

LIFE UNDERWATER FOR LIFE ABOVE

Photography by
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Maldives has the 7th largest reef ecosystem in the world, home to an incredible variety of marine life, including some 200 species of coral and over 1000 species of fish.





Coral reefs are a vital resource for the Maldives. Coral reefs form a barrier around our low-lying islands. They absorb wave energy and reduce coastal erosion, protecting ecosystems between the reefs and coasts. Without the protective role of coral reefs, we are more prone to the adverse effects of climate change. The Maldivian marine environment, and its associated biodiversity is also critical to our ecosystem and human health, our natural and cultural heritage, and to productive livelihoods and income among others.

However, up to half of the world's coral reefs have been lost, and if global temperatures rise by 1.5°C, an estimated 90% could disappear. As climate change causes extensive coral degradation, Small Island Developing States like the Maldives become more vulnerable without coral reefs protecting our low-lying islands and coastlines from high tides. We need #ClimateActionNow to enhance the resilience of coral reef ecosystems and communities that depend on them.

With support from **Global Fund for Coral Reefs**, we are working on developing plans for reef-positive solutions for the Maldives, inclusive of strategies for sustainable blue economy and marine ecosystem protection to prevent the extinction of our precious reef ecosystems that support us and all around us.

If managed and used sustainably, coral reefs and its biodiversity will continue to generate economic benefits and protect our environment for Maldivians and visitors to enjoy for generations.