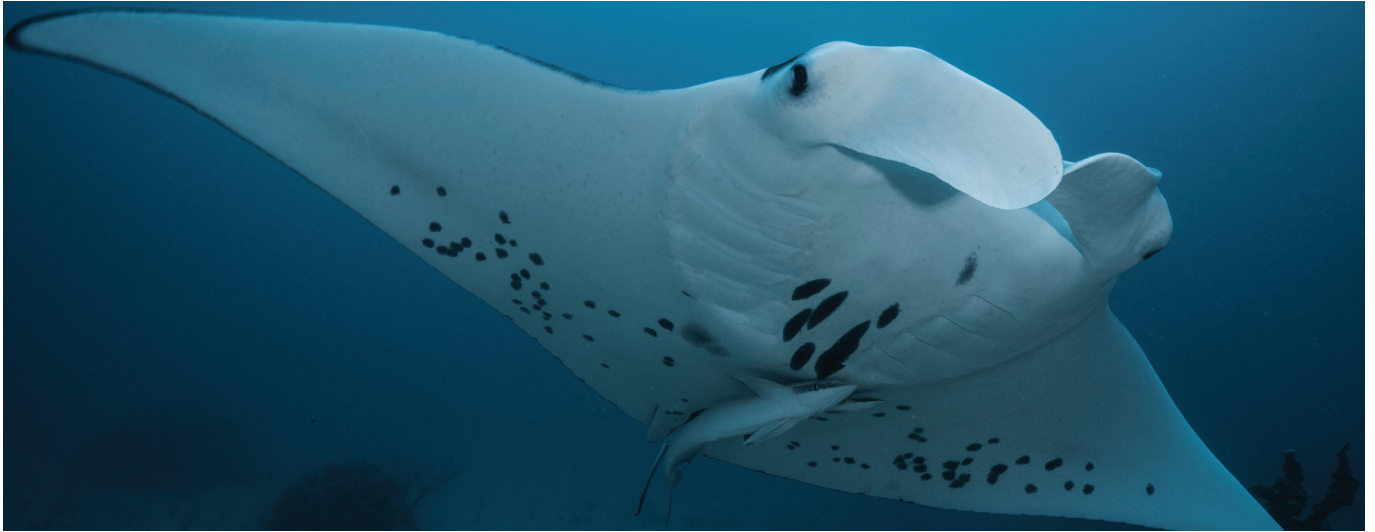




# Adopt a Manta Initiative



## KOKOMO MANTA CONSERVATION PROJECT

The aims of the Kokomo Manta Conservation Project are to monitor and conserve manta rays as best as possible in the waters surrounding Kokomo. The Kokomo Manta Conservation Project works in collaboration with the Manta Project Fiji (an affiliate of the Manta Trust). Since collaborating, Kokomo has helped identify over 120 manta rays around Kadavu and has started the first ever manta tagging program in Fiji. Key aspects of the collaborative work include promoting sustainable interactions, photo identification work and the tagging project.

## TAGGING PROJECT

In 2019 the Kokomo Manta Conservation Project launched the first ever Acoustic Tagging Project and in 2020 we launched the first ever Satellite Tagging Project with tagging research being led by Luke Gordon (Project Leader of the Manta Project Fiji). The tagging research aims to identify key habitat areas that manta rays use locally around Kokomo (via the acoustic tagging project) and also the greater Fiji area (via the satellite tagging project) so that we can help monitor and best protect these areas.

To date we have fitted 35 manta rays with acoustic tags and have deployed 16 hydrophone receiver devices. The acoustic tags emit high frequency pings that the receiver devices can detect. This helps give us insight into how long different individuals are spending at different locations around Kokomo. We have also fitted 11 manta rays with satellite tags (SPOT and MiniPAT tags). The satellite work has helped confirm that Reef Manta Rays do travel between island groups in Fiji and has also confirmed the deepest diving Reef Manta Ray in Fiji for the first time (soon to be published). This project is the first of its kind in Fiji and the South Pacific ground-breaking for science and conservation.

*"...first of its kind in Fiji and the South Pacific ground breaking for science and conservation..."*

## HOW TO ADOPT A MANTA RAY

The collaborative research between the Kokomo Manta Conservation Project and The Manta Project Fiji is helping answer a lot of important questions about manta rays in Fiji, yet there is still a lot we do not know and are still hoping to discover.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

The Adopt a Manta program offer guests that are passionate about conservation the opportunity to adopt a manta ray by making a donation to the collaborative work between Kokomo and the Manta Trust to protect manta rays in the waters surrounding Kokomo. Donations will go towards the following equipment:

- Bronze - \$500 USD Bronze Adoption package will receive a Manta Teddy, Adoption Certificate, and the Kokomo Manta Monthly Newsletter. \$500 USD is the cost of an acoustic tag.
- Silver - \$1600 USD Silver Adoption package will receive a Manta Teddy, Adoption Certificate, the Kokomo Manta Monthly Newsletter, and a Kokomo Keep Cup. \$1600 USD is the minimum cost of an acoustic hydrophone receiver device.
- Gold - \$2,500 (satellite tag): Gold Adoption package will receive a Manta Teddy, Adoption Certificate, the Kokomo Manta Monthly Newsletter, a Kokomo Water Bottle and the opportunity to Name a Manta Ray. \$2500 USD is the minimum cost of a satellite tag

Manta adoptions are set at a minimum of \$500 USD as this is the cost of an individual acoustic tag however we greatly accept any further donations. All proceeds go directly to equipment for the research. Guests will receive regular bi-monthly updates on their manta's progress, where they have been sighted and any exciting news from our ongoing research. Adopters and donators will also be acknowledged in any publications. Adoptions can be added to your room bill during your stay or can be later made via wire transfer. Please contact the Kokomo Marine Biology Team for more information about payment options.

Check out our [Kokomo Manta Adoption Page](#) to see some of our mantas that are currently available for adoption.

## CONTACT US

If you have any questions or queries about the research and adoption program please feel free to contact the Kokomo Marine Biology Team.

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