



SHOTLINES XTRA



# Coral Cay Needs YOU!

IN THE LAST issue of **SCOTTISH DIVER** we told you about Coral Cay Conservation's Philippines project. Well, if that got you thinking what about this one? Coral Cay is now looking for volunteers to take part in an environmentally important project involving the coral reefs off the coast of Egypt's Marsa Alam.

The Red Sea Coral Reef Conservation Project will be officially launched in mid-December 2006 for a three-month pilot period which, on successful completion will likely lead to a further two years study in the area.

At present the region is abundant in relatively unspoilt reef systems; however it increasingly finds itself under threat of anthropogenic damage caused by uncontrolled and in some cases unjustified development. The impacting agents of this factor include an increased loading of nutrients caused by inappropriate waste water handling, reef systems being inundated with sediment mobilised by near-shore construction and land reclamation activities.

In addition to these factors there is also concern over the growing tourism industry in the

area, and poor management directly damaging reefs through inappropriate anchoring practices and physical contact by divers and snorkellers.

The project's survey results aim to highlight the areas of key biodiversity and help to provide a scientific rationale for future ecosystem management that will prove beneficial to both economic development and conservation in the area.

If the fragility of our world is something that you are passionate about and you feel that this is your chance to make a difference then a project like this is worth considering. Coral Cay trains all volunteers in the correct procedures for collecting scientific data and will provide



*Top: The Red Sea coral reef project will highlight key areas of biodiversity & above: it's not all hard work on the project*

tented accommodation for the duration of your stay.

For more information visit: [www.coralcay.org](http://www.coralcay.org).

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