

Soneva Foundation, The Maldives

Soneva Foundation was founded by Sonu and Eva Shivdasani, the owners of luxury hotels Soneva Fushi and Jani in The Maldives. They have spent the last 25 years merging sustainability and luxury tourism in The Maldives, and Soneva Foundation supports projects designed to directly impact social and environmental challenges around the world. They have projects in The Maldives, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, India and Senegal.



SOS: Soneva Oceans Steward

Despite living in an island nation, many Maldivians grow up without learning to swim. While this poses a clear risk to life, it also means that children grow up with little environmental awareness of the ocean and the coral reefs that surround them.

Soneva Foundation believes that if children learn to swim, they can lose their fear of the ocean and learn to love it. If they love it, they are more likely to protect it. The Soneva Ocean Stewards programme takes children from the very basics to their first time snorkelling on the reef edge.

Alongside the swimming programme, instructors run environmental awareness sessions and beach clean ups.



400 children have learnt to swim since

100 000 corals cultivated every year



Soneva Clean Water

Drinking water on Maldivian islands can be an unreliable resource. Extended dry seasons can lead to wells drying up and residents have required emergency supplies of drinking water to be transported from the capital for the past three years.

Soneva Water was formed as a social enterprise to eliminate imported plastic bottled water on a neighbouring Island to Soenva Fushi. From a solar-powered desalination plant, water will be filtered using carbon resin and reverse osmosis, mineralised, UV sterilised, and bottled in reusable, eco-friendly bottles.



Marine Conservation

Together with NGOs Save Our Sea, Olive Ridley Project and the International Pole & Line Foundation Soneva Foundation aim to propagate 50 000 corals at each of the Soneva resorts each year. Using pieces of corals which have naturally fallen off the reefs they mount them to metal constructions where they grow into natural coral reefs once again.



Prevented thousands of water bottles from being produced, transported to the island, and then incinerated