



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**17 October 2005**

### **EGYPTIAN REEF CONSERVATION PROJECT TO LAUNCH**

In Mid-December 2005 the *Red Sea Coral Reef Conservation Project*, a three-month pilot project in Southern Egypt, will be officially launched by the Egyptian Governor, members of the Egyptian Cabinet, HEPCA board members and senior delegates from Coral Cay Conservation.

The Project is a partnership between Coral Cay Conservation (CCC), The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Association (EEAA) and the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Agency (HEPCA).

The proposed survey region is the fringing reefs and pinnacles supporting reefal development accessed from Marsa Alam. This area is rich in relatively unspoilt reef systems but is potentially threatened by anthropogenic damage caused by uncontrolled and unmitigated development. The impacting agents include increased loading of nutrients resulting from inappropriate waste water handling facilities, the inundation of the reef systems with sediments mobilised by near-shore construction and land reclamation activities. Additionally an active tourism industry with poor operations management can directly damage reefs by inappropriate anchoring practices and physical contact by divers and snorkellers.

Survey results from the programme will highlight areas of key biodiversity and hence provide a scientific rationale for future ecosystem management to meet the dual needs of economic development and biodiversity conservation.

On successful completion of the pilot programme a two-year study is envisaged.

Volunteer scientists joining the programme will be housed in tented accommodation generously supplied by the Egyptian partners.

Coral Cay Conservation is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation that trains volunteers to collect scientific data to aid conservation. Its aim is to provide resources to help sustain livelihoods and alleviate poverty through the protection, restoration and management of coral reefs and tropical forests.

The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Association is responsible for formulating environmental policies, preparing the necessary plans for Environmental protection and Environmental development projects, following up their implementation, and undertaking Pilot Projects, and is in charge of promoting environmental relations between Egypt and other States, as well as Regional and International Organizations.

Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association is a leading Egyptian NGO responsible for the protection and conservation of the land and marine ecology and the underwater environment of the coral reef of the Red Sea and its coastline.

**Note to Editors**

1. For more information contact Ms. Tanya Blackburn (Director of Public Relations) via e-mail at [tb@coralcay.org](mailto:tb@coralcay.org) or telephone on +44 (0)20 8545 7718.
2. Additional details about Coral Cay Conservation are attached.

# CORAL CAY CONSERVATION

*Providing resources to help sustain livelihoods and alleviate poverty through the protection, restoration and management of coral reefs and tropical forests.*

Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) is a non-profit organisation at the cutting edge of ecotourism. We send teams of volunteers to survey some of the world's most endangered coral reefs and tropical forests. Our mission is to protect these crucial environments by working closely with host countries and the local communities who depend on them for food and livelihood. Anyone can be a CCC volunteer. Anyone can help make the difference.

## **Aims & Principles**

Coral Cay Conservation provides resources to help sustain livelihoods and alleviate poverty through the protection, restoration and management of coral reefs and tropical forests. We achieve these aims by:

- providing technical and financial support that countries need in order to produce conservation management plans for threatened reefs and forests;
- training international volunteers and host-country partners to gather, interpret and monitor the data that's so crucial for effective conservation;
- working with host-country governments and other organisations to encourage education and sustainable livelihood opportunities in local communities.

## **Brief History**

- 1986-1998: CCC supports the Belize Government's drive to create numerous marine reserves and a World Heritage Site along the Great Atlantic Barrier Reef.
- 1995-present: CCC works with the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc (PRRCFI) to safeguard Danjungan Island and other key areas.
- 1996: CCC expeditions survey Sulawesi's Banggai Islands.
- 1998: CCC's East Kalimantan Reef Conservation Project.
- 1998-present: The Bay Islands of Honduras – CCC's second Caribbean programme.
- 2001-present: CCC's Fiji Coral Reef Conservation Project
- 2002: CCC assists with a project to help the Tobago Cays (St Vincent and the Grenadines) become a World Heritage Site.
- 2003: Six-month pilot project to assess natural resources within the Perhentian Islands, Malaysia. Three-month marine project in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Mexico.
- 2004: The 2003 pilot project leads to the launch of the Malaysia Tropical Forests Conservation Project and the Malaysia Coral Reef Conservation Project
- 2005: At the invitation of the Royal Thai Government, CCC undertook a period of impact assessment resulting from the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami in the Surin Island National Park.

## **CCC Charitable Trust (UK Charity no. 1025534)**

**President: Sir Bruce MacPhail**

Coral Cay Conservation donates all profits to the CCC Charitable Trust, the UK's only charity dedicated to protecting coral reefs and tropical forests – and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them. The CCC Trust:

- funds conservation diving scholarships for local people;
- produces education resources for schools;
- raises awareness of conservation issues through events and displays;
- supporting alternative livelihood schemes and other local community projects.

## **CORAL CAY CONSERVATION**

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