

Reef Resilience Network

ACCELERATING LEARNING & ACTION TO PROTECT CORAL REEFS GLOBALLY



A GLOBAL LEARNING & EXCHANGE NETWORK

The Reef Resilience Network connects marine managers and practitioners with peers, tools, knowledge, and global experts to innovate and promote solutions for improved management, protection, and restoration of coral reefs around the world.

To achieve this, we:

- Synthesize and share the latest science and management strategies to keep busy managers in-the-know
- Connect managers and experts to share resources and lessons learned, and inspire greater collaboration
- Provide training, technical assistance, and seed funding to catalyze action on the ground and in the water and support countries to achieve their 30 x 30 marine protection goals



We've provided in-person and online training

87% of the 103 countries and territories

The Caribbean



aining to managers and practitioners in

teritories with coral reefs to improve management



-  Coral reef locations
-  Countries and territories that have received training from The Reef Resilience Network

44,000

*managers and practitioners
trained online and
in-person to improve
reef management*



IMPROVING MANAGEMENT

Managers and practitioners need training and mentorship to incorporate resilience concepts into their management strategies and regulatory policies to achieve protection targets.

The Network provides this support through capacity-building activities for more than 44,000 marine managers and practitioners who have designed and managed marine protected areas; updated management plans to be climate smart and protect critical reef habitats, developed and implemented restoration, coral bleaching response, and disease response plans; used reef monitoring protocols to inform resilience-based management; and more.



"With new skills and funding from the Reef Resilience Network, I hosted a workshop bringing together 35 representatives from 7 villages who depend on park resources for subsistence to discuss challenges facing our park and ideas to address these challenges. Now village representatives join park staff in the patrol boat to help us monitor and enforce. Now they feel like they are a part of the park and the park helps provide jobs."

—Haji Mahingika, Senior Marine Warden,
Mafia Island Marine Park

MANAGER SPOTLIGHT: LAKESHIA ANDERSON-ROLLE, IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF MPAS IN THE BAHAMAS

Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle, Executive Director for the Bahamas National Trust, knows the Network well. Over the past seven years, she's participated in multiple Network trainings on marine protected area design, reef resilience, and strategic communication. She wanted her staff of park managers, wardens, planners, scientists, and outreach officers to experience the same in-depth support, so—just months after taking on her current role—she asked the Network to help build her team's capacity to improve the management and protection of the 32 national parks and protected areas (890,308 hectares) under their responsibility.



“The trainings and resources the Reef Resilience Network provide are essential to building the skills of protected area managers and practitioners to improve management of our marine parks. The Network played a key role in building my own expertise to effectively engage people for the long-term management of MPAs in The Bahamas. This training is essential for all persons involved in protected area management.”

—Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle, Executive Director, Bahamas National Trust



Photo: Zaria Dean/Bahamas National Trust

MANAGER SPOTLIGHT: WHITNEY HOOT, BUILDING RESILIENCE OF GUAM'S REEFS

With training and support from the Network, Whitney Hoot coordinated the development of a comprehensive, stakeholder-driven coral reef resilience strategy for Guam and created outreach materials to generate buy-in for the plan among government officials and community members. In June 2019, the Government of Guam formally adopted the Guam Reef Resilience Strategy (GRRS) via executive order, calling for its immediate implementation. The GRRS, which will be updated and renewed in 2025, has since been used by the Guam Coral Reef Initiative and other GovGuam entities to guide coral reef management efforts. Since its implementation, the GRRS has been utilized to support applications for funding from multiple federal and nonfederal grant makers and prioritize activities undertaken by local coral reef managers, including reef restoration projects and community outreach efforts for Guam's 22,500 hectares of reef.

“When I started as a National Coral Reef Management Fellow for Guam in 2016, I knew I had to write a resilience strategy, so I took the Introduction to Reef Resilience online course, then the Advanced Reef Resilience and Strategic Communication courses. These trainings—and others since—have been invaluable to my job and career. As managers, we’re often told to read the literature, but we don’t have time to sort through all of the applicable publications and reports. What I really love about the Reef Resilience Network is that it effectively walks the line between being technical and accessible.”

–Whitney Hoot, Executive Director, U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee Secretariat and former Program Manager, Guam Coral Reef Initiative





970,000+

people visit our website annually

42,000+

webinar recordings viewed

A GLOBAL HUB FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

To make sure busy managers have access to the latest science and management strategies—and are challenged and inspired by new ideas—our website places relevant and reliable information at their fingertips. Created and updated by global experts in coral reefs, climate change, management planning, communication, and more, the website features:

- Two dozens of toolkits and eight comprehensive online courses synthesizing the latest science and strategies on reef management, protection, and restoration
- Easily searchable summaries of 200+ journal articles about reef resilience science
- A database of case studies highlighting management strategies from 40+ countries & territories
- Webinars (interactive and recorded) on key topics and innovative strategies



"The Reef Resilience Network is the go-to website for managers and practitioners seriously interested in any aspect of conservation or restoration of coral reefs."

-Dr. Anastazia Banaszak, Integrative Reef Conservation Research Lab,
Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Universidad Nacional
Autónoma de México



Photo: Elijah Sands/Bahamas National Trust

CONNECTING TO INFORM & INSPIRE

The Network brings managers and leading experts from around the world together to share ideas, experiences, and expertise that inspire action. Network-hosted learning exchanges and webinars on relevant topics in marine resource management foster both in-person and online connections.



“After learning from a behavior change expert during the Network’s Wastewater Pollution Mentored Online Course, I was inspired to bring behavior change skills to marine managers in the Caribbean through CREW+, an integrated approach to water and wastewater management using innovative and small-scale solutions. In July 2023, in partnership with Rare and the Network, the United Nations Environment Programme hosted 29 managers from across the Caribbean to learn and apply behavior change strategies to projects that reduce wastewater pollution in the Caribbean Sea.”

-Christopher Corbin, Cartagena Convention Secretariat,
Ecosystems Division, UN Environment Programme

CATALYZING SCIENCE & POLICY TO PROTECT REEFS

Network scientists and partners have developed seminal scientific papers and best practice manuals to guide restoration, resilience assessments, resilience-based management, strategic communication, and more. From addressing key research and resource gaps to supporting enabling environments for reef protection and restoration, the Network team is building the capacity of reef managers to influence policies that better protect and conserve reefs. The Network team also supports global policy efforts to protect and restore reefs through the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).



“The Reef Resilience Network is a key partner in our work with nations and organizations to preserve coral reefs. We rely on their capacity-building activities and opportunities for the ICRI network and their participation and guidance in key working groups as we highlight the importance of coral reefs on the global policy stage.”

–Francis Staub, Coordinator,
International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat



Photo: Jeff Yonover



Photo: Resilient Reefs Initiative, Great Barrier Reef Foundation/Gary Cranitch, Queensland Museum


PARTNERING FOR GREATER IMPACT & INNOVATION


The Network partners with global leaders to accelerate the development and application of leading-edge tools to address the most significant challenges to reefs today and support managers in effective protection efforts. Key collaborations include:

- Launching the Resilience-based Management Online Course in collaboration with the Resilient Reefs Initiative and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- Developing tools for managers to address ocean wastewater pollution, including a wastewater pollution online toolkit, course, and webinar series in collaboration with the Ocean Sewage Alliance and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Supporting governments and communities to identify and protect their “super reefs”—resilient reefs that, if protected from human threats, can spawn new generations of resilient corals. The Super Reefs alliance is led by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Stanford University and The Nature Conservancy
- Scaling the application of restoration best practices globally through our work with the Coral Restoration Consortium, Australia’s Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program, and ICRI; in the Western Indian Ocean through a partnership with TNC Africa; and in U.S. coral jurisdictions with NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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The Nature
Conservancy 

 NOAA
CORAL REEF
CONSERVATION PROGRAM