



National Environment
and Planning Agency

Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network Partnership for Success

*Expert Group Meeting on “Implementing Rio+20:
Integrated Planning for Sustainable Coastal Area
Management in the Caribbean Region*

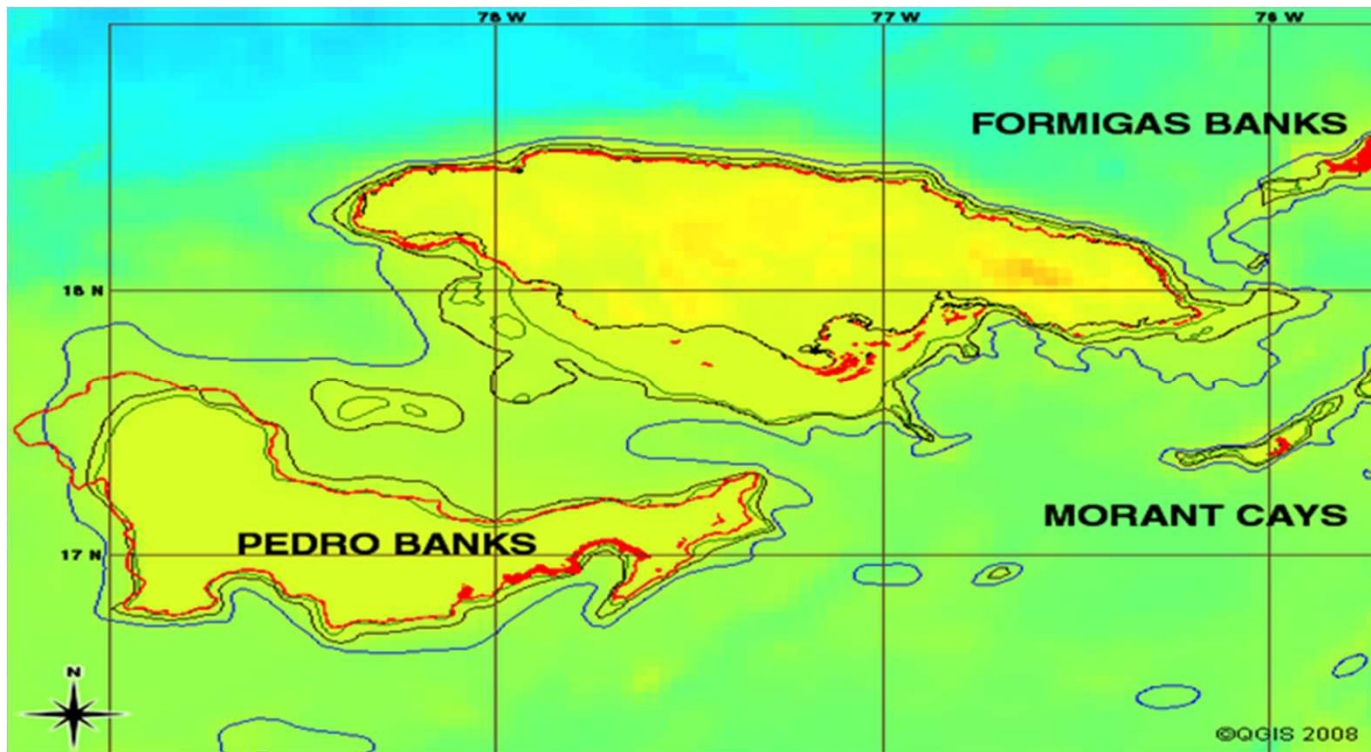
March 17-18, 2014
ECLAC subregional Headquarters
Port of Spain, Trinidad

Loúreene Jones

Managing and protecting Jamaica’s land, wood & water

Background

Jamaica – Archipelagic state (66 rocks, cays, islands)



1240 km² of coral reef

Managing and protecting Jamaica's land, wood & water



National Environment &
Planning Agency

Historical Context

- 1950s - North coast reefs were the most studied due to the presence/location of the DBML and accessibility of the reefs
- 2002 - Consistent and methodical reef assessments began with the establishment of 4 long-term monitoring sites within the boundaries of the Negril Marine Park
- 2003 - Formation of the Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network - coordinate monitoring, improve data availability and information

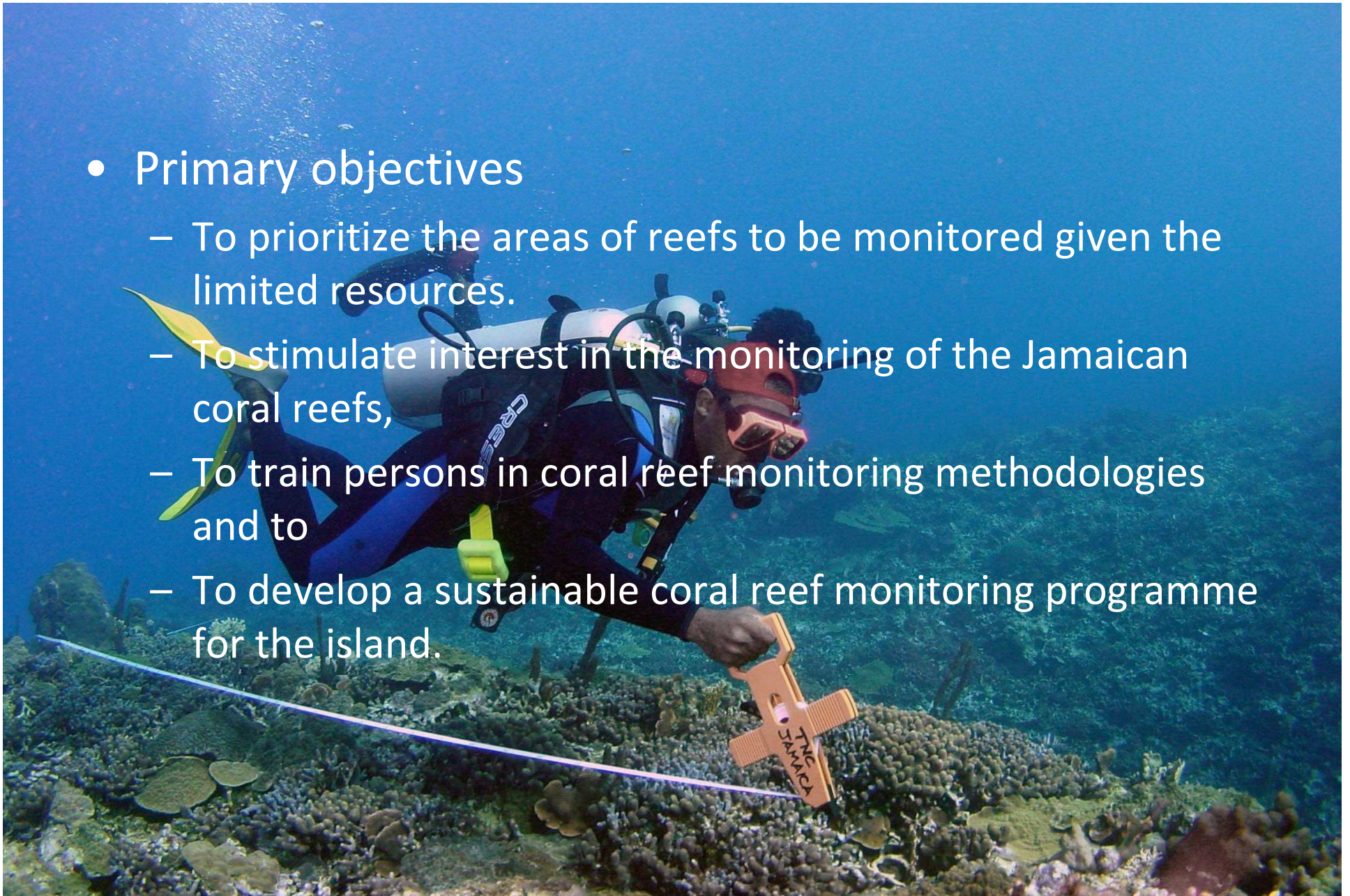
JCRMN

- The Network acts as an umbrella organization and seeks to prioritize on the areas of reefs to be monitored given the limited resources.
 - Consists of agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals involved in coral reef monitoring, research and/or management
- Launched by Caribbean Coastal Data Centre UWI, Mona
- Cadre of trained volunteer divers - provide support to future monitoring activities around the island.

JCRMN

- Primary objectives

- To prioritize the areas of reefs to be monitored given the limited resources.
- To stimulate interest in the monitoring of the Jamaican coral reefs,
- To train persons in coral reef monitoring methodologies and to
- To develop a sustainable coral reef monitoring programme for the island.



Entities represented in 2003

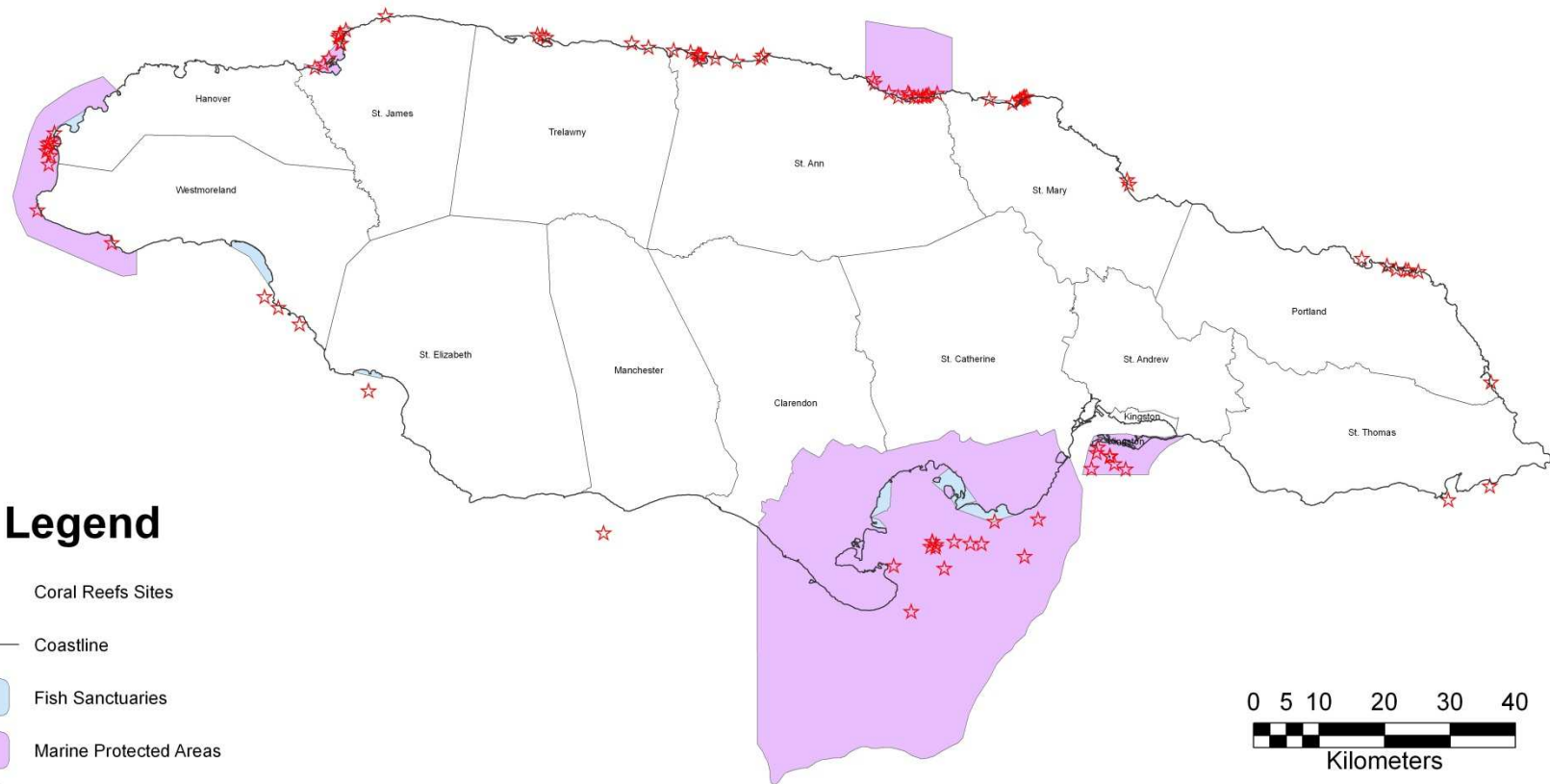
- Caribbean Coastal Data Centre (CCDC/CMS -UWI)
- National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
- UWI Sub-Aqua Club (USAC)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Caribbean Coastal Area management Foundation (CCAM)
- Institute of Jamaica (IOJ)
- Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS)
- Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory (DBML)
- Montego Bay Marine Park (MBMP)
- Friends of the Sea
- Fisheries Division

Achievements

- Since its inception the JCRMN has to conducted training and monitoring at several sites
 - 73 reef sites island-wide.
 - Assess bleaching and recovery (2005)
 - Assisted with monitoring
 - 5 sites in Haiti (Sept 2003)
 - 18 sites Turks and Caicos Islands (Aug 2007)

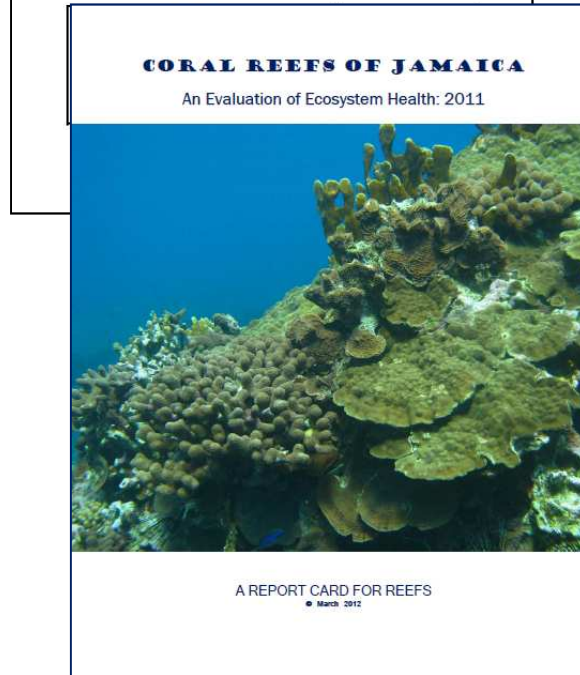
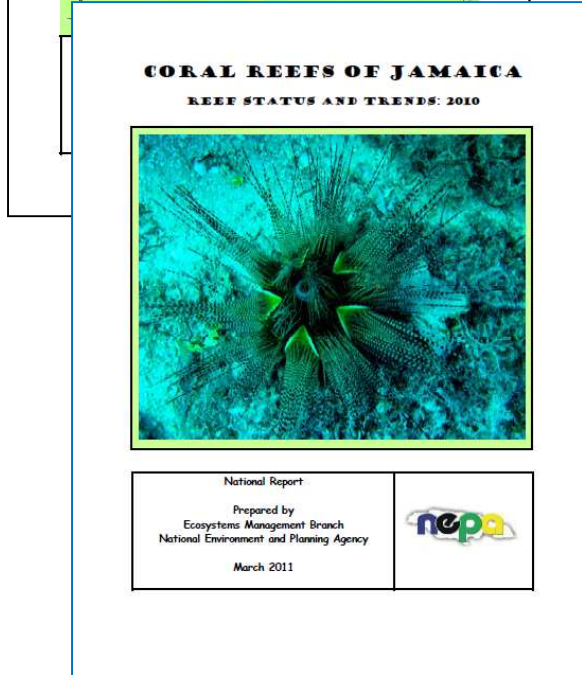
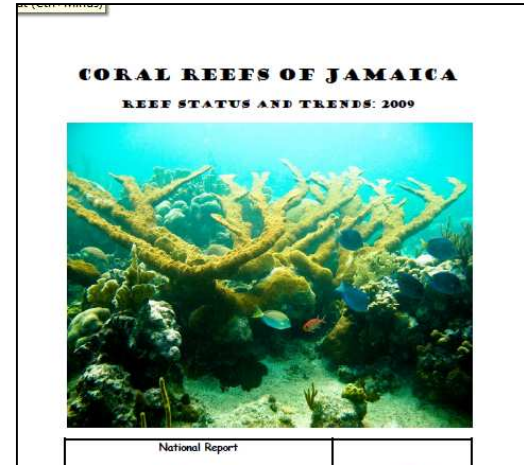
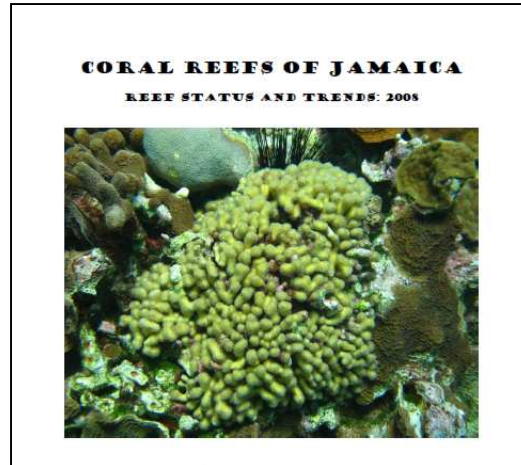
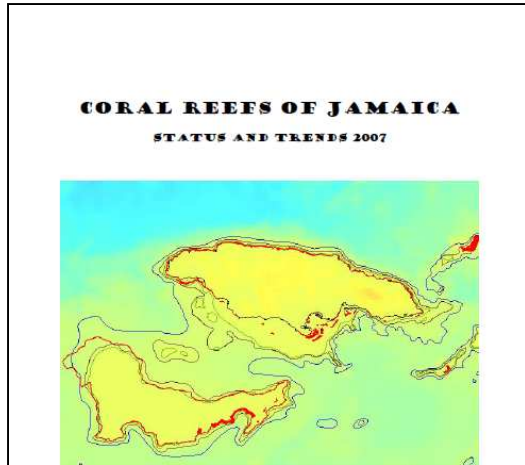
Coral Reef Data Sites

- 4 sites in 2002
- Data on 73 sites



Annual Reports

Wholistic approach to track and improve ecosystem health



Modus Operandi

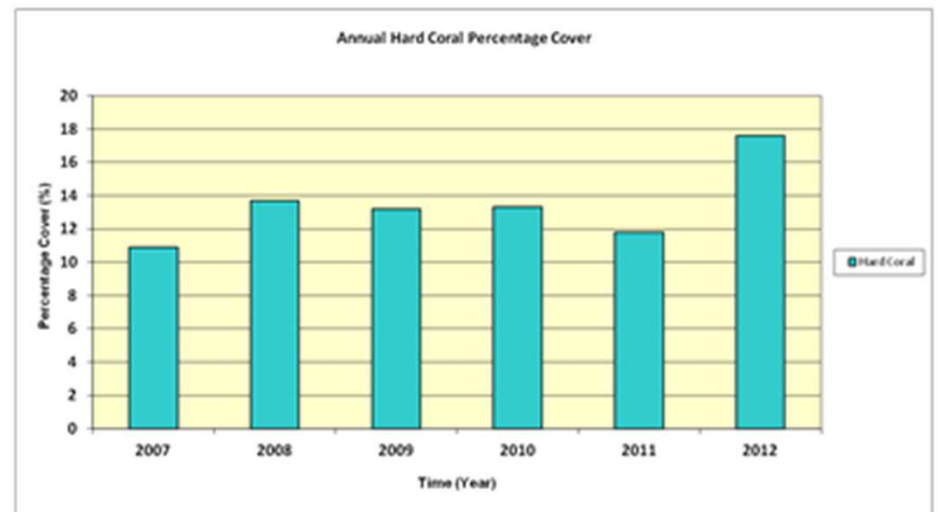
- *egroup* - provides updates and is used to coordinate volunteers.
- Quarterly meeting to evaluate the progress of the network, plan for future activities and explore funding opportunities.
- Data - archived at the CCDC and also sent to Reef Check International.
- Inform on status of the reef to global publications

Monitoring Protocols

- Photo-transects
- Reef Check
- AGRRA – Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment
- CPACC – Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change Project

Current State

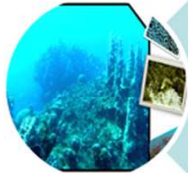
- 2007 – Reef assessments institutionalized in NEPA
- Reef monitoring coordinated By NEPA
 - Additional volunteers co-opted for assessment of multiple remote sites
- Annual status reports produced



Major Challenges



Ability to assess all of our coral reef resources

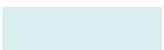


Strengthen public education programme



Funding to replicate best practices island-wide

Strengthen and improve the role of partners.



The Future

- Revitalize the Network
 - Re-assessment of cays of PBPA
 - **Bleach-Watch Programme** -coral bleaching response plan
 - Recruitment and training of new divers in reef assessment methodologies.