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MOWCAP
UNESCO Memory of the World
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Nomination form
Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World*
Register

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries
Assessed by: (Rujaya Abhakorn).....(date) .. / .. / (xxxxxx).....(date) .. / .. / (xxxxxx).....(date) .. / .. / (xxxxxx).....(date) .. / .. /	Decision: (circle as appropriate) 1. Recommended 2. Not recommended 3. Recommended subject to the following (attach additional comments if required):

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Introduction

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register*. It sets out, in logical order, the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

It is highly recommended that prospective nominees should carefully read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register* for further information before and during preparing a nomination. Nominees should also look at the current International *Memory of the World Register*

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1678&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

and the [Australian *Memory of the World Register*](#) to see examples of completed nomination forms.

Please submit two complete document sets on paper (one original and one photocopied versions) and one electronically.

Completed nominations should be posted by mail and submitted electronically to reach the following address:

Ms Helen Swinnerton
 Secretary General of MOWCAP,
 1/F Tower 2 & 3, HSBC Centre, 1 Sham Mong Road, Kowloon
 Hong Kong
helen.swinnerton@gmail.com

The nomination form and any accompanying material will not be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

MOWCAP maintains a website at <http://www.unesco.mowcap.org>. Questions may be addressed to the MOWCAP Register Subcommittee (rujaya2000@yahoo.com). Please keep a copy of this form for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Please also keep an electronic version of the completed form as we will need this for successful nominations to speed up entries onto the MOWCAP website.

Ray Edmondson
 Chair, MOWCAP

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Nomination form

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register* nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.

As one of the most important scientific documentaries, *the Soul of the Reef*, with its good rhythm and precise audio/video synchronization, has a poetic look at the reefs. Without any narrations, the documentary makes all its viewers emotionally attached to the life of the reefs and worried about the factors threatening their lives. Enacting a law that forbids any damages to the reefs and using it for informing people of the region's countries about the importance of the reefs are among the achievements of this documentary. In terms of theme and style, the documentary has won many national and international awards so far.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Iranian National Committee for the Memory of the World

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)'s Department General of Archives and Libraries, a member organization of the National Committee for Memory of the World, nominated this documentary to the Iranian National Committee for the Memory of the World in 2012. *The Soul of the Reef* was registered in the national list of Iranian memory of the world and its registration certificate was given to IRIB on October 27, 2012 on the occasion of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.

2.3 Contact person(s)

Nahid Farzi (Ms.)

Fariba Farzam (Ms.)

2.4 Contact details

Telephone:

021-22014727

021-88644086

Facsimile:

021-22014727

021-88644086

Email:

nahidfarzi@yahoo.com

faribafarzam@yahoo.com

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3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

The Soul of the Reef

General Information: The scientific documentary *the Soul of the Reef* examines the environment of Oman sea and Persian Gulf as well as ecosystems of the environment. This 400-minute series consists of 13 episodes and has been produced in the Social Programs Department of IRIB's Channel One in 2001. Research and production phase of this series lasted about 4 years.

The writer of this documentary is Saiedeh Akhkan and the series has been directed, produced and filmed underwater by Seyed Mani Haghighi. Film music has been composed by Mohammad Reza Aligholi.

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Each episode of the documentary, according to the item type and the place of it in the archive reservoir, has a recovery code. This program in 13 episodes with registration numbers 68141 to 68145 is preserved in the IRIB's Archive Department.

Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

Please see the attached CD which contains some parts of this TV series.

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

After broadcasting from Iranian TV, this program was delivered to the Archive Department of IRIB by its producer (Seyed Mani Mir Sadeghi) according to the Act of Archival Deposit of IRIB. This documentary series is being preserved in the Archive Department of IRIB now.

3.5 Bibliography

Aldoost, Azadeh, Ecology of Fishes in Coral Reefs, Advisor Professor: Aria Ashja Ardelan, A. Thesis, Islamic Azad University, Northern Tehran Branch, Faculty of Marine Science and Technologies, 2001.

Dakin, Nick (1992); Macmillan Book of the Aquarium; New York: Macmillan Publishing Company.

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Gischler, Eberhard ... [et al.] (2005); Coral Climate Proxy Data from a Marginal Reef Area, Kuwait, Northern Persian Gulf; Amsterdam: Elsevier publishing press.

J. R. Sheppard, Charles; Price, Andrew; Roberts, Callum (1992); Marine Ecology of the Arabian Region: Patterns and Processes in Extreme Tropical Enviroments; UK: Academic Press.

Mohammadian, Hasanyar, Iran's Reef, Sea Anemone and Medusa (plus Hydra), Tehran, Shabpareh Publications, 2008.

Riegl, Bernhard; Purkis, Sam J. (Eds) (2012); Coral Reefs of the Persian Gulf: Adaptation to Climatic Extremes (Coral Reefs of the World); [sl]: Springer.

Rohwer, Forest; Youle, Merry (2010); Coral Reefs in the Microbial Seas; [sl]: Plaid Press.

Sheppard, Charles R.C.; Davy, Simon K.; Pilling, Graham M. (2009); Biology of Coral Reefs (Biology of Habitats); USA: Oxford University Press.

Shinn, Eugene A. (1975); Coral Reef Recovery in Florida and the Persian Gulf; USA; Environmental Conservation Department Oil Company.

Spalding, Mark ... [et al.] (2001); World Atlas of Coral Reefs; Berkeley: University of California Press.

Taleie Mazinani , Shadi, Examining and Dispersion of Coral Reefs in Oman Sea and Persian Gulf , Advising Professor: Mohammad Reza Fatemi , M. A. Thesis, Islamic Azad University, Northern Tehran Branch, Faculty of Marine Science and Technologies, 2000.

The Soul of the Reef, Mir Sadeghi, Seyed Mani, Social Programs Department of IRIB's Channel One, 1998-2001, p. 72.

Verson, J. E. N. (2010); A Reef in time: The Great Barrier Reef from Beginning to End; UK: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

Name:	Qualifications	Address:
Dr. Mohammad Darvish		Institute of Jungles and Pasturelands Researches, Pajoohesh Town. West of Shahid Hemmat Expressway, Tehran. Tel: 09124570290 Fax: (+98 21) 4419 6575 Email: darvish100@gmail.com

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Name :	Qualifications	Address : The Environment Protection Organization, Pardisan Park, Hakim Expressway, Tehran
Dr. Farhad Dabiri		The Environment Rights Department, Faculty of Environment and Energy, Science and Researches Branch , Islamic Azad University, Tehran
		<u>Tel: 09125272609</u>
		Email: farhaddabiri@gmail.com

Name	Qualifications	Address
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I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the *Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register*, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature	Full name (Please PRINT) Dr Es'haq Salahi Director of the National Library and Archives of Iran, and president of the national Memory of the World committee.
	Date November 2013

4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name: Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB)	Address: Department General of Archives and Libraries, Jame-Jam Avenue, Vali Asr Street, Tehran
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Telephone (+98 21) 22162650	Facsimile: (+98 21) 22041377	Email
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4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
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4.3 Legal status

Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage

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IRIB will assume legal and administrative liability for this work.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

Access to original copy and unedited films may be possible under specific conditions but access to copies of the program is possible in accordance with the regulations and terms of IRIB's Archive Department. Members and researchers may get just a few minutes of the program and the entire program will be given to TV channels just for broadcasting by these channels.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

The copyrights of this work belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting.

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

Authenticity and validity of this documentary has been proved, given the research process, documented filming, production and program-making. After production and broadcasting, the original copy and unedited films have been delivered to the Archive Department of IRIB and this series has been stored in the Department since 2002.

5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

Coral reefs are among the oldest and richest communities of living creatures on the Earth. Coral reefs are 5,000 to 10,000 years old. The corals that constitute the reefs will only grow in specific conditions and many of them are accumulated sea cliffs with millions years of age. Corals play the same role of rain jungles in the sea and they are the lung of the earth. These creatures produce more than 70 percent of the oxygen existed in the seas and constitute 25 percent of the sea life. Corals play a vital role in regulating CO₂ in the world, because they absorb a huge amount of CO₂ for creating their lime skeletons.

Their significance for maintaining the life on the earth, on the one hand, and the necessity of preserving them are so important that the year 1997 was named World Year of Coral Reefs. Due to concerns about rapid destruction of corals, a fund was set up by the UN Global Fund and Global Network of IRAN in 2000.

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According to the estimates of IUCN, more than 93 countries of the world, including Iran, have seriously damaged the coral reefs near their beaches in the past 20 years. According to these estimates, if this trend continues, more than 30 percent of all coral reefs of the world will be destroyed in the next 15 years and more than 75 percent in the next 50 years.

Corals of Persian Gulf and Oman sea are among the most important species of this region. 8 percent of the world's coral reefs live in the Persian Gulf and have a crucial role in improving the quality of water in this area. Unfortunately, under these circumstances two-thirds of these corals are on the verge of extinction.

Given the danger of the coral reef destruction in the world and especially in Persian Gulf region, the documentary *the Soul of the Reef* played an important role in informing people and officials of environment protection and sea ecosystem organizations.

In Iran, this documentary resulted in the enactment of Prohibition of Coral Destruction in 2003. It was used by UNDP for informing the public of Persian Gulf region about the importance of corals and the dangers that threaten them.

5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World Register*:

Time: Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the "first of its kind")

The rate and speed of world's coral reef destruction has intensified in recent years and therefore tackling this problem requires urgent attention. More than 70 percent of the coral reefs of Persian Gulf and Oman Sea have been so far destroyed. The main cause of such extensive destruction are divers and plunderers who take away large quantities of corals as well as oil exploration and exploitation, construction of oil platforms, harbors, discharging of swages, pollution caused by oil tankers and ships. The destruction caused by discharging of various pollutants to the sea in addition to destruction of coral reefs, threatens marine life and environment. The Coral Documentary explains and describes the critical situation of the coral reefs in Persian Gulf and Oman Sea. Production of this film by the time when various factors including oil and non-oil pollutions were causing destruction to coral reefs informed the public and officials about the problem and helped immensely for adoption of laws to safeguard the reefs within Iranian territorial waters.

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Place: Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

Persian Gulf with an area of 40,000 Sq kilometers is connected to Indian Ocean through Strait of Hormoz and Oman Sea. This waterway enjoys a diverse marine life including corals. Some 400 to 450 various species of fish live in this waterway. In addition to fish, some 300 to 450 species of other marine species live in Persian Gulf. So far 70 different species of corals have been identified in this waterway. Temperature of 23-29 Celsius and salinity 32 to 43 units per 1,000 is a suitable environment for breeding the corals.

Currently there are some 800 species of hard corals in territorial waters of 101 countries most of them in the Pacific Ocean. Diversity of corals in waters of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and the New Guinea is more than any part of the world and some 500 various species of corals could be found in these countries.

Persian Gulf is habitat of 8 percent of the world's coral. The northern coasts of the Persian Gulf and Iranian Islands in this waterway are the main reserves of corals. This sensitive marine life plays an important role in the ecosystem of the sea and sustainability of water in this region. In recent years the marine environment of the Persian Gulf has become very fragile and vulnerable. Due to disruption of the ecosystem and pollution of water in the Persian Gulf, feeding the corals has become difficult and that has led to their destruction and suffocation.

Production of this documentary in Iran has helped to boost the public awareness about the critical situation and protection of Persian Gulf and Oman Sea's environment. That's why UNDP has used this film as an educational material to promote awareness of world countries and regional countries in particular.

People: Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development..It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

The Film *the Soul of the Reef* is the first film made on corals in Iran which depicts the life of this marine life. Production and broadcasting this film has led to increased attention to this issue and production of more films about life of corals in Persian Gulf. Making use of this film in educational centers, adoption of laws to protect coral reefs in Iran and winning various prizes all indicate that this film has been very effective. It should also be noted that various groups of viewers of this film such as officials, managers, researchers, experts, enthusiasts and friends of environments have looked from different angle to this documentary.

Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

The importance of the subject of this film is due to the importance of the corals and their critical living environment in recent decades. Coral reefs are very diverse and beautiful in nature. From biological and economic perspectives, corals are very important. Corals are

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the first in the food chain of marine life and coral reefs with highest biological diversity within the water ecosystem are considered as the center of biological diversity of the world and life of millions of people depends on them. Visiting coral reefs and their natural attractions makes up for 10 percent of the total tourism industry.

Each part of the film *the Soul of the Reef* deals with a different aspect of corals. The history of formation of Coral reefs, their importance, variety, the way they grow, coral environment, threatening factors and the need for informing people and authorities at national and regional levels about protection of coral reefs are various parts of this documentary.

Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

The film *the Soul of the Reef* provides picturesque and unique images of wild life and life chain of corals habitats and plants and animal species of Persian Gulf and Oman Sea regions. Because of its beautiful rhythm and harmony of sound and pictures and its poetical look at corals without any narration, this film is understandable to any viewer with any language. It has so far secured numerous national and international awards such as Fajr Film Festival, special award of Juries of Paris Scientific Festival, Asian and Oceanic First Film Festival, Japan Film Festival, Sony Film Festival and Rampy Award.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

The documentary *the Soul of the Reef* portrays documented images of the Persian Gulf and Oman sea regions in the last years of the past two decades. Given the limitations of underwater filming and the geography of the region, images filmed in that period of time are rare in their kind.

Integrity Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

The Archive department of IRIB is provided with the complete version of *the Soul of the Reef* as well as relevant researches and unedited films.

Threat Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

Considering that digital copies of this work have been prepared for ongoing uses and the original copy is preserved in standard conditions, no danger threatens it.

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

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7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

Preservation reservoir of this work enjoys desired and standard conditions. Digital copies are prepared for the ongoing uses and will be given to researchers and other interested people. Nearly 30 minutes of the film have been uploaded on the following website: <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/>.

8 Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

State of Preservation:

The original copy of the video film of *the Soul of the Reef* is preserved in the form of analogue on Beta Cam videocassettes in the Archive reservoirs of the IRIB. The Archive building is resistant to an 8 Richter earthquake and the reservoirs are equipped with automatic systems of temperature and humidity controlling and fire alarm and fire fighting.

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9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MOWCAP website reviewed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | summary completed (maximum 100 words) (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required) |

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Annex:

Various episodes of this program with register numbers 68,141 to 68,145 are preserved in the central archive of IRIB as follows:

- episodes one and two on the cassette no. 68,141 with the duration of 1h 20m 08s examine the species and the conditions of coral growth, coral environments and coral formation in the Persian Gulf;
- episodes three and four on cassette no. 68,142 with duration of 1h 20m 08s examine the coral skeleton, various species around corals, corals of the Persian Gulf, factors that destruct coral, the mollusks coexisting with corals and various uses of corals;
- episodes five and six on cassette no. 68,143 with duration of 1h 19m 37s examine the ornamental fishes coexisting with corals, fishing ornamental fishes and damages inflicted on coral ecosystem, various eatable fishes and the role and life of coral reef;
- episodes seven and eight on the cassette no. 68,144 with duration of 1h 20m 07s examine sharks and sea turtles;
- episodes nine and ten on the cassette no. 68,145 with duration of 40m 08s examine factors which destroys seas and the ways of preserving them;
- episodes eleven and twelve on the cassette no. 68,145 with duration of 33m 27s are excerpts of previous programs and images of the depths of sea, various fishes, sea creatures, fishing, diving in the depths of sea and collecting pearl; and
- episode thirteen, titled *A journey to Hengam*, on the cassette no. 68,145 with duration of 20m 26s examines factors influencing the extinction of sea creatures in Persian Gulf including oil pollutions, fishing and fish collision with speed boats and, when in 2001, a lot of sea creatures seeking shelter in Persian Gulf beaches due to oil pollutions.