

Climate Change, Coral Reefs, and Tourism in Egypt

Red Sea Marine Program IUCN Global Marine Program

Terms of Reference for HEPCA

Background:

Climate change has now emerged as the most significant threat to coral reefs on a global scale. The Red Sea is not immune, with serious damage from coral bleaching events already reported from important reefs in the region. While climate change can have devastating impacts on reef ecosystems, it also has worrying implications for communities and industries that depend on them. Understanding the vulnerability of coral reefs to climate change provides the knowledge base for adaptation strategies that can build the resilience of ecosystems and increase the ability of reef users to adapt to future change.

Communicating the issues associated with climate change impacts and marine conservation and management is critical to empower individuals and local communities to take ownership of their natural resources and apply best practice and management. It is also important in changing common behaviour that may be increasing the stress and reducing the resilience of coral reefs in the face of climate change. A public awareness and education program is proposed for the Hurghada and Marsa Alam regions of Egypt that will address climate change and marine conservation issues in general. The proposed work would be closely coordinated with the work of Dr. Ameer Abdulla, Dr Tony Roupael, Dr. Paul Marshall, Dr. Mahmoud Hanafy, and Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara and relevant experts based in Egypt working with the IUCN (Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Science Group and Global Marine Program, Species Specialist Group). All documents and public awareness material will be reviewed by IUCN for content and dissemination. All publications resulting from this work and ToRs will bear the logos of HEPCA, IUCN, and Kuoni.

Main Activities:

1. Enhancing awareness of Hotel / Resort Managers, Staff, and Guests to Climate Change Impacts and Sustainability issues.

- 1.1. Develop public awareness video / DVD that can be utilised in plane trips, charters, and boats
- 1.2. Develop Staff training manuals and user guides for environmental awareness and sustainability
- 1.3. Documents and videos are translated into Arabic and distributed in Egypt and PDFs uploaded to IUCN and HEPCA websites and distributed to Arabic speaking countries in the region
- 1.4. Organise a series of training seminars for hotels and resorts specifically for Kuoni associates

2. Develop and integrate an environmental education program into the curriculum of Hurghada and Marsa Alam schools

- 2.1. Develop environmental course for classrooms
- 2.2. Create outdoor environmental components to the curriculum
- 2.3. Develop teacher training guides
- 2.4. Integrate curriculum into 20-30 schools
- 2.5. Train teachers on new curriculum
- 2.6. Organise an environmental day / fair for a number of schools (may or may not be merged with a Marine Conservation Fair in Hurghada)

3. Develop an awareness program and material for dive guides and dive professional

- 3.1. Produce Public Awareness materials and disseminate to dive clubs
- 3.2. Develop a Marine and Coral Reef Ecology training module
- 3.3. Translate IUCN Resilience DVD into Arabic; upload on IUCN and HEPCA Websites.
- 3.4. Hold three (3) workshops to train and educate dive professionals
- 3.5. Hold series of seminars and talks in dive clubs and live aboard to train / introduce the awareness material

