

- Building 19 new postal offices and renovation of others in the various governorates;
- Improving and updating the postal computer network and introducing services like paying out social welfare stipends, current account services, and utility bill collection for water, electricity and telephone;
- Introducing electronic currency during the last quarter of 2002 that relies on modern technologies and internet connectivity. The service includes payment of invoices, purchase orders for merchandise, payment of financial transfers and even carrying out electronic transfers.

## Electricity and Water

### Electricity

The electricity sector has witnessed considerable development. Installed and generated power increased by annual averages ranging from 5.1% to 6% leading to maximum loads of 610 MW in 2000. The Public Electricity Corporation (PEC) was able to raise the average generated electricity by 8.7% during 2003, thus exceeding the growth of subscribers of 7.4%. Coverage by the national grid expanded to 42.9%, with maximum load capacity reaching 766.2 megawatts. Four new power stations have been introduced in 2003 i.e., Hizyaz Power Station with a capacity of 30 megawatts, Al-Hali Power Station with a capacity of 10 megawatts, Khour Maksar Power Station with a capacity of 10 megawatts and Usaifirah Power Station with a capacity of 10 megawatts. PEC is also expanding the capacity of Al-Rayyan Power Station with an additional 10 megawatts and the Sana'a Power Station with an additional 5 megawatts plus the operation of a 6-mw Al-Tawahi Station and the South Sana'a Power Station with a capacity of 60 megawatts. Expansion is meant to boost power generation for Sana'a and enhance the generation capacity of Al-Hiswa Thermal Power Station and Aden Power Station with 60 MW for each to meet a growing demand on the national grid.

### Developments in the Power Sector

Year	Installed Power (MW)	Electricity Sales (GWH)	Number of Subscribers	Coverage (%)	Available Power (MW)	Generated Electricity (GWH)	Maximum Load
1990	689	1,279	423	18	417	1,832	339
2004	922	2,937	1,061	36	758	4,289	800

The Second Five Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2001-2005) included 197 expansion projects in the national grid with a total investment of YR 1.5

billion. It also included improvement in the distribution network in major cities like Sana'a, Aden, Hadhramaut, Hodeida and other towns in Dhamar, Shabwa, Hajjah, Sa'ada, Al-Beidha, Abyan, Lahj, Marib, Al-Mahara, al-Dhali'a, Amran, Al-Mahweet and Al-Jouf. There are also projects addressing the improvement of the capacities of power sub-stations in major cities, the reduction of electricity distribution network losses, installation of power measurement instruments and modernization of inspection equipment and the replacement of old domestic connections with new ones. There is another strategic project for building the Marib Gas Power Station with a total capacity of 700 megawatts, which will be executed in 2 stages, at a total cost of YR 8,875 million. Another gas station will be built in Safir, Mareb with a capacity of 300 megawatts at a total cost of \$ 152 million, in addition to 132 KV Transmission Line and substations to feed the capital city and improve distribution network at a cost of \$ 167 million. Also, the Mocha Steam Power Station will be overhauled. Such developments reflect plans by the government to add 3,000 megawatts to the National Electricity Grid using gas fuelled power generating stations. A study is being undertaken for laying 3 gas pipelines from Marib to the locations where generation stations will be built. The first pipeline will extend to Ma'abar, in Dhamar Governorate; the second will extend to Aden, while the third pipeline will extend to Hodeida.

Breakdown of Electricity Consumption by Sector (GWH)

Years	Domestic	Public Utilities	Commerical/ Industiral	Others	Total
1991	723	110	548	6	1387
1992	785	125	581	7	1498
1993	810	144	608	8	1570
1994	830	126	515	9	1480
1995	898	121	582	10	1611
1996	918	154	520	10	1602
1997	1013	179	530	12	1734
1998	1018	212	214	13	1457
1999	1043	224	653	15	1935
2000	1163	278	622	16	2079
2001	1295	291	625	18	2229
2002	1402	358	690	27	2477
2003	1518	423	752	41	2734
2004					

The Ministry of Electricity has paid attention to modern applications of electricity generation. In 2001, the Ministry initiated data collection and information on wind speed in Al-Mocha in order to undertake a feasibility study on the construction of wind energy farms for generating electricity with a capacity of 50-100 megawatts. The Ministry has also collected data on solar radiation to disseminate solar generated power as additional clean and suitable power, and started to prepare a detailed National Master Plan for Renewable Energy.

## **Rural Electrification**

Electricity policies have neglected a broad category of the population who are living in rural areas. Rural population represents 78% of the total and are scattered in 105,000 population settlements. The number of beneficiaries rose to 247,000 subscribers by 2003 and work is proceeding on 126 power projects costing YR 6.7 billion to benefit more than 176,000 new subscribers. The numbers of strategic, intermediate and small electricity projects that have been implemented over the last 15 years have reached hundreds.

## **Water**

The government adopted effective water policies in order to face the water challenge. The accelerated population growth in a country that is one of the most water poor in the world has posed a serious challenge. Since 1997, government issued a decree on reforming urban and rural water supply, which entailed establishing local water corporations and the activation of local communities to enhance the efficiency of water resources and rationalize water use. In recent years, efforts have intensified to complete the institutional and legislative build-up of the water and sanitation sector. Duties of each entity under the auspices of the Ministry of Water and Environment were defined. New policies of openness in the sector have allowed for the entry of the private sector as an important partner in water supply and sanitation services.

The quantity of water produced increased to 126 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2004 compared to 68 million m<sup>3</sup> of water sold. The number of beneficiaries of water supply services increased to 3,870,000 people in 2004. The number for sanitation services rose to 1,613,000 people. The government has worked on maintaining the public water supply network and reduction of water losses to 29% in 2004. This has been part of a comprehensive plan to maintain water and sanitation networks and to replace worn out lines and prepare special maintenance teams. The government also drew up a strategy to address the water challenge in close consultation with local communities and international donors. The strategy outlines alternative resources like desalination of water with the cooperation of the private sector and promoting the use of modern technology that aims to raise the efficiency of water and to rationalize water use. The strategy is an essential pillar in development strategies and plans of the water sector.

## **The Environment and Development**

The rapid growth of population strains natural resources, especially soil, vegetative cover and water sources. The last 15 years saw intensive development activities in agriculture, manufacturing and extraction industry, and in building and construction which added further pressures on the environment. The government has given water protection the highest priority based on the Constitution, which considers the protection of the environment a joint responsibility of government and society. It is

also a religious and national obligation of all citizens. The First National Environmental Plan was completed in 1996, which highlighted challenges facing the environment, such as depletion of water resources, deterioration of land resources, desertification, and deterioration of habitats and biodiversity and waste management.

In view of strong linkages between the environment and development, the plan underlined the need to integrate environmental issues in development plans and strategies, including the impact of projects on the environment. The government has committed itself to sustainable development following the First Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which sought a balance between development and preservation of the environment.

## **Bio-Diversity**

Yemen's natural habitat exhibits plants that are a mix of plants of the East African Mountains, the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East, in addition to rare types of endemic plants. There are 3,000 plants, 15% of which are endemic plants that are found in Socotra, the Bara'a Forest, the 'Utumah Sanctuary, 'Irf Sanctuary, Hajjah mountains, Sa'ada, Al-Mahweet, Dhamar, Ta'ez and Raimah. There are also 224 medicinal and perfume plants. Yemen also enjoys green landscape compared to other regions in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. Vegetation comes as a result of the summer, spring and winter rains. The varied climate and the existence of the wadis also help to grow trees, forests and grazing land in many areas of the country. The most important vegetative covers are found in al-shouora trees, acacia, tamarisk, lotus jujube, myrrh, balsam, mole, fuller's teasel, lachrymose, juniper, chard, dragon's blood and aloe, etc.

There are 71 species of land mammals. Of the animals that are found in Yemen, 30% constitute large size animals, some of which are rare in the Arabian Peninsula such as the ibex, red fox genet, striped hyena, sand fox, wild cats, Arabian wolf, Arabian tiger, hunting leopard. Yemen's strategic location, being near 3 important regions (African, tropical and oriental), helped Yemen become a passage point for migrating birds. There are 363 species of birds and a large number of semi-settled bird species. Birds can be found in most parts of Yemen, especially in Al-Luhaya, Meyoun, Bir Ahmed, Bir Ali, Houf, Bara'a, Raimah, 'Utumah, Ibb, Ta'ez, Sa'ada, Hajjah, and mainly in forest and rangeland areas.

## **Preservations and National Parks**

Socotra Archipelago is Yemen's largest island with an estimated area of 3,625 km<sup>2</sup>, 115 kilometers long and 30 kilometers wide. It is one of the most beautiful archipelagos in the world given its rich bio-diversity and environment. Socotra Island presents a great potential for sustainable development and economic significance. Also, the preserved area of Sharmah, Jathmoun enjoys white sandy beaches, sand dunes, rocky shores and coral reefs. Its coast is one of the most important beaches, where turtles, especially the green turtle, multiply and generate. The marine environment in the sanctuary is rich in fish, corals, various forms of marine life, and seaweeds.

The Utumah preserved National Park in Dhamar is one of the most beautiful and largest areas for environmental tourism. The Park maintains a range of mountains of medium elevation and enjoys a moderate climate with heavy rainfalls especially in the summer. There is an abundance of water streams, wadis and water springs making the area constantly green and unique in its biodiversity and vegetative cover, which gives it a natural wonder. It is also rich with wild animals such as hyenas and an abundance of birds and eagles.

Jabal Bara'a is also one of the largest and most beautiful natural forests in the Arabian Peninsula. It is 5 kilometers long, with an elevation that ranges between 2,500 and 3,000 meters above sea level. The area is a national park of 4,100 hectares. The park is quite green and is full of trees, endemic plants and flowers, most of which are domiciled and rare. The park is famous for its animal diversity with distinct birdlife, butterflies and reptiles. There are 95 species that hover over the forest, of which 30 are domiciled in the Arabian Peninsula, and 5 are migratory. Nearby, there is Wadi Rijaf which is considered one of the most important stopovers for birds migrating across Yemen.

Jabal 'Irf sanctuary is situated in the south of Ta'ez Governorate and the northwestern slopes of the Maqatira Mountain Range, which is near the famous Al-Maqatira Fort. The area of the mountain range is 15 kilometers by 4 kilometers and maintains abundant vegetative cover over an area of more than 2,000 hectares. Throughout the mountain range, one can find scattered trees and bushes. The moderate and rainy climate of the mountainous area leave behind an abundance of trees especially acacia and juniper trees in addition to the existence of many species of flowery scented trees. There are two natural springs in the mountain. Animal biodiversity of the area is characterized by endemic and rare species. There are also large numbers of birds which Yemen is famous for. The park is also a stopover station for migratory birds coming to Yemen from different countries.

The park of Houf is situated on a mountainous area over 30,000 hectares and an elevation of about 1,400 meters above sea level. The area overlooks the coastal strip of Houf where some of the most beautiful beaches exist. There is also the forest of Houf which is one of the biggest forests in Yemen. It maintains similar environmental features like Dhofar Forest in the neighboring Sultanate of Oman. Houf Forest has distinct biodiversity which makes it a suitable natural park unlike any other in the Arabian Peninsula. There are 220 species of plants in addition to diverse animal species.