

# CORAL CARIB

**Pioneering a new strategic approach for conserving and restoring Caribbean coral reef ecosystems that targets Climate Resilient Refugia**

## REEFS UNDER THREAT

The future of the Caribbean is inextricably linked to the health of its coral reefs. The Caribbean is home to 10% of the world's coral reefs, with 60% of reefs located in the countries of Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica.

Live coral cover – a key measure of coral health – in the Caribbean has declined by 60% over the past few decades due to significant and growing threats including warmer and more acidic oceans, pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, and habitat destruction.

Degradation of coral reef ecosystems, which support fisheries, coastal protection, tourism and recreation revenue, threatens the future and livelihoods of the 44 million people who call the Caribbean home.

## A NEW OPPORTUNITY

**CoralCarib will provide an innovative and science-based path towards coral reef resilience and economic benefits for local communities in the context of climate change.**

The goal of CoralCarib is to improve marine biodiversity in 1,871 hectares of priority coral reef ecosystems in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica, and regionally through scaling. The CoralCarib program was guided by a groundbreaking new approach using scientific modeling on historic and future temperatures, hurricane impacts, and the connectivity among corals, as well as local stakeholder input, to identify and prioritize “Coral Climate Refugia” where CoralCarib activities will take place. These sites are coral reef habitats that are predicted to be more resilient to climate change and have a high capacity to restore other nearby coral reefs. Direct project interventions are expected to reduce threats to coral reefs ecosystems, leverage a significant amount of private and public finance for climate actions, support development of new policies, and create innovative tools and knowledge products to support coral restoration at scale.

With The Nature Conservancy and the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German government, this program will be implemented in partnership with the following organizations:





## UNLOCKING NATURAL SOLUTIONS

Healthier and more resilient reefs will provide socio-economic benefits to people living in the coastal zones in these four countries. The program will pioneer a new strategic approach focused on Coral Climate Refugia sites in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica, designed to protect, restore, and sustainably use coral reefs with high potential to survive future climate impacts, as well as knowledge sharing with Belize. Major activities of CoralCarib include:

1

**Effectively manage and restore coral reef ecosystems, through the assessment,** design and implementation of threat reduction activities and advanced restoration technologies and monitoring in marine managed areas



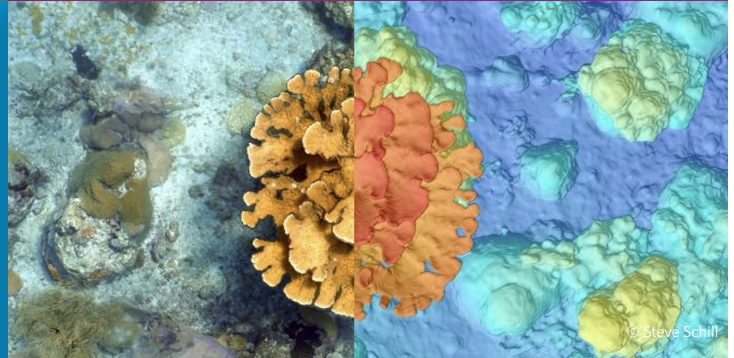
2

**Improve local capacity to carry out sustainable livelihood activities for reef-dependent communities,** through trainings and financial support to enhance, contribute to, or initiate new sustainable livelihood opportunities, further reducing threats to coral reefs



3

**Assess and share the value of coral reef ecosystem services,** using scientific modeling to provide stakeholders with information on the social, cultural, ecological, and economic value of coral reefs to inform policy and strategic plans



4

**Enhance enabling conditions through policy and resource mobilization,** to strengthen regional, national, and local long-term conservation and investment in the Coral Climate Refugia sites



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