

Project Maldives - Feridhoo

Rope nursery & reef restoration

 Feridhoo, 4°03'06.5"N 72°43'21.4"E

Base Info

Project type: Coral nursery & restoration
Partner: Feridhoo Island Coral Restoration
Funding: Donations & Internal

 **Size / area**
1.7 ha impact area

 **Duration**
Ongoing since October 2024

Background

Healthy coral reefs are fundamental to ocean health and form the ecological and economic backbone of the Maldives, supporting fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection.

However, Maldivian reefs have been severely impacted by climate-driven mass bleaching events, resulting in coral mortality of up to 80% across large reef areas. These disturbances have reduced coral cover, altered reef structure, and weakened ecosystem resilience in many atolls. In response to these challenges, our partnership with FICR and Noohiri Diving focusses on strengthening and expanding their existing nursery infrastructure. Rope nurseries are constructed at the established nursery site and populated with approximately 3,000 coral fragments.

Objective & Outcomes

- Expanding existing nurseries by building 5 new rope nurseries with a capacity of 3,000 coral fragments
- Populate nursery with a focus on temperature resilient species from a variety of depth profiles
- To restore the degraded reefs nearby
- Train local people from Feridhoo Island Coral Restoration and Noohiri Diving in nursery setup, expansion, and maintenance

Implementation

Approach

In 2024, the coral nursery was initiated by setting up 5 new rope nurseries, supporting 3,000 coral fragments. The corals used to populate the nursery were collected from a variety of depth profiles and chosen with a focus on temperature resilient species. These nursery corals are now maintained and monitored by the FICR team until they reach a suitable size for transplantation. The long-term objective is to outplant the matured corals onto nearby degraded reef areas around Feridhoo, contributing to habitat complexity, biodiversity recovery, and local reef resilience.

Milestones

Month 1: Established and populated coral rope nurseries

Months 2-14: Nursery maintenance by partners and joint outplanting after 14 months

Year 2: Second Cohort of Fragments started and joint outplanting at the end of the project

Deliverables

- Fully populated coral rope nurseries with 3000+ fragments to outplant annually
- 1.7 ha of restored reef
- Increase coral cover & fish abundance