RESEARCH AND COMPLIANCE SUMMARY · 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Reef Tribe

reeftribe.org · A research library for a conservation-led coral reef project in the Philippines

Status

In planning. Not operating. No permits held. No partners, sites, staff or opening dates announced. No results of its own are reported.

Approach

Protect first, then restore: (1) preserve living reef; (2) clean the water and watershed; (3) restore populations through gardening, microfragmentation and larval reseeding; (4) regenerate resilience only inside a clear ethics and permit frame; (5) create new structure only where the substrate is gone. Global reviews find most restoration projects small (median about 100 m^2) and short-term (Boström-Einarsson et al. 2020).

The ten Reef Zones

1. Preservation & Protection
2. Water Quality & Watersheds
3. Coral Gardening & Nurseries
4. Microfragmentation & Land-Based Propagation
5. Larval Reseeding & Sexual Restoration
6. Assisted Evolution & Climate-Ready Corals
7. Creating New Reef Systems
8. Science & Monitoring
9. Community, Livelihoods & Tourism Done Right
10. Philippines & the Coral Triangle

Philippine institutions cited (not partners)

- University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI)
- Marine Environment and Resources Foundation (MERF)
- Silliman University Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences (SU-IEMS)
- UP Visayas College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
- Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU)
- Mindanao State University at Naawan, CoReM Hub
- Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation (CCEF)
- El Nido Foundation
- Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
- Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI-CFF)

Regulatory frame (to be confirmed with counsel and agencies)

Coral collection is generally prohibited except for scientific or research purposes under special permit, and in-water coral work would be led by Filipino scientific and community partners. Agencies: BFAR, DENR (BMB, PAMB), DENR-EMB, LGUs and, in Palawan, PCSD.

- 1987 Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 2
- Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, Sec. 91 (RA 8550)
- BFAR FAO 202, s. 2000, Ban on Coral Exploitation and Exportation
- FAO 233 (2010), Aquatic Wildlife Conservation
- Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (RA 9147)
- Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018 (RA 11038)
- PD 1586 / Philippine EIS System (DENR-EMB ECC/CNC)
- Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 (RA 9275)
- RA 8970, prohibition on hard surfactants in laundry and industrial detergents
- Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act (RA 7611)
- Presidential Proclamation No. 32, s. 1998 (ENTMRPA)

- 13th Regular Foreign Investment Negative List (EO 113, s. 2026)
- MARINA Circular SR-2020-02, sewage treatment plants on PH-registered ships

Key references

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4. Hughes TP, et al. (2018). Spatial and temporal patterns of mass bleaching of corals in the Anthropocene. *Science*. doi:10.1126/science.aan8048
5. Souter D, Planes S, et al. (eds.) (2021). Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020. *Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network / International Coral Reef Initiative*. doi:10.59387/WOTJ9184
6. González-Rivero M, Dallison T, et al. (eds.) (2026). Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2025. *Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network / International Coral Reef Initiative*. doi:10.59387/LFPR6347
7. Goergen EA, et al. (2020). Coral reef restoration monitoring guide: Methods to evaluate restoration success from local to ecosystem scales. *NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS NCCOS 279*. doi:10.25923/xndz-h538
8. Shaver EC, et al. (2020). A Manager's Guide to Coral Reef Restoration Planning and Design. *NOAA Technical Memorandum CRCP 36*. doi:10.25923/vht9-tv39
9. Hein MY, et al. (2017). The need for broader ecological and socioeconomic tools to evaluate the effectiveness of coral restoration programs. *Restoration Ecology*. doi:10.1111/rec.12580
0. Fabricius KE (2005). Effects of terrestrial runoff on the ecology of corals and coral reefs: review and synthesis. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. doi:10.1016/j.marpolbul.2004.11.028
1. Cabaitan PC, Yap HT, Gomez ED (2015). Performance of single versus mixed coral species for transplantation to restore degraded reefs. *Restoration Ecology*. doi:10.1111/rec.12205
2. Gill DA, et al. (2017). Capacity shortfalls hinder the performance of marine protected areas globally. *Nature*. doi:10.1038/nature21708

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