Hurawalhí
MALDIVES
NATURALLY
CHIC
LUXURY TREADING LIGHTLY

LUXURY TREADING LIGHTLY AT HURAWALHI

For just about everyone, waking up to the gentle lapping of the ocean against the sun-drenched beaches of the Maldives is a dream come true. The country's vivid marine life and plentiful relaxation and romantic occasions lure travellers hungry for outstanding experiences to determine for themselves whether all those 'picture perfect' and 'paradise on earth' reviews hold water.

To ensure, however, that care for the natural environment doesn't take a back seat when offering luxury services, Hurawalhi is proud of its comprehensive and ever-expanding efforts to reduce its environmental footprint, and its awareness raising campaigns among guests and local communities.

SOLAR PANELS

Thanks to its location just north of the Equator, Hurawalhi receives ample sun throughout the year, so tapping into this infinite reservoir of renewable energy is a logical way of supplementing the resort's energy needs.

The brightest idea in Hurawalhi's sustainability endeavours is high-efficiency solar panels that convert the sun's rays into electricity. For eleven hours a day, the 2,735 panels (installed on roofs of the main jetty, 5.8 Undersea Restaurant walkway, and 7 buildings in the team area) help power the resort.

If we were to put all the panels together, they would cover an area of 4,102.5 m² – more than half of the size of a Premier League football pitch! Now that the solar panel system is operating at full capacity, Hurawalhi is proud that the sun takes care of 30% of the resort's total consumption. Not only are these panels good for the environment, they are visually appealing too: light coming through the grid casts beautiful shadows on the wooden walkways, reminding you how sustainability and aesthetics go hand in hand at Hurawalhi.

LINE DRYING OF LAUNDRY

Line drying is used for about 4,000 items a month, further reducing the resort's use of electricity for machinery, and adding to the mix of eco-friendly practices used at the resort.

HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEM

The resort's hot water requirements are met through a high-efficiency heat recovery system. Waste heat produced by generators is cleverly converted into sufficient amounts of electrical energy to enable you relaxing, hot showers without a negative impact on the environment. This incredibly simple but effective method allows 804kg of emissions to be saved every day.

GLASS BOTTLES

Hurawalhi is committed to reducing the amount of plastic water bottles and obtains water that quenches your thirst in glass bottles via its desalination plant. Fresh water is derived from seawater through reverse osmosis, mineralised and chilled, before being bottled in a top-of-the-line facility at Hurawalhi. The glass bottles used for water are sterilised before being reused. All Hurawalhi team members are provided with re-usable water flasks, which can be refilled at numerous water filtration points found in the Team Village. The savings for the environment are not only the obvious reduction in single use plastic bottles, but also include the transportation of the bottles from Malé to the resort.

Hurawalhi has stopped the purchasing of drinks that come in plastic bottles, instead committing to either glass or aluminium canned versions.

BAMBOO STRAWS

The wasteful single-use plastic variety have been replaced with bamboo straws.

RECYCLING INITIATIVES

The person in charge of Hurawalhi's recycling is Priyantha, Chief Engineer, who has been an integral part of the team since the resort's opening in 2016, and is also entrusted with the same role at our sister property Kudadoo Maldives Private Island. With a 'can do' attitude, Priyantha and his team look after all recycling matters at our recycling center.

All waste plastic, cardboard and glass bottles from the resort are sorted and collected for recycling. Much of the sorting takes place by team members at the point of contact, including our villa, restaurant and bar attendants. Once segregated, glass bottles are placed into a crusher to make powder, while cardboard and plastic are compacted before being sent to a recycling company in the capital island Male. This recycling initiative has allowed the incinerator requirement to be reduced by 75%.

Plastic rubbish bags have eliminated completely from the resort.

PARLEY FOR THE OCEANS

A partnership we are particularly proud of is that with the Maldives' branch of Parley for the Oceans that advocate avoiding the use of single-use plastics and encouraging responsible disposal of plastic that would otherwise end up in the ocean. Whenever possible, we follow Parley's guidelines of avoiding, intercepting, and redesigning the standards for plastic pollution. Recyclable waste as well as any plastic debris washed onto our beaches is regularly collected by Parley to ensure that it is treated as environmentally responsible as possible.

REGULAR ISLAND AND BEACH CLEAN UPS

On the last weekend of September each year, Hurawalhi's team and guests Maldives join millions of others across the globe for the annual Clean Up the World event. The Prodivers team, together with members from the Marine Centre and guests participate in a house reef snorkel and scuba dive clean up on a local house reef. Whereas Clean Up the World is a big event, and part of a global campaign, we put a lot of emphasis on the environment in our day-to-day operation. Regular island clean ups are scheduled throughout the year.

SMART SYSTEMS IN VILLAS

Air-conditioners use inverter technology that continuously regulates the temperature; combined with sensors in doors that switch the unit on/off. Guests get to enjoy comfort while practicing good energy conservation behaviour. This initiative alone is saving 1,487kg of emissions every day.

WOODEN AMENITIES

Hurawalhi has chosen to only use wooden key cards for accessing villas, helping to further reduce the amount of plastic at the resort. Similarly, bathroom amenities such as the comb, toothbrush and shaver are also made from wood.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Extensive use of natural materials and smart design and architecture allows for optimal use of natural conditions.

LED lights are used at the entire resort and are generating significant savings of approximately 1000kWh per day. This equates to 742kg of emissions saved each and every day.

Rainwater is used extensively for irrigation purposes, and the vast 50,000 litre water tank that captures rain water is responsible for saving 12,532 kgs of emissions last year.

HEALING EARTH

Hurawalhi has partnered with Healing Earth, a leading spa and hotel amenities provider, and developed and launched a bespoke collection of completely green and eco-friendly Healing Ocean products exclusively for our guests. Thanks to the Healing Ocean range that prides itself on carefully selected targeted formulas of spa-quality active ingredients and powerful aromatherapy oils, our guests can now create well-being sanctuaries in the comfort of their villa. Luxurious and effective, natural and environmentally friendly, each product has been thoughtfully developed with the pampering of our guests and the health of Hurawalhi's precious natural environment in mind.

The Healing Ocean range of products is soft and naturally aromatic, offering freshness and care tailored to Hurawalhi's Equatorial climate; naturally soothing and deeply nourishing products made from ingredients like pure aloe vera are just what you need after a day in the sun.

Hurawalhi's Healing Ocean hand and body wash, shampoo and conditioner, after-sun gel, hand and body soother and solid soap are all biodegradable. In a sensitive, vulnerable coral reef ecosystem like Hurawalhi's, it is of utmost importance that zero harm is done to the ocean; the Healing Ocean range features environment-friendly antimicrobial agents that ensure that no toxic pollutants run off into the sea.

These sensuous, results-driven Healing Ocean products are all housed in beautiful recycled glass packaging created specifically for Hurawalhi guests. What's more, several of Duniye Spa's treatments, including the two popular signature rituals, Sense of Touch and Heaven on Earth, are complemented by Healing Earth products, which are free from petrochemicals, synthetics, colourants preservatives and parabens.

HURAWALHI'S GARDENS

The gardens of Hurawalhi are nurtured with inspiration and a love of nature. The creative soul responsible for the wonderful environment of indigenous and tropical plants at Hurawalhi is Bandara, Landscaping Manager. Trained at Royal Botanic Gardens in Peradeniya ('Sri Lanka's Kew Gardens') and with over 20 years work experience in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and Qatar, Bandara doesn't let the grass grow under his feet: he started designing Hurawalhi's outdoor spaces in May 2016 and has, with the help from his team, turned them into eye-catching features that amplify Hurawalhi's chic character.

In addition to tending to the gardens of Hurawalhi, Bandara is also charged with the responsibility of the island's conservation which includes the protection of the island's native plants (70 per cent of all plants on Hurawalhi are indigenous).

Also under Bandara's watchful eye is Hurawalhi's greenhouse and herb garden, which produces among others, lemongrass, snake gourd, mint, sage, ginger, chilli, curry leaves, onions, spinach, basil and rosemary. Island-grown coconut is used at the restaurants as well as in the Maldivian Island Paradise spa treatment.

Over 70 fruit trees, including banana, mango and pineapple have been planted at Hurawalhi.

Nature walks with Bandara or his team are available upon request.

SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD

A state of the art composting machine is allowing Hurawalhi to recycle 60% of the organic waste produced at the resort, which comes mainly from the kitchen and restaurants. An estimated 100kg of compost per day is produced from our food and vegetation waste recycling efforts. The compost is spread back to the resort's vegetable garden.

PRESERVING THE OCEAN

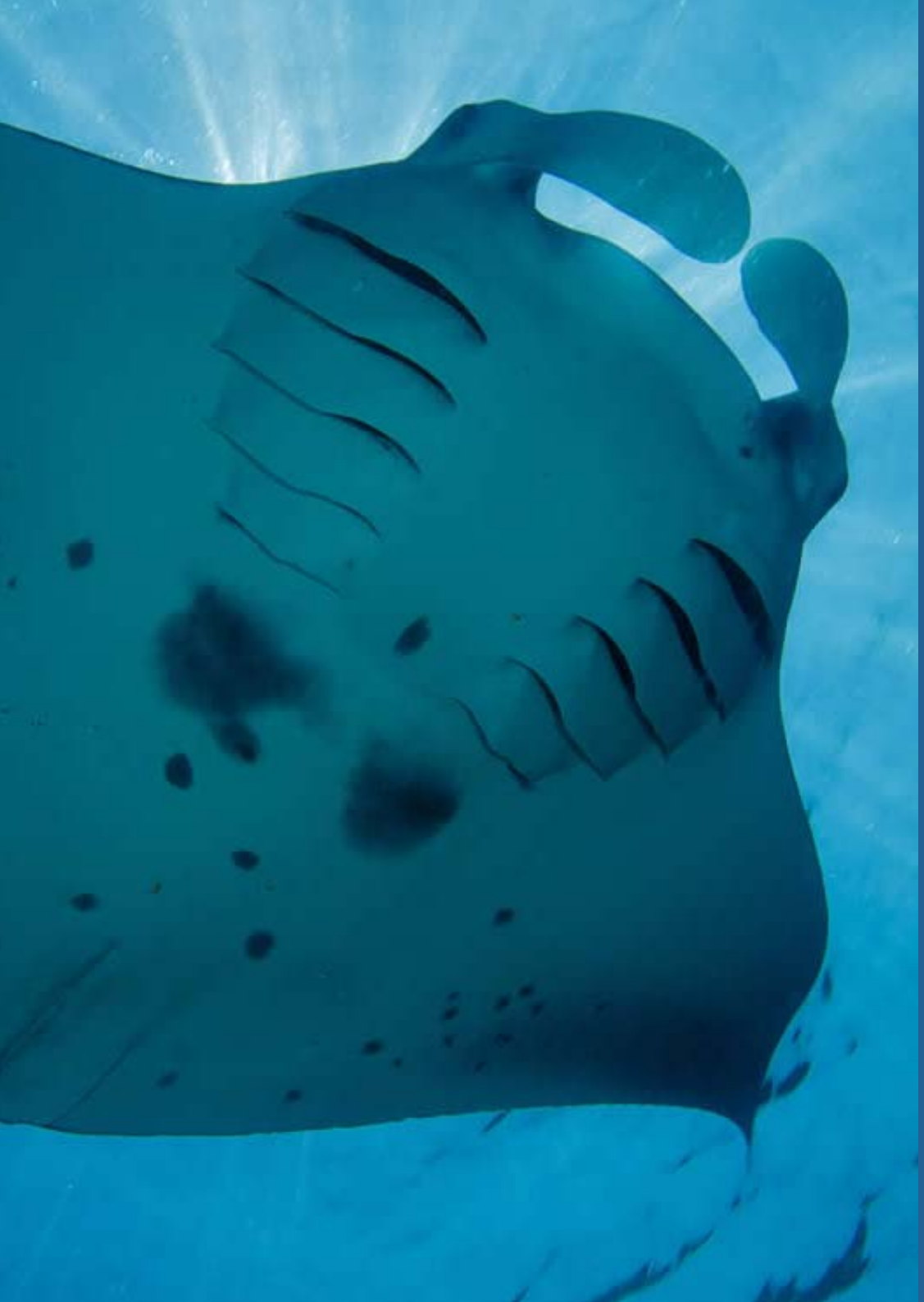
Led by a resident marine biologist and run in close cooperation with Prodivers Maldives, the Hurawalhi Marine Biology Center is here to share our passion for the ocean with you, and to further study the unique marine environment of which Hurawalhi is a part.

Beneath the soothing swaying of palm trees and steps away from some of the world's most biodiverse natural terrain, there could hardly be a better place to stimulate your curiosity and wonder of the ocean.

The bustling underwater metropolis that awaits below the water surface around Hurawalhi is certainly well worth a visit. Lhaviyani Atoll is made up of a number of narrow and shallow channels that funnel the nutrient-rich water directly into Hurawalhi's proximity, resulting in an incredible amount and variety of marine life. The island sits between two such channels and as a result is home to an abundance of sea life. Currents, abundant sun and clear water provide aquarium-like conditions for over 2,000 species of fish and more than 200 species of coral. Crustacea and invertebrates are aplenty in the Maldives too. It becomes apparent that magic lies in wait around every corner; Hurawalhi offers unforgettable experiences with the ocean's toughest survivors – sea turtles, dolphins are known to throw dazzling performances, and guests can come up close and personal with Hurawalhi's majestic manta rays and reef sharks.

Our resident marine biologist brings expertise and love of the ocean to Hurawalhi. A professional of the Manta Trust with a thorough knowledge of the Maldives' marine environment and a broad understanding of the intrinsic value of coral reefs is on site to make guests realise that Hurawalhi – and the Maldives in general – is a very special place for aquatic exploration.

The ocean-savvy biologist conducts not only research on the Lhaviyani Atoll manta ray population (to which guests can contribute by reporting sightings), but also performs studies on reef ecology; Hurawalhi's resident marine biologist runs workshops and trips aimed at sharing knowledge and hence increasing awareness of the importance of conserving this fragile ecosystem.



MANTA RAYS

Lhaviyani Atoll, where Hurawalhi is located, is one of the places in the Maldives that manta rays seem to love! Our resident marine biologists, the resort team and our guests, through photo submissions, have helped to identify almost 400 individual manta rays. Just like our loyal returning guests, many of these gentle giants keep coming back to the area with a whopping 314 that have been sighted more than once!

Manta rays are fascinating and clever fish but are also extremely vulnerable, which is why Hurawalhi, a strong advocate of sustainable tourism, strictly adheres to Manta Trust' guidelines on swimming with them. All excursions are run responsibly, with great respect for these sensitive giants. Before snorkelling or diving with manta rays, all guests are provided information on how to ensure that interactions are memorable and sustainable in equal measure.

Estimated reef manta ray population in the Maldives: 5,000-6,000
Identified individuals: 4,160
Hurawalhi sandbank identified population: 101
Hurawalhi sandbank manta re-sightings: 49.5%
Most mantas identified around Hurawalhi are up to 2.3 meters in size, with a few giants boasting a wingspan of over 3 meters!
Most frequently seen manta ray in the Lhaviyani: Feng Shui

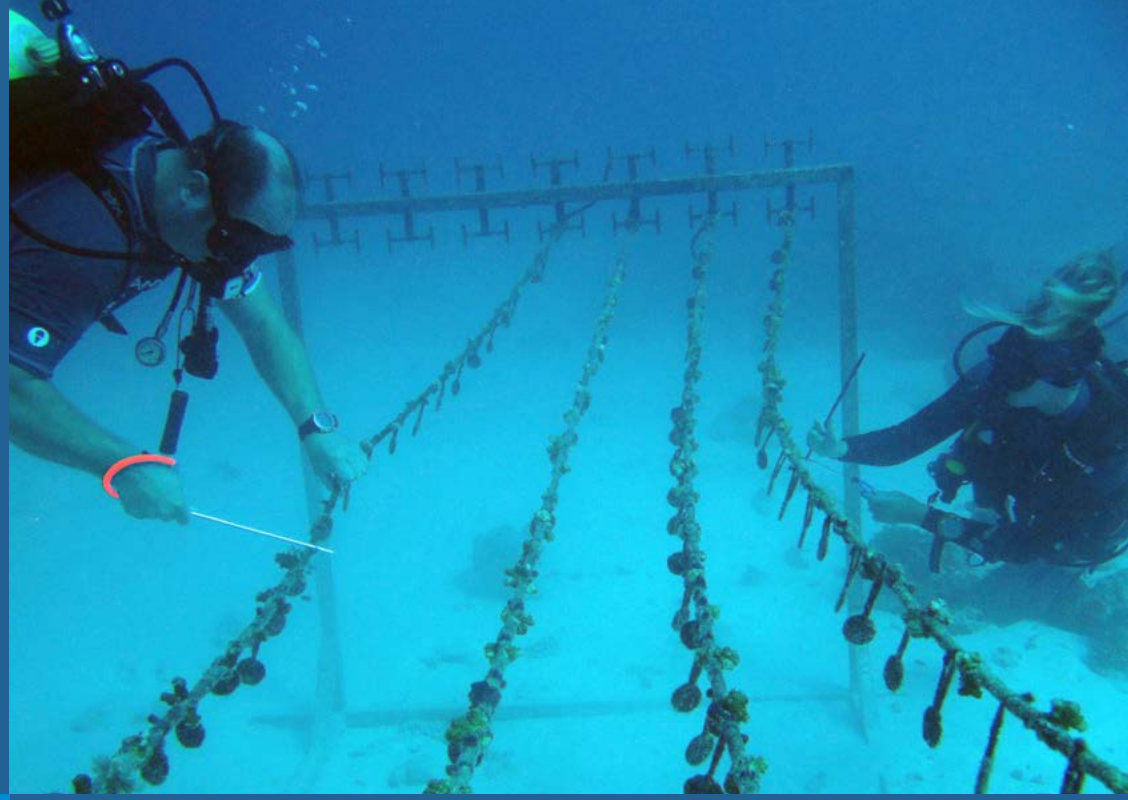
In brief: How to swim with manta rays
Enter the water quietly
Keep fins under the water to avoid splashing
Do not approach closer than 3 metres – let the manta come to you
Approach from the side – never block its path
Do not chase the manta as it swims past
Never touch a manta ray
When scuba diving at cleaning stations, stay at the side of cleaning stations
Never swim on top of a Manta
Keep low but be careful not to damage the reef when scuba diving
While scuba diving, if a manta swims towards you, stay low and stay still
In addition, follow local guidelines given during the dive or snorkel briefing

CORAL REEF NURSERY

We have established Hurawalhi's first coral nursery where currently 200 coral fragments are growing in a well-monitored environment to be transplanted back onto the reef in the future. Coral reef nurseries are important in the continued battle against coral bleaching due to water temperatures rising.

SUSTAINABLE FISHING EXCURSIONS

Hurawalhi is committed to a sustainable fishing policy and purchases from a selected range of local suppliers that follow the Maldives' leading stance on the subject. Fishing techniques in the Maldives follow the centuries old technique of pole and line fishing. Size guides are followed.



PRODIVERS MALDIVES

The 'Maldives' Best Dive Center' (2018 Tauchen Awards) has ocean conservation at its heart and adheres to all PADI and Project Aware guidelines on the protection of the environment. They teach the PADI Project AWARE Coral Reef Conservation Specialty courses and Project AWARE Dive Against Debris courses to divers

THE OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT

Hurawalhi reports sightings of sea turtles for the purpose of identification and research purposes, and supports the foundation's ghost net removal efforts. We help with entangled turtles and report these encounters to Olive Ridley Project as well as to Atoll Marine Centre

Hurawalhi encourages the use of bio-degradeable sun block. It is available for purchase in the Prodivers shop.

THE REEF OUTSIDE 5.8 RESTAURANT

Paige, an enthusiastic diving instructor with broad marine conservation experience, started an initiative of great ecological value back in May 2016: coral gardening outside 5.8 Undersea Restaurant.

'Prodivers and I wanted to create an extension of the existing reef that would represent, on a small scale, the beauty of the Maldives' underwater while at the same time reviving marine life that had, at the time, been weakened by the El Niño. With a carefully devised plan of action, a team of divers dislodged some blocks of coral that showed few signs of life and placed them onto the shelves surrounding the restaurant. Just one day after the first coral planting was complete, the area was covered with damsel fish, wrasse were feeding in the sand, and pairs of butterflyfish were hovering over the reef.

'Fish life around the restaurant is nothing short of amazing', adds Mie Shaahh, a local who was instrumental in the project. 'Dreams don't work unless you do '- and what a dreamy hustle-bustle of marine life it is! At the moment, you can see more than 100 different species of fish living on the reef, including everyone's favourite clownfish.

'Coral bleaching had devastating consequences on anemones. Water temperature of 32 degrees Celsius induced stress on anemones, causing them to release photosynthetic algae they use to create energy into the water.' Anemones became white and shriveled, but within a couple of days the team noticed that the 20 bleached anemones were turning brown again and within 2 weeks they had become healthy and full with clownfish laying eggs around them. The new location with favourable currents and temperature helped them to regain the algae quickly enough to prevent them from dying.

An additional piece in Hurawalhi's 'sustaining the reef' jigsaw puzzle is a sunken shipwreck, an artificial reef that already sees some vibrant marine life activity. Paige observes that the life around the wreck is different from other parts of the reef: 'Trumpetfish, moray eels, giant pufferfish and small groups of snappers have already made it their home. Hopefully we will have sponges and soft corals covering it in a few years.'

'No matter what time of the day you dine at the restaurant, you can see the most beautiful array of marine life in all colours of the rainbow. There are oriental sweetlips hovering under a table coral, giant trevallies hunting, jellyfish biolumenescing as they drift by in the current – I could list all of the species that one can expect to see during a meal, but I don't want to spoil the magic that's waiting here.'

LOCAL SCHOOLS

To instil a deeper understanding of the world's environmental issues and to encourage a desire to look after natural resources, Hurawalhi regularly hosts local school visits. These visits foster the children's environmental awareness through interesting discussions on a variety of topics, such as the importance of healthy coral reefs and oceans, plastic pollution and energy saving. Through nature walks around the resort, school children receive first-hand knowledge from the resident marine biologist and representatives of other departments that are involved in the implementation of Hurawalhi's green initiatives.

EDUCATION

We work together with tourism operators, NGOs, and schools from around Lhaviyani Atoll in order to spread sustainable tourism practices and mitigate manta ray injuries. Hurawalhi just recently hosted the second Marine Biology Workshop where representatives of various tourism operators and NGOs of Lhaviayni were able to discuss research findings and sustainable practices to protect the marine environment.

TEAM TRAINING

To make sure that awareness and education lead to a positive environmental attitude, sustainability is a topic at the forefront of team members' trainings. Covering areas of the economic significance of protecting Maldivian biodiversity, actions to protect coral reefs, endangered species (including trainings on how to help turtles entangled in ghost nets) and recycling, among others, Hurawalhi is proud that its team members understand why nature must lie at the heart of everything we do.

Hurawalhi's team participate in many international environmental campaigns such as Earth Hour, Earth Day, World Oceans Day, Wildlife Day.

AWARDS

Hurawalhi is proud of having received the Travelife Gold Certification in just its second year of operation.

Hurawalhi
MALDIVES

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