Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 15 March 2019
Report Structure

1. **WHAT IS CORAL REEF RESTORATION?**
   Part 1 defines coral reef restoration in the context of climate change and describes current coral reef restoration goals and methods.

2. **CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**
   Part 2 presents opportunities and challenges, particularly around scale, standards, ecosystem integrity, and socio-cultural considerations.

3. **TO RESTORE OR NOT TO RESTORE - A CALL FOR REALISM**
   Part 3 calls for realism and advises caution against the unplanned use of coral reef restoration, especially on reefs where local disturbances cannot be mitigated.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**
   Part 4 highlights general recommendations on using coral reef restoration as a management strategy, focusing on steps to take prior to restoration in the planning and design phase, as well as in the implementation and monitoring phases. Recommendations that are specific to goals and methods are also highlighted.

5. **CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION PLANS**
   Part 5 draws general conclusions and links to trusted sources of information.

6. **CASE STUDIES**
   Part 6 presents six case studies of coral reef restoration efforts in different parts of the world.
Coral reef restoration is becoming a popular tool to assist the recovery of damaged coral reefs. Over the last twenty years, several methods have been developed and applied with varying levels of success. A recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides guidelines for optimising the use of coral reef restoration as a tool to maintain reef ecosystem services.

Coral reef restoration is one of the most promising approaches to support the recovery of degraded coral reefs. However, it faces several challenges, including the need for long-term commitment and the limited availability of funding. The report highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that includes the involvement of local communities and the integration of coral reef restoration into coastal management plans.

Coral reef restoration and climate change
Coral reefs are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, ocean acidification, and increased storm intensity. The report calls for increased efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change on coral reefs.

Challenges
Coral reef restoration faces several challenges, including the need for long-term commitment, the limited availability of funding, and the need for a comprehensive approach.

www.icriforum.org/coralrestoration
New Definition: Focus away from historic baselines

Goals: Ecosystem-services across Ecological and social dimensions

Methods: Current and future
“It is not an ‘either or’ situation, multiple actions need to be implemented concurrently to provide coral reefs with the greatest hope for the future.”

In the face of climate change coral restoration is:

1. **Not a quick-fix**
2. **NEVER an excuse for degradation**
3. **Not a solution on its own**

1. Promoting **genetic diversity + potential** for coral species to **adapt and change**
2. Assisting **species migration**
3. Continuing the **provision of key ecosystem services**
4. Providing an **opportunity for action**
PERSPECTIVES

• Whilst not designed to mitigate climate change, coral restoration can be useful to support resilience—especially at local scale.

• Shouldn’t be mislabelled as a stand-alone, short-term fix - RBM

• Lots of challenges linked to novelty of the field and sense of urgency

• MUST be carefully planned with resilience and climate-smart design in mind
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INTEGRATE with threats and disturbance abatement strategies

2. INCORPORATE projections of climate change impacts and site vulnerabilities

3. CONSIDER prevalence of diseases, physical integrity of the reef, and connectivity of key species in the choice of sites and methods

4. ENGAGE stakeholders and maximise socio-economic benefits to local communities

5. MONITOR to allow for adaptive management and better communication of outcomes
Coral reef restoration targets should be included in commitments as part of UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Policy, plans and funding specific to coral restoration are needed to assist implementation at local, regional and global scales.