

Coral Reef Restoration Course

Introduccion

The coral reef restoration Course, includes the AWARE Coral Reef Conservation Specialty and a Diploma as a Coral Reef Restorer Volunteer Diver. The course is divided in Academic sessions and 4 open water training beach dives in the restoration areas and in the coral farm. Upon completion, you become a volunteer helping in the restoration efforts taking place in the most affected areas of Cozumel outside of the marine park where restoration is very important.

Objective

To identify the areas to be restored, and to locate the fragmented coral organisms to be rescued along the sandy areas of the shallow water reefs. To transport and attach the recued coral colonies into containers with epoxy which will be maintained in the quarantine areas where health and resilience of the coral colonies will be monitored. To prepare the areas for restoration and fixation of the coral colonies and monitoring program of the restored areas.

Overview

The theory is divided in:

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| I | II |
| 1- Project Aware | 1- What is the Coral farm? |
| 2- Importance of Coral Reefs | 2- Cleaning of the concrete coral holders |
| 3- Understanding Coral | 3- Methods of collecting coral fragments |
| 4- Complex Nature of Life on the Coral Reef | 4- Handling of live coral fragments |
| 5- Coral Reefs in Peril | 5- Diving protocol in the coral farm with emphasis in buoyancy control |
| 6- Protect the Living Reef | |
| III | IV |
| 1- Handling of coral holders | 1- Restoration area protocol |
| 2- Use of the epoxy clay | 2- Preparation of the area for coral transplant |
| 3- Knowledge and use of tools for restoration | 3- Methods of permanent tagging of transplant |
| 4- Methods to mark planted corals | 4- Transport and handling of coral transplants |
| 5- Data collecting protocol | 5- Data collecting and photo of transplant |

The course also consists of 4 training dives which will be held from the beach at a depth of 30 ft. Each dive is about 45minutes.

Four training Dives which are:

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| I | II |
| 1- Knowing the coral farm underwater | 1- Labeling planted corals |
| 2- Cleaning of the slab from algae and sediments | 2- Cleaning of the coral holders |
| 3- Handling the epoxy underwater | 3- Selection of the corals to plant |
| 4- Location of coral fragments | 4- Collection of Data corals |
| 5- Handling underwater of live coral | |
| III | IV |
| 1- Location of the area to restore | 1- Visit of the transplanted corals |
| 2- Preparation of the area for coral transplant | 2- Measuring growth and data collecting |
| 3- Tagging the transplanted coral | 3- Photo of the coral colony |
| 4- Data collecting and photo of the coral | 4- Look for new areas to restore |

Coral reef Restoration Course

2 Days Program; 4 Academic sessions and 4 Open Water dives. Includes Tanks and weights, materials and training aids. Also includes the PADI-AWARE Coral Reef Conservation Specialty and Diploma. Not Included: Diving equipment (BCD, regulator, mask, fins)

For more info go to Cozumel Coral reef Restoration Program on Facebook and leave a message or e-mail to drgmendez9@gmail.com

