

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from the surface, creating a shimmering effect. The reef is composed of various types of coral, including branching corals and large, rounded brain corals. Small fish are visible swimming around the reef.

Coral Restoration in Jamaica: The Policy Context

**By: Ms. Chanel Raynor, Coordinator-Ecosystems
National Environment and Planning Agency**

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 38th General Meeting

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi of Arabia

10 September 2024

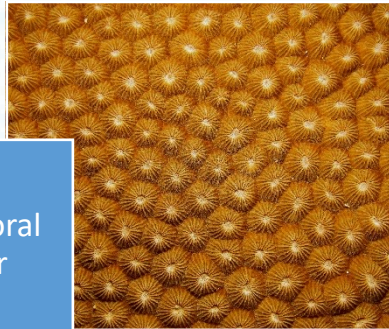
Overview

- **Status of coral reefs in Jamaica**
- **Jamaica's approach to coral restoration**
- **Regulations relevant to coral restoration**

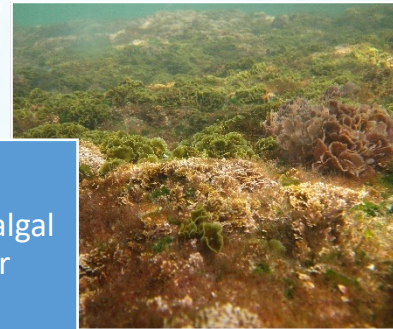


Status of Coral Reefs in Jamaica

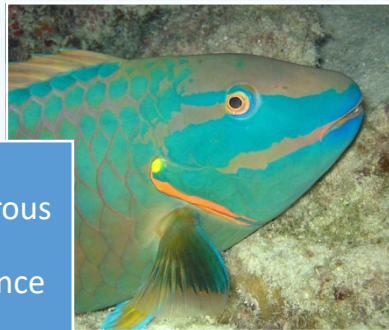
Hard Coral
Cover



Macro-algal
cover



herbivorous
fish
abundance



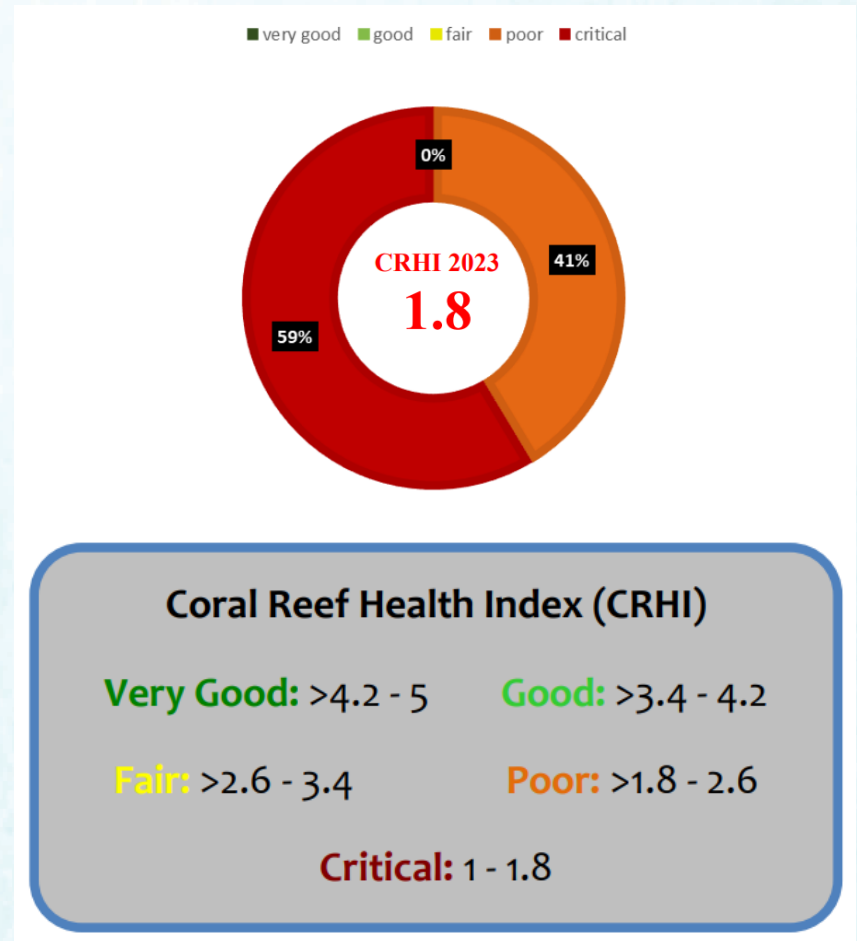
commercially
important
fish
abundance



Coral Reef Health Index (CRHI) determined by the use of four indicators:

Status of Coral Reefs in Jamaica

- 41% of reef sites assessed were ranked as 'poor' (12 sites).
- 58% were ranked as critical (17 sites).



Based on assessments conducted on 29 reef sites across 12 locations from April 2023 to November 2023.

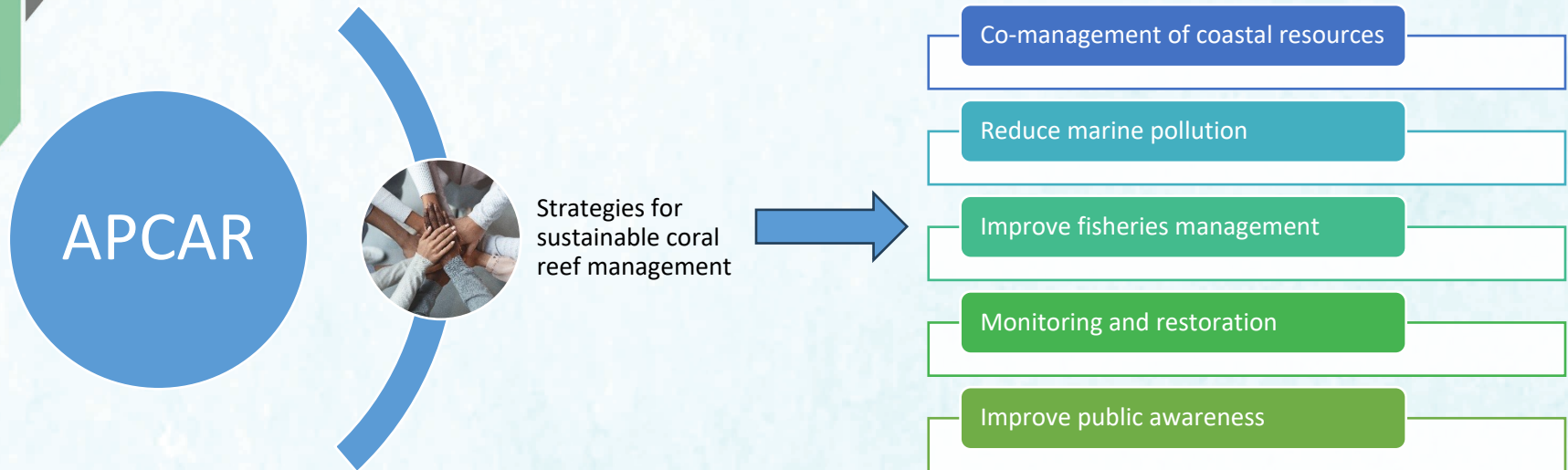
Jamaica's Approach to Coral Restoration



Action Plan for Corals and Reefs (APCAR)



Action Plan for Corals and Reefs (APCAR)

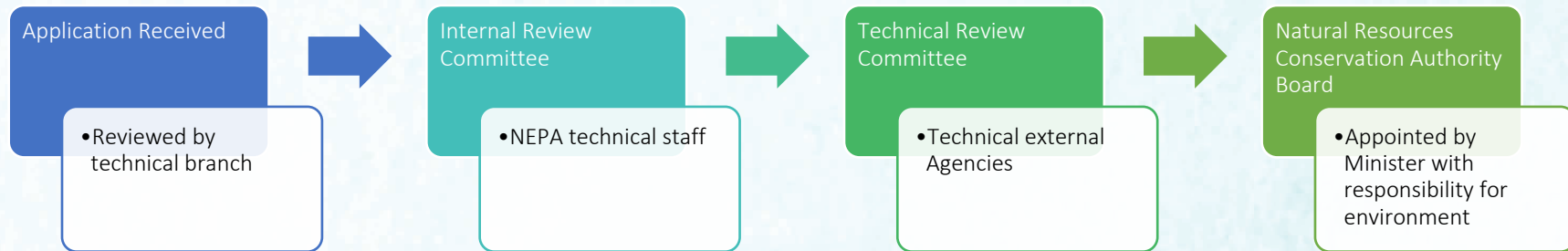


Regulations relevant to Coral Restoration

- Wild Life Protection Act
- The Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act and its Regulations
 - Marine protected areas
 - Beach Licences
- Fisheries Act
 - Special Fishery Conservation Areas (Fish sanctuaries)




Wild Life Protection Act



- Wild Life Exemption
- Grants permission for the handling of hard corals

Wild Life Exemption Certificate

- Stipulates the:
 - Harvesting area
 - maximum quantity of coral fragments allowed;
 - % of any colony to be harvested;
 - Health of colony (disease-free);
 - Out planting location

 **Exemption under s. 22 of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1945** Certificate No: 115D

In the exercise of the power conferred on the Minister by section 22 of the Wild Life Protection Act the Minister by writing under his hand exempts:-

Alligator Head Foundation/ Denise Henry Oyster Bay, Anchovy, Port Antonio, Portland

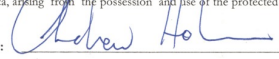
Name of Institution/Person Address

From the provisions of the Act for such time and subject to the conditions stated below in relation to the protected animals;

For the following purposes: **Conservation and Scientific**

Subject to the following conditions:

1. This exemption is not transferable.
2. This exemption may be revoked or suspended for a breach of any term or condition under which this exemption has been granted.
3. The protected animal held under the authority of this exemption remains the property of Jamaica and this exemption does not grant the person the right to sell, trade, barter, or dispose of them in any manner.
4. A copy of this exemption shall at all times be displayed in a prominent place at the facility.
5. Any authorized officer of the Authority may carry out inspections of the conditions under which the protected animal are being kept.
6. Authorization should be received from the National Fisheries Authority and their stipulated conditions complied with.
7. Only 200 fragments of Elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*), and only 600 fragments of Staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) should be in the possession of the holder of this Exemption.
8. Specimens are to be harvested within the East Portland Special Fishery Conservation Area, Portland.
9. Fragments should be out planted to reefs at N18°10'46.3" W76°24'55.2" (Turtle Crawl), N18°10'43.1" W76°23'46.6" (Wilks Bay) and N18°10'32.42"N, W76°23'35.24" within the East Portland Special Fishery Conservation Area.
10. Only persons trained in the removal of corals shall collect the protected animal.
11. No more than 10% of any one colony of *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis* may be collected to achieve the collection targets in condition number seven above.
12. Tissue placed on the nursery should not be collected from diseased colonies.
13. Disease prevalence, specifically for Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), should be monitored and included in annual reports.
14. The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) must be notified in writing no less than 14 days prior to the harvest of any coral fragments. The notification should include but not be limited to the geographic locations and general description of the proposed site.
15. An annual report should be submitted to the NEPA and should include copies of all field monitoring reports on the coral nursery, a description of the current status of the nursery and units, an appraisal of the success or challenges encountered at the nursery and units and a description of any educational activity or tours conducted in connection with the nursery.
16. All information recorded in compliance with condition number 11 should be kept for a period not less than five (5) years.
17. Any person or organization, their personal and assignees granted such exemption shall indemnify the Authority and Government of Jamaica from and against all actions, proceedings, claims, losses, damages, injuries, demands, costs and expenses whatsoever, which may be taken or made, or incurred, or become payable by the Authority or the Government of Jamaica, arising from the possession and use of the protected animal, and or bird, as a result of activities carried out in pursuance of the Certificate.

This Certificate is issued by:  2 May 2024 1 May 2029

Minister of Economic Growth and Job Creation Date of Issue Valid Until



NRCA Act and Fisheries Act



Protected Areas and Fish Sanctuaries



Management Plans and Committees



Zoning Plans with Conservation Zones



Co-management Agreements



JAMAICAN FISH SANCTUARIES
(Special Fisheries Conservation Areas)



National Environment and Planning Agency

Managing and protecting Jamaica's land, wood, air and water

Marine Park Protected Areas

Management Plans

- Conservation strategies include but not LIMITED TO coral restoration



| | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------|--|
| <p>2. Undertake coral Reef Research</p> | <p>2.1 Undertake research into the biophysical factors that have led to the preservation of the reef at Little Dunn's River.</p> | <p>Research undertaken assessing the biophysical features leading to the preservation of the quality of the reef at Little Dunn's River</p> | <p>2023-2024</p> | <p>Lead: NEPA's PAB and Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Branch</p> <p>Supporting Partner: White River Fish Sanctuary</p> |
|---|--|---|------------------|--|

Table 7: Action Plan and Budget for Conservation of Coral Reefs and Seagrass ORMPPA

| Management Strategy | Actions | Performance Indicator | Timeframe | Responsibility |
|--|---|---|------------------|--|
| <p>1. Improve marine water quality</p> | <p>1.1 Implement Waste Management Programme in Ocho Rios watersheds</p> | <p>Number of waste management interventions implemented</p> | <p>2022-2032</p> | <p>Lead: NEPA's PAB and Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Branch</p> |

Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area Management Plan 2022-2032



National Ecosystem Restoration Plan

The Plan will:

- Focus on Jamaica's terrestrial, in-land water, coastal and marine ecosystems.
- The establish a national target for ecosystem restoration in collaboration with relevant experts.



National Ecosystem Restoration Plan

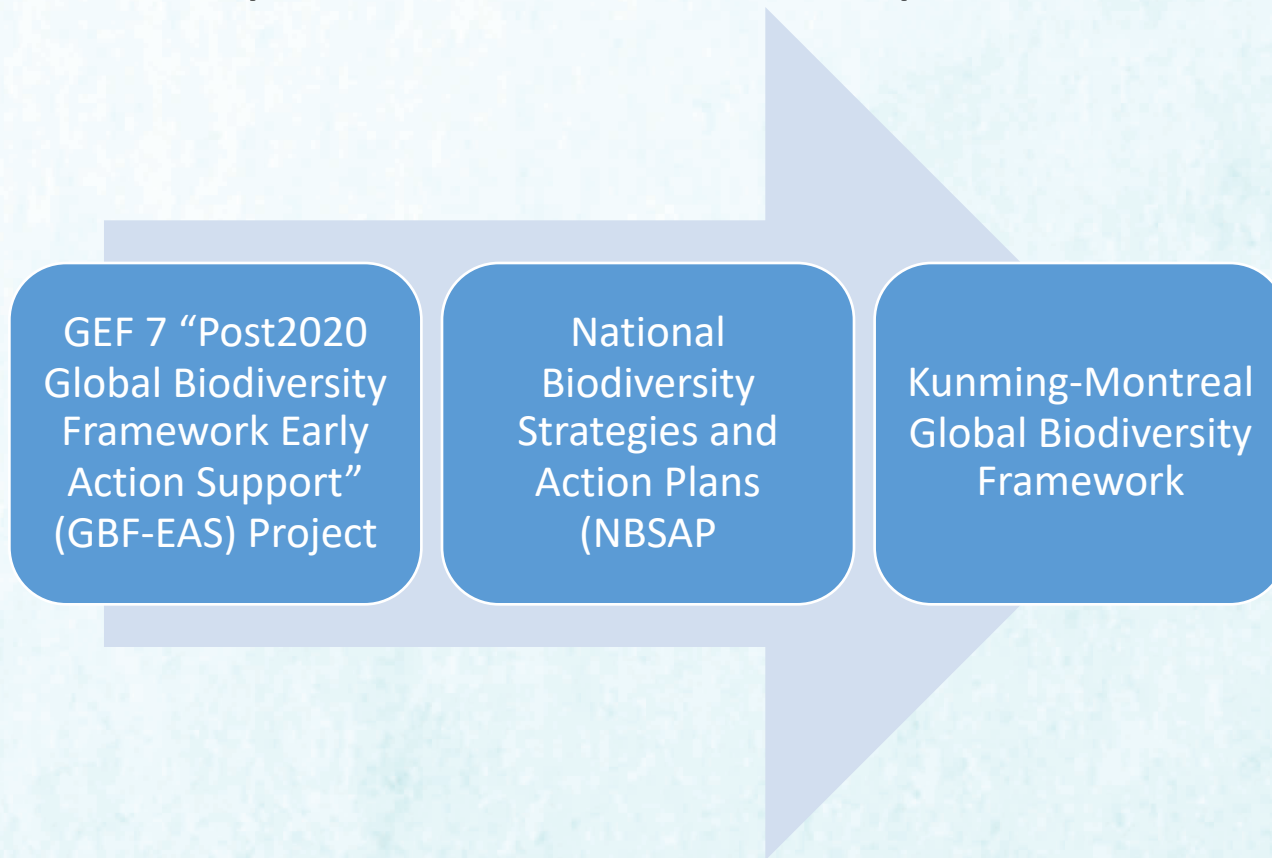
The Plan will:

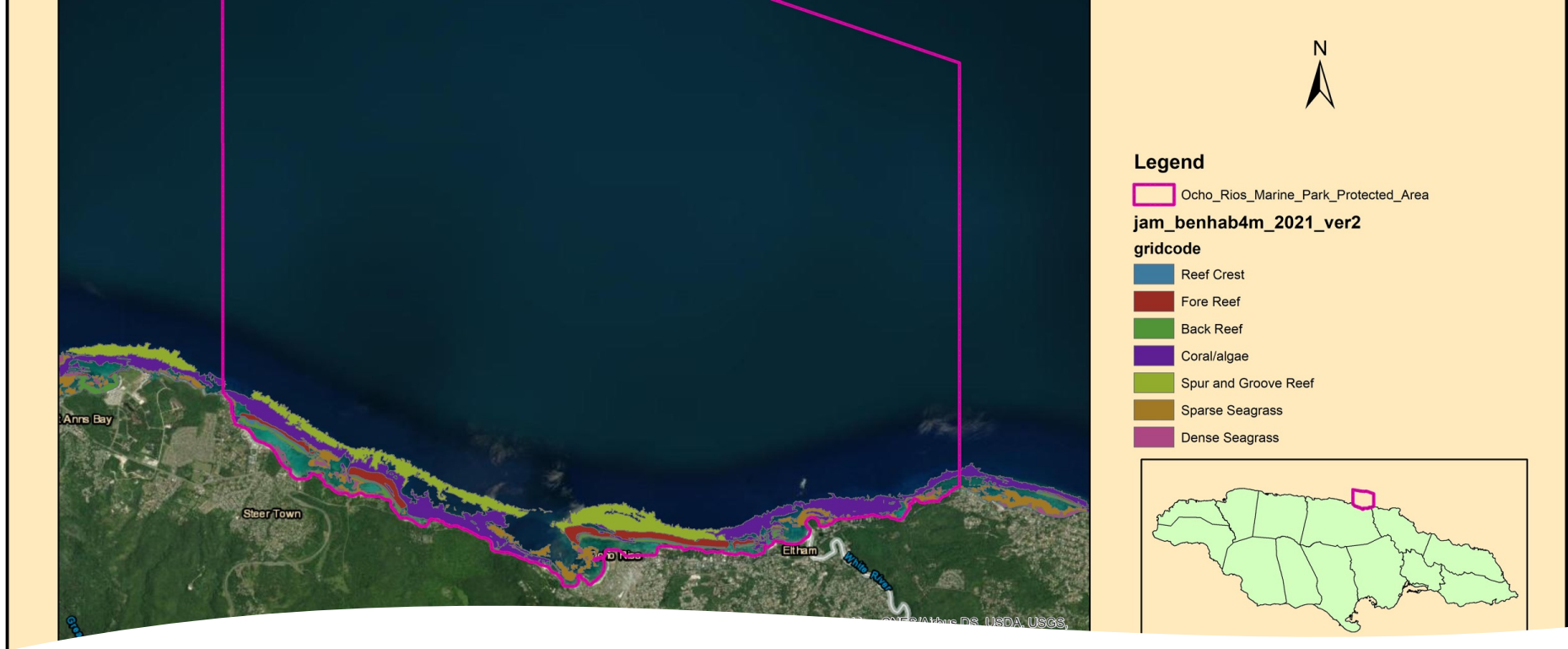
- Identify and rank priority sites for restoration activities.
- Present an implementation framework outlining timeframe and a budget based on necessary resources.
- Include a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Ecosystems Restoration Plan to assess the efficacy and effects of implementing the plan.



National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

- Jamaica's previous NBSAP incorporated coral reefs





Summary

- ❖ Regulation relevant to coral restoration
 - Wild Life Protection Act
 - Fisheries Act (Fish Sanctuaries)
 - NRCA Act (Marine Parks and Protected Areas)
- ❖ Action Plan for Corals and Reefs to be updated
- ❖ National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to include corals
- ❖ Development of a National Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Thank You



National Environment
and Planning Agency

Managing and protecting Jamaica's land, wood, air and water