



MALDIVES

GREEN BOOK

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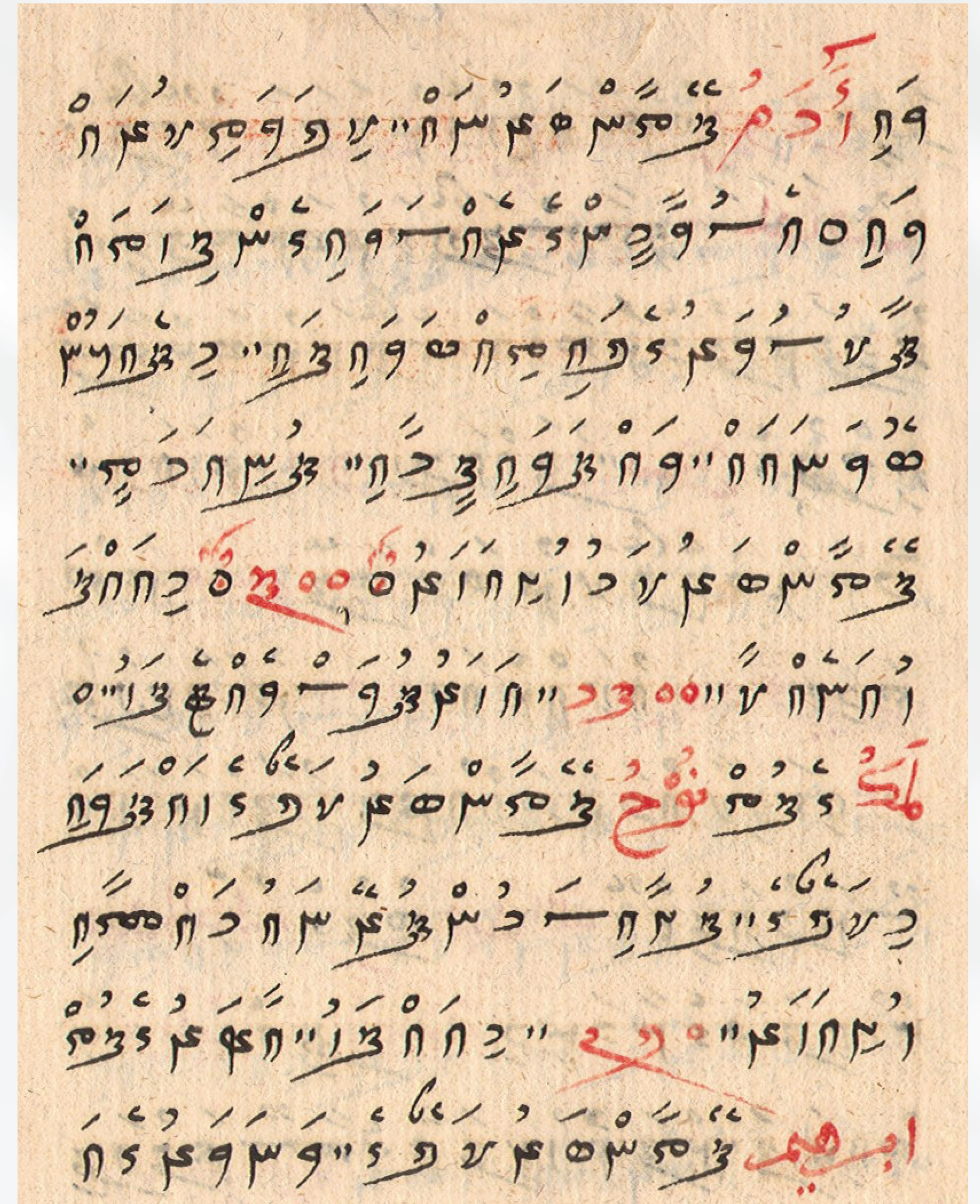




LET THE *Sea*
SET YOU FREE

LANGUAGE

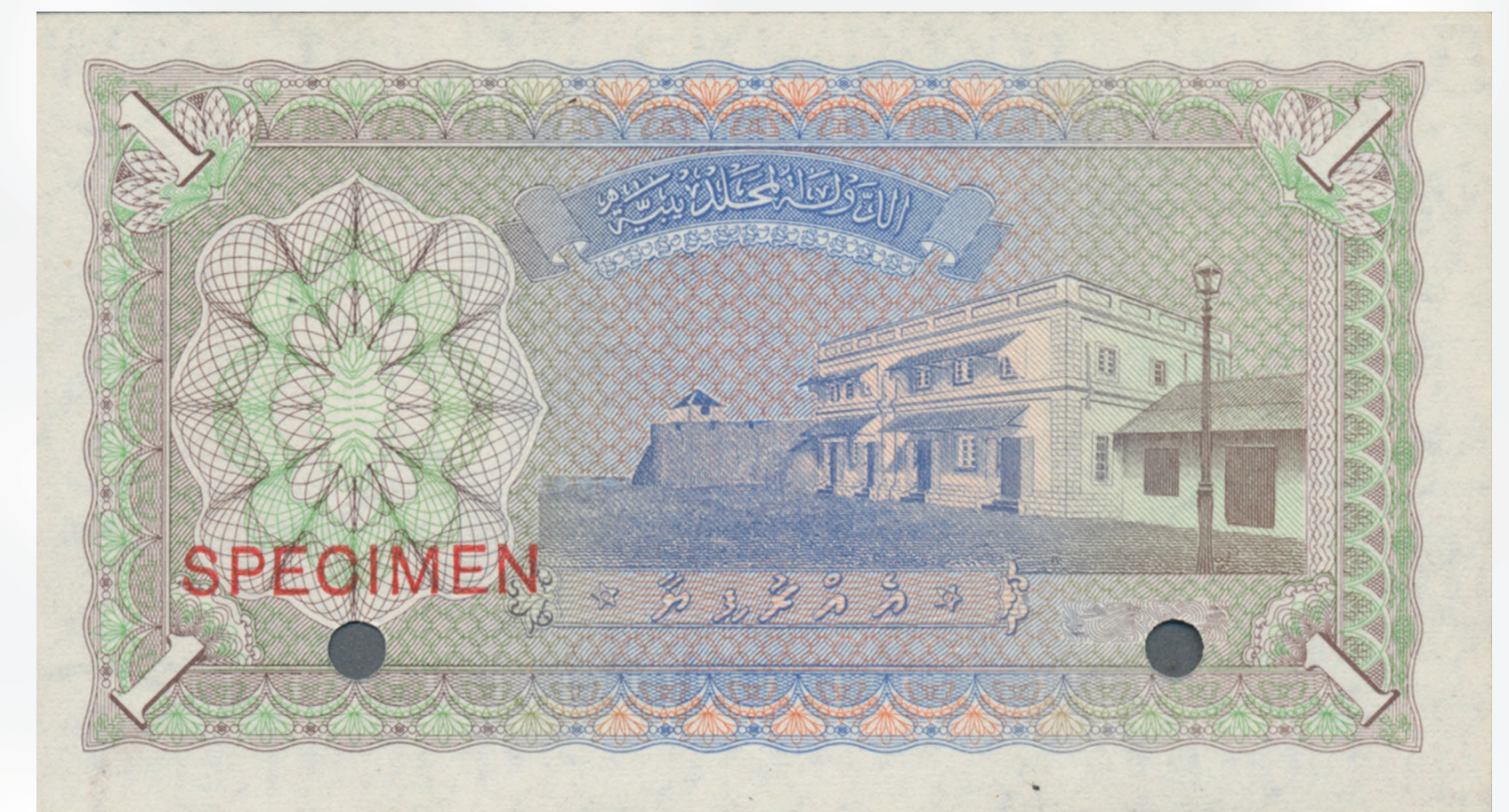
The language of the maldivians is **Dhivehi**. Dhivehi is Rooted in sanskrit and according to some research, it is an ancient form of sinhala, (a language which is spoken in sri lanka). Following the advent of islam in 1153, the language was heavily influenZZZZed from arabic. In more recent times, english is now very common in the country, which started following the introduction of english as a medium of education in the early 1960s. The maldivian script known as **thaana**, it was invented during the 16th century soon after the country was liberated from portuguese rule. Unlike former scripts, thaana is written from right to left. This was devised to accommodate arabic words that were frequently used in dhivehi. There are 24 letters in the thaana alphabet



CULTURE & HISTORY

The Maldives was originally ruled by kings (known as **Radhun**) and queens (**Ranin**) few centuries ago. During this time, the country held a position of strategic importance as the Maldives is located on major marine routes of the Indian Ocean, it is strongly influenced by its neighbouring countries, Sri Lanka and India. Both of which had cultural and economic influences, the Maldives provided the main source of currency, cowry shells. Bolior cowry shells were the first known medium of exchange used in the Maldives prior to printed currency. In the past, various writers and traveler have recorded the country's trade in these money shells, which were used as a medium of exchange in parts of Asia and Africa. The country's trade in cowry shells continued until the late 19th century. Several European colonial powers took over most of the trade in the Indian Ocean. This often led to influences and interferences of local politics and economy in the Maldives, these powers included the Dutch, French and Portuguese. On the 16th december 1887, the Maldives became a British protectorate when the Sultan signed a contract with the British governor of Ceylon.

With this agreement, the British government offered the country military protection and non-interference in local administration in exchange for an annual tribute to be paid by the Maldives. In 1957, the British established a Royal Air Force base in the strategic southern most atoll of Addu, where hundreds of locals were employed. 19 years later, the British government relocated their base. On **26 july 1965**, the Maldives announced their independence from the british.



ATOLL FORMATION

The sea covers 99% of the Maldives. The mysteries and riddles related to the formation of the Maldives lies deeply in the ocean. The islands are formed around a ring-shaped coral reef encircling a lagoon. This reef structure is called an atoll. The atolls of the Maldives are formed from coral structures, separated by lagoons. The atolls are, in fact, a part of greater structure known as the Laccadives-Chagos Ridge, which stretches over 2000 kilometers. The islands are lying on ocean at no more than 8 feet above the sea level. 'Faru' or ring-shaped reef structures form the atolls and these reefs are natural defenses against the wind and wave action on these delicate islands. There are 26 natural atolls in the Maldives. According to Charles Darwin's theory, when the submerged volcanoes rose from the sea, coral reefs grew on the volcano edges once eruptions ceased. When the volcanoes submerged, the coral reefs encircling a water-filled basin remained. Consequently, islands were formed on the reefs as the tides and currents brought dead coral onto sandbars.



LOCAL CULTURES & TRADITIONS

The Maldives is located at an important crossroad in the Indian Ocean. Traders and visitors have left their mark on local cuisine over time that helped molding the Maldivian culture and norms. As the Maldives comprises more sea than land, fish (mainly tuna) have always been the most prominent element of Maldivian food. However, with travelers visiting from different parts of the world, new seasonings and vegetables were introduced to the country and added to the existing (limited) repertoire of seafood and tubers (e.g. taro & sweet potato). Each new discovery was incorporated into the diet that most palatable to Maldivians. Thus Maldivian cuisine is now comprised of Arabic, Indian, Sri Lanka and Oriental tastes that embodies a culinary identity of its own.



BODU BERU

Bodu Beru is a traditional performing art played on drums that are made from hollowed coconut wood and covered both ends with goat hide. ‘Bodu Beru’ in English means ‘big drum’ and is introduced to the Maldivian culture in the 11th century by Africans. Until today, Bodu Beru is still one of the most popular forms of cultural activities in the Maldives and can be seen in almost every inhabited island as part of their festivities. They are used in a performance with around fifteen people including three drummers and a lead singer singing in Dhivehi, often about patriotism, romance or satire. The dance is performed by men in dance called Thaara, or by women in dance called Bandiyaa, and the audience will also dance together. This interactive performance shares Maldivians talent and traditions during special occasions and celebrations.

Lacquerware is a prime example of the talented Maldivian craftsmen’s work called “liyelaajehun” in Dhivehi. Maldivian craftsmen practise “liyelaajehun”, a particular process which they create intricate designs on carved wooden objects such as vases and jewellery boxes.

The craftsmen sculpt designs out of a simple wood block and coat it with lacquer of various colours, usually black, orange, green and yellow. The finished piece is then polished with dry coconut leaves until it gleams. The end result is sleek, shiny and etched with fine intricate designs – an exquisite work of art.



CODE OF CONDUCT

It is important to respect the culture and religious beliefs of any destination we visit. We would therefore like to inform you that clothes covered shoulders and knees are appreciated outside of resorts or on the community islands. Below is a list of activities and behaviors respecting and minding the culture and environment in the Maldives:

Do:

Do purchase ethical souvenirs from local business as this encourages growth and development for the country and they make great gifts for family and friends!

Do participate in our culturally connected activities to learn more about this beautiful destination, and to have fun!

Don't:

Do not purchase sea jewelry. This includes mother-of-pearl, seashell, coral, turtle shell and black coral. Taking into account the endangered species and environmental hazards, the exploitation of sea turtles and black corals are forbidden in the Maldives.

Do not collect shells or take them away from the beach. It is illegal to take coral out of the Maldives. In addition, shells are hermit crabs homes! If you get caught taking coral or shells from the Maldives you could be faced with a hefty fine.

Do not litter plastic or any form of rubbish in the sea.



ETHICAL SOUVENIRS

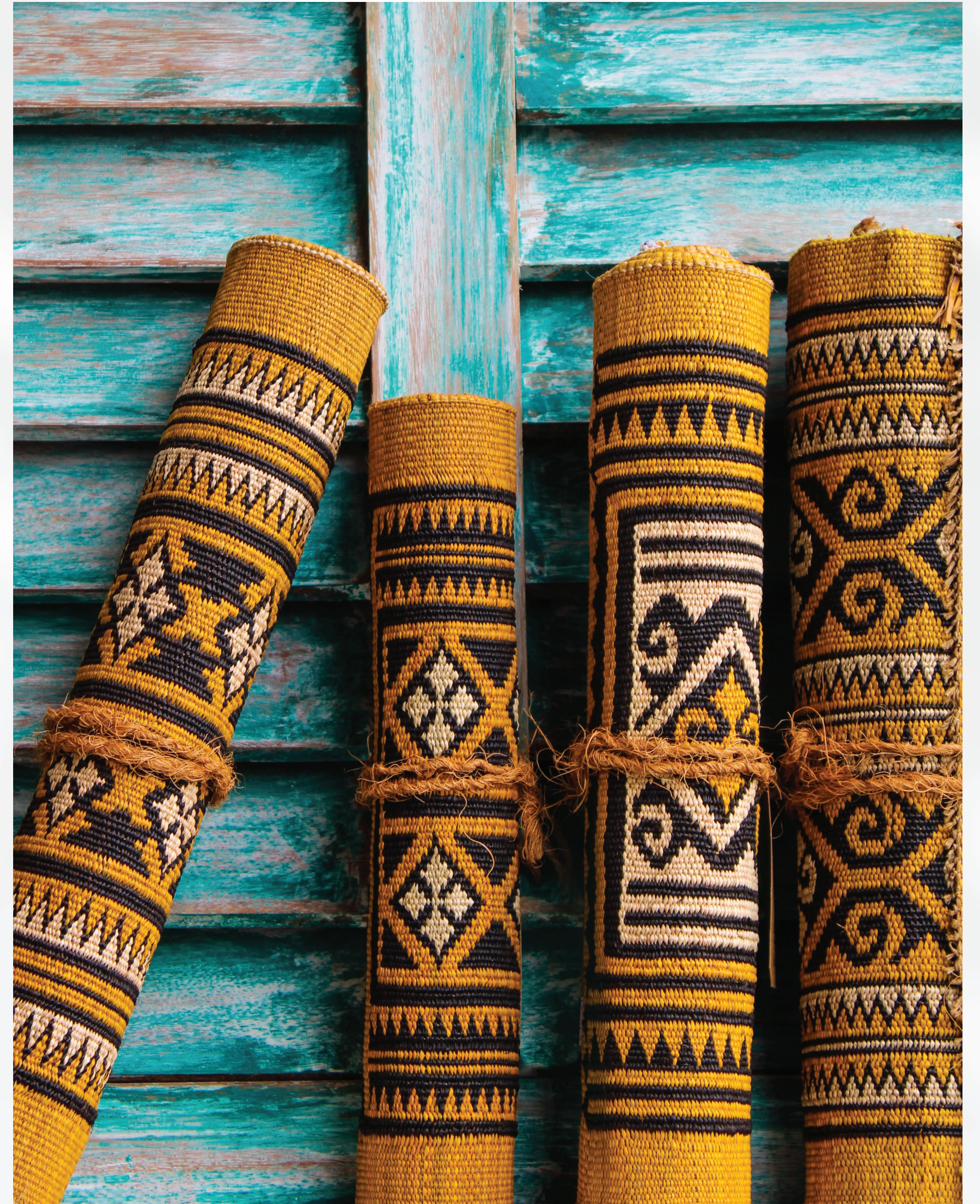
We encourage our guests to purchase some of the below items to support local communities:

Wooden Lacquerware:

Perhaps the most distinctive Maldivian handicrafts. These beautifully crafted boxes, containers and ornamental objects are made from the local plants (Alexandrian laurel), which grows abundantly throughout the country. They come in various shapes and sizes of small pillboxes, vases, and plates with lids. These elegant pieces are lacquered in strands of red, black and yellow resin and delicately carved with flowing flowery patterns.

Mats:

Reed mats are woven throughout the country. They are dried in the sun and stained with natural dyes, the colour varies from fawn to black. These mats with intricate abstract designs are woven on a handloom with imagination and skill of the weaver.



Coconut Crafts:

Coconuts have been widely used in traditional Maldivian daily life. While coir rope and coconut thatch are key examples, coconut shells have been used to create tools like kitchen utensils. Polished coconut shells are used by modern Maldivian craftsmen to produce different types of ornaments and souvenirs. Dhonis, jewellery, utensils and many similar products are created from coconut shells.

Wood Craving:

The most ancient Maldivian wood carvings are a wonder to behold – that Maldivian craftsman, armed with a few rudimentary tools who could carve smooth and finish such a masterpiece is a testament to their dedication of the craft. More recent times have seen a concentration on smaller handmade wood carvings such as vases, jewellery boxes and ornamental dhonis.



WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We place a high importance on preserving and protecting our environment as well as striving towards a more sustainable future for the Maldives.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- We shall monitor and ensure efficient use of water to avoid and minimize waste.
- We will continue to place a high importance on reduce, reuse and recycle.
- We will continue to improve the overall air quality and reduce pollution (both indoor and outdoor).
- We will concentrate on biodiversity conservation, preservation and restoration within the resort as well as nearby surrounding areas.
- We will continue to work closely with and support local communities.
- We will continue to improve the health, safety and well-being of team members, guests and local community.
- We are committed to comply with Maldivian and international legislative environmental requirements, such as environmental, public and occupational health and safety, hygiene and employment legislation.
- This environmental and social policy is available to all interested parties on request.



WASTER REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

Waste disposal and debris on beaches are major concerns in the Maldives. Unfortunately, most resources and items that could be recycled or composted are treated as waste and transported from resorts and local islands to landfill. We have taken several measures to help reducing waste:

- Recycling bins are placed in all the office and associates accommodation areas.
- Colleagues are educated on the importance of recycling and how to recycle.
- We have reduced importing plastic bottled water, thereby reducing the amount of waste (glass and carbon emissions).
- Energy light bulbs with a long lifespan are purchased in bulk to avoid unnecessary packaging. Reusing office paper, waste, wood and other materials are some of the many measures, through which the amount of waste on the island is reduced.



HEATING SYSTEM

We have solar heaters and solar panels installed to generate energy for guests as well as colleagues.

WATER BOTTLING PLANTS

In-house water bottling plants are used as part of an on-going commitment to reduce the resort's carbon-footprints. By utilizing the water bottling plants instead of shipping in bottled water, resort saves approximately 100,000 plastic bottles per year. This new water system is an important part of the resort's continued effort to preserve the idyllic surroundings of the Maldives for future generations. The EcoPure System allows the resort to treat sea water on site, passing it through complex stages of filtration to make it perfect for drinking. Salt and impurities are separated from the water, whilst some minerals are added. The final product is then passed through a cooler for still water, and CO2 is added for sparkling water, before storing in recyclable glass bottles.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

It is important for us to inform and educate our guests, colleagues and local communities about environmental policies and provide them with guidelines and tips to raise environmental awareness. We have several initiatives to spread the awareness:

our green book - This document is available on our IPTV in all our villas. A printed copy is also available at the reception and departure lounge. For our colleagues, we have the book available on our HR metrics and have regular trainings for our teams.

activity book - we have information highlighting the importance of environmental awareness in our Dive Centre .



SUSTAINABLE FISHING

Commercial fishing in the Maldives is done by catching small bait fish with nets off the side of fishing dhonis at night. The fisherman line the back end of the dhoni to lure the tuna to the water their prey, hook them and fling them into them.

ETHICAL PURCHASING

We work with our suppliers to reduce environmental impacts and improve social and ethical practices. We do not condone or support any activities that are against Maldivian government laws and acts.

- We give priority to local products, suppliers and service providers, both to reduce carbon emissions from freight and of course to support the local community.
- Environmentally friendly, biodegradable cleaning products, pesticides and packaging materials are preferred to chemical or disposable products
- All uniforms in the resort are made on the island by our tailors.
- We encourage our guests to buy local souvenirs.



AWARENESS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We learn about our local communities and how we can work with them and support them to create a sustainable future, below are some examples:

Local Island Visit

These adventures are great experience to meet the Maldivians, learn and understand more about their daily life. This is also a lovely opportunity to purchase authentic souvenirs.

Male' Island Visit

Visit the capital city of Maldives, explore its heritage; The Sultan's park, The Islamic Centre, Hukurumiskiy and the fish market are attractions within walking distance of the area. Don't forget to fill up on supplies and souvenirs at the local shopping district.



DISCOVER THE FLORA AND FAUNA

During your stay, you will discover some flora and fauna on our island

FLORA

The Coconut Palm

The coconut palm is a member of the family Arecaceae (palm family). It is the only accepted species in the genus *Cocos*. You can recognize the Coconut Palm easily as it has a single trunk and there is a crown of feather-like fronds at the top. The coconut has a thick and hard shell, a thicker layer of husk, white kernel and a large cavity filled with coconut milk. Coconut palms can be grown up to 30 metres tall.

Heliotrope Tree

The Heliotrope Tree is a species of flowering plant. Common names include Tree Heliotrope, Velvet Soldier bush and Octopus Bush. It is a shrub or small tree typical of littoral zones reaching a height of 6 metres (20 feet), with a similar spread.



FLORA

Screw Pine

The screw pine family refers to around 600 tropical species of the genus *Pandanus* spread out in South East Asia and the Pacific region. It refers to the various plants and shrubs of the screw pine family. The screw pine is mainly characterised by the presence of aerial prop roots and by the long narrow leaves which are spirally arranged in clusters. The fruits look like an orange coloured pineapple, and consist of many small parts.

Hibiscus

The Hibiscus is a quite large plant, containing hundreds of species that are native to warm-temperate, subtropical and tropical regions throughout the world. Member species are often noted for their showy flowers and are commonly known simply as hibiscus, or less widely known as rose mallow. The flowers are in red or white colour.



FLORA

White Spider Lily

The White Spider Lily is a member of the amaryllis family has long strap-like leaves that form a fountain radiating up and then arching out and down. Individual leaves are about two and one-half inches wide by over two feet in length, with a center rib forming a crease down the middle. The ghostly blooms are on the top of a nude stalk that reaches thirty inches or more.

Scaevola Taccada

Scaevola Taccada is also known as Beach Naupaka. It is a flowering plant in the family of Goodeniaceae found in the coastal locations of Indo-Pacific. It is a common beach shrub throughout the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and Islands of the Pacific. It is an evergreen shrub or small tree with somewhat succulent, soft-wooded, pithy stems. It usually grows up to 4m tall.



FLORA

Dracaena

Dracaena reflexa is a popular houseplant with origins in Madagascar and other Indian Ocean islands. Dracaena plant care is fairly simple, and they can even withstand a certain amount of neglect. A multi-stemmed shrub with whorls of strappy green and yellow variegated leaves. A very adaptable plant which can be grown in full sun outdoors, or in lower light levels indoors. Best of all, dracaena help purify the air we breathe.

Polyscias Guilfoylei

The *polyscias guilfoylei* is a member of Araliaceae family. It is an erect, evergreen shrub or small tree growing up to 6 m tall. The plant is usually littlebranched, in time assuming a columnar shape with narrow, spindly clusters of vertical stems.



FAUNA

Grey Heron (Maldivian Name : “Maakanaa”)

A large bird that stands between 90 to 100 cm tall and can weigh up to 2 kg. It feeds in shallow water on fish, insects, small reptiles and mammals. You will often see the heron standing still or moving slowly when it is stalking its prey. The loud croaking as “fraanak” is its characteristic call. Grey Heron builds bulky stick nests when breeding.

Common Tern (Maldivian Name: “Valla”)

This migratory bird, commonly referred as the ‘Sea Swallow’, visits the Maldives in winter and breeds in Europe, Asia and North America. This bird feeds by plunge diving for fish in the sea, lakes & rivers. Lifespan of Common Terns is known to be 23 years or more.



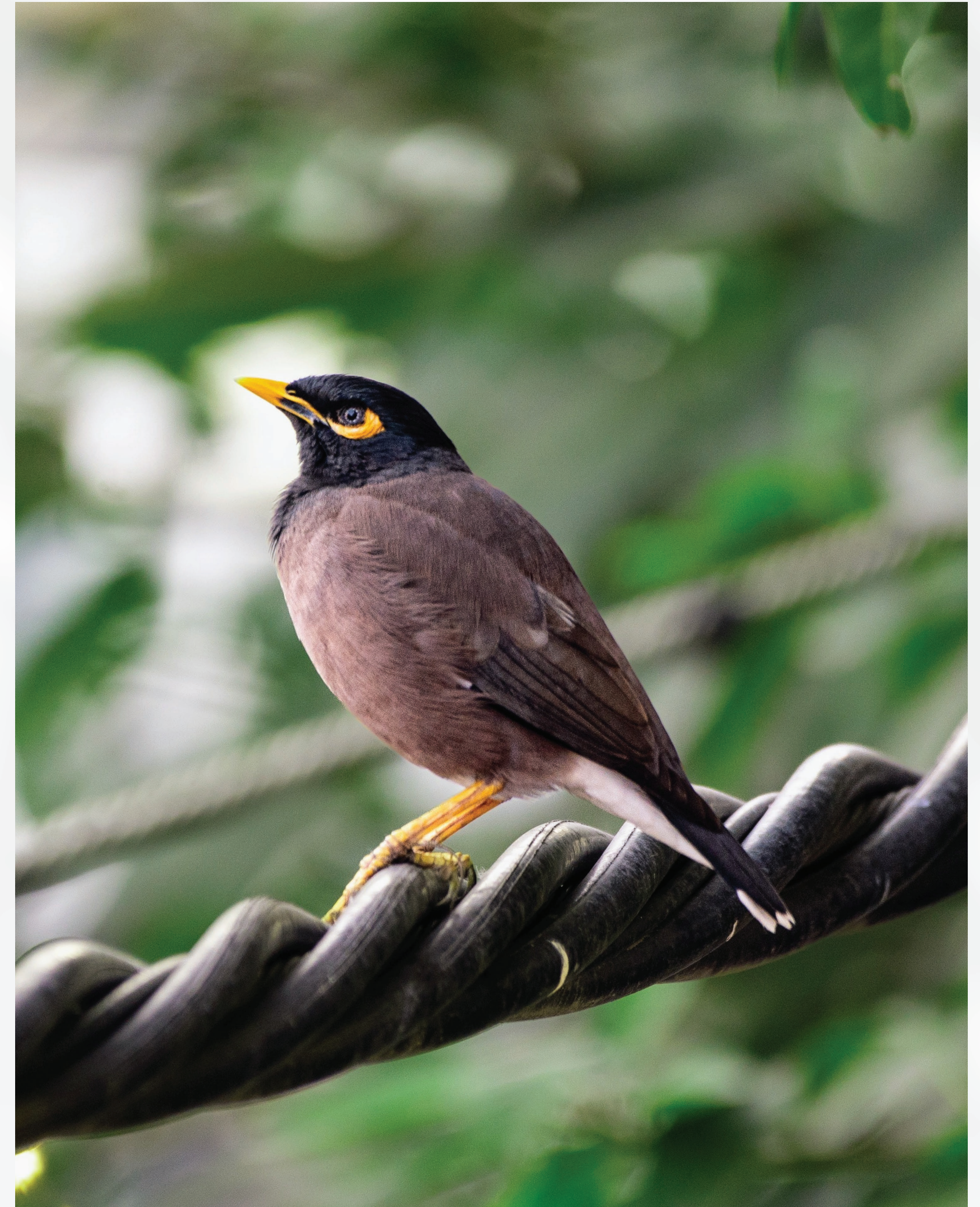
FAUNA

Yellow Bittern (Maldivian Name: “Dhon Raabondhi”)

This is a small species with only 38 cm in length with a short neck and a long bill. They are difficult to be seen due to their shrub habitat and skulking life style. The striking contrast with their black feathers and otherwise yellowish plumage makes them distinguishable. They nest in shrubs or reed beds and lay up to 6 eggs at a time. This bird feeds on insects and fish.

Common Mynah

This cheeky bird that follows you around was introduced to Ellaidhoo about 10 years ago and they have grown in numbers ever since. They were originally found in Sri Lanka and Pakistan. They are believed to mate for life and build their nests in tree holes, the normal clutch is 4 to 6 eggs.



FAUNA

Oriental Garden Lizard (Maldivian Name: “Bon’du”)

In the breeding season, the male's head and shoulders turn into crimson and his throat to black. Males also turn red-headed after a successful battle with rivals. They feed on insects and small vertebrates. These lizards are harmless and should not be feared by guests.

Whimbrel (Maldivian Name: “Bulhithunbii”)

This migratory wader visits the Maldives in the winter and breeds across the Sub Arctic, Europe, parts of Asia and Scotland. It feeds by probing soft mud for crabs and similar prey.



MARINE LIFE

Green Sea Turtle and Hawksbill Sea Turtle

Sea Green Turtle is the most common turtle species in the Maldives. It is herbivorous and mainly feeds on algae and seagrass. Although they have different diet and breeding grounds with Hawksbill Turtle (mainly invertebrates in the reef), two species face the same human threats in egg-harvesting, habitat destruction and hunting. They can be seen all around the island, close to the reefs and in the lagoons.

Giant Moray Eel (Maldivian Name: "Ven")

They spend the day in the rocks with their head outside, and come out at night. They can be mistaken as threatening by breathing with open mouths. They are generally friendly however if they may attack if they are being disturbed.



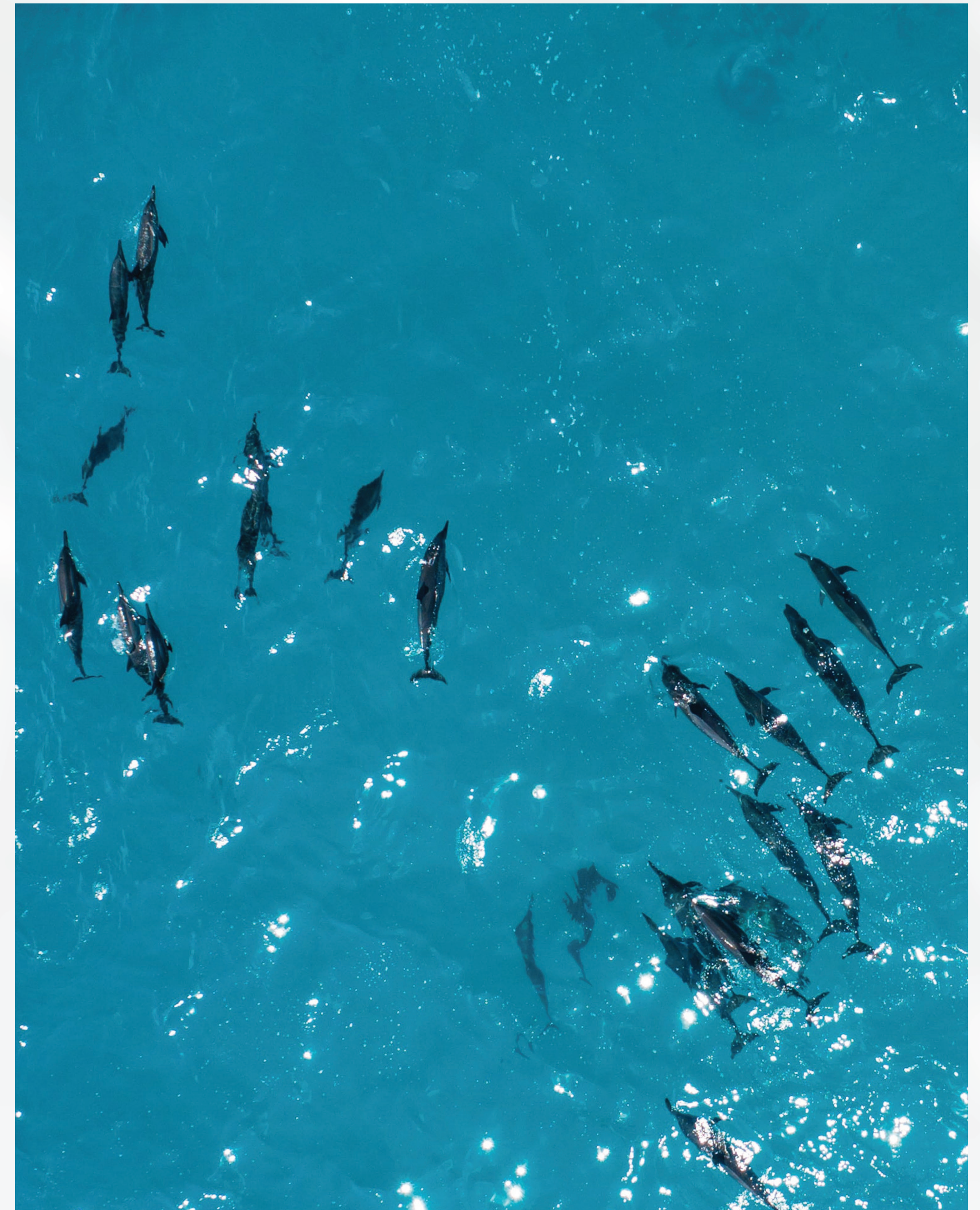
MARINE LIFE

Spinner Dolphin

The Spinner Dolphin is the most commonly sighted and abundant cetacean species in the Maldives. School sizes vary from very few to hundreds of individuals, generally increasing in average size away the shore – probably an important anti-predation mechanism. They are particularly famous for their acrobatic displays in which they spin longitudinally along their axis as they leap through air. The reason they spin can possibly be displaying dominance, communicating their location, hunting, shaking off parasites or remoras (fish attaching themselves to the dolphin's skin), or just for fun.

Parrot Fish

Parrot fish are known for their numerous teeth that form a parrot-like beak. They use it to get algae from the corals. They have large pectoral fins for moving around and steering while the tail is only used to get a higher speed.



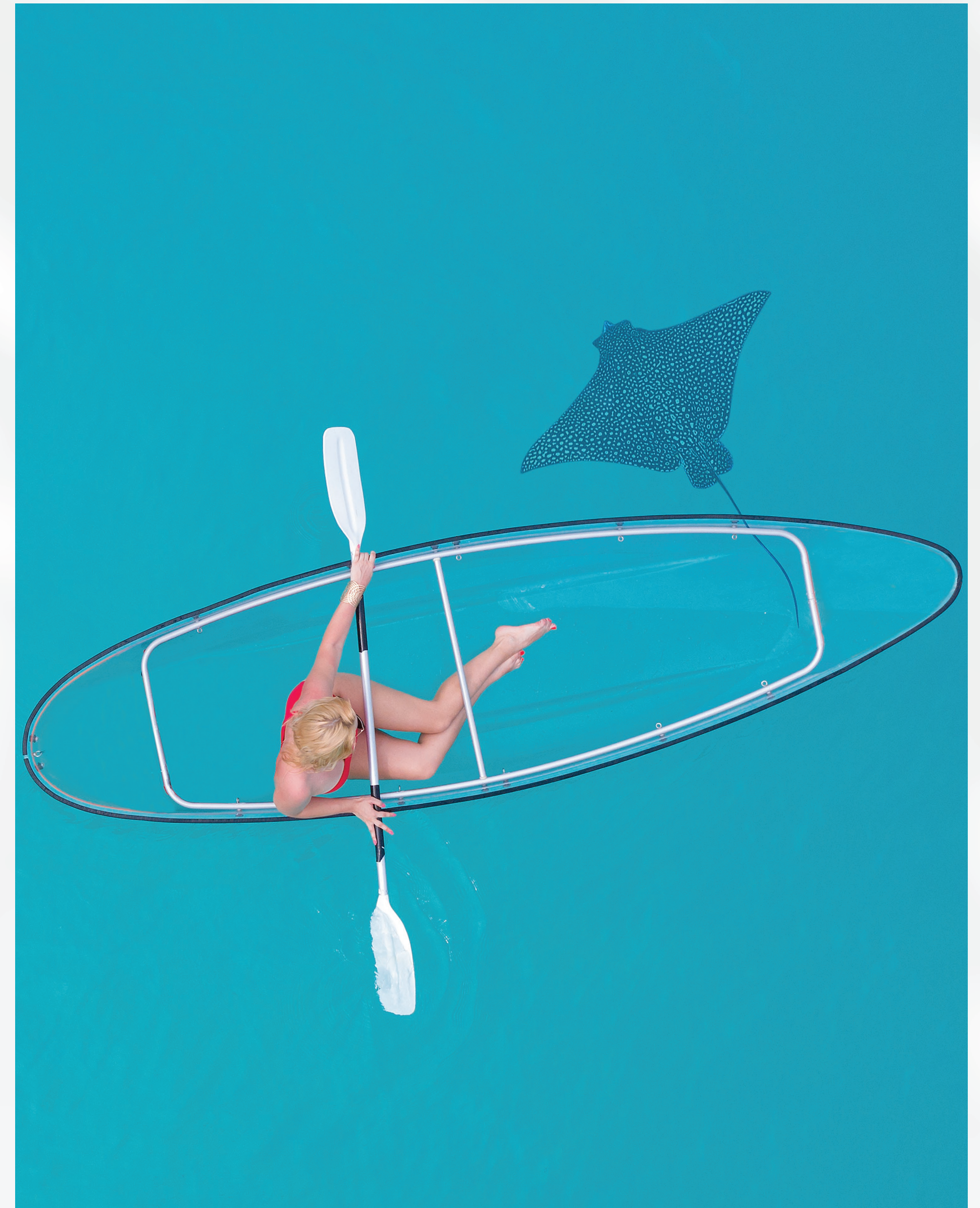
MARINE LIFE

Land Hermit Crab (Maldivian Name: "Baravelli")

All land hermit crabs are found along our beaches or amongst the island's rich vegetation. They have adapted to a life outside of the sea. Opposing to their close relatives in the reef, they do not breathe through gills but through wrinkled, thin, capillary-rich skin at the tip of their soft hind body. As hermit crabs grow, they must exchange their shell for a larger one. Since shells are not unlimited, there is frequently strong competition among the hermit crabs for available shells. Land hermit crabs are omnivorous scavengers and feed on all types of dead organic matter.

Stingray (Maldivian Name: "Madi")

This benthic species are always in contact with the bottom as they get food from little crabs and fishes which live in the sand. Stingrays are friendly but be aware of stepping on their poisonous spine when they camouflage in the sand. They are oviparous animals but can give only birth several times in their life because of the long gestation period.



PROTECT THE MARINE LIFE

We take all precautions to protect and maintain our beautiful coral reef. We kindly request all guests to avoid touching, breaking or standing on the corals. We are keen to preserve the natural environment and prohibit littering into the lagoon.

Marine Safety Guidelines

Before you dive into the beautiful crystal ocean surrounding our island, please be aware of the safety precautions for a safe and enjoyable experience.

- We encourage all our guests to wear a life jacket especially if you are not an experienced swimmer.
- Be sure to stay close to shore and to reserve enough energy to get back to shore safely. Swim on your back and tread water for a few minutes to regain energy if you are tired.
- Be aware of your surroundings. We recommend to consult our professionals at Best Dive for the sea conditions before swimming.
- Do not touch the marine life. Whilst most sea creatures are not harmful, some may be defensive and aggressive if they feel that they are in danger. Maintain a safe distance and avoid making any sudden movements.



SAFETY INFORMATION FOR SWIMMING

The lagoon around is safe for swimming. However, we encourage all our guests to read through and follow the safety information below in the ocean.

- Never swim alone. If you do not have a swimming buddy with you, please do inform our colleagues beforehand.
- Life jackets are available. We encourage all our guests to wear a life jacket especially if you are not an experienced swimmer.
- Swim within the safety markers and never swim between the ropes and jetties.
- Weather and sea conditions change regularly; please check with our Dive Centre before you go swimming.
- Slowly wade into the water—never dive headfirst.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Do not go swimming directly after a meal.
- Do not swim when under the influence of alcohol.



BASIC SAFETY INFORMATION

If you are in trouble, remain calm, call out for help and wave your arms above your head.

- Remain calm and try not to panic. Panicking will make you more tired and reduce your ability to reach the beach safely.
- Never attempt to swim directly towards the shore against the rip current.
- Do not fight the rip current, if you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. Try to swim parallel to the beach and towards where the waves are breaking until you are out of the current. Once you are out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are unable to return to shore, draw attention by waving your arm above your head and shout for help.
- If you can stand up, wade instead of swimming.



PROTECTED DIVE SITES

There were 15 important marine dive sites established as marine protected areas in 1996 and registered in the Ministry of Planning Human Resources and Environment and managed by the Ministry of Tourism. In 1999, additional 10 dive sites were declared as protected areas in the Ministry of Home Affairs Housing and Environment. Anchoring, fishing (except traditional bait-fishing) and destructive activities are strictly prohibited on these sites. Other protected areas apart from the designated marine protected areas, and the following islands are conserved and protected from exploitation.

These include:

- Hurasdhoo in North Ari Atoll
- Hithaadhoo in Gaaf Alif Atoll
- Rasfari in Kaafu Atoll



PROTECTED BIRDS

There are a number of protected birds and wildlife in the Maldives. For instance, the White tern (*Gygis alba*) bird was listed as a protected species in June 1996 by the Ministry. Since 15 July 1999, 22 bird species have been protected by the government. Catching, maltreating, trading and keeping the nesting grounds of these birds have been banned effective from 11 July 1999.

PROTECTIVE MARINE SPECIES

Marine species banned from export in the Maldives include:

- Eels
- Trochus shells
- Triton shells
- Pearl Oysters
- Lobsters and lobster meat
- Black Corals
- Bigeye scad under 6"
- Skates and rays
- Dolphins



LIST OF ILLEGAL SOUVENIRS

Banned Souvenirs from Maldives

The following, among other things, may not be exported in any form;

1. black corals.
2. stony corals.
3. Triton shells.
4. Pearl Oysters.
5. Lobsters.
6. Turtles and Turtle shells (Souvenirs made from turtle shells).

Prohibited

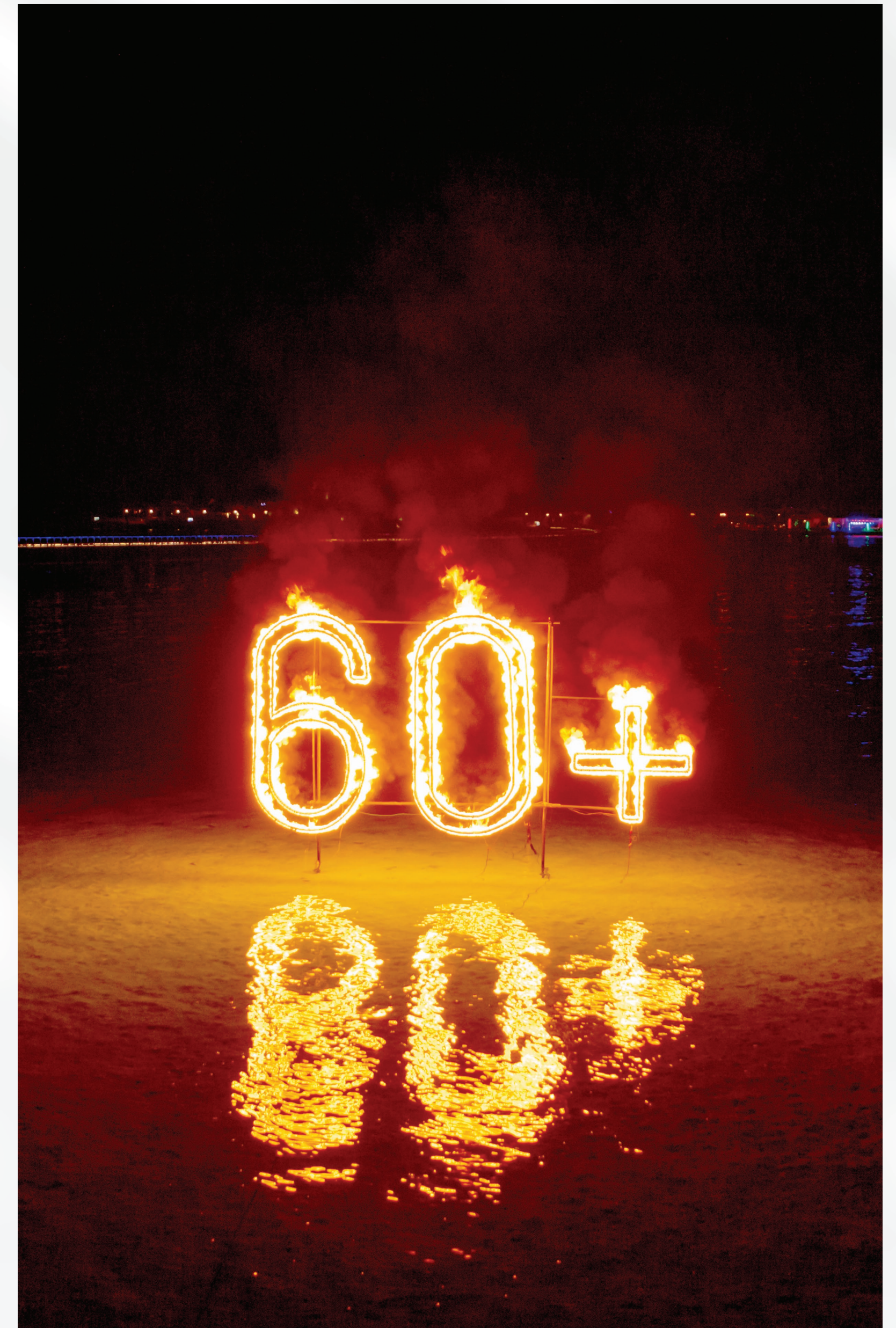
- Bait fishes (used for pole & line fishing)
- Big eye scad (less than 6 inches)
- Black coral
- Black coral necklaces
- Boulder coral
- Branching coral
- Conch (triton) shell
- Coral
- Dolphin
- Eels (from june 25, 1995)
- Lobster
- Lobster meat
- Mother of pearl shells
- Parrot fish (from june 25, 1995)
- Puffer fish (from june 25, 1995)
- Ray skin (from january 01, 1996)
- Rays (from june 25, 1995)
- Turtle (from january 01, 1996)
- Turtle shell products (from january 01, 1996)
- Turtle shells (from january 01, 1996)
- Whales

For more information: Email: customsmail@customs.gov.mv



ONGOING GREEN INITIATIVES

- All our used paper and cardboard is incinerated with fallen leaves and branches added to make compost for our plants.
- We have partnered with EcoPure (UK) to introduce glass bottles for drinking water in all areas. We eliminate the use of more than 100,000 plastic bottles a year.
- All in-villa liquid amenities in ceramic containers to reduce the amount of plastic.
- Non-woven, biodegradable packing is used on all our amenity packing reduces the amount of plastic that arrives to the resort.
- All local varieties of fish are caught by the local fisherman. Only special items are imported.
- Our sustainability training for all colleagues includes topics such as climate change, waste management and nature conservation.
- Our orientation programs include an hour training on sustainability and environment protection.
- Regular island and/or reef clean-ups and other environmental events are organized.
- Information on environmental events and issues are displayed On the team member's notice board.
- Earth Hour and World Environment Day are observed each year.



FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Food waste will be disposed either by using food waste disposer or a bio gas plant which will generate fertilizer for vegetation and cooking gas for the team members' kitchen.
- Overhauling our waste management system in order to promote segregation and recycling of our waste.
- Planning on installation of solar heaters panel floating platform to reduce petrol's consumption.



GUEST INITIATIVES- HOW CAN YOU HELP

Below are some suggestions on how you can help towards creating a more sustainable future.

1. Saving and preserving energy. Producing energy creates carbon emissions and it is the biggest cause of global warming. We have several programmes to reduce our carbon footprint, you can also contribute by doing the following:

- When you are using the air-conditioning, try to keep the doors and windows closed and the temperature at a comfortable setting (we recommend 24 degrees Celsius).
- Switch off all unnecessary lights, especially when you are leaving the villa.

2. Water consumption is a concern in Maldivian resorts, as a lot of energy is used to prepare freshwater for our daily needs. You can help by trying to reduce your water consumption with these useful tips:

- Avoid leaving taps running when washing and taking shower or brushing your teeth.
- Avoid wasting water, especially hot water



3. Laundry:

Laundry is an area where a lot of water and energy is used.

Additionally, a certain amount of detergents are required:

- Leave the towels hanging if you would like to use them again; place them on the floor if you would like them to be replaced.
- For the bed linen, please leave the wooden block on the bed if you would like your sheets changed. If no note is placed on the bed, change of sheets will take place every other day.

4. Waste

Recycling facilities in the Maldives is still in process to be fully developed and we strive to make a difference. We have implemented an efficient recycling programme. Here are tips in how you could help to contribute:

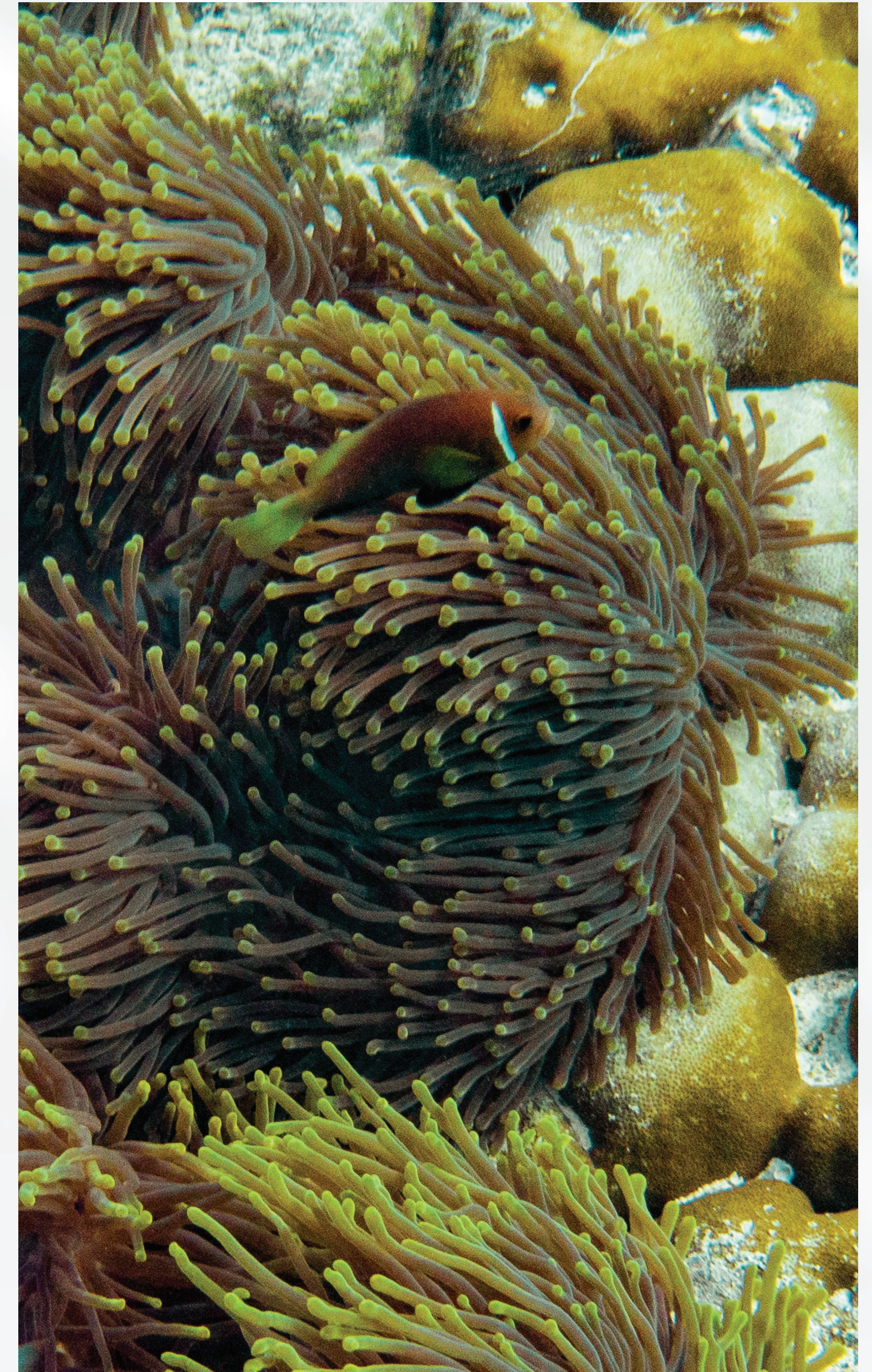
- It would be a great help if you could take plastic containers (i.e. shampoo bottles) back to where recycling facilities are available or more advanced.
- We would also request you to take batteries home with you as there are currently no facilities for re-cycling and would end up in landfill here in the Maldives.



5. Natural Surroundings

The Maldives is home to beautiful and biologically diverse coral reefs and home to numerous animal and plant species. In order to maintain the ecological balance of our local nature and keep the organisms healthy, you can help by taking few easy steps.

- Please do not touch anything under water. Many animals are sensitive to be touched and can easily be damaged. Corals, for example, have a mucous layer around them, while other animals, such as turtles, may suffer from stress.
- Do not break off any corals by standing on the reef or by flapping your flippers. Corals are living animals and require decades to build the reef formations. Please use the designated snorkel channels to get to the reef and back to the beach.
- Please refrain from feeding the fish, as well as our animals on the island (e.g. birds).
- Please do not collect any shells, broken coral pieces or other objects you may come across on the island and in the sea. They may serve as homes for hermit crabs and, consisting of calcium carbonate, are very important for generating new sand.
- Please do not buy any marine products, i.e. coral jewellery, shells or shark teeth. Most of the animals to which those skeletons originally belong, have been deliberately killed for the tourism industry and are often endangered species. You may also risk fines, as in some countries it's illegal to carry them.



The background of the image shows a row of overwater bungalows with thatched roofs and colorful striped railings, situated on a turquoise lagoon under a cloudy sky. The Hard Rock Hotel logo is centered over the image.

Hard Rock HOTEL

MALDIVES

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