

# Briefing

**MOOR LIKE IT:** artist's impression of the Thistlegorm surrounded by mooring points [this image]; magnified mooring points [inset]; installing the mooring lines [below]



IAN LEGGE

## THISTLEGORM REOPENS WITH NEW MOORING LINES IN PLACE

By Charlotte Boan

RED SEA WRECKS

**CONSERVATIONISTS HAVE** installed new mooring lines on one of the world's most famous wrecks in a bid to protect the structure.

The Hurgada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) closed the wreck of the Thistlegorm in the northern Red Sea for one month while 32 mooring lines were installed and holes were drilled in the structure to allow divers' trapped air bubbles to escape.

Mooring points were positioned in the sea bed around the wreck to ease overcrowding on shot lines and prevent boats from securing lines on the structure. HEPCA's divers worked with volunteers from diving operations, including Red Sea Explorers and Blue O Two.

'HEPCA would like to thank all those individuals and organisations who gave their valuable cooperation and support

and were instrumental in making this pivotal event happen,' said HEPCA chairman Amr Ali. 'Special thanks to all those diving operators and guests for their understanding in being unable to dive the SS Thistlegorm during the period of this urgent conservation work.'

HEPCA said further holes will be drilled into the Thistlegorm's structure at a later date, but this additional work would not require closure of the site. The conservation project is part of HEPCA's Saving the Red Sea Wrecks campaign, which includes wrecks such as the Rosalie Moller.

'We will be looking to undertake urgent conservation measures on the Rosalie Moller in the near future,' said Ali. 'It's important to remember that we are not 'closing' the wrecks indefinitely; we are merely stopping traffic and divers for safety reasons while the conservation work is done.'



HEPCA