

THE BAHAMAS POST HURRICANE DORIAN RECONSTRUCTION



ENVIRONMENT

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MARINE RESOURCES Department of Marine

Coral Restoration Project, Abaco

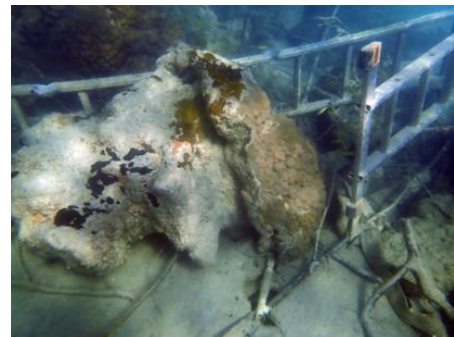
1. BACKGROUND



Coral reefs are vital to supporting the biodiversity of The Bahamas and provide ecosystem services including supporting fisheries, protecting beaches and shorelines from seasonal storms, and supporting tourism, valued in the billions of dollars annually.

Recent advances in coral restoration and coral reef rehabilitation, however, show promise for helping reefs recover from impacts like those

caused by Hurricane Dorian. To safeguard The Bahamas' coral reefs and ecosystem there are three basic techniques for restoring corals the Department seeks to explore to rehabilitate reefs in water nurseries, micro fragmentation and larval propagation. In wake of Hurricane Dorian and climate change, the Department of Marine Resources commits to resilient means of adaptation to protect its coral reef ecosystem.



2. VISION FOR CORAL RESTORATION

It is the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources intention to develop plans that improve the management of the country's coral reefs, maintain globally significant biodiversity and sustain a healthy marine environment.

3. CORAL RESTORATION PROJECT

The project aims to facilitate the recovery of coral reefs by restoring key coral species and other organisms. The Coral Restoration Centre will be based on Abaco and employ all three coral restoration techniques as well as captive breeding and head start programs for other key species needed to preserve the function and resilience of coral reef ecosystems.

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In addition, the Coral Restoration Centre will also serve as a training facility to provide hands on scientific training for Bahamian undergraduate and post graduate students and provide educational programs for youth programs.

- Lab facilities needed for processing coral samples, conducting controlled experiments, and mass fertilization of coral eggs during spawning times;
- Land-based flow through aquaculture facility specifically designed for effective and efficient coral growth at the appropriate scale for reef rehabilitation for multiple reef sites;
- In water nurseries at multiple locations
- Boat and diving capabilities to support coral reef health assessments and rehabilitation efforts
- Staffing of 4-6 people including PhD level coral experts and technicians

TOTAL AMOUNT US\$ 5 MILLION