

Over one-half
of the world's population lives
within **100 kilometres**
of the sea.

Coral Reef Targeted Research & Capacity Building for Management

Global Research, Local Action



image: Corbis Photo



image: Earth Sciences and Image Analysis Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center



image: James Oliver (reefbase.org)



image: Gary Bell, Ocean Wide Images

Coral reefs are the largest living structures on earth and the richest repositories of marine biodiversity. Coral reefs are also important economic assets for almost 100 countries around the world, however nearly two thirds of the world's reefs are under severe threat from impacts such as economic development and climate change.

The Coral Reef Targeted Research & Capacity Building for Management Program (CRTR) is a leading international coral reef research initiative that provides a coordinated approach to credible, factual and scientifically-proven knowledge for improved coral reef management.

The CRTR Program is a proactive research and capacity building partnership that aims to lay the foundation in filling crucial knowledge gaps in the core research areas of:

- Coral Bleaching
- Connectivity
- Coral Diseases
- Coral Restoration and Remediation
- Remote Sensing
- Modeling and Decision Support

Each of these research areas are facilitated by Working Groups underpinned by the skills of many of the world's leading coral reef researchers. The CRTR also supports four Centers of Excellence in priority regions, serving as important regional centers for building confidence and skills in research, training and capacity building.

These geographic nodes (MesoAmerica, South-East Asia, East Africa and Australasia/South Pacific) reflect the regional distribution of coral reefs and management initiatives underway to conserve them.

The regional nodes will be the focus points for research carried out by international scientific working groups and integrated within an overall research framework consisting of three strategic elements:

- Addressing knowledge and technology gaps
- Promoting learning and capacity building
- Linking scientific knowledge to management

The CRTR is being developed in phases over 15 years and through focused and systematic research, is working to effectively support management and policy and to better integrate resulting information with other disciplines. The Program will also enhance the capacity of researchers, students and managers within developing countries, so that a global network can effectively share the most up-to-date coral reef research to benefit regional, national and local management actions and policy.

Our activity

1. Addressing knowledge and technology gaps

The new knowledge and management tools produced should help coral reef managers understand and address both chronic and acute forms of stress.



image: Ernesto Weil

image: Ove Hoegh-Guldberg

2. Promoting Scientific Learning and Capacity Building

The Program is building or enhancing the capacity of institutions at sites in at least three developing countries within the first phase so that they can function as regional Centers of Excellence.

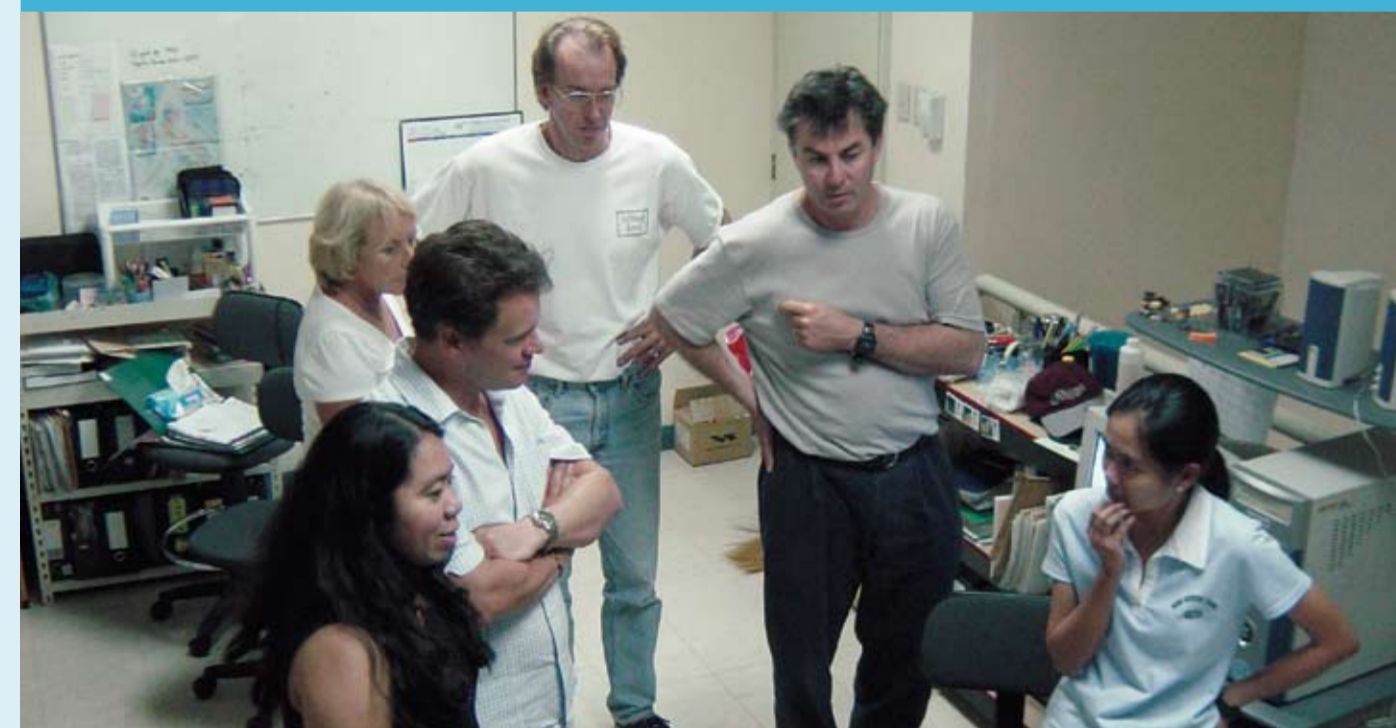


image: Andy Hooten

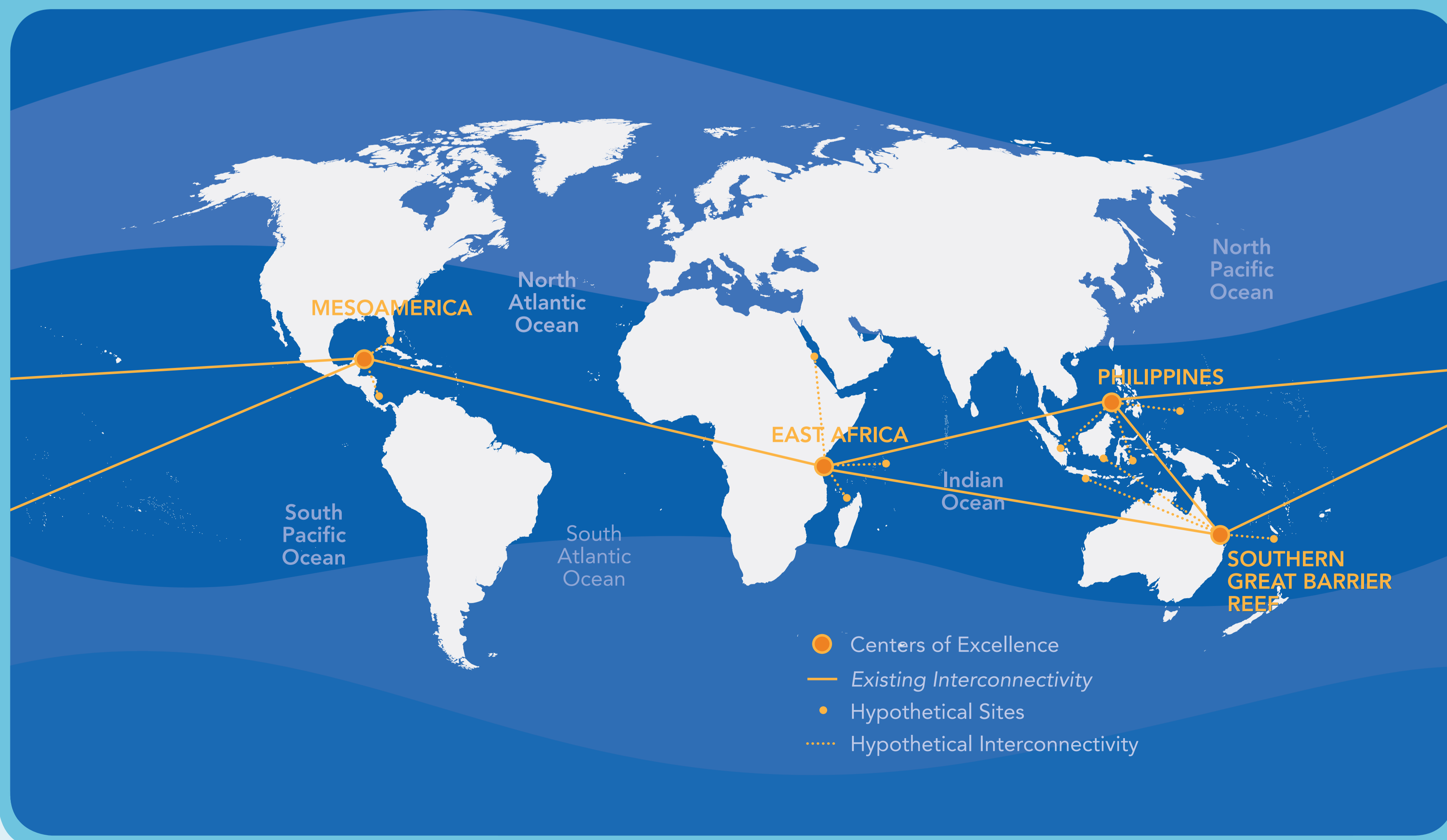
3. Linking Scientific Knowledge to Management and Policy

By linking advances in scientific knowledge to on-the-ground decisions and by providing and improving science-based coral reef management and policy tools, the Program aims to help strengthen the way coral reef managers and policy makers view and manage coral reefs.



image: Susan Siar

Centers of Excellence



- Centers of Excellence
- Existing Interconnectivity
- Hypothetical Sites
- Hypothetical Interconnectivity

More information

The University of Queensland is the Project Executing Agency (PEA). More information about the CRTR Program can be obtained from the PEA:

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The CRTR Program is a partnership between the Global Environment Facility, The World Bank, The University of Queensland (Australia), the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and approximately 40 research institutes and other third parties around the world. The four sites or Centers of Excellence are **Southeast Asia**: Marine Science Institute of Bolinao, University of the Philippines; **East Africa**: Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Tanzania; **Mesoamerica/Western Caribbean**: Unidad Academica Puerto Morelos, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico; and **Australasia/South Pacific**: Heron Island Research Laboratory, Centre for Marine Studies, The University of Queensland, Australia.