

Coral restoration program in the Bicol Region, the Philippines: experiences and challenges

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Abstract

Several coral restoration programs in Bicol Region, Philippines were conducted by various sectors in the hope to help improve the ailing coral reefs in the area. In this paper, we discussed the experiences and challenges in the implementation of the program. The program did not only intend to rehabilitate degraded reef areas but also to showcase to the communities its viability as a community-based endeavor allowing partnership with different sectors of the society. Various rehabilitation methods were discussed from low-cost to high-cost designs and the possibilities of other economic opportunities. Challenges enumerated from natural calamities to social issues were also pointed out. Overall, coral rehabilitation program in the Region showed high acceptability from the community however, sustainability has been observed as the problem.

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