

Project Aware – Environmental Achievement Award 2007 - A third award goes the way of Red Sea Diving College.

A third award this year for Red Sea Diving College in Sharm el Sheikh has delighted the management and staff at the College in Sharm el Sheikh.

First was the Defenders of the Sea Award from Hepca (Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association). Next came the Dive Centre of the Year Award and then news came through at the London International Dive Show that the College had been awarded an Environmental Achievement Award 2007 from Project AWARE. They are the only centre in the middle-east to receive this honour.

Douglas Nash, Director of Project AWARE and Vice President of PADI presented the award to Managing Director of Red Sea Diving College, Guy Haywood, at a short press conference at the dive show (photograph attached).

The award was given in recognition of the work carried out by staff at the College in three main areas:

- An attempt - in conjunction with the expert help of the Ras Mohammed national park staff – to rehabilitate an injured Hawksbill turtle. Staff at the College used the focus on the turtle to try and develop a wider awareness concerning the marine environment.
- The development of an artificial reef in Naama Bay designed partially to take pressure away from the much dived nearby natural reef.
- Thirdly, College staff has been involved in numerous clean-up projects in the Sharm area and Taba throughout 2007.

Plans for this year include a coral restoration project in partnership with the staff at the Ras Mohammed national park. There are also plans to begin environmental campaigns within the Russian diving community.

The Project AWARE Foundation honors dive operators around the world who display commitment and excellence in their efforts to protect underwater environments within business operations and their community.

Project AWARE Foundation Chairman, Dr. Drew Richardson recognizes the importance of the scuba diving community taking its part on protection of global ecosystems. "The Environment Achievement Award is about rewarding vision, excellence and pursuit of conservation. More importantly, this award ensures the enjoyment of underwater environments for future generations," states Richardson.