

# ITALIAN COOPERATION IN EGYPT

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS

### DOLPHINS HABITAT CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE IN MARSALA ALAM

**Geographic Area:** Marsa Alam – Red Sea – Upper Egypt

**Area of Development:** Control and sustainable management of the environmental, artistic and cultural heritage

**Sector:** Environment

**Applicant:** NGO – Abu Salama Society

**Executive Body:** NGO – Abu Salama Society

**Beneficiaries:** Local communities and national environmental heritage

**Period of implementation:** 2005-2006

**Amount and nature of the funds:** € 176,980 grant through the **Debt for Development Swap programme**.

**Type of intervention:** Training, capacity building, technical assistance, public awareness.

**Objective:** Protecting the environment and Promoting sustainable development of tourism in the Egyptian Red Sea coast.

**Description of the project:** The project aims at achieving and promoting **sustainable development of tourism** in the Egyptian **Red Sea** Coast while maintaining the marine biodiversity. It intends to build scientific, technical and managerial local capacity through an adaptive research programme on dolphin ecology and conservation.

In particular the intervention will be concentrated at **Samadai** and surrounding reef of **Marsa Alam**, ultimately to conserve and enhance the status of Spinner Dolphins, as well as other marine mammals.

The expected results are:

- The acquisition of an in-depth understanding of the dolphin presence and use of the reef is enabling an effective management for sustainable tourist use of the area.
- Rangers and field guides are trained in specially protected area, management procedures and techniques.
- Monitoring programmes are developed and improved and a model for the development of eco-touristic activities is established.
- Awareness on dolphins and marine biodiversity enhanced among stakeholders and tourists.

New job-opportunities.

