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Dilemmas

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Coral Corruption

A scientific research organization studying pollution damage to coral on Australia's Great Barrier Reef has a problem common to all scientific research—how to get enough funding to carry on the work. All their worries appear to be solved when quite out of the blue one of the large multinational corporations operating in the country offer significant ongoing financial support.

There is a "hitch," however. The company has recently suffered adverse publicity through an article claiming they are responsible for some of the pollution. In return for the financial support they not only want the research company to refute these claims, but also to study a section of the reef where there are no pollution problems. Bribery and corruption, you say? Yes, it is hardly a right-versus-right dilemma for the multinational corporation; most certainly downright wrong.

But is there a right-versus-right dilemma for the scientists trying to solve the barrier reef's problems without the necessary funding to accomplish their task? Is it better to make a short-term compromise in order to carry out work that could benefit the environment for the long term and that otherwise might not be possible? It seems that efforts to find other sponsors are meeting with no success at all.

What should the researchers do?

Read more dilemmas: [Philanthropy Dilemmas](#)

Note: This and other dilemmas on this site come to you without their real-life resolutions. We encourage you to think for yourself about how you might resolve them, since the nature of each dilemma is highly individualistic. In sharing these dilemmas, we do not endorse them in any way, but rather offer them for your consideration.