

Muraka Kudhin – Coral reef restoration project in the Maldives

By Michael Worthy

Hertfordshire Scouts' are continuing to support this exciting environmental project in association with 18th Malé Scout Group to assist in reef rehabilitation and restoration in the region. The project is entitled "Muraka Kudhin" (meaning coral and youth in the local language) and will allow Scouts to learn about coral propagation and set up reef monitoring and maintenance of a new coral nursery. It is aligned with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) – Life Below Water, and can be shared back to Scout Groups in Hertfordshire as a great opportunity for sections wishing to work towards their Environmental Conservation activity badges and World Challenge Awards.

So far Scouts have learnt the basics of scuba diving and constructed frames for propagating fragments of corals. The project will carry out monitoring of the corals and collect data such as growth rate as well as identifying the sea life that inhabits the corals. Coral reefs are projected to decline by 70-90% at global temperature rises of 1.5°C with larger losses greater than 90% projected at 2°C. Hertfordshire Scouts have provided equipment to help with the monitoring progress.



Excitingly, the project has been identified by WOSM as one of five inspiring environmental Scout projects - <https://www.scout.org/5-environmental-scout-projects>

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4. Scouts in Maldives undertake coral reef restoration



Muraka Kudhin is a reef rehabilitation project run by Muhyiddin Scout Group in Vilimale', Maldives. Since 2019, the Scout group comprises PADI certified Scout divers who have been running reef checks, restoring corals and monitoring reef health. The aim of the Muraka Kudhin project is to rehabilitate reefs that have suffered the consequences of climate change through coral restoration. The project is supported by Moodhubulhaa Dive Center, Save the Beach Maldives & Hertfordshire Scouts in the UK - all focused on conserving reefs and beaches of Vilimale'.

The project has been featured on ABC News and has had interest from local embassies and consulates. The Scouts were also able to tell Bear Grylls all about the project when he was visiting the islands.



#murakakudhin