

Building Resilience into Coral Reef Management In American Samoa



Photo by: Andy Cornish

Impacts from Climate Change

- Intense cyclones and droughts
- Flooding
- Loss of coral reefs and mangroves
- Loss of coastal infrastructure and land
- Erosion
- Failure of subsistence farming and inshore fisheries
- Spread of diseases

These impacts pose threats and challenges to marine conservation. We cannot control climate change or global warming, but we can improve the management of reefs so they can resist and recover from these threats. This is **RESILIENCE**.



Photo by: Andy Cornish



Photo by: Alex Messina



Photo by: Dr. Bernardo Vargas



Photo by: Alice Lawrence

What is LOST when coral dies?

- Marine biodiversity
- Food
- Coastal protection
- Support for livelihoods
- Recreational activities
- Cultural activities



Photo by: Jeff K.



Photo by: Fatima S. Leau

What RESILIENCE looks like for corals

- High diversity
- High cover
- Strong recovery
- Healthy herbivores
- Low disease
- Good substrate
- Good water quality

What can WE do?

Strengthen Resilience through conservation and sustainable resource management

- Maintain natural freshwater system
- Improve infrastructure
- Promote seasonal planting and agricultural production
- Maintain stabilization of streams through tree planting
- Promote emergency preparedness with adequate lifelines and supplies
- Establish a network of Marine Protected Areas
- Promote community awareness
- Promote local indigenous practices
- Coordinate activities such as the crown of thorns starfish removal; coral bleaching monitoring



Photo by: Soti T. Atoa



Photo by: Fatima S. Leau

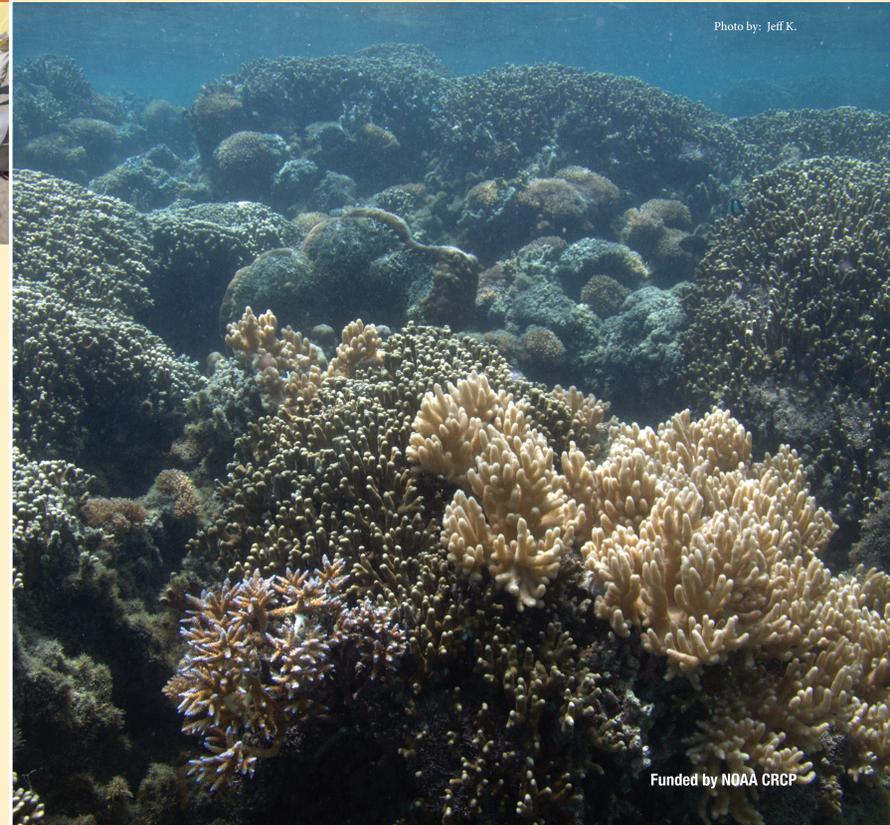


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