



ANNUAL WHALE SHARK FESTIVAL 2015

The 3rd Annual Maldives Whale Shark Festival was held at ADh. Maamigili on 29th August 2015, and the festival was scheduled to coincide with the International Whale Shark Day. Both the Whale Shark festival and the ScienceFEST which took place a day earlier in Dhigurah Island was attended by the Deputy Minister for Environment Mr. Abdulla Mohamed Didi.

The main purpose of the ScienceFEST which took place on 28th August 2015 in Dhigurah Island was to share knowledge on South Ari Marine Protected Area. The ScienceFEST also gave an opportunity to Conservationists, Marine Biologists and Educators to share their knowledge and resources all under one platform.

Speaking at the function the Deputy Minister highlighted the similarities between both South Ari Marine Protected Area and Baa Atoll Hanifaru MPA. The two sites which are famous for whale shark sightings were declared protected by the government to achieve similar goals and both areas were designated as protected areas based on research finding of AEC Project, Manta Trust and Whale Shark Research Project on the same day in 2009.

The Deputy Minister also noted that although both areas were declared protected together to achieve the same objective, today there are enormous differences in user experience in the two very commonly used sites.

"From Hanifaru area we are getting positive feedback on increase in user experience, close to zero accidents to users and these majestic species but unfortunately in South Ari it is the complete opposite. The user experience is decreasing and number of accidents are increasing and EPA would be focusing its efforts to establish a proper management system South Ari Atoll Protected Area in the near future based on the experience of Baa Atoll." the Deputy Minister said.

The Deputy Minister also stressed that the Government of Maldives is determined to establish proper management in all protected areas and hence he requested all the resorts, dive centers, other resource users to join hands to establish a proper management structure in South Ari Marine Protected Area, to provide a better, safer, world class user experience and sustain the valuable natural resource, which we could all be proud of.

In concluding the Deputy Minister Abdulla said that research plays a vital part in conservation and management and thanked MWSRP the organizers of the event and highlighted on the need for more Maldivians to be engaged in conservation science and research programs in contributing to natural resource management of the country.



Welcome to the third edition of the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office Newsletter. It is indeed a great pleasure for us to be acquiring more partners and in this regard we are glad to inform that Kihaad Diving (dive school of Kihaad Maldives) and Dive Oceanus (dive school of Royal Island Resort and Spa) are now our official partners.

Partnerships indeed bring more and more people together and with these newly established partnerships we hope that the management of Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve will be an added advantage. The count now stands at 5 from the 9 dives schools operating in the resorts in Baa Atoll.

In this edition we take a look the progress of grants issued by Baa Atoll Conservation Fund, Hanifaru visitor statistics, research undertaken by Maldives Manta Ray Programmes and also highlight the events of the last quarter.

When the public and the private sector and civil society work hand-in-hand we can pull off great things but having said this ideas are easy but Implementation is hard therefore let us all work together on the foundations laid in attempting at successful results by working together.

Please do keep sending us your feedback to info@broffice.gov.mv in making the Newsletter more informative and productive.

THE BR TEAM

MALDIVIAN MANTA RAY PROJECT 2015
SUMMARY FOR MAY, JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Article by:
Niv Froman - MMRP Project Leader / James Leyland - MMRP Volunteer

Here at the Maldivian Manta Ray Project (MMRP), 2015 is shaping up to be a fantastic year for manta rays. Not only are we celebrating the 10th anniversary of the project but we are also experiencing one of the most exhilarating starts to a season in recent history.

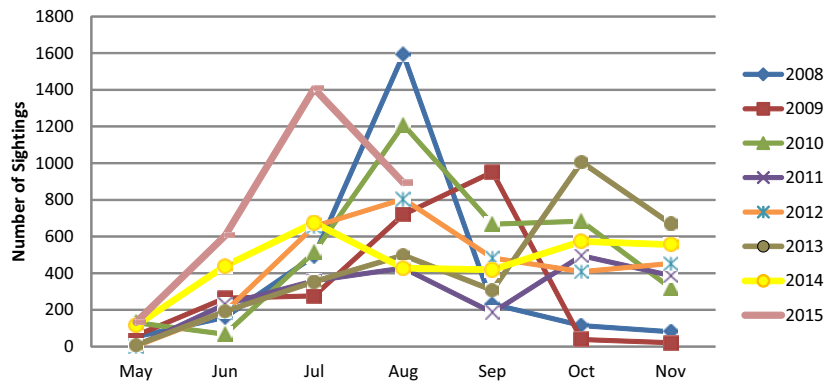


So far the 2015 season has shown a massive resurgence in the overall number of manta ray sightings, including several instances of large feeding aggregations with a peak of 176 individual mantas recorded in Hanifaru Bay MPA during a single feeding event, numbers which have not been observed in over 5 years. In addition to this, the number of pregnant females sighted has also continued to grow to new, exciting levels, with a total of 78 pregnancies being confirmed since October 2013. As is to be expected from so many pregnancies, it wasn't long before the first of these new-borns was sighted, with Baa Atoll's newest addition, Vellutina (Manta 3579), making her first appearance on 26th April 2015. And it seems as though the excitement is not about to end here, as more and more courtship behaviour continues to be recorded on a daily basis. One such example, which has proven particularly interesting, is that of Turtle (Manta 464), one of Baa's mature females, who, despite having recently given birth, has already been sighted with fresh mating scars, a sign of recent mating. Evidence such as this strongly suggests that the Maldivian manta population is back on its feet and once again thriving.



In stark contrast, 2011 saw the beginning of one of the least encouraging periods for the Maldivian manta rays population. Overall manta sightings were down, with a significant number of the population's mature females going unaccounted for, and perhaps far more worryingly, there were no observed pregnancies, and sightings of courtship behaviour were also at an all-time low. So what has changed?

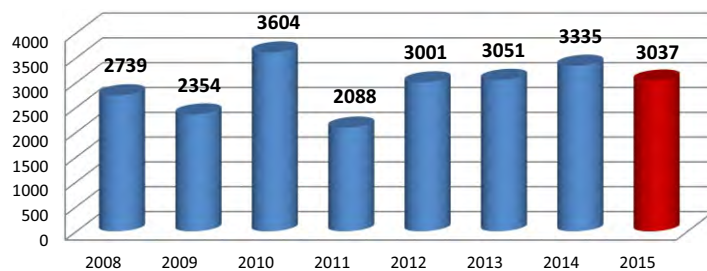
Total Monthly Sightings of Reef Manta Rays (*Manta alfredi*) in Baa Atoll



Graph 1. Total monthly sightings of Reef manta rays (*M. alfredi*) in Baa Atoll. 2015 sightings shown only up to August, data from the remaining part of the season are still being analysed



Total Yearly Sightings of Reef Manta Rays (*Manta alfredi*) in Baa Atoll

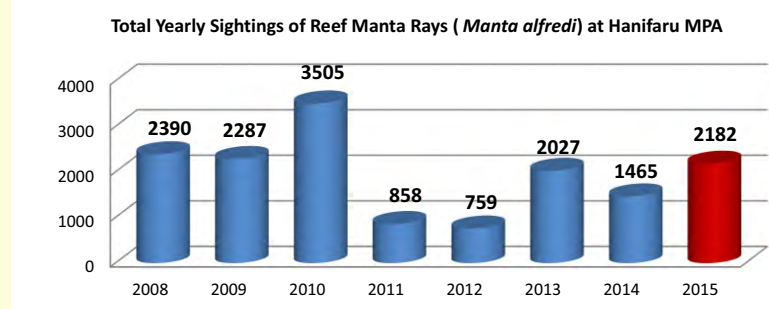


Graph 2. Total yearly sightings of Reef manta rays (*M. alfredi*) in Baa Atoll. 2015 total sightings

A number of natural factors contribute to the success of a season. As planktivores, manta rays spend the vast majority of their time cruising the atolls in search of their primary food, zooplankton, the movements of which rely heavily on the flow of the Maldivian water currents. In turn, these currents are dictated by the seasonal monsoons, with years of data suggesting a strong correlation between the direction and strength of the monsoon and the location and number of manta rays sighted (see graph below). The South-West monsoon (Hulhangu) runs from June to November and attracts a large number of mantas to Baa Atoll, hence why this forms the primary research period for the MMRP, whilst the North-East monsoon (Iruvai), runs from December to April, and sees many of these mantas migrate north to Raa Atoll or south to Ari Atoll. This year, and in particular during the first months of the SW monsoon, consistently higher wind speeds have been recorded resulting in greater plankton levels and ultimately the greater abundance of mantas we have experienced.



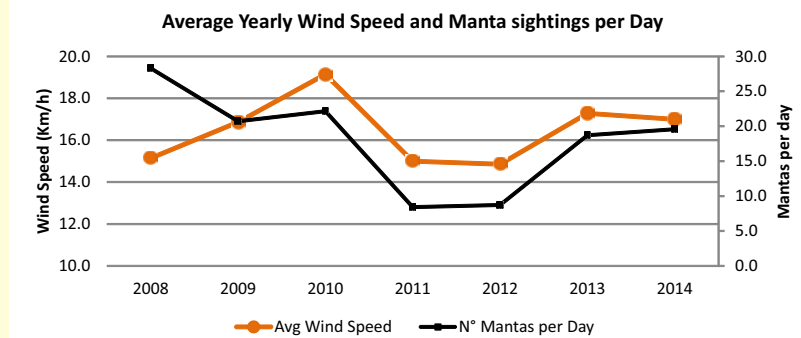
Furthermore, 2015 happens to mark four years since the designation of Baa Atoll as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, six years since Baa's infamous Hanifaru Bay declaration to a Marine Protected Area (MPA) and three years since the implementation of Hanifaru MPA Management plan. The resurgence in manta sightings observed thus far is certainly also a result of the protective measures successfully implemented in Hanifaru Bay MPA and highlights the crucial role of appropriate management in sites of critical biological importance.



Graph 3. Total yearly sightings of Reef manta rays (*M. alfredi*) in Hanifaru Bay MPA. 2015 total sightings

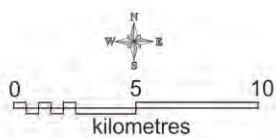
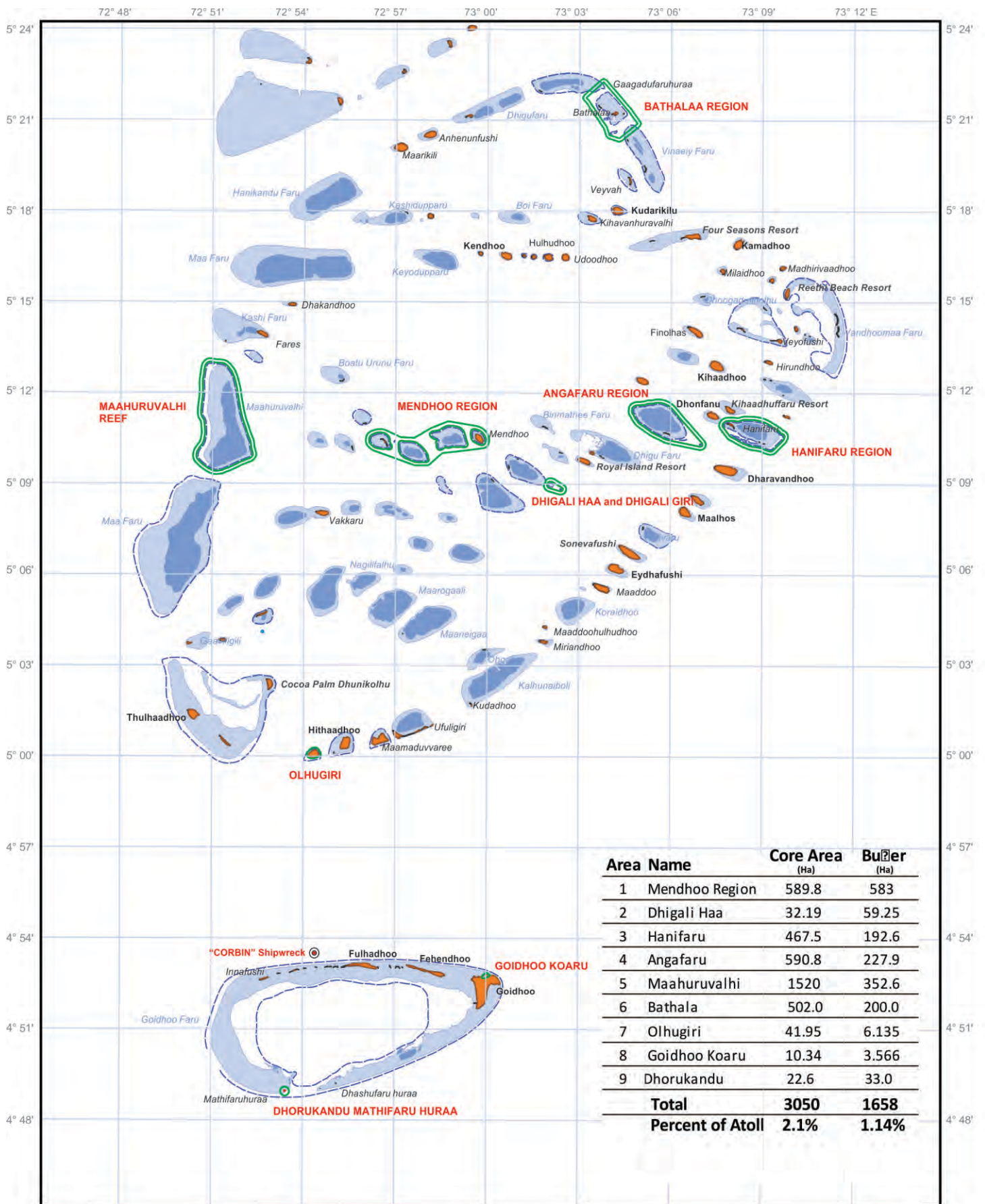
This season also saw the official start of the Baa Atoll Marine Education Program. In October we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kamadhoo School to deliver a year round education program, designed by all marine biologists of Baa Atoll, to students from 8th and 9th grades. The program aims at providing the next generation of Maldivians a chance to experience, interact and learn about the ocean, its inhabitants and be educated about their increasing threats. Throughout the year the Manta Trust staff will engage students with their local marine habitat, providing them with an understanding of its importance and creating the empathy needed to protect it. We hope to inspire and educate the next generation of Maldivians to become the ambassadors for the conservation of this wonderful country's natural heritage. The first theory and practical classes have already been conducted and, for the first time, a group of students from Kamadhoo experienced swimming with the emblematic creature of Baa Atoll, manta rays, in Hanifaru Bay MPA.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Four Seasons Resort at Landaa Giraavaru, the Environmental Protection Agency, Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office, the Hanifaru MPA Rangers and Kamadhoo School for the opportunity given to continue conducting our research, conservation and educational work in Baa Atoll. None of the above achievement would have been possible without their continued support.



Graph 4. Correlation between average yearly wind speed and manta sightings per day in Baa Atoll between 2008 and 2014. The graph shows a strong correlation between wind speed and manta sightings suggesting a key role of the monsoon intensity in attracting mantas to Baa Atoll.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Four Seasons Resort at Landaa Giraavaru, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office, the Rangers Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office and Kamadhoo School for the opportunity given to continue conducting our research, conservation and educational work in Baa Atoll. None of the above achievement would have been possible without their continued support.



PROJECTION: Longitude/Latitude
 HORIZONTAL DATUM: WGS84
 All features based satellite imagery 2003-2008
 Prepared in May 2010

LEGEND

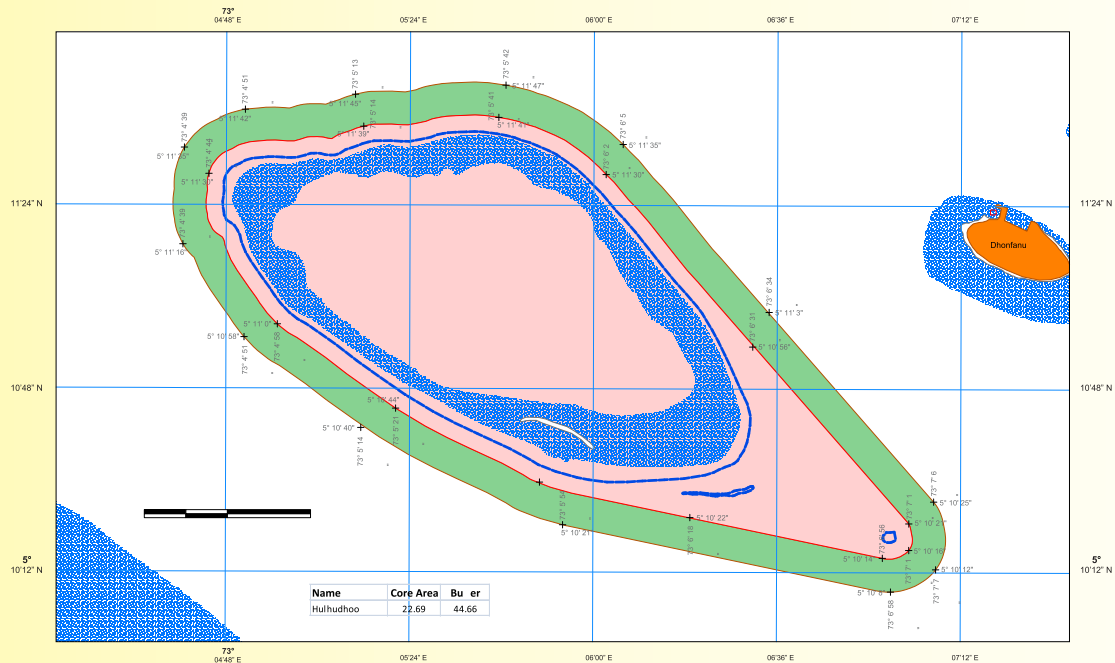
- Reef Flat
- Indicative Reef Boundary
- Island Vegetation
- Island Beach

Existing Protected Areas

Baa Atoll
 UNESCO
 World Biosphere Reserve
 PROTECTED AREAS

WARNING THIS MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES.





0 200 400
meters
PROJECTION: Longitude/Latitude
HORIZONTAL DATUM: WGS84
All features based on satellite imagery 2003-2008
Prepared in May 2010

WARNING THIS MAP IS INDICATIVE ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES.

LEGEND

- Reef flat
- Indicative Reef Boundary
- Core Area
- Buffer Zone
- Island Vegetation
- Island Beach



Baa Atoll Marine Protected Areas
Area 4 : Angafaru

Atoll Ecosystem Conservation (AEC) Project
Ministry of Transport, Housing & Environment

Prepared by:

Baa Atoll has globally significant populations of green (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) lists the former as Endangered and the latter as Critically Endangered. Both are listed by the 'Convention on International Trade' as Endangered Species (CITES).

Baa Atoll is also home to globally significant populations of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) and manta rays (*Manta birostris*). Whale sharks are listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN. In addition, Baa Atoll provides an important habitat for bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) and spinner (*Stenella longirostris*) dolphins.

Other internationally endangered species that are found on Baa Atoll coral reefs include the napoleon wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*, IUCN Vulnerable), the giant grouper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*, IUCN vulnerable), the giant clam (*Tridacna squamosa*, IUCN) and black coral (*Antipatharia*).

Historically, Angafaru has been utilized by both grey (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*) and white tip (*Triaenodon obesus*) reef sharks, as breeding ground. Pregnant females and juveniles of both species were regularly observed at 'Shark Nursery', a once popular local dive site. Due to over fishing, reef shark numbers have dramatically decreased over the last five years.

Name and alternatives: Angafaru

Area of site (ha): 881.7 ha (core area and buffer zone included)

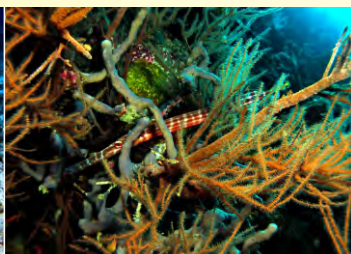
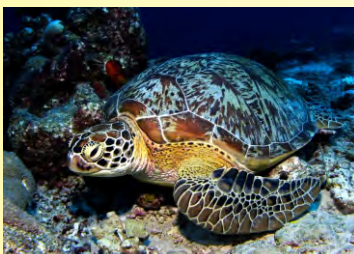
Administration Status: A protected area administered by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water / Environmental Protection Agency / Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Office

Conservation status: Protected area since 5 June 2011 under the Environment Protection and Preservation Act (4/93)

Special Features: This site is biologically unique and critically important to the long term sustainable management of green and hawksbill turtles, reef sharks, whale sharks, manta rays, groupers, and clams in Baa atoll.

- Grey and white tip reef sharks have historically used Angafaru as a breeding ground. Juvenile reef sharks inhabit the shallow areas.
- There are several manta ray cleaning stations at Angafaru.
- Healthy and diverse coral reefs.

Management actions: First draft guidelines for the site completed, the management plan for the area to be finalized after field testing of the guidelines together with consultation with communities, resorts and other resource users which was the method used in finalizing the Hanifaru Management Plan.



NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS SIGNED



We are pleased to inform that new partnership agreements have been signed with 2 dive schools operating on the resorts in Baa Atoll. Dive Oceanus of Royal Island and Kihaad Diving of Kihaad Maldives signed partnership agreements with Baa Atoll Conservation Fund (BACF) during the last quarter. We are also pleased to note that Sonevafushi has renewed their partnership agreement with Baa Atoll Conservation Fund. Apart from the two dive schools we have teamed up with a local Consultant Company, Lands Marine Environment Resource Group (LAMER) as well. Under the arrangement made with LAMER they will be providing assistance to Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office mainly in the field of surveying.

HANIFARU MPA SURVEY



Survey of Hanifaru Marine Protected Area was undertaken in September 2015 by Lands Marine Environment Group (LAMER) in August. The main purpose of the survey was to map out the protected area and the survey consists of a bathymetric and a terrestrial survey in detail inclusive of Hanifaru Island.

Results of the survey will be made available to Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office by LAMER during this month and the outcome of the survey would indeed be very useful in the future management of the protected area.

NEW BILLBOARDS IN PLACE



Partnering with Island Aviation Services Pvt. Ltd a billboard welcoming all those arriving through Dharavandhoo to Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve has been put up at the Airport and another billboard is planned to put up at the departure hall as well. New billboards have replaced the old ones on Hanifaru Island instructing all visitors to the island and billboards have been provided to all inhabited islands to be placed at the harbour fronts.

SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH "SPECIAL NEEDS"

The Biosphere Reserve Office in Eydhafushi has provided information on Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve to children with "special needs" studying at the Baa Atoll Education Center (BAEC). Video and oral presentations were given to the students and the BR Team answered questions raised by the children.

The event held with the school children was a very interactive and a very different session compared to other awareness sessions held previously and THE BR Team learned new ways of approaching their line of work through this experience and interaction with the children.

We would like to thank the management of Baa Atoll Education center for making the event possible as more has been planned to be undertaken working together with BAEC.



ANNUAL WHALE SHARK FESTIVAL



The 3rd Annual Maldives Whale Shark Festival was held at Maamigili in Dhaalu Atoll on 29th August 2015, to coincide with the International Whale Shark Day. The festival kick-started with a ScienceFest on 28th August in Dhigurah Island and both the Whale Shark Festival and the ScienceFEST was attended by the Deputy Minister of Environment Mr. Abdull Mohamed Didi.

"AMAANVESHI" AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Maldives Police Services of Eydhafushi in partnership with the BR Office has undertaken awareness sessions in Kendhoo School under the campaign "AMAAN VESHI". The target audience at the Kendhoo session were students studying at Grades 8, 9 and 10.

Previously awareness sessions in collaboration with Maldives Police Services were held at Eydhafushi, Thulhaadhoo, Maalhos and the neighbouring Raa and Lhviyani Atolls.

"AMAAN VESHI" is an initiation of Eydhafushi Police and under this campaign all inhabited islands of the atoll will be visited to spread the word on "SAFER ENVIRONMENT" covering all aspects of life.



ILLEGAL FISHING AT HANIFARU

Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office attended a case of illegal fishing by a vessel from Raa Atoll at Hanifaru Marine Protected Area during the month of August. Cases of illegal fishing at Hanifaru has dropped since the area has been monitored by the Rangers of the BR Office although there have been occasions in the past when this has occurred. But on another note we can say that reported cases of vessels from Baa Atoll fishing in the protected areas is close to zero especially at Hanifaru. As with other similar cases of illegal fishing the captain and the crew of the vessel was informed of their wrong doing and the case regarding the vessel from Raa Atoll has been sent to Maldives Police Services and Environmental Protection Agency for further action.





Baa Atoll Conservation Fund, Grants Programme

A total of 26 proposals was received by Baa Atoll Conservation Fund (BACF) upon its Invitation for Call for proposals. The Evaluation Committee evaluated the proposals as per the Concept Note Evaluation Form for Evaluation provided to the Committee by BACF. The members of the Evaluation Committee initially evaluated the proposals individually and the members ranked the proposals based upon the Evaluation Forms and Invitation for Call for pre-proposal document. Upon completion of Evaluation of the proposals individually, the 4 member committee met to discuss the outcome of the evaluations undertaken and the outcome of the recommendations by the Evaluation Committee was sent to BACF Board for approval. Seven proposal were given the green light to be awarded grants from Baa Atoll Conservation Fund by Baa Atoll Conservation Fund Board and here we take a look at progress the recipients have made whom to which grants were awarded.

Project Name: Composting of Organic Waste

Project Number: BACF/PROJ-017/2014

Grantee: Maalhos Women's Development Committee

Project Duration: 24months

Project Value: MVR 231,000.00

Disbursed Amount: MVR 174,559.96

Upon receiving the grant from BACF for the Organic Composting Project, Maalhos Women's Development Committee (MWDC) teamed up with Maalhos Island Council (MIC) to come up with a system for waste management for the island as well. This was made possible by Maldives Environmental Management Project (MEMP) funded by the World Bank and implemented by Ministry of Environment and Energy.

Under the joint effort by the two parties, firstly composting training was undertaken at Weligama, Srilanka, upgrading of existing waste management site and equipment to the facility was provided by MEMP, Waste Management Plan for the island was drafted and community consultations were undertaken which led to the Waste Management Plan being approved by the community. The end result of the joint effort is a proper Waste Management Facility and a Waste Management System and a Plan for the island.

The inauguration of Waste Management Facility on Maalhos was held at a special function on the island on 6 June 2015 in coinciding with World Environment Day celebrations of 2015. The President of Baa Atoll Council Mr. Mohamed Adil, Deputy Minister of Environment Mr. Abdulla Mohamed Didi, President of the Women's Development Committee of Maalhos Mrs. Sameera Ibrahim, representatives from Baa Atoll Conservation Fund, World Bank Maldives Environmental Management Project and Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office were present at this function.

According to the Waste Management Plan of Maalhos waste will be collected from all households by the Waste Management Center and segregation of waste is undertaken at the source. Also at the Center organic composting will be carried out and environmentally friendly fertilizers will be produced. A user fee will also be levied on each household for this service and to date all households have joined up the programme.

By maximizing the minimum resources available and combining efforts what MWDC and MIC has undertaken is commendable as both MWDC and MIC has found a solution to the ever growing problem of waste.

We are also pleased to say that there has been various visits by other islands in the atoll and other atolls as well to Maalhos Waste Management Facility to gain experience and to share knowledge on how waste management is undertaken on the island.

Maalhos waste management is a joint effort undertaken by the Baa Maalhos Women's Development Committee from the grants issued by Atoll Conservation Fund and Maalhos Island Council supported by Maldives Environmental Management Project (MEMP) implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

The Maalhos waste management story is indeed is a great success story as it is the first of its kind initiative being implemented in an inhabited island in the atoll and the BR Office and BACF congratulates MWDC and MIC for taking this huge step forward in managing waste.



Project Name: Training Programme on Hydroponics
Project Number: BACF/PROJ-003/2014
Grantee: Dharavandhoo Development Cooperative Society
Project Duration: 24months
Project Value: MVR 230,368.00
Disbursed Amount: MVR 117,903.34

Site clearing has been undertaken for the green house to be built under the project proposed by Dharavandhoo Development Cooperative Society (DDCS) and training has been undertaken by staff of DDCS in Male' on hydroponics. Order has been placed for procurement of green house, items required to build the fence of the site and other related items in relation to building of the green house. It is expected that the green house and the other items would arrive Dharavandhoo by the end of the year. Once the green house arrives the island, it will be built at the specified site, training will be given to those who have expressed interest to take part including school children as well. The training will be provided by specialists in this field and they are expected to arrive the island together with the green house.



Project Name: Training Course on Lacquer Works
Project Number: BACF/PROJ-025/2014
Grantee Name: Baa Atoll Thulhaadhoo Council Secretariat
Project Duration: 06 months
Project Value: MVR 231,000.00
Disbursed Amount: MVR 169,620.00

All equipments required for the training has been procured and the training hall has been made ready by Thlhaadhoo Council for the Lacquer Works Training Course. A total of 3 announcements were made within the atoll to find participants for the training and 32 participants expressed interest to take part.

The Training Course is now scheduled to start by 25 December and apart from Baa Atoll 2 participants from 2 other atolls have shown their interest to take part.

The main objective of the training programme is to revive the art of lacquer work undertaken at present by middle aged population of Thulhaadhoo Island and to introduce youth of the atoll in to this field whereby giving them the opportunity of a new form of livelihood.



Project Name: Kihaadhoo Goes Organic
Project Number: BACF/PROJ-014/2014
Grantee: FAAM Foundation, Kihaadhoo
Project Duration: 24months
Project Value: MVR 205,000.00
Disbursed Amount: MVR 30,840.00

To start off project activities staff from FAAM Foundation underwent training in May 2015 on Organic Farming in Male' and with the assistance from World Bank funded Maldives Environmental Management Project composting training was undertaken at Weligama, Sri Lanka. Once these activities were completed FAAM met with the farmers of Kihaadhoo and informed them of the proposed project's activities and in this regard 20 farmers joined up with FAAM to work together.

Awareness sessions for farmers and school children was undertaken, equipment and training were provided to the farmers. The farmers of Kihaadhoo in June 2015 were able reap benefits of the project and the first batch of products produced by the farmers were sold to Reethi Beach Resort, Dusit Thani, Four Seasons and Amillafushi.

The main challenges experienced while undertaking the project are changing of mind set of farmers to a new method of farming, low interest from farmers, farmers demands for tangible goods compared to workshops, seminars and awareness sessions and marketing of products produced.

The activities to be undertaken are community awareness and sensitization workshops targetting farmers, field trip to Baa Atoll Anhenunfushi, continuing support for home gardening, starting of composting activities at the waste Management Center and establishment of model farms and providing of organic fertilizers.



Project Name: Save the Turtle Forum
Project Number: BACF/PROJ-013/2014
Grantee Name: Baa Atoll Kendhoo School
Project Duration: 24 months
Project Value: MVR 100,000.00
Disbursed Amount: MVR 23,130.00

“Save the turtle Forum” by Baa Atoll Kendhoo School has been put on hold due to the changes made to the academic calendar of 2015 by Ministry of Education. This was informed to Baa Atoll Conservation Fund (BACF) by Baa Atoll Kendhoo School and BACF has advised Kendhoo School that the project should be completed by the end of 2016 as the project’s proposed duration is two years.



Project Name: Training Course on Outboard Engine Repair and Maintenance
Project Number: BACF/PROJ-006/2014
Grantee Name: Foundation of Eydhafushi Youth Linkage (FEYLI)
Project Duration: 06 months
Project Value: MVR 117,290.00
Disbursed Amount: MVR 30,840.00

The Training Course on Outboard Engine Repair and Maintenance aims to find a solution to the long lasting problems faced by outboard vessel owners of Baa Atoll on the lack of know-how and knowledge by captains and boat crews in fixing minor issues to outboard engines. The course is scheduled to start in mid November 2015 and a total of 30 participants will be taking part and the course will be conducted under the guidance from Maldives Police Services. Two announcements were made by FEYLI in relation to identifying participants for the course in June and July of 2015.

9 participants from Eydhafushi, 8 participants from within the atoll and 3 participants from outside Baa Atoll will be undertaking the training programme namely Raa, Dhaalu and Gaafu Dhaalu atolls. Certified Instructors from Yamaha, Mercury and Maldives Police Services will be in-charge of all training sessions including both theory practical and practical which will be held for a period of twenty one days.



Project Name: Construction of Monument
Project Number: BACF/PROJ-015/2014
Grantee Name: Baa Atoll Kudarikilu Council Secretariat
Project Duration: 14 months
Project Value: MVR 152,814.14
Disbursed Amount: MVR 42,260.00

The story of the monument to be constructed on Kudarikilu Island under grants from BACF evolves around an explosion which occurred on the island during World War 1, in 1915 and the monument is to be built in memory of the lives lost.

One version of the story is that a fishing vessel from Kudarikilu found a drifting mine floating in the sea and not knowing what the object was, the islanders brought it on to the island. The fatal explosion occurred on a Friday while some children were playing on the beach and one of the kids accidentally tampered with it. The object which was a mine exploded sending a massive shock wave through the island with the neighbouring islands feeling the tremor of the blast and many a lives were lost due to this.

Work on the construction of the Monument started in early July 2015 and it is expected to be completed within 6 months time. The work to be undertaken under the project has been divided into three phases, the first being site clearing, the second being completion of boundary wall both of which has been undertaken.

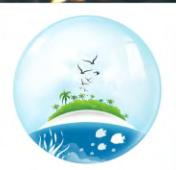
The third phase consists of work on the structure to be completed once all work has been undertaken of the boundary wall. The Council of Kudarikilu expects the monument to be used as a tourist attraction point and to develop a livelihood activity around the story of the explosion.





PROTECTED SPECIES IN THE MALDIVES

ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ދަށުގައި ހުންނަނީ ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތައް



BAA ATOLL
UNESCO
BIOSPHERE
RESERVE
MALDIVES



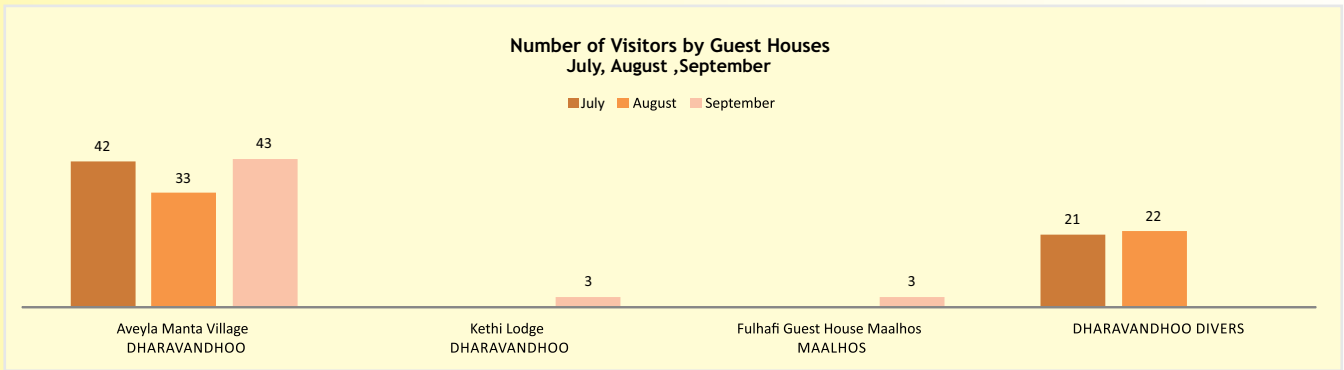
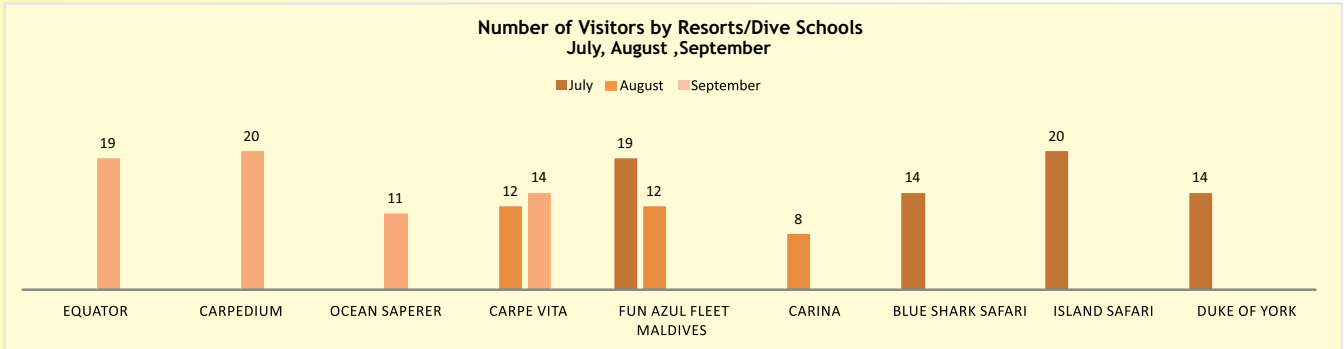
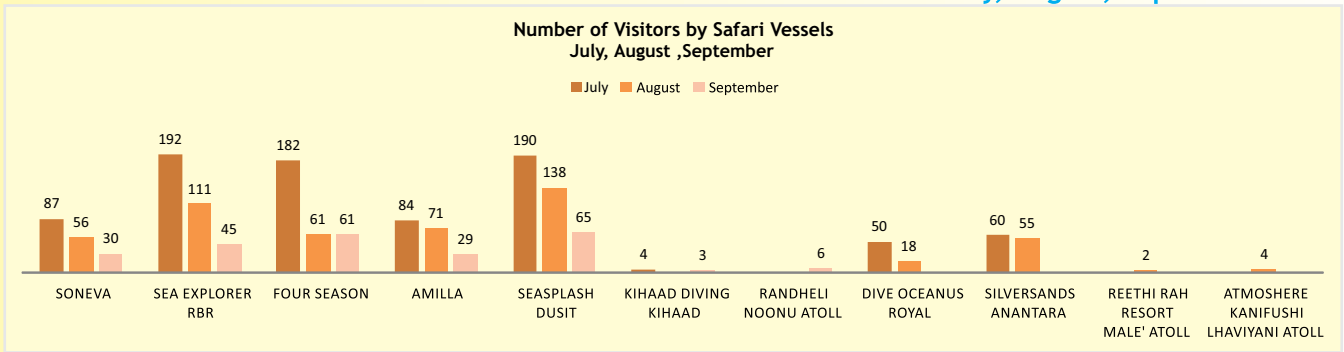
ދަނިގަނޑު

- ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތަކީ ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ދަށުގައި ހުންނަނީ ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތައް
 - ޖަނަވާ 40 ގެ ލިސްޓު ހުރި ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތަކީ ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ދަށުގައި ހުންނަނީ ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތައް
 - ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތަކީ ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ދަށުގައި ހުންނަނީ ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތައް
- ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތަކީ ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ދަށުގައި ހުންނަނީ ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތައް
- 4 ވަނަ ޖަނަވާތަކީ ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ދަށުގައި ހުންނަނީ ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތައް
- 4 ވަނަ ޖަނަވާތަކީ ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ދަށުގައި ހުންނަނީ ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތައް

ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތަކީ ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ދަށުގައި ހުންނަނީ ދަނިގަނޑު ފަދަ ޖަނަވާތައް !

HANIFARU MARINE PROTECTED AREA

VISITOR STATISTICS / July, August, September 2015



Visitor Statistics / Quarter 3, 2015		
Total of July	983	Resorts, Dive Schools, Safari Vessels and Guest Houses
Total of August	580	Resorts, Dive Schools, Safari Vessels and Guest Houses
Total of September	367	Resorts, Dive Schools, Safari Vessels and Guest Houses
Total Number of Visitors	1930	
Estimated figure for end 2015	3000+	
Resorts		
Most Number of Visitors in July	182	Four Seasons
Most Number of Visitors in August	61	Four Seasons
Most Number of Visitors in September	61	Four Seasons
Safari Vessels		
Most Number of Visitors in July	20	Island Safari
Most Number of Visitors in August	12	Funn Azul fleet, Carpe Vita
Most Number of Visitors in September	20	Ocean Saperer
Guest Houses		
Most Number of Visitors in July	42	Aveyla Manta Village (Dharavandhoo)
Most Number of Visitors in August	33	Aveyla Manta Village (Dharavandhoo)
Most Number of Visitors in September	43	Aveyla Manta Village (Dharavandhoo)
Dive Schools		
Most Number of Visitors in July	192	Sea Explorer (Reethi Beach)
Most Number of Visitors in August	138	Seasplash (Dusit Thani Maldives)
Most Number of Visitors in September	65	Seasplash (Dusit Thani Maldives)
Visitors from other Atolls		
Total Resort Visitors other than Baa Atoll	12	Randheli (Noonu), Reethi Rah (Male' Atoll), Kanifushi (Lhaviyani)

Common Name: Whale Shark
Local Name: Fehurihi
Scientific Name: Rhincodon typus
Higher Classification: Rhincodon
Mass: 19,000kg (adult)
Rank: Species



Whale Sharks are slow-moving filter feeding shark
and the largest known extant fish species.

NR
NEWS