

**Building  
environmental  
resilience and security  
in a changing climate  
through biodiversity  
conservation in the UK  
Overseas Territories**

**Project: Implementing Coral Reef Action Plans for the UK Overseas Territories Coral Reef Initiative**

**Project timeline: 2021 to 2023+**

**Funders: Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF)**

**Partners: The governments and communities of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.**

**Summary:** This project takes a collaborative approach to implementing Coral Reef Action Plans to progress adaptive management approaches, enabling the OTs to respond to changing threats, emerging technologies, and innovation, and to address the progression of SCTLD. Priority actions identified by each OT will strengthen existing reefs, making them more resilient to future threats such as disease and the effects of climate change. Project delivery will be linked closely to the Darwin+ funded project, DPLUS147 'Collaborative approach to managing coral disease in UK Overseas Territories', using the Coral Conservation in the Overseas Territories (C-COT) working group to share knowledge, expertise, and resources.

**Key Objectives:**

- To provide funding and increase technical capacity across the OTs to support innovative and novel approaches for the monitoring and management coral reefs.
- To increase awareness of the importance of coral reefs, how human activities can damage coral reefs, and how local communities can get involved in protecting them.
- To gather data and facilitate knowledge sharing and expertise to respond to the immediate and serious threat posed by stony coral tissue loss disease.
- To gather data and progressing baseline understanding of management options available to improve the resilience of coral reefs to climate change and disease.
- To develop a roadmap to inform the next phase of Action Plan implementation.

**History:** This project is a continuation of its initial 2021/22 phase and builds on the 2019/22 project 'Delivering coral reef conservation actions in Montserrat and Pitcairn'. These projects contribute to implementation of the Coral Reef Action Plans developed during the UK OTs Coral Reef Initiative Workshop in 2019.

