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Dive centres team up to protect El Quseir reefs

The pristine reefs of El Quseir are now destined to stay that way after a unique collaboration between the dive operators in this area and HEPCA.

Back in July, representatives from Sub Aqua, Subex, Ducks Diving, Diving.de, South Red Sea, Extra Divers, Diving Akassia, Pharaoh Dive Club and HEPCA attended an open discussion at the invitation of Utopia Beach Club. They joined together to use their collective knowledge and experience to consider solutions to help the prevention of environmental problems in El Quseir. The evening was very positive and resulted in a firm cooperative plan and some real actions that have already taken place.

Just seven days after the meeting, the HEPCA dive team joined together with the local dive centres to install a series of new moorings and make renovations to the existing mooring system in the El Quseir area. The work in the South between Kilo 10 (Serib Kebir) and Kilo 50 (Erg Malik) was undertaken with support from Ducks Diving and in the North with Subex Diving Center. In total, 36 mooring lines were installed at 14 dive sites. Extra ropes and shackles were left with the respective dive centres in the area in order that the maintenance and upkeep of the mooring system (now the largest El Quseir has ever seen) can be the responsibility of those who dive here every day.

This is surely an example to us all in the Red Sea of the power of harnessing a collective community strategy to tackle the environmental concerns that affect us all. There is no doubt that the sustainability of our area can only ever be achieved by shared discussion, followed by decisive action. HEPCA hopes that this is the first of many such partnerships, not only in El Quseir, but also in all areas of the Red Sea.

Thank you to all the dive centres and supporters who helped with this mooring project and proposed other ideas for long-standing environmental issues in the area. In particular, HEPCA would like to thank Ms. Neena and Ms. Yasmin Serag Hwaidak of Utopia Beach Club for their generous hospitality and commitment to continuing their family's environmental interests; the team of Sub Aqua for their valuable documentation of the project and their supporting work; the team of Subex for their hard work in facilitating the moorings in the northern part of El Quseir and their continued support of HEPCA; and the team of Ducks Diving for their logistical assistance in mooring the southern area of El Quseir and for their detailed reporting of the event. Let this be an example of best practice for all of Egypt.