

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE FLOURISHING CORAL GARDENS OF ANANTARA MALDIVES



In the sparkling azure seas of South Male Atoll, the coral gardens of Anantara Maldives are beginning to flourish. A recent field study by marine biologist Dr. Andy Bruckner revealed that rehabilitation efforts have encouraged extraordinary growth across the coral nurseries of Anantara Dhigu Maldives Resort, Anantara Veli Maldives Resort and Naladhu Private Island Maldives.

The news comes three years into the pioneering five-year HARP program (Holistic Approach to Reef Protection), funded by donations from Anantara guests through the Dollars for Deeds initiative. The program focuses on maintaining and expanding coral nurseries around the lagoon, planting healthy nursery corals onto damaged reefs and growing the corals within the Aqua Bar snorkel trail while closely monitoring the health of reefs further afield to build an accurate picture of the Maldives' coral health.

Dr. Bruckner, chief scientist of the HARP program, reported up to 15 centimetres of coral growth over the last year in the resorts' nurseries. To grow the nurseries, fragments of rescued coral are carefully attached to ropes and tables in positions where they are most likely to thrive. Guests are also invited to take part in a hands-on experience of replanting the corals in this way.

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Four coral nurseries shimmer beneath the surface of the lagoon – Aqua Bar, Advanced Snorkel Area, Veli lagoon and Dhigu House Reef. All showed impressive growth, with up to 1,000 times the coral biomass that existed when the program began, with almost 1,500 new corals planted.

“The Maldives is highly dependent on its breathtaking and world famous coral reefs, not just for tourism but for industries such as fishing,” says John Roberts, Director of Conservation for Minor Hotels. “Coral reef programs such as HARP play a fundamental role in food provision, shoreline protection, tourism revenue and ultimately the enjoyment of guests visiting Anantara Maldives.”

The reefs and coral gardens of Anantara Maldives are home to a vast and colourful spectrum of marine life, including clownfish, parrot fish, reef sharks and different species of shoal fish, with turtles, eagle rays and dolphins frequent visitors to the lagoon.

For more information about Anantara Maldives or the HARP program, please contact aquafanaticsinfo@anantara.com or Dr. Andy Bruckner at andywbruckner@gmail.com.

Editor's Notes:

Anantara is a luxury hospitality brand for modern travellers, connecting them to genuine places, people and stories through personal experiences, and providing heartfelt hospitality in the world's most exciting destinations. The collection of distinct, thoughtfully designed luxury hotels and resorts provides a window through which to journey into invigorating new territory, curating personal travel experiences.

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