

Reef Resilience Toolkit Updates Summary

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Reef Resilience Toolkit Updates Summary

Year 1

As of March 31, 2010, we completed a technical review of the latest resilience science including: identification of Toolkit updates based on the review and journal summaries (and associated journal articles/editorial). The following content updates have been completed: bleaching basics, herbivorous reef fish monitoring, identifying resilience, resilience monitoring, and resilient MPA design. New case studies have been developed and included in the Toolkit from the following geographies: Raja Ampat, Sumatra, Mozambique, Australia, the British Virgin Islands, Aceh and Wakatobi. Case study updates have also been completed and uploaded to www.reefresilience.org. Finally, a new section has been added to the online toolkit on ocean acidification.

Year 2

We produced 1000 DVDs featuring a new version of the R2 Toolkit and to date, have distributed almost all of the copies. We also updated the existing toolkit content and added new topics and case studies. We notified our user network of these updates and additions through the Reef Resilience Review newsletter, which is distributed quarterly. As a result of our annual technical review, we updated a number of topics including bleaching basics, ocean acidification and identifying resilience. We also developed new sections, based on interest from managers in the field, on social resilience, restoration and disease. In addition, we reviewed and wrote summaries of more than 10 new journal articles and added them to the toolkit. Finally, we developed seven new case studies that focused on implementing resilience principles in Fiji, the Florida Keys and USVI, Maui, Guam-CNMI-Palau, Lesser Sundas and US Virgin Islands. We also updated existing studies for the Federated States of Micronesia, Bonaire, Palau, Wakatobi, MesoAmerican Reef, Mozambique and Kimbe Bay. These updates take into account the substantial progress that has been made in implementing resilience-based management strategies. Whenever appropriate, new material is also incorporated into our training curriculum and shared amongst our partner organizations. The Reef Resilience Toolkit was the focus of several trainings this year, including the Conservancy's "Training of Trainers Workshop" and Coral Reef Alliance's Reef Resilience Training series.

Year 3

A major external review was conducted of the Reef Resilience Toolkit and based on the results of this review, significant updates were made to both the Toolkit content and online course in Years 3 and 4. These updates were primarily focused on the science content of the Toolkit and the need to keep this current with the rapid pace of change in our understanding of climate, ocean acidification and resilience. This external review also provided extensive feedback on toolkit structure, accessibility and overall structure. In April 2012 a five day meeting was held to evaluate the review comments, identify gaps and develop a new structure for the Toolkit.

All seventeen existing cases studies in the toolkit have been updated and six new case studies covering projects in Honduras, the Bahamas, Mexico, Tobago, American Samoa, and the Indo-Pacific have been developed and added. In addition, the case study section of the website was revised to make it easier for managers to find topics of interest using an enhanced search function. During the year we also reviewed and wrote summaries of 13 new journal articles.

We produced and distributed copies of the updated toolkit upon request. Since 2011, more than 1,000 copies of the DVD have been distributed.

The R2 Toolkit continued to be the focus of several trainings in the past year, including The Nature Conservancy's Southeast Asia Training of Trainers Course, the Coral Reef Alliance's Reef Resilience Trainings with dive operators in the Caribbean, as well as a session at the International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium Conference in Guadalupe.

Year 4

After the toolkit review in Year 3, restructuring and significant rewriting took place and new content was added on communications, management strategies, and threats to coral reefs. As part of the R2 Toolkit revision process, an expanded set of materials on communications and brand new sections on management strategies and facilitation have been added. Significant new content has been developed throughout the coral reef module specifically in the areas of identifying resilience, stressors to coral reefs and resilient MPA design. The new Toolkit and Coral Reef Module was made live in December 2013. We developed a launch plan to advertise the improved resource to coral reef managers and partners. The toolkit continues to receive a high number of hits with an average of 13,724 unique visitors per month for the last six months (Apr.-Sep. 2013).

In addition, the following six new case studies were developed and added to the Coral Reef Module. These case studies were written using a new template to better highlight specific strategies for managers that can be replicated between sites. The new case studies are:

- The Establishment of a Marine Eco-Park to Support Conservation and Environmental Education in Tanzania
- Managing Fisheries for Reef Resilience: Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area
- Restoring Reef Resilience Through Algae Removal and Urchin Biocontrols in Kāneʻohe Bay
- Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification to Reduce Pressure on the Bar Reef Ecosystem, Sri Lanka
- Coastal Reforestation in Tonga to Protect Coastlines
- Comprehensive Watershed Improvements in Laolao Bay, Saipan

We also reviewed and wrote summaries of 20 new journal articles.

Feedback from program staff and partners during the program evaluation highlighted the need to reconsider the distribution of DVDs. Many of the areas we are currently working in have good internet connectivity and program staff have mentioned that DVDs are not always useful and are often used once and discarded. We therefore decided to purchase and use USB drives instead of DVDs for distribution of Toolkit information and training materials. We have purchased 500 USB drives and have already distributed over 30 at the recent Training of Trainers workshop. We produce and distribute copies of the updated toolkit upon request and we are working with staff and partners to identify what is needed to facilitate transfer of Toolkit information to users with low internet connectivity.