

Coral Restoration projects

Planting corals

In the year 2000, Fiji and other island countries in the region were affected by a large area of high-temperature water, which resulted in the death of between 40-80% of hard corals over the region. Since that time, corals have been regenerating and new corals settling on the old dead substrate.

In a few areas of Fiji's reef, coral culture and/or restoration projects have been undertaken. Most of them are less than 2 years old, and long-term data on their success is not available, but there is a strong suggestion that it is possible to relocate corals from areas with good growth and use them to speed coral growth in areas with poor coral populations.

Example: Coral culture at Hideaway Resort.

In this project the resort, the community, and a local coral trader have cooperated to start a coral farm on the reef. The trader provided seed corals that are grown on racks in deeper waters. When they are of a suitable size, guests at the resort pay to plant them out on the reef top in a protected farm area that is regularly weeded to prevent algal overgrowth. The money they pay goes to community projects, and the community does not fish or walk the farm area.

Cultured corals on a rack, Being transplanted, Growing on the reef after transplantation.



Example: Fish House project at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort,

In this project the resort, the community, and a non-governmental organisation have cooperated to form a marine protected area, in which there is a pilot study of "Fish houses". These are small groups of rocks cemented together to form artificial reef systems. Corals are carefully harvested from areas of higher growth, and cemented onto the houses, which in turn are cemented to the sea bed. In some cases, clams have been cemented to the rocks. In less than a week these "fish houses" had attracted resident fish, and after a year the corals and clams are growing well. These houses also have the advantage of looking very natural.

Bare "Fish house" structure, House with corals and fish, Clam on house.

