



## THE KORALLION LAB (VAVVARU ISLAND, MALDIVES) PROPOSALS FOR TROPICAL MARINE RESEARCH

G. Arlotti<sup>1</sup>, J. Bythell<sup>2</sup>, G. Bavestrello<sup>3</sup>, C. Cerrano<sup>4</sup>, M. Ponti<sup>5</sup>, L.P. Madin<sup>6</sup>, J. McManus<sup>7</sup>, T.J. Goreau<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Korallion Lab Managing Director, Maldives, [www.korallionlab.com](http://www.korallionlab.com). Email: [info@korallionlab.com](mailto:info@korallionlab.com)

<sup>2</sup> School of Biology, Ridley Building, Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.

<sup>3</sup> Scienze della Vita e dell'Ambiente, Polytechnic University of Marche, Via Brecce Bianche, 60131 Ancona, Italy.

<sup>4</sup> Reef Check Italia onlus and Dipartimento per lo Studio del Territorio e delle sue Risorse, University of Genoa, Corso Europa 26, 16132 Genova, Italy.

<sup>5</sup> Reef Check Italia onlus and Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca per le Scienze Ambientali, University of Bologna, Via S. Alberto 163, 48123 Ravenna, Italy.

<sup>6</sup> Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. 266 Woods Hole Rd. MS# 39 Woods Hole, MA 02543-1050.

<sup>7</sup> RSMAS/MBF University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149.

<sup>8</sup> Global Coral Reef Alliance, 37 Pleasant Street, Cambridge MA 02139.

“Beautiful place for beautiful research”. This is the vision that has driven the idea to establish a Marine Research Centre oriented to coral and coral reef studies in the remote Vavvaru Island (5.4184° N 73.3548° E) in the Lhaviyani atoll, Republic of Maldives.

Thanks to a collaborative project, involving experts from several Institutes around the World and the Maldivian Government, today there is the opportunity to make this vision true. Korallion Lab, based on new environmentally friendly approaches and green-energy technology, will open by August 2012.

On Vavvaru Island (approximately 3 ha) and its lagoon (approximately 95 ha) we will build a fully equipped “field” lab and 4 double accommodations for researchers. The “wet lab” will have a water table with running seawater, as well as many sea water aquariums that will be used for experiments. Then there will be a “dry lab” with microscopes, drying oven, and pre-PCR molecular equipment (freezer, centrifuge, fume hood etc.). Diving and boat facilities for underwater surveys and field experiments will be there as well.

Thanks to the collaboration of different institutions, technicians and young scientists we will take turns to keep the lab at work, even for long-term experiments. Korallion Lab will be at the disposal of every Institution interested in tropical marine studies for partial or full rent at request. Local staff will be able to organize logistics and shipping specimens abroad.