

# MPAs in the Maldives

## Importance of Marine life in the Maldives

Marine life is closely intertwined with the country's economy and the people's lives.



**INCREASING STRESS ON MARINE LIFE CAN AFFECT THE MALDIVIAN ECONOMY.**



### Economic Importance

- Tourism and fishing industries are the two main pillars of the economy and they both depend on marine ecosystems.
- Marine biodiversity-based exports account for 98% of the country's exports.
- 90% of the GDP is marine biodiversity based.

### Social Importance

- 60% of households' income depends on biodiversity.
- Two-thirds of the jobs are created through biodiversity-based sectors.
- Ensure sustainability of marine food resources for locals.



## What is an MPA?

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are a recognized, dedicated and managed area, aiming to achieve the long-term conservation of nature and cultural values.

**MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ARE ESSENTIAL TO CONSERVE THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE OCEAN AND TO MAINTAIN PRODUCTIVITY, ESPECIALLY OF FISH STOCKS.**

## Examples of activities that can be managed in MPAs



Fishing



Diving



Disposal of Non-biodegradable Waste



Boat Anchoring



Coastal Modification



Presence of Invasive Species

## How MPAs help protect marine life?

MPAs help **rebuild · protect · sustain fishing, tourism and other biodiversity-based sectors**, by using human activity management to create a buffer to the pressures facing marine ecosystems. This creates healthy habitats for marine life, enabling fish and other marine species to grow and breed freely and ultimately restoring the balance of the ecosystem.



## Famous MPAs in the Maldives



**Hanifaru Bay in Baa Atoll**  
One of the largest aggregations of manta rays in the world.



**South Ari MPA**  
A large whale shark aggregation site.



**Kudahuvadhoo Kanduolhi**  
A famous grouper spawning aggregation site.

There are many MPAs in the Maldives protecting and preserving marine life from various threats, and more will be introduced in the near future.

## Benefits of MPAs in the Maldives

Conserving marine biodiversity



Protecting endangered species

Maintaining ecosystem functions



Enhancing fishing yields

Improving water quality



Acting as climate change buffers

Providing educational and recreational opportunities



Supporting traditional livelihoods

Helping to maintain cultural heritage



UK Government



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Support MPAs. Save Marine Life.