

Restoration Planning for Guam's Coral Reefs

What is restoration?

Two forms of coral restoration are <u>active</u> and <u>passive</u> restoration. Active coral restoration includes programs that work to increase the health, abundance or biodiversity of coral reefs. Passive restoration on Guam refers to the establishment of marine preserves. This workshop, which will aid in developing the Guam Coral Reef Restoration Action Plan, will focus on <u>active coral restoration</u>.

Why is restoration important?

Active coral restoration helps to increase coral reef resilience to disturbances, such as rising sea temperatures and severe weather. Guam's coral reefs protect the island's coastlines from storms and erosion, provide habitat for marine life, provide jobs for the local community, and offer opportunities for recreation.

RESTORATION PLANNING PROCESS

1 SET GOAL AND GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

3 RESTORATION GOALS FOR GUAM

- 1. The structure and function of coral reef communities are restored to enhance reef resilience to thermal stress;
- 2. Reef fish habitat is restored to support noncommercial and commercial fisheries: and
- 3. Ecologically-important and/or rare coral taxa and genotypes that have experienced significant decline are recovered to sustain their specific functions and maintain biodiversity to enhance resilience.

2
IDENTIFY,
PRIORITIZE
AND SELECT
SITES

PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK

The framework is used to semi-quantitatively "score" the sites that are candidates for restoration, and thus assigning each site with either high, medium, or low priority.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We are currently working on Site Selection and need input from stakeholders to ensure that the Action Plan will not only benefit Guam's coral reefs, but also the local community.

