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“Reef for Life”: An Anthropological Study of Nature, People and Coral Conservation on Lakshadweep Islands, Indian Ocean

This project is an attempt to understand the making of a climate change resilient city. By situating this concern on the coral island of Kavaratti (Lakshadweep), the project would examine how human and non-human intimacies influence the future of city. The coral reefs are attached to various forms of life on the island. The health, death and resilience of the corals in the Anthropocene is regarded as a matter for ‘livability’ in this space. As such, the smart city mission of the Government of India envisions Kavaratti to become an eco-friendly city. This is ensued through technoscientific interventions such as desalination plants, incineration units and artificial reef restoration projects. Through ethnographic accounts of the various actors, this project would examine the significance of reef-human entanglements in resisting climate change. The project also aims at knowing the changing definitions of city in the Anthropocene wherein co-habitation is the key for endurance.