

Hanifaru Area, Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve

A Management Review

Hanifaru is a core area of the UNESCO Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve since 2011.

Overview of MPA

- ▶ Protected under the [Maldivian Environment Protection Act \(No.4/93\)](#).
- ▶ Protects feeding mantas rays and whale sharks.
- ▶ The number of boats and people in Hanifaru Bay are carefully managed and activities such as scuba diving and fishing are banned.

Review of MPA management

- ▶ We have assessed the site's management by reviewing available evidence and engaging with local stakeholders.
- ▶ We have identified what is working well and the key actions that could help to improve management.



Main results

Key successes

- ▶ The management plan is actively implemented.
- ▶ Rangers patrol the MPA every day in high season.
- ▶ The local community supports the MPA.
- ▶ Management is positively impacting manta ray and whale shark numbers.

Key suggestions

- ▶ Publish a MPA business plan, including annual costs and income.
- ▶ Develop a Monitoring and Research Plan to support the Management Plan.
- ▶ Improve the enforcement powers and resources available to Rangers.
- ▶ Create a dedicated Hanifaru Bay website to increase transparency and share information.

Next steps

We will be collaborating with the Government to explore opportunities for improving management of MPAs in the Maldives.

Further information is available at <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/maldives>



Images: Manta rays © Guy Stevens, Manta Trust | Stakeholder workshop for Hanifaru Area © JNCC

