

Marine Wild Life Of Hanifaru Bay

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“ As the home of one of the most diverse marine environments, the Maldives is renowned for its abundant underwater world, attracting thousands of tourists each year. As a contribution to the Environment Symposium 2015, we focused on the “Marine Wild Life of Hanifaru Bay” of Baa Atoll, Maldives. Hanifaru Bay and its resources were designated as a Marine Protected Area in 2009. On 28 June 2011, UNESCO has declared whole Baa atoll as a World Biosphere Reserve and Hanifaru Bay is one of the core areas of the Biosphere Reserve. Hanifaru Bay has gained world recognition for its capacity to attract over 250 Manta rays into its sandy shallows during peak feeding events. As we have found the significance of this site, we can conserve it, rather than consume it. The resorts of Baa atoll especially, Manta Trust who are based in Four Seasons Resort Landaa Giraavaru is exclusively researching on Manta rays. Their Baa Atoll Marine Education Program is aimed at creating awareness among students for the need of conserving the marine biodiversity. The conservation of Hanifaru Bay and its wildlife illustrates an excellent model for the conservation of similar economic sites, with step-by-step conservation planning procedure that can be easily replicated elsewhere to create a better environment for the prosperity of future generations.

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Aim:

To ensure long term sustainable management and protection of Hanifaru Bay, it's resources and biodiversity.

Objectives:

- To protect the globally significant feeding aggregation of Manta Rays & Whale Sharks
- To provide a high quality experience for visitors that does not threaten the biodiversity
- To support sustainable livelihood development of local communities

