

# Abstract

## “Session /Expert meeting on coral reef restoration”

### During the 10th WIOMSA Scientific symposium

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) contains 16% of the world’s coral reefs, and the region is now thought to contain the second hotspot of coral reef biodiversity globally. These coral reefs ecosystems underpin the economies of the countries in the region, particularly fisheries and tourism sectors, and provide livelihood opportunities and income for local communities. The long term viability of this important asset is however subject to increasing threats, as a result of the intensification of human activities, especially on the coastal regions, as well as climate change. The successive recent major global coral reefs bleaching events have severely impacted them and the communities relying on their services for the livelihoods.

Coral reef restoration has been considered by international conservation community as a viable management option for critical habitats.

Taking into account coral reef restoration work in the region and pilot projects being implemented in the WIO countries, we are proposing to organise an exchange session on restoration.

This would allow participants to share their experiences, including success, failures, and recommendations for improvements.

This session can take approximately two hours and could include a webinar facilitated by the Reef Resilience Network. The live-stream webinar would allow others not able to attend the symposium in person an opportunity to participate in the session.

The meeting will be an initial step that could allow a later, more structured workshop next year.

This workshop will be a joint activity of the WIO GCRMN networks and TNC Reef Resilience Network to:

1. Facilitate exchanges on past and ongoing coral restoration experimentations in the region
2. Present resources from the Reef Resilience Network’s new online restoration toolkit, as well as opportunities for international exchange with the [Coral Restoration Consortium](#), a restoration community of practice focused in the Caribbean region that comprises scientists, managers, coral restoration practitioners, and educators.
3. Provide guidance on next steps to be followed by the WIO coral reef network/Task forces



**Expected outputs will include:**

- Metadata matrix on coral reef restoration existing documentary resources
- Workplan for next steps

Participation is open. Targeted participants include national and regional experts who have been actively involved in restoration projects. Other researchers and managers engaged in coral reef management are also invited to attend, as well as WIOMSA Symposium attendees and representatives from relevant regional organisations. Expected total participants should be about 20.