

**Biodiversity and Conservation**

**(BC05)**

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| **Fact Sheet BC05: MINIMIZING THE INTRODUCTION AND DISPERSAL OF NON-NATIVE SPECIES** | |
| **Overview** | |
| *Objective* | Coral reefs is the most spectacular ecosystems and snorkeling is an excellent way to explore them. As coral reefs face an increasingly uncertain future, snorkelers and other coral reef visitors can play an important role in helping protect these fragile habitats. Follow simple guidelines to become a “coral friendly” snorkeler. |
| *Action* | * Never touch corals; even slight contact can harm them. Some corals can sting or cut you. * Select points of entry and exit to avoid walking on corals. * Maintain a comfortable distance from the reef, so as to avoid contact. * Know where your fins are at all times and don’t kick up sand. * Stay horizontal in the water while you’re near or above the reef. * Learn to swim without using your arms. * Take nothing living or dead out of the water except recent garbage * which does not have living organisms on it. * Move slowly and deliberately in the water—relax as you swim and take your time. * Avoid using gloves in coral environments. * Remember, look but don’t touch. * Never chase, harass or try to ride marine life. * Never touch or handle marine life. |
| *Key Challenges* | Patrolling and monitor tourists behaviors |
| *Regulatory Aspects* | * Law 4 for 1994 of environment * Law 102 for 1983 for protected areas |
| **Process** | |
| *Complexity* | Moderate |
| *Equipment & Material* | brochures, leaflets, signs, videos and awareness materials |
| *Human Resources* | Hotel trained staff |
| **Considerations** | |
| *Advantages* | * Grantee that marine environment is in a good condition * Conserve the main resources that tourist come to enjoy * Contribute the regional conservation actions |
| *Disadvantages* | None |
| **Impact** | |
| *Environmental* | * Enhance the resources conservation status * Keep healthy ecosystem |
| *Employment Opportunities* | yes |