

The Maldives- management of a fragile ecosystem



Management of coral reefs

Education

- + Educating people about their impact on the ecosystem is extremely effective

Marine Reserves

- + Areas are designated as no fishing. This prevents reefs being damaged by errant hooks and allows the fish populations to grow, crating a thriving ecosystem.
- + It also decreases the amount of sea weed on the reefs (presumably the fish eat it), making them more able to recover from storms and coral bleaching

Honey pot permitting

- + By controlling tourist numbers you can keep some areas pristine, and by identifying honey pot sites increased education and management can be put in place

Pollution control

- + Create a sewage free belt around the reef, so dumping takes place further off shore. Ensure permits are necessary to dump sewage.

Sustainable Tourism

- + Based heavily upon education and minimising impact upon the environment. Needs highly skilled staff and guides.



1. Fringing Reef

The Maldives

- 1192 small coral islands in a series of Atolls (encircling rings of coral creating a shallow lagoon)
- Lying in the Indian Ocean
- Stretching 750 km North from the equator
- 99% of the country's territory is sea
- The average height is 1 m above sea level
- The lowest high point in the world is in the Maldives
- Population of 280 000

Tourism in the Maldives

- 360 000 visitors in 1998
- Building is restricted to the height of the surrounding trees, which cannot be cut down without special permission
- Resorts must occupy 'their own self contained worlds constructed from natural building materials'- this could be blamed for the over use of coral as a building material
- Over 60% of visitors go diving

The threats to the coral reefs

Climate change

- Sea level rise
- Increased typhoons
- Coral bleaching caused by increasing temperature

Trampling

- Tourists physically crush the coral by trampling

Fresh water pollution

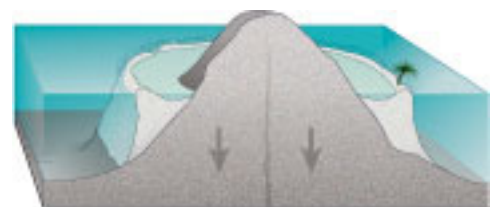
- Dumping of swimming pool water is a large issue
- Resulting in desalinisation and chlorination

Sewage Pollution

Use of coral as a building material

Anchoring on coral

Dynamite fishing



2. Barrier Reef



3. Atoll