

COASTAL & MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

- Enhance the resilience and natural adaptive capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems by increasing protections and reducing local impacts.

Coral reefs experiencing increased bleaching, structural damage, disease and death due to increased ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and more intense hurricane events and storm surges.



- Improve management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). (PA)
- Implement a rotating system of closure (recovery periods) for reefs. (PA)
- Decrease damage from divers and snorkelers by introducing mandatory orientations. (PA)
- Decrease anchor damage - mandate an orientation for skippers and bareboat charters, implement stricter controls on mega yacht/small cruise ship anchoring, and increase capacity and maintenance of the buoy system and mandate its use. (PA)
- Decrease sedimentation – require timely paving of roads/driveways, create a permit system for the regrading of roads and land clearing, restrict vegetation clearing to the construction footprint and require timely landscaping, improve capture/reuse of stormwater. (PA)
- Decrease marine nutrient pollution - improve sewage management at land and sea through construction of tertiary treatment systems and pump-out stations.



Photo credit: Shannon Gore, Conservation and Fisheries Department

Decrease agricultural runoff. (PA)

- Increase monitoring of coral reefs. (PA)
- Increase public awareness about coral reefs. (PA)
- Develop coral nurseries to repair damaged reefs and rear species resilient to bleaching. (PA)
- Create artificial reefs. (AA)
- Use low-voltage electrical current to stimulate coral reef re-growth (AA).

Landward migration or inundation of mangroves. Increase in mortality from stronger hurricanes.

- Strongly protect all remaining significant mangrove forests. (PA)
- Expand and enhance mangrove reforestation programme. (PA)
- Land use planning to allow room for landward migration of significant mangrove forests. (PA)
- Shelter young mangroves from storm surges by protecting natural coral reefs and, where suitable, constructing artificial reefs in priority areas. (PA)

Photo credit: Shannon Gore, Conservation and Fisheries Department



Decreased growth of seagrass beds and increased stress and mortality.

- Enhance legal protections for seagrass beds. (PA)
- Protect seagrass beds from high-energy waves by protecting coral reefs. (PA)