

<http://www.greenlivingonline.com/OurWorld/saving-our-reefs/>

Saving our reefs



Image: istockphoto.com/Tammy Peluso

Sonesta Maho using much larger Reef Balls that weigh up to one ton. The foundation will also participate in a reef monitoring project with the international organization Reef Check. Mother Nature can always use a helping hand. For more information, or if you'd like to create more housewarmings for ocean inhabitants, contact the Nature Foundation of St. Maarten at 542-0267, info@naturefoundationsxm.org or visit www.naturefoundationsxm.org. Browse our full [tag cloud](#).

(Jun 28, 2007) Think of Reef Balls as prefabs for fish: structures made of specially formulated marine-friendly concrete in an assortment of sizes, ranging from six to 5,000 pounds, with holes and tunnels throughout. To attract tenants, living coral is transplanted onto the Reef Balls, which are then strategically placed in good neighborhoods. Let nature take its course and soon you have an ongoing block party of happy marine inhabitants enjoying their new homes.

To get the "balls" rolling, the Nature Foundation enlisted the help of the Reef Ball Development Group and received funding assistance from the Dutch Recovery Fund through the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau. Local volunteers helped install the first 150 Reef Balls south of Little Bay, close to the Carib Cargo shipwreck. A second project, Goliath, is underway to try and restore the beach at