ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF SCTLD ON LIGHTHOUSE REEF ATOLL, BELIZE

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**CORE INTERVENTIONS**

**CORAL MONITORING & TREATMENT**
- Monitor susceptible species
- Benthic assessments
- Treat SCTLD afflicted corals
- Monitor effectiveness of treatment

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS**
- SCTLD educational materials
- Community outreach to users of LHRA (fishers, tourism operators, students)

**CAPACITY BUILDING**
- Training for staff on SCTLD ID and treatment
- Exposure trips for students
- Open water dive certification for staff and students

**DATA SHARING**
- Data shared with national and regional networks
Reef Monitoring

4017 coral colonies assessed at 12 sites in LHRA over 6 months

• 73% appeared healthy
• 16% had SCTLD lesions
• 11% had 100% mortality attributed to SCTLD

Highly susceptible species with greatest disease prevalence were:

- Maze coral - *M. meandrites/MMEA*
- Smooth flower coral - *E. fastigiata/EFAS*
- Pillar coral - *D. cylindrus/DCYL*
Benthic assessment

22% live coral cover at LHRA from 16 sites

- Fish biomass
- Macroalgae
SCTLD Treatment

9 sites monitored and 191 SCTLD afflicted coral colonies treated

Sites selected - tourism, fishing and greater coral cover

Most abundant coral species treated: *P. strigosa* and *M. cavernosa*
29 colonies were documented to have had successful treatment after 2 visits, the remaining 47 were randomly treated and 22 had 3 applications.
copies of posters, flyers and booklets printed and distributed to students, parents, tourism stakeholders, conservation partners
FOSTERING RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS

people engaged (fishers, students and tourism stakeholders) during community outreach activities

496
20 people received training and their knowledge enhanced in marine conservation.
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROJECT!

https://belizeaudubonsociety-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/projectresources_belizeaudubon_org/EX72hCMtIEdOmiEtR-pd184B40tx6suGL78ExIrDkq7YAg?e=xYSf1p