Chapter 10

Coral Reef Ecosystem Enhancement in Singapore's Highly Urbanized Port

Chin Soon Lionel Ng,^a Shu Qin Sam,^a Yuichi Preslie Kikuzawa,^b Tai Chong Toh,^{a,c} and Loke Ming Chou^a

^aTropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore ^bCentre for Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development, Singapore ^cCollege of Alice & Peter Tan, National University of Singapore, Singapore lionel.ngcs@gmail.com

Coastal development activities to support economic development and population growth have caused widespread degradation of Singapore's coral reefs. This provided opportunities for the development of science-based strategies to mitigate complete reef loss and ensure the maintenance of genetic diversity from affected areas. Here, we summarize key lessons from a five-year research program that aimed to maximize the conservation and restoration of stony coral diversity from Sultan Shoal, a southern offshore island predicted to be impacted by the expansion of Singapore's port operations. Prior assessments of environmental conditions helped determine the suitability of potential recipient sites as nurseries for stocking coral material from Sultan Shoal and subsequent transplant locations. The customization of nursery design and regular maintenance regimes were

essential for enhancing the survival and growth of transplanted corals. The suitability of 30 coral species as candidates for transplantation was tested, thereby generating growth rates for planning of future restoration efforts. Concurrently, protocols for transplantation were also refined to achieve greater ecologically-effective outcomes. These efforts led to the provision of valuable ecosystem services to recipient sites, such as increased habitat for various reef biota and the contribution of genetic material from sexually mature coral transplants, underscoring the importance of regular monitoring to assess long-term outcomes of restoration.

10.1 Introduction

Coral reefs provide key functions such as food and nursery grounds that sustain at least 25% of the world's marine species and contribute ecosystem services including coastal protection and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people [1]. However, significant reef degradation and hard coral loss driven largely by frequent and severe global-scale bleaching events have occurred particularly over the last three decades [1]. These trends are exacerbated by impacts from a multitude of localized anthropogenic activities such as coastal urbanization, pollution, and unsustainable resource use practices [2-4], which have resulted in far-reaching consequences. In particular, human pressures such as coastal development and overfishing have resulted in potentially irreversible losses in coral cover in Bahrain and China [5, 6]. A concomitant reduction of ecosystem functions has also been observed with reef degradation - some impacts include a reduction in the functional diversity of reef fishes with increased tourist developments in Mexico [7], and a decrease in coral carbonate production rates at sites nearer the highly urbanized Singapore mainland [8].

Ensuring that coral cover and diversity do not deteriorate further is therefore highly essential for maintaining the resilience and functioning of reef ecosystems. While coastal development projects often have to proceed for the purposes of economic growth but usually result in the destruction of large swathes of coral reef, mitigation strategies such as the planned relocation of organisms to other unimpacted sites can be carried out to reduce permanent losses in genetic diversity and reef function. This approach has been increasingly adopted at various scales, with different reef organisms such as hard corals, sponges, and echinoderms (e.g. [9-13]). These relocation efforts also provide valuable opportunities to establish new concepts and principles for coastal environment management and investigate scientific aspects to fill knowledge gaps.

The need to develop sustainably is especially important in tropical Southeast Asia, where almost all coastal cities are associated with coastal developments located in close proximity to coral reefs and marine protected areas. Singapore, for example, has seen significant changes to its marine and coastal environment over the past five decades. Its territorial waters are among the world's busiest, with more than 80% designated for port and shipping activities, while the remaining areas are used by various sectors such as military, petrochemical, aquaculture, and recreation [14]. To cater to economic development and population expansion, land area has increased by 26% to 734.3 km² since the country's independence in 1965 [15, 16]. Over 60% of Singapore's coral reefs have been lost due to land reclamation and coastal armoring [14]. Large-scale coastal development activities have also increased sedimentation and turbidity levels that smother reef organisms and limit light penetration required for coral growth, consequently restricting their colonization and establishment to the shallows [17, 18].

Since the 1990s, at least five major coral relocation exercises have been carried out in Singapore as mitigation measures to counteract reef loss from areas designated for land reclamation [19]. In the early 2010s, plans were announced to consolidate port operations at the western coast to support Singapore's future needs, creating the mega container terminal, Tuas Megaport [20, 21]. An environmental impact assessment in 2012 determined that the planned dredging and reclamation activities would negatively impact the reef fringing Sultan Shoal, a small offshore island approximately 5 km southwest of the Singapore mainland [22, 23]. To mitigate the permanent loss of reef life from Sultan Shoal, environmental consultants relocated 2300 coral colonies to reefs at the southern offshore islands of St John's and Subar Darat [22, 23] (Fig. 10.1). Concurrently, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and the Tropical Marine Science Institute also commenced research to maximize the conservation and restoration of scleractinian diversity. Making full use of 1380 loose coral fragments (or 'corals of opportunity') from 30 species, the overall aim of this research program was to build on existing reef restoration and rehabilitation strategies, improve the scientific understanding of processes necessary for the development of restored reefs, and design sustainable coastal management solutions. Here, we document the key lessons learned from this effort to enhance Singapore's coral reefs while maintaining its standing as a Green Port.

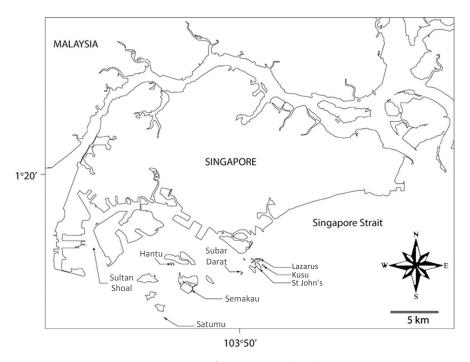


Figure 10.1 Map of Singapore and study sites.

10.2 Looking Before You Leap: **Pre-Assessments Are Important for Reef Restoration**

Identifying recipient sites with comparable and appropriate environmental conditions to donor sites will help minimize stress on coral propagules and augment their survival and growth rates [24-26]. To evaluate the suitability of recipient sites for Sultan Shoal's coral fragments, assessments were conducted in 2013 and 2014 at several locations. This included reefs fringing six of Singapore's southern offshore islands (Kusu, Hantu, Satumu, Semakau, St. John's, and Subar Darat) as well as two seawalls (Lazarus East and Lazarus West) (Fig. 10.1). Compared to Sultan Shoal, Semakau and Hantu registered higher sedimentation rates while Satumu and Subar Darat experienced much stronger currents [23]. These sites were thus considered less appropriate for receiving the coral fragments due to the greater risks of smothering by sediment or abrasion of soft tissues.

Based on similarities in environmental conditions (water quality, tidal range, site accessibility, and the presence of suitable substrates for transplantation) to Sultan Shoal, three sites were selected for the establishment of nurseries to rear coral fragments [23]. Lazarus East and Lazarus West were chosen as they are relatively sheltered environments with sandy seabeds that facilitated the installation of coral nursery frames. As coral communities have naturally established on many coastal defense structures in Singapore [27-29], there was also potential for the adjacent granite rock seawalls at both sites to be platforms for coral transplantation to create new reef habitats. In addition, the reef fringing northeastern Kusu Island was also identified as a rehabilitation site as it was a degraded environment with many dead coral boulders on which coral fragments could be transplanted.

Beyond site selection, the types and amount of corals to be relocated are also important considerations. Strategically selecting corals, by taking into account genetic diversity, can increase their resilience to environmental disturbances at the recipient site [30]. Our evaluation of four coral species (Echinopora lamellosa,

Merulina ampliata, Podabacia crustacea, and Duncanopsammia peltata) showed that approximately 40% of the total colony count represented 80% of the genetic diversity of each species at Sultan Shoal [31]. The analyses also showed that it was more beneficial to collect colonies of gonochoric (single-sex) species from a larger reef area to ensure sufficient genetic diversity. These findings represented a useful means of estimating the appropriate diversity of corals to be relocated from the donor site. Our use of 'corals of opportunity' (COPs) from across Sultan Shoal's **reef** also ensured that the relocated material was genetically varied.

Well-Designed Nurseries Improve Coral 10.3 **Recovery and Production**

Coral nurseries, typically stocked with material fragmented from healthy parent colonies, help promote coral growth in a sheltered environment until the propagules attain a suitable size for transplantation [32–35]. They can also serve as repositories that preserve reef diversity against impending impacts from environmental changes such as coastal development, and at the same time generate new material for future restoration endeavors [36, 37]. Here, we focused on (1) optimizing nursery design and maintenance, and (2) increasing coral yield.

10.3.1 **Nursery Design and Maintenance**

In total, 98 nursery tables were deployed at Lazarus East, Lazarus West, and Kusu. To reduce sediment accumulation and facilitate the stable attachment of coral fragments, the nursery frames were elevated at least 0.5 m above the substrate and designed with mesh-net platforms (Fig. 10.2). We tested different designs and found that nursery tables with horizontal mesh platforms were more stable in areas with moderate wave action, compared to those with sloped or vertically oriented platforms. For fragments of species such as *Pocillopora acuta*, vertically oriented platforms were more detrimental to their survivorship [38]. In addition, macroalgae and biofouling organisms often

colonized these nursery frames and inhibited coral growth. Monthly maintenance of the nurseries was necessary to reduce sediment accumulation and biofouling, and was effective at encouraging coral growth.

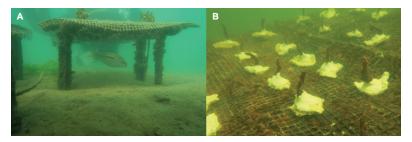


Figure 10.2 (A) Elevated nursery frames and (B) mesh net platforms helped reduce sediment accumulation and facilitated attachment of coral fragments.

10.3.2 Increasing Coral Yield

Instead of sourcing directly from healthy parent colonies (which could limit genetic diversity and introduce collateral damage), COPs which would have otherwise perished due to abrasion from currents and sediment were salvaged from Sultan Shoal's reef and progressively transferred to the coral nursery tables. Thirty species of COPs were collected over the course of the project, enabling a comprehensive evaluation of their responses in the nurseries. Overall survivorship after a year of rearing was high, at 92%. One year later, in May 2015, 15 species had high survivorship (>80%), while five species (Merulina ampliata, Favites halicora, Favites pentagona, Porites rus, and Pectinia paeonia) had survival rates of less than 50%. These observations helped to identify the species that fared the best in *in situ* nurseries under such conditions and shaped subsequent coral-rearing protocols in the project.

The coral nurseries also accelerated the recovery of fragmentation injuries and enhanced coral yield in Singapore's sedimented waters. Fragments reared in the nurseries grew significantly faster compared to those that were directly transplanted, although the benefit of a nursery phase on survival rates was species-specific [39]. However, while the nursery-

reared corals of some species can be further fragmented to limit the need for harvesting from the wild, the growth rates of the new fragments may be reduced [14]. Such a method may need to be tested for its viability for different species.

Species Trait Characterization and 10.4 **Transplantation Protocol Customization Are Essential to Improve Restoration Outcomes**

Coral transplantation is a common strategy to rapidly increase the amount of live coral cover at degraded reefs [25]. This approach may also be adapted to improve the biodiversity and ecological value of coastal defense structures [27]. Following a period of rearing, coral fragments were transplanted from the nurseries onto granite rock seawalls and degraded reefs at Lazarus and Kusu. This involved scrubbing the substrate thoroughly and using marine epoxy to attach the corals securely [27]. In addition to effectively promoting the colonization of reef biota at the study sites, our findings underscored the need to: (1) test and characterize species suitability for restoration, and (2) develop transplantation protocols for effective restoration outcomes.

Testing and Characterizing Species Suitability 10.4.1

In order to maximize the recovery of marine biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, it is necessary to test a variety of coral species for their suitability in restoration projects. Growth rates indicate suitability and allow for projections of transplant establishment at restoration sites to be made. However, information for only about 10% of the world's coral species is available in the literature [40], underscoring the need for more extensive and empirical determination of this key trait. While some species have registered high survival and growth rates from previous projects [39, 41, 42], understanding how a wider range of coral species fare within local contexts will increase long-term success rates. It is also essential to understand site- and taxonspecific responses to disturbance events (e.g., thermal stress), so that 'winners' and 'losers' can be identified to formulate more effective strategies [43].

Between 2015 and 2019, 1354 nursery-reared corals were progressively transplanted in batches to the seawalls and degraded reefs at Lazarus and Kusu (Fig. 10.3). These transplants contributed 7.9 m² of live coral area over four years. Targeted long-term monitoring of 163 transplants at Lazarus East revealed a high overall survivorship of 74.2%, but performances among species were wide-ranging. Transplants of three species (Mycedium elephantotus, Pachyseris speciosa, and Turbinaria *mesenterina*) did not survive, indicating their relative unsuitability as candidates for biodiversity restoration on seawalls. The surviving transplants of all other species grew larger, with the exception of Echinophyllia aspera, which registered a reduction in live tissue area (see Table 10.1; Figs. 10.4-10.6). Through our monitoring efforts, linear extension rates from transplants of 27 coral species were also determined, enabling projections of transplant establishment for future restoration efforts.



Figure 10.3 Coral fragments newly transplanted on a seawall at Lazarus Island, Singapore, in 2016.

Table 10.1 Survivorship and linear extension rates (mean ± S.D.) of corals transplanted on the Lazarus East seawall at Lazarus Island, Singapore

| Species | Growth form ^a | Trans- plantation period (month) | Survivorship (%) | Linear extension rate (cm/year) |
|------------------------------|---|---|------------------|--|
| Acanthastrea echinata | Massive | 37 | 100 | 1.3 ^b |
| Acanthastrea rotundoflora | Encrusting | 46 | 66.7 | 2.1 ± 0.2 |
| Cyphastrea microphthalma | Massive | 46 | 100 | 0.8 ^b |
| Diploastrea heliopora | Massive | 25 | 100 | 1.3 ± 0.2 |
| Dipsastraea favus | Massive | 25 | 90 | 1.3 ± 0.5 |
| Duncanopsammia peltata | Laminar | 46 | 50 | 1.2 ^b |
| Echinophyllia aspera | Laminar | 25 | 78.6 | -0.02 ± 2.7° |
| Echinopora gemmacea | Laminar | 37 | 100 | 3.0 ± 0.3 |
| Echinopora horrida | Encrusting, long upright branches | 41 | 14.3 | 2.2 ± 0.2 |
| Favites complanata | Massive | 37 | 100 | 0.8 ^b |
| Favites halicora | Massive | 46 | 100 | 1.6 ± 0.6 |
| Favites pentagona | Sub-massive | 46 | 50 | 1.2 ± 0.6 |
| Goniastrea pectinata | Sub-massive | 25 | 100 | 1.2 ± 0.3 |
| Goniastrea retiformis | Massive | 46 | 100 | 0.8 ^b |
| Goniopora lobata | Columnar | 46 | 100 | 1.8 ± 0.7 |
| Hydnophora exesa | Sub-massive | 37 | 50 | 4.3 ^b |
| Leptoria phrygia | Massive | 32 | 100 | 1.1 ± 0.5 |
| Lithophyllon undulatum | Encrusting | 37 | 100 | 0.4 ± 0.1 |
| Lobophyllia hemprichii | Massive | 37 | 50 | 1.0 ^b |
| Lobophyllia recta | Massive | 46 | 100 | 1.2 ± 0.1 |
| Mycedium elephantotus | Laminar | 13 ^d | 0 | _ |

| Species | Growth form ^a | Trans- plantation period (month) | Survivorship (%) | Linear extension rate (cm/year) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| Pachyseris speciosa | Laminar | 3 ^d | 0 | - |
| Pavona cactus | Bifacial | 32 | 72.7 | 2.0 ± 0.8 |
| | | 31 | 80 | 1.7 ± 0.9 |
| Pavona decussata | Bifacial | 46 | 66.7 | 3.0 ± 0.1 |
| Pavona explanulata | Laminar | 32 | 87.5 | 0.6 ± 0.3 |
| Pavona frondifera | Bifacial | 37 | 100 | 2.4 ^b |
| | | 31 | 33.3 | 2.9 ± 1.7 |
| Porites rus | Digitate | 25 | 70 | 1.5 ± 1.0 |
| Psammocora | Columnar | 32 | 100 | 2.4 ± 0.5 |
| contigua | | 25 | 100 | 2.7 ± 0.4 |
| Turbinaria mesenterina | Laminar | 8 _q | 0 | _ |
| Turbinaria stellulata | Massive | 37 | 100 | 1.8 ± 0.1 |

^aGrowth forms from Ng et al. (2021) [8].

^dSpecies that did not survive the duration of the study period (maximum period of survival indicated).

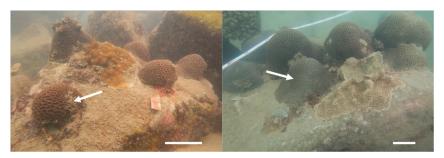


Figure 10.4 Platgyra sinensis (white arrow) transplants in 2018 (left), and other corals from the same batch of transplants in 2022 (right) (scale bars = 10 cm).

^bOnly one fragment transplanted or remaining.

^cTransplants of *Echinophyllia aspera* decreased in size.

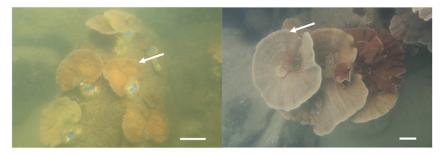


Figure 10.5 Podabacia crustacea (white arrow) transplants in 2016 (left), and other corals from the same batch of transplants in 2022 (right) (scale bars = 10 cm).

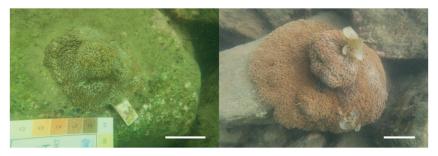


Figure 10.6 Goniopora lobata transplant in 2018 (left) and 2022 (right) (scale bars = 5 cm).

10.4.2 **Developing Transplantation Protocols to Achieve Ecologically Effective Outcomes**

While transplantation was an effective way of accelerating the colonization of scleractinians at the subtidal zone of seawalls [41], customizing existing protocols to suit local conditions further improved these outcomes. For example, transplantation carried out within periods that were less environmentally stressful, such as the inter-monsoon seasons contributed to increased coral growth. Additionally, trials at the Lazarus West seawall indicated that transplantation at shallower depths generated better yield (approximately 1.5 times faster growth rates for transplants at 3 m vs 6 m below chart datum) for certain species (e.g., Pectinia paeonia and Turbinaria mesenterina), likely due to different resource requirements. We also learned that transplantation in areas with dense macroalgal growth was ineffective, as the macroalgae can outcompete corals and adversely affect the survivorship and growth of coral transplants through allelochemical mechanisms or physical abrasion. In addition, Sam et al. (2021) [42] reported that although larger coral transplants (9-11 cm) have a higher chance of survival due to their reduced risk of complete mortality by predation and sedimentation burial, transplanting smaller coral fragments (2-4 cm) ultimately generated better yield in live coral cover and was the most efficient use of the original coral source material, thereby facilitating planning in the nursery-rearing phase.

Toward Long-Term Monitoring of Reef 10.5 **Restoration Efforts**

Long-term coral monitoring is key to assessing whether transplants are able to establish at their recipient site, determining if ecosystem services can be provided by the established transplants, and understanding coral species' responses to threats such as corallivory and climate change. As a good indicator of their establishment at the recipient site, we observed that transplants of Platygyra sinensis (diameter 15-20 cm) on the Lazarus East seawall spawned naturally during a mass coral spawning event in April 2019 (Fig. 10.7). This indicated that, with proper monitoring and care, asexually propagated transplants can eventually develop into sexually mature colonies that can help seed and contribute genetic diversity to other locations.

Apart from tracking coral performance, it is just as important to document the recruitment of non-coral fauna over the longer term to comprehensively assess the overall contributions of the restoration effort to ecosystem functioning. Although in situ coral nurseries are used primarily to culture coral material [44], they can also provide shelter and food for reef-associated organisms. Marine animals from at least 100 taxa were documented at our *in situ* coral nurseries, underscoring their role as platforms for reef faunal recruitment (see Appendix; Fig. 10.8).

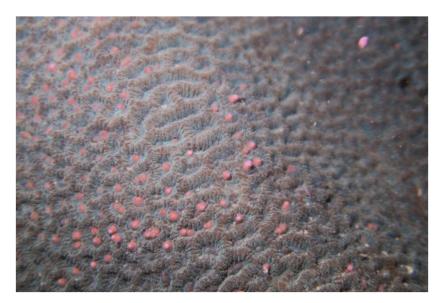


Figure 10.7 Three-year-old *Platygyra sinensis* transplant spawning in 2019.



Figure 10.8 Marine organisms utilizing the coral nurseries: (A) Cuttlefish (Sepia sp.), (B) Nudibranch eggs, (C) Spanish flag snapper (Lutjanus carponotatus), and (D) Spangled flatworm (Acanthozoon sp.).

Juvenile corallivorous butterflyfishes (Chaetodon octofasciatus) were observed swimming among and feeding on the Acropora spp. and Pocillopora acuta colonies that were reared in the nurseries [45]. Dense clusters of cuttlefish eggs were also deposited deep within coral branches, and juvenile cuttlefishes were seen seeking refuge around the Acropora aculeus and P. acuta colonies [46]. In addition, Wee et al. (2019) [47] reported that the nurseryreared corals also supported diverse epifaunal communities. From just 22 colonies of three coral species, 418 mobile invertebrates from 63 taxa such as crabs, shells, and shrimps were recorded. Each coral host species supported different epifaunal communities, likely as a consequence of different resource provisioning capacities. While a variety of epifauna also colonized dead coral colonies, these were of a different assemblage than those in live colonies.

Finally, coral monitoring regimes should also complemented with regular checks of corallivores, which at high densities can cause mass coral mortality and negate restoration efforts. Snails, such as *Drupella spp.*, are known to feed exclusively on corals [48, 49]. They are nocturnal, preferring to hide under corals or boulders during the day and actively feed at night [50, 51]. As they also lay eggs on exposed coral skeletons [52], coral materials in nurseries and at transplant sites should be regularly examined and the presence of these snails should be recorded as part of coral monitoring protocols. The affected coral skeletons or egg capsules should be removed to reduce the chance of corallivore outbreaks.

Conclusion 10.6

Our research has highlighted how coral restoration efforts can be innovatively designed to mitigate the loss of coral cover and diversity from intensive coastal development, while also creating new reef communities in areas where reefs did not exist before. The success of site selection, coral rearing, and transplantation protocols as well as monitoring regimes was evident from the high coral survivorship rates and subsequent increases in marine biodiversity at the recipient sites. Sustained efforts in longterm monitoring are necessary to properly assess whether transplants are able to establish at their recipient site and to further determine if ecosystem services can be sustained by the established transplants.

Future Plans

While marine protected areas have an important role in the same way that forest reserves do, additional coral communities established via transplantation within Singapore waters will aid biodiversity conservation by providing "wildlife" corridors that provide ecological connectivity and additional refuges for marine life. If properly constructed, such reefs can also provide socioeconomic value as they are a positive reflection of effective water quality management and vibrant ecosystem health in Singapore's Green Port. Concurrently, research should also be conducted into restoring a larger suite of ecosystem functions in degraded reefs or enhancing such functions in man-made habitats via the transplantation of other benthic groups [27]. It is equally important to consider the needs and perspectives of all stakeholders involved, so that reef restoration practitioners can create opportunities to build support and buy-in for the projects, increasing the likelihood of successful implementation and long-term success [53]. Toh et al. (2017) [41] calculated that the inclusion of trained volunteers in fieldwork (i.e., coral culture and transplantation) and data analyses was more costeffective than if volunteers only assisted with fieldwork, or if only researchers were involved in the effort. Clearly, habitat conservation programs involving the community not only help reduce project expenses but also enhance capacity building and encourage a greater sense of public ownership of the natural heritage [41, 54].

Acknowledgments

This study is part of the project 'Enhancing Singapore's Coral Reef Ecosystem in a Green Port' supported by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, under the project grant R-347-002-215-490.

Appendix

Reef fauna observed utilizing coral nurseries at Lazarus Island, Singapore

| |) | |) | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|
| Phylum | Class | Order | Family | Genus | Species |
| Annelida | Polychaeta | Eunicida | Eunicidae | Eunice | Eunice sp. |
| | | | | Marphysa | Marphysa sp. |
| | | | | Nicidion | Nicidion sp. |
| | | Phyllodocida | Chrysopetalidae | | |
| | | | Iphionidae | | |
| | | | Nereididae | | |
| | | | Polynoidae | | |
| | | | Syllidae | | |
| | | | Terebellidae | | |
| | | Sabellida | Sabellidae | | |
| | | Scolecida | Capitellidae | Capitella | Capitella sp. |
| | | Terebellida | Terebellidae | | |
| Arthropoda | Hexanauplia | Copepoda | | | |
| | Malacostraca | Amphipoda | Ampeliscidae | | |
| | | | Amphilochidae | | |
| | | | Ampithoidae | | |
| | | | Ischyroceridae | | |
| | | | Leucothoidae | | |

| Phylum | Class | Order | Family | Genus | Species |
|--------|-------|----------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| | | Decapoda | Alpheidae | Alpheus | Alpheus sp. |
| | | | • | Athanas | Athanas sp. |
| | | ٠ | | Synalpheus | Synalpheus sp. |
| | | | Diogenidae | Dardanus | Dardanus lagopodes |
| | | | Dromiidae | Cryptodromia | Cryptodromia sp. |
| | | . , | Galatheidae | Galathea | Galathea coralliophilus |
| | | | Galatheidae | Galathea | Galathea johnsoni |
| | | | Hippolytidae | Hippolyte | Hippolyte ventricosa |
| | | | Ischyroceridae | | |
| | | | Palaemonidae | Cuapetes | Cuapetes sp. |
| | | , | | Phyllognathia | Phyllognathia ceratophthalma |
| | | • | Pilumnidae | Pilumnus | Pilumnus sp. |
| | | | Porcellanidae | Lissoporcellana | Lissoporcellana spinuligera |
| | | • | | | Pisidia streptochiroides |
| | | ٠ | Tetraliidae | Tetralia | Tetralia nigrolineata |
| | | | Trapeziidae | Trapezia | Trapezia cymodoce |
| | | | | Chlorodiella | Chlorodiella nigra |

| Phylum | Class | Order | Family | Genus | Species |
|----------|----------------|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Trapeziidae | Cymo | Cymo andreossyi |
| | | | | Pilodius | Pilodius cf. granulatus |
| | | | Xanthidae | Soliella | Soliella cf. flava |
| | | Isopoda | Sphaeromatidae | | |
| | | Mysida | | | |
| | | Tanaidacea | Leptocheliidae | | |
| | Ostracoda | Myodocopida | Cypridinidae | | |
| Chordata | Actinopterygii | Gobiiformes | Gobiidae | Gobiodon | Gobiodon histrio |
| | | *************************************** | | Istigobius | Istigobius ornatus |
| | | Perciformes | Apogonidae | Ostorhinchus | Ostorhinchus margaritophorus |
| | | | Blenniidae | Petroscirtes | Petroscirtes variabilis |
| | | | Carangidae | Selaroides | Carangidae leptolepis |
| | | | Chaetodontidae | Chaetodon | Chaetodon octofasciatus |
| | | | | Chelmon | Chelmon rostratus |
| | | | Ephippidae | Platax | Platax teira |
| | | | Haemulidae | Plectorhinchus | Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides |
| | | | | | Plectorhinchus chrysotaenia |
| | | | | | Plectorhinchus gibbosus |
| | | | | | |

| Phylum | Class | Order | Family | Genus | Species |
|--------|-------|-------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Labridae | Choerodon | Choerodon anchorago |
| | | | | | Choerodon schoenleinii |
| | | | | Halichoeres | Halichoeres bicolor |
| | | | | | Halichoeres leucurus |
| | | | | | Halichoeres nigrescens |
| | | | | Scarus | Scarus ghobban |
| | | | | | Scarus rivulatus |
| | | | Latidae | Psammoperca | Psammoperca waigiensis |
| | | | Lutjanidae | Lutjanus | Lutjanus carponotatus |
| | | | Monacanthidae | Acreichthys | $Acreichthys\ tomentosus$ |
| | | | Mullidae | Upeneus | Upeneus tragula |
| | | | Nemipteridae | Pentapodus | Pentapodus paradiseus |
| | | | | Scolopsis | Scolopsis bilineatus |
| | | | | | Scolopsis monogramma |
| | | | Pinguipedidae | Parapercis | Parapercis sp. |
| | | | Pomacanthidae | Chaetodontoplus | Chaetodontoplus mesoleucus |
| | | | | | |

| Phylum | Class | Order | Family | Genus | Species |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | Pomacanthidae | Pomacanthus | Pomacanthus annularis |
| | | | | | Pomacanthus sextriatus |
| | | | | Dischistodus | Dischistodus prosopotaenia |
| | | | | Neopomacentrus | Neopomacentrus cyanomos |
| | | | | | Neopomacentrus filamentosus |
| | | | | Pomacentrus | Pomacentrus cuneatus |
| | | | | | Pomacentrus tripuncuatus |
| | | | Pseudochromidae | Congrogadus | Congrogadus subducens |
| | | | Serranidae | Cephalopholis | Cephalopholis boenak |
| | | | | Diploprion | Diploprion bifasciatum |
| | | Syngnathiformes | Syngnathidae | Corythoichthys | Corythoichthys amplexus |
| | | Tetraodontiformes | Tetraodontidae | Arothron | Arothron stellatus |
| | | | | Monacanthus | Monacanthus chinensis |
| Echinodermata | Holothuroidea | Synallactida | Stichopodidae | Stichopus | Stichopus horrens |
| | Ophiuroidea | Ophiurida | Ophiactidae | Ophiactis | Ophiactis savignyi |
| | | | Ophiotrichidae | | |
| | | | | | |

| Phylum | Class | Order | Family | Genus | Species |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Mollusca | Bivalvia | Arcida | Arcidae | Barbatia | Barbatia amygdalumtostum |
| | | | | Mesocibota | Mesocibota bistrigata |
| | | Mytilida | Mytilidae | Musculus | Musculus sp. |
| | | Pteriida | Pteriidae | | |
| | Cephalopoda | Cephalopoda | Octopoda | Octopus | Octopus sp. |
| | | Sepiida | Sepiidae | Sepia | Sepia sp. |
| | Gastropoda | Caenogastropoda | Triphoridae | Triphora | Triphora sp. |
| | | Littorinimorpha | Rissoidae | Alvania | Alvania ogasawarana |
| | | Neogastropoda | Columbellidae | Euplica | Euplica scripta |
| | | | | Mitrella | Mitrella sp. |
| | | | | Zafra | Zafra sp. |
| | | | Muricidae | Drupella | Drupella margariticola |
| | | | | Drupella | Drupella rugosa |
| | | Nudibranchia | Chromodorididae | Chromodoris | Chromodoris lineolata |
| | | | Discodorididae | Discodoris | Discodoris sp. |
| | | | Dorididae | Doriopsis | Doriopsis pecten |

| Phylum | Class | Order | Family | Genus | Species |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | | Trochida | Trochidae | Jujubinus | Jujubinus polychromus |
| | | | | Stomatolina | Stomatolina rubra |
| | | Littorinimorpha | Cypraeidae | Erronea | Erronea ovum |
| | Polyplacophora | | | | |
| Platyhelminthes Rhabditophora | Rhabditophora | Polycladida | Pseudocerotidae | Acanthozoon | Acanthozoon sp. |
| | | | | Nymphozoon | Nymphozoon bayeri |
| | | | | Pseudobiceros | Pseudobiceros hancockanus |
| | | | | Pseudoceros | Pseudoceros concinnus |
| | | | | | Pseudoceros bifurcus |
| | | | | | Pseudoceros indicus |
| | | | | | Pseudoceros laingensis |

References

- 1. Souter, D., Planes, S., Wicquart, J., Logan, M., Obura, D., and Staub, F. (2021). Status of coral reefs of the world: 2020 report. Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)/International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). Accessed 23 December 2023. https://gcrmn. net/2020-report/.
- 2. Burke, L., Reytar, K., Spalding, M., and Perry, A. (2011). Reefs at risk revisited. (World Resources Institute, Washington DC).
- 3. Firth, L. B., Knights, A. M., Bridger, D., Evans, A. J., Mieszkowska, N., Moore, P. J., O'Connor, N. E., Sheehan, E. V., Thompson, R. C., and Hawkins, S. J. (2016). Ocean sprawl: Challenges and opportunities for biodiversity management in a changing world. Oceanography and Marine Biology: An Annual Review, 54, pp. 189-262.
- 4. Lizcano-Sandoval, L. D., Londoño-Cruz, E., and Zapata, F. A. (2018). Growth and survival of Pocillopora damicornis (Scleractinia: Pocilloporidae) coral fragments and their potential for coral reef restoration in the Tropical Eastern Pacific. Mar. Biol. Res., 14(8), pp. 887-897.
- 5. Burt, J. A., Al-Khalifa, K., Khalaf, E., AlShuwaikh, B., and Abdulwahab, A. (2013). The continuing decline of coral reefs in Bahrain. Mar. Pollut. Bull., 72(2), pp. 357-363.
- 6. Hughes, T. P., Huang, H., and Young, M. A. (2013). The wicked problem of China's disappearing coral reefs. Conservation Biology, 27(2), pp. 261-269.
- 7. Bozec, Y. M., Acosta-González, G., Núñez-Lara, E., and Arias-González, J. E. (2008, July). Impacts of coastal development on ecosystem structure and function of Yucatan coral reefs, Mexico. Proceedings of the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, 18(18), pp. 691–695.
- 8. Ng, C. S. L., Chan, Y. K. S., Nguyen, N. T. H., Kikuzawa, Y. P., Sam, S. Q., Toh, T. C., Mock, A. Y. J., Chou, L. M., and Huang, D. (2021). Coral community composition and carbonate production in an urbanized seascape. Marine Environmental Research, 168, 105322.
- 9. Gayle, P. M., Wilson-Kelly, P., and Green, S. (2005). Transplantation of benthic species to mitigate impacts of coastal development in Jamaica. *Revista de Biología Tropical*, 53, pp. 105–115.
- 10. Kotb, M. M. (2016). Coral translocation and farming as mitigation and conservation measures for coastal development in the Red Sea: Agaba case study, Jordan. *Environmental Earth Sciences*, 75, pp. 1–8.

- 11. Ku'ulei, S. R., Donà, A. R., Stender, Y., Lager, C., and Jokiel, P. L. (2017). Effectiveness of coral relocation as a mitigation strategy in Kane 'ohe Bay, Hawai 'i. Peerl, 5, e3346.
- 12. Liñán-Rico, V., Cruz-Ramírez, A., Michel-Morfín, J. E., and Liñán-Cabello, M. A. (2020). Rescue and relocation of benthic organisms during an urban-port development project: Port of Manzanillo, case study. Aquat. Conserv. Mar. Freshwater Ecosyst., 30(6), pp. 1137–1148.
- 13. Sautya, S., Gaikwad, S., De, K., Nanajkar, M., Pradhan, U. K., Mohandass, C., and Sahu, B. (2022). Translocation of intertidal corals in highly urbanized Mumbai seascape: A pragmatic management initiative towards ecosystem conservation. Ecol. Eng., 180, 106666.
- 14. Chou, L. M., Huang, D., Tan, K. S., Toh, T. C., Goh, B. P. L., and Tun, K. (2019). Chapter 24: Singapore. ed. Sheppard, C., World Seas: An Environmental Evaluation (Second Edition) Volume II: The Indian Ocean to the Pacific (Academic Press), pp. 539-558.
- 15. Tun, K. P. P. (2012). Optimisation of reef survey methods and application of reef metrics and biocriteria for the monitoring of sediment-impacted reefs. Dissertation, National University of Singapore.
- 16. Singapore Department of Statistics (2023). Environment. Accessed 2 April 2023. https://www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/reference/ ebook/society/environment.
- 17. Erftemeijer, P. L., Riegl, B., Hoeksema, B. W., and Todd, P. A. (2012). Environmental impacts of dredging and other sediment disturbances on corals: A review. *Mar. Pollut. Bull.*, 64(9), pp. 1737–1765.
- 18. Ng, C. S. L., Toh, T. C., and Chou, L. M. (2013). Current status of coral reef restoration in Singapore. In Proceedings of the Asian Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment, pp. 546-558.
- 19. Ng, C. S. L., and Chou, L. M. (2018). Coral reef restoration in Singapore - Past, present and future. In Sustainability Matters: *Environmental Management in the Anthropocene*, pp. 3–23.
- 20. Lam, J. S. L. (2016). Strategy of a transhipment hub: The case of Port of Singapore. In Lee, T. W and Cullinane, K. (Eds.). Dynamic Shipping and Port Development in the Globalized Economy. Applying Theory to Practice in Maritime Logistics, vol. 1, Palgrave Macmillan UK, pp. 12-38.
- 21. Ministry of Transport (2022). Enhancing Singapore's Connectivity; Securing Our Future. Press release. Accessed 2 April 2023. https:// www.mot.gov.sg/news/press-releases/Details/enhancingsingapore-s-connectivity-securing-our-future.

- 22. Maritime and Port Authority (2015). Relocated corals thriving at new sites. Accessed 2 April 2023. https://www.mpa.gov.sg/mediacentre/details/relocated-corals-thriving-at-new-sites.
- 23. Chou, L. M., Toh, T. C., and Ng, C. S. L. (2017). Effectiveness of reef restoration in Singapore's rapidly urbanizing coastal environment. International Journal of Environmental Science and Development, 8(8), pp. 576-580.
- 24. Chou, L. M., Yeemin, T., Yaman, A. R. B. G., Vo, S. T., and Alino, P. (2009). Coral reef restoration in the South China Sea. Galaxea, Journal of *Coral Reef Studies*, 11(2), pp. 67–74.
- 25. Edwards, A. J. (2010). Reef Rehabilitation Manual. (Coral Reef Targeted Research & Capacity Building for Management Program, St Lucia, Australia).
- 26. Bongiorni, L., Giovanelli, D., Rinkevich, B., Pusceddu, A., Chou, L. M., and Danovaro, R. (2011). First step in the restoration of a highly degraded coral reef (Singapore) by in situ coral intensive farming. Aquaculture, 322, pp. 191–200.
- 27. Ng, C. S. L., Lim, S. C., Ong, J. Y., Teo, L. M. S., Chou, L. M., Chua, K. E., and Tan, K. S. (2015). Enhancing the biodiversity of coastal defence structures: Transplantation of nursery-reared reef biota onto intertidal seawalls. Ecol. Eng., 82, pp. 480-486.
- 28. Chou, L. M., Sam, S. Q., Toh, T. C., and Ng, C. S. L. (2018). The relevance of reef restoration in the continually changing marine environment of Singapore. Vietnam Journal of Marine Science and Technology, 18(3), pp. 278–285.
- 29. Kikuzawa, Y. P., Ng, C. S. L., Toh, T. C., Sam, S. Q., Lee, Y. L., Loo, P. L., Chua, Y. Z, Tan, K. S., and Chou, L. M. (2020). Diversity of subtidal benthic and hard coral communities on sloping and vertical seawalls in Singapore. *Marine Biodiversity*, 50, pp. 1–14.
- 30. Baums, I. B., Baker, A. C., Davies, S. W., Grottoli, A. G., Kenkel, C. D., Kitchen, S. A., Kuffner, I. B., LaJeunesse, T. C., Matz, M. V., Miller, M. W., Parkinson, J. E., and Shantz, A. A. (2019). Considerations for maximizing the adaptive potential of restored coral populations in the western Atlantic. Ecol. Appl., 29(8), e01978.
- 31. Afiq-Rosli, L., Huang, D., Toh, T. C., Taira, D., Ng, C. S. L., Song, T., and Chou, L. M. (2019). Maximising genetic diversity during coral transplantation from a highly impacted source reef. Conserv. Genet., 20, pp. 629-637.

- 32. Epstein, N., Bak, R. P. M., and Rinkevich, B. (2003). Applying forest restoration principles to coral reef rehabilitation. Restor. Ecol., 9(4), pp. 432-442.
- 33. Shafir, S., and Rinkevich, B. (2010). Integrated long-term mid-water coral nurseries: A management instrument evolving into a floating ecosystem. *University of Mauritius Research Journal*, 16, pp. 365–386.
- 34. Rinkevich, B. (2005). Conservation of coral reefs through active restoration measures: Recent approaches and last decade progress. Environ. Sci. Technol. 39, pp. 4333-4342.
- 35. Ng, C. S. L., and Chou, L. M. (2014). Rearing juvenile 'corals of opportunity' in in situ nurseries-A reef rehabilitation approach for sediment-impacted environments. Mar. Biol. pp. 833-838.
- 36. Shafir, S., and Rinkevich, B. (2010). Integrated long-term mid-water coral nurseries: A management instrument evolving into a floating ecosystem. *University of Mauritius Research Journal*, 16, pp. 365–386.
- 37. Schopmeyer, S. A., Lirman, D., Bartels, E., Byrne, J., Gilliam, D. S., Hunt, I., Johnson, M. E., Larson, E. A., Maxwell, L., Nedimyer, K., and Walter, C. (2012). In situ coral nurseries serve as genetic repositories for coral reef restoration after an extreme cold-water event. Restor. Ecol., 20(6), pp. 696-703.
- 38. Poquita-Du, R. C., Toh, K. B., Toh, T. C., Ng, C. S. L., Taira, D., Loke, H. X., Afiq-Rosli, L., Chou, L. M., Song, T. C., and Cabaitan, P. (2017). Effects of nursery table slope orientation on coral survival and growth. Mar. Biol. Res., 13(9), pp. 975-982.
- 39. Afiq-Rosli, L., Taira, D., Loke, H. X., Toh, T. C., Toh, K. B., Ng, C. S. L., Cabaitan, P. C., Chou, L. M., and Song, T. (2017). In situ nurseries enhance coral transplant growth in sedimented waters. Mar. Biol. Res. 13(8), pp. 878-887.
- 40. Madin, J. S., Hoogenboom, M. O., Connolly, S. R., Darling, E. S., Falster, D. S., Huang, D., Keith, S., Mizerek, T., Pandolfi, J. M., and Baird, A. H. (2016). A trait-based approach to advance coral reef science. Trends. Ecol. Evol., 31(6), pp. 419-428.
- 41. Toh, T. C., Ng, C. S. L., Loke, H. X., Taira, D., Toh, K. B., Afiq-Rosli, L., Du, R. C. P., Cabaitan, P., Sam, S. Q., Kikuzawa, Y. P., and Chou, L. M. (2017). A cost-effective approach to enhance scleractinian diversity on artificial shorelines. *Ecol. Eng.*, 99, pp. 349–357.
- 42. Sam, S. Q., Ng, C. S. L., Kikuzawa, Y. P., Toh, T. C., Sim, W. T., and Chou, L. M. (2021). Influence of fragment size on post transplantation

- growth and survival of domed scleractinian corals. Mar. Biol. Res., 17(4), pp. 327-340.
- 43. Ng, C. S. L., Huang, D., Toh, K. B., Sam, S. Q., Kikuzawa, Y. P., Toh, T. C., Taira, D., Chan, Y. K. S., Hung, L. Z. T., Sim, W. T., Rashid, A. R., Afiq-Rosli, L., Ng, N. K., and Chou, L. M. (2020). Responses of urban reef corals during the 2016 mass bleaching event. Mar. Pollut. Bull., 154, 111111.
- 44. Rinkevich, B. (2014). Rebuilding coral reefs: Does active reef restoration lead to sustainable reefs? Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 7, pp. 28-36.
- 45. Taira, D., Toh, T. C., Ng, C. S. L., Sam, S. Q., and Chou, L. M. (2016). Coral nurseries as habitats for juvenile corallivorous butterflyfish. Marine Biodiversity., 47(3), pp. 787-788.
- 46. Sam, S. Q., Taira, D., Ng, C. S. L., Toh, T. C., and Chou, L. M. (2018). First record of cuttlefish egg-deposition at an *in situ* coral nursery. Galaxea, Journal of Coral Reef Studies, 20(1), pp. 9-10.
- 47. Wee, S. Y. C., Sam, S. Q., Sim, W. T., Ng, C. S. L., Taira, D., Afiq-Rosli, L., Kikuzawa, Y. P., Toh, T. C., and Chou, L. M. (2019). The role of in situ coral nurseries in supporting mobile invertebrate epifauna. J. Nat. Conserv., 50, 125710.
- 48. Taylor, J. D. (1976). Habitats, abundance and diets of muricacean gastropods at Aldabra Atoll. Zool. J. Linn. Soc., 59(2), pp. 155–193.
- 49. Cumming, R. L., and McCorry, D. (1998). Corallivorous gastropods in Hong Kong. Coral Reefs, 17(2), pp. 178-178.
- 50. Moyer, J. T. (1982). Massive destruction of scleractinian corals by the muricid gastropod, Drupella, in Japan and the Philippines. *The Nautilus*, 96, pp. 69–82.
- 51. Boucher, L. M. (1986). Coral predation by muricid gastropods of the genus Drupella at Enewetak, Marshall Islands. Bull. Mar. Sci., 38(1), pp. 9-11.
- 52. Sam, S. Q., Toh, T. C., Kikuzawa, Y. P., Ng, C. S. L., Taira, D., Afiq-Rosli, L., Tan, K. S., and Chou, L. M. (2017). Egg capsules and veligers of the corallivorous muricid gastropod Drupella rugosa (Born, 1778). *Invertebr. Reprod. Dev.*, 61(3), pp. 164–171.
- 53. Ng, C. S. L., Toh, T. C., Toh, K. B., Sam, S. Q., Kikuzawa, Y. P., Chou, L. M., and Huang, D. (2022). Enhancing reef restoration by assessing stakeholder knowledge, attitudes and preferences. Restor. Ecol., e13854.
- 54. Low, J., and Lim, L. J. (2012). Conservation of our natural heritage: The Singapore experience. In Proceedings of the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, Cairns, Australia, pp. 10–13.