

## Egypt

### **Case study example - - Principle 10: The Gulf of Aqaba, Egypt - "determining sustainable use limits to tourism"**

Although eco-tourism is generally seen as one option of sustainable use, lessons learnt from the Egyptian Gulf of Aqaba Protectorates indicate that there is a need to find a balance between conservation and sustainable use; further "sustainable use" has to be monitored in order to detect changes that may lead to unsustainability.

The abundant coral reefs in the Gulf of Aqaba have made this area to be one of Egypt's prime tourist attractions. Tourism developments along the coast are growing fast and the impacts of infrastructure and increase in sheer tourist number impact on the coastal areas. Further diving, amongst the most liked tourist activities, has been identified as being amongst the most destructive uses in the coastal and marine environments, if not properly managed and monitored.

As part of established integrated coastal zone management practices, including the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), Egypt has developed coastal development guidelines along the Gulf of Aqaba to promote a balance of (sustainable) use and conservation - and the enforcement of relevant legislation in this regard. Rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines are being applied to the tourism sector. Through intensive research the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) is establishing the carrying capacity for dive sites, and has recently made proposals for the zonation, both temporal and spatial, of sustainable use and strict conservation areas.

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