



Get Started with MERMAID

Kickstart your journey:
Collect, manage, and explore coral reef data

Designed for coral reef scientists, conservation practitioners and managers, MERMAID is the world's first purpose-built data platform for coral reef monitoring and conservation.

MERMAID empowers you to

COLLECT AND
MANAGE DATA



ANALYZE AND
REPORT DATA



EXPLORE AND
SHARE DATA



Here's how you can start with MERMAID in a few easy steps

1. CREATE YOUR MERMAID ACCOUNT



- **Go to MERMAID Collect** at app.datamermaid.org.
- **Click Sign up and choose:**
 - Google login (use your Gmail account), or
 - Enter an email and password.
- **Verify your email** (if not using Google).

You're ready to start using MERMAID Collect!



MERMAID tools work best on Google Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge.

2. START YOUR FIRST PROJECT IN MERMAID COLLECT



Projects are the digital home for your monitoring surveys.

- **Log in to MERMAID Collect.**
- **Click New Project** (top-right).
- **Enter a project name** and click Create Project.

3. SET UP YOUR PROJECT



- **Add Project Info** → Under ADMIN > Project Info, enter description and add organization(s).
- **Invite Team Members** → Under ADMIN > Users, add emails and assign roles:
 - **Admin** – full control
 - **Collector** (default) – enter and submit data
 - **Read-Only** – view/export data only
- **Set Data Sharing Policies** → Under ADMIN > Data Sharing, choose for each survey type:
 - **Private** – raw data private, metadata visible
 - **Public Summary** (default) – raw data private, summaries visible
 - **Public** – all data accessible, including raw data

- **Add Sites** → Under METADATA > Sites, create new site or copy from other projects.
- **Add Management Regimes** → Under METADATA > Management Regimes, create new regime or copy from other projects.

5. COLLECT DATA IN YOUR PROJECT

- **Go to your project's Collecting page.**
- **Click + Add Sample Unit.**
- **Choose survey method:**
 - Fish Belt
 - Benthic PIT / LIT / Photo Quadrat (manual or AI Image Classification)
 - Bleaching
 - Habitat Complexity
- **Fill out required fields** (marked with a red asterisk) such as site, management regime and date.
- **Enter your observations and get real-time reef health metric summaries** (online and offline).
- **Save progress anytime.**
- **When ready, validate and submit** → MERMAID automatically checks your data before submission.

6. EXPLORE AND SHARE YOUR DATA

- **Go to MERMAID Explore** (explore.datamermaid.org) from your project by clicking the globe icon.
- **Use the advanced filters to visualize reef health metrics** like fish biomass and benthic % cover.
- **Share with others** by clicking Share this view.
- **Export your data** (as spreadsheets) from MERMAID Collect and Explore.



MERMAID tools work in your computer, mobile phone or tablet.

7. ANALYZE AND REPORT YOUR DATA

- Use the **MERMAID R package (*mermaidr*)** to access and analyze your data (or public data in MERMAID). For full documentation, go to [data-mermaid.github.io/mermaidr/](https://mermaid.github.io/mermaidr/).
- Explore our analysis hub at datamermaid.org/analysis-hub for analysis and reporting templates or submit your own.

For more detailed guides, explore our documentation at datamermaid.org/documentation.

We're very happy that you joined our community.

Subscribe to our newsletter at datamermaid.org/reef-stories



Need help or have a feedback? We'd love to hear from you! Contact us at contact@datamermaid.org.

MERMAID is an initiative of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The WCS Conservation Program is the world's largest conservation field program.

