

INTRODUCING



PRIVATE TRUSTS AND FUNDS

whose clients want to help protect
coral reef ecosystems for the future



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CAN CORAL REEFS BE SAVED?

The United Nations (UN) reports that 70% of the earth's coral reefs are threatened. Time is not on our side but the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines a plan for the future protection of the ocean, including Sustainable Goal (SDG) 14 which identifies a clear and measurable strategy for conserving the oceans. This global, time sensitive approach is at the heart of CCMI's strategy. CCMI's work therefore speaks to how we can save coral reefs, because we believe we can if we act now.

Our relationships with our donors and stakeholders are key to making our vision a reality. This document outlines how we operate and the work we do. Please contact us for more information: donations@reefresearch.org.





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ABOUT CCMI

In 1998 Dr Carrie Manfrino established the Central Caribbean Marine Institute after a visit to Grand Cayman where reefs were suffering a huge stress event and major areas of the reef were bleaching. The UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 is a focal point for CCMI and is at the core of what we do: bleaching. That same year was also the first International Year of the Reef, and there was a strong call to action to better understand why reefs were dying on a global scale.

The UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 is a focal point for CCMI and is at the core of what we do:

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. CCMI, our collaborators, partners and stakeholders are working to identify a brighter future for coral reefs, to positively make a difference and deliver SDG 14 to the best of our ability.

The reality was that as a scientist, Dr Manfrino felt that she needed to do more than just study the reef. She wanted to establish an institution that could educate as well as nurture great scientific discoveries. Little Cayman was the chosen home of CCMI due to its healthy reef systems, low development, safe infrastructure and stable political environment.

Since 1998, CCMI has strived to become the Caribbean's premier marine research institute and the CCMI team has established a clear vision of a world with vibrant oceans and healthy coral reefs.

At CCMI, we are a team of scientists, educators, and communicators who recognise that coral reefs are critically important - yet threatened - ecosystems that require immediate protection. We are committed to understanding the impacts of natural and human caused threats to biodiversity, including climate change, to create a meaningful pathway towards marine sustainability for the future. We have a clear strategic approach to our mandate, which includes the proven trifecta of research, conservation, and education.

CCMI IMPACT

- 150+ PUBLISHED SCIENTIFIC PAPERS
- 50+ PHD, MSC STUDENTS & INTERNSHIPS
- 150+m CORAL GROWN
- 70m2 CORAL OUTPLANTED TO THE WILD
- 200+ VISITING SCIENTISTS
- 400,000+ REEFS GO LIVE REACH
- 1950+ LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
- \$1,000,000 INVESTED IN FIELD RESEARCH ANNUALLY

WHY CCMI?

Why should your trust or fund recommend CCMI as a beneficiary of giving?
Feedback from our current partners indicates why CCMI is often a welcome recipient:

PROFESSIONAL

- CCMI is a registered charity in the Cayman Islands and UK, as well as a US 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- CCMI is audited and provides official accounts via the US 990 protocols.
- CCMI is fully independent and run by an engaged, motivated board.
- The organisation has a policy of being solvent at all times and works hard to ensure risk is always minimised.
- CCMI is 28 years old, operates a multi-million dollar facility, and has recently doubled our facilities space with the purchase of a new property adjacent to the Little Cayman Research Centre. This new building will serve as a second accommodations and classroom facility to double research and education capacity.
- CCMI has a proven track record in the Cayman Islands.



SUSTAINABLE

- CCMI delivers innovative and cutting-edge research, conservation and education initiatives that align with the most current global goals in coral reef protection.
- The team has developed a diverse base of revenue streams, including fundraising events, grant writing, earned revenue and a fantastic donor base.
- CCMI has three core project areas to ensure clear deliverables and outcomes and continued commitment to the company vision.
- The team provides regular project updates, in clear, communicable formats, with an emphasis on transparency of spend and results driven performance.

PERSONABLE

- CCMI has a small yet effective management team - supporters can pick up the phone and speak to one of the team as regularly as they want to.
- Donors are given the opportunity to support via unrestricted funds, or identify a specific project of interest (restricted funds).
- If a specific project is the focus, a full project proposal will be outlined for approval.
- Throughout the year, the management team will provide opportunities to catch up in person, if required.



OUR PROJECTS

How can you help us protect marine biodiversity for the future?

We have three major research and conservation themes that require funding:

RESILIENCE

Research at the Central Caribbean Marine Institute is focused on understanding how ecosystems function in order to maintain biodiversity. Using a combination of large-scale in situ ecological surveys, small-scale laboratory experiments, and molecular ecology, we examine population structure, reproductive ecology, and genetic connectivity on tropical coral reef ecosystems, ranging from shallow inshore reefs to the mesophotic zone. Upcoming projects range from understanding molecular and physiological mechanisms of adaptation by corals to extreme environments, to enhancing reef complexity using out-planting techniques to restore key ecosystem functions. Both theoretical and applied, the research conducted by our in-house team of researchers will advance our understanding of how coral reefs and all of the organisms that reside there will not only survive, but thrive, under future environmental conditions.

HEALTHY REEFS

Our annual Healthy Reef campaign is a series of survey, outreach, and conservation activities that will help identify and promote healthy reefs in the Cayman Islands. CCMI researchers have been collecting data on

the benthic habitat and fish populations surrounding Little Cayman regularly since 1999. As CCMI researchers continue to collect this data annually, notes, reports, and peer reviewed journal articles are available online to scientists, policy-makers, and the general public. These surveys document patterns of local change over the last two decades this project serves to improve the outlook of coral reefs, linking to the UN SDG14 and serves as a response to recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) claims that corals are in fact in crisis. We believe we can save coral reefs for the future, and this initiative seeks to build engagement throughout the local community - without whose support, the future for corals is uncertain.

RESTORATION

CCMI has led the way in the Cayman Islands in coral restoration since we collaborated with the Cayman Islands Department of Environment in 2012 to launch the first coral nursery. The work informed new coral restoration policy, which expanded so several projects in Cayman. The goal of coral restoration is to help nature nurture itself; corals are taken from the nursery back out to the wild to establish a viable, locally connected, sexually reproductive population. In 2017, however, CCMI made an important discovery: corals in our nurseries spawned and produced thousands of new gametes that, if fertilized and grounded on the sea floor, could generate reefs naturally. In both August 2018 and 2019, we captured spawning corals to test and monitor how they reseed the wild reefs. Our restoration effort has grown with selecting for disease resilient and thermotolerant individuals to use in coral restoration and outplanting efforts to build resilient reefs, which has been critical as the 2023 super marine heat wave and coral bleaching events decimated the staghorn coral in Cayman. CCMI's coral nursery is home to some of the last remaining *Acorpora* corals in the Cayman Island. The results from CCMI's projects help guide strategies and increase the overall success of coral restoration, thereby sustaining coral reef biodiversity and promoting regional reef resilience. The project has enormous community outreach potential through engagement of the public for citizen scientist efforts.



~ INVESTING IN THE FUTURE ~

Support CCMI's work to continue impactful efforts for a sustainable future

MARINE ECOLOGY COURSE (MEC)

CCMI awards scholarships to local government primary schools each year to attend the popular Marine Ecology Course, a 3-day/2-night residential programme at the Little Cayman Research Centre. Often the first 'away from home' trip, participating classes are immersed in hands-on learning and activity that align with important marine ecology, conservation, and biology standards in the Cayman Islands National Science Curriculum. The professional marine science educators engage students during the course in new experiences and demonstrating to them how their lives are inextricably linked to the ocean and coral reefs found in their backyard. This early marine sustainability education is vital to connect students with the ocean and develop their ocean literacy.

After expanding our facilities in 2025, we launched our goal to support every Year 6 student from a Cayman Islands public school with a residential trip to CCMI. This would impact approximately 400+ students (plus chaperones) each year. CCMI supporters immediately stepped up to help us meet our goal for 2026, and now we are looking to secure longer term support to ensure that all students receive this experience each year.



CCMI ENDOWMENT FUND

The Central Caribbean Marine Institute has established the CCMI Endowment Fund to ensure long-term sustainability of our projects and programmes as part of a strategic plan for the future of the organisation. The CCMI Endowment Fund is an important aspect of our overall financial planning to ensure our revenue streams remain diverse and not too reliant on any one source of income.

Donations to the Endowment Fund remain intact and are managed by a professional Investment Manager and overseen by an Investment Committee. Investment income from the Endowment Fund is distributed to CCMI in support of operations and ongoing programmes annually, up to a maximum percentage of the principal capital, based on the value of the fund and investment performance. Your contribution toward the CCMI Endowment Fund is important to our self-funding mechanisms, ensuring the organisation remains in a stable financial position in the face of potential economic headwinds, ensuring our work continues uninterrupted.



THE CORAL FUND

Help us build a more impactful organization dedicated to marine research, education, and conservation

CCMI has expanded our footprint with the acquisition of our new building; however, we are not finished growing our facilities yet. The new facility needs amends to meet our specific needs for classroom and meeting spaces as well as accommodations for visiting students, researchers, and citizen scientists.

We will update our original facility by expanding our kitchen and dining spaces, adding solar panels, and developing additional lab space for research efforts.

Over the next few years, we will raise an additional US \$3-4 million to support the necessary renovations, upgrades, and enhancements to convert the current home into a fully functioning research and education residence.

Our increased space doubles our capacity for important research and education programmes, growing our impact for coral reefs and ensuring CCMI remains a regional leader in the field, and we will continue to make improvements that ensure we support the vital work of the researchers, students, and citizen scientists who use our facilities.



THE IMPACT OF OUR PROJECTS

Whether you support our core research and conservation themes, or the new Coral Fund capital campaign to expand our facilities in Little Cayman, the project impacts are far reaching and tangible. In addition to peer review and professional project communications, all CCMI's projects are supported via a robust citizen science programme. Our outreach includes hosting Earthwatch, Dive with Heroes (Veterans), engaging interns and students, as well as the Reefs Go Live programme, which is an innovative live stream broadcast from ocean to classroom that reaches viewers in more than 37 countries each year! CCMI also conducts a Reef Lecture Series in both Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, as well as international webinars for regional and international conservation managers. Your support for any one of these projects will raise awareness across the region of the important and ongoing need for conservation.

CCMI TIMELINE



1998 - CCMI was founded by Dr Carrie Manfrino as a US non profit. CCMI began our coral reef monitoring programme that tracks changes in coral reef and fish health.

2002 - CCMI was incorporated as a registered Cayman Islands Charity (#NP-3)

2003 - CCMI was determined as a US 501(c)(3) (#22-3609293) **2004** - CCMI was incorporated as a UK registered charity (#1104009)

2005 - HRH The Earl of Wessex (now HRH The Duke of Edinburgh), CCMI's Royal Patron, breaks ground on the Little Cayman Research Centre

2007 - CCMI launches international programming, including visiting scientists and groups from Dartmouth, University of Florida, Welsley College, Rutgers University, Keane University, University of North Carolina etc. CCMI was awarded our first \$500K multi-year grant.

2009 - CCMI partnered with the United States National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to launch the Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) as part of the Integrated Coral Observation Network (ICON). CCMI launched our Ocean Literacy programme.

2012 - CCMI was awarded a US National Science Foundation facilities grant to develop the climate change labs. CCMI also established the first ever coral nursery and coral restoration research programme in the Cayman Islands in partnership with the Cayman Islands Department of Environment

2019 - CCMI hosted HRH The Prince of Wales (now King Charles III) at the Little Cayman Research Centre, including a Reefs Go Live broadcast. CCMI launched the Women in Ocean Science Award (WIOSA) to support early-career professionals.

2020 - CCMI hired new Research Director, Dr Gretchen Goodbody Gringley, who was awarded a National Science Foundation grant, CCMI's first as lead PI/Institution. CCMI championed Little Cayman as a Mission Blue Hope Spot, as well as seeing 89% success with a new coral restoration outplanting concept.

2021 - CCMI provides the most local scholarships in one year since our inception and expands the Reef Ecology and Evolution Lab (REEL). CCMI is awarded a RESEMBID grant to support coral restoration, and a Covid-19 Adaptation Grant. CCMI presents Quiet Oceans for the UN.

2022 - CCMI is awarded an NSF grant to expand our wet labs. CCMI is also awarded a Darwin Plus Initiative Grant to explore research offshore sea mounts. CCMI presented at the ICRI and Reef Futures Conferences.

2023 - HRH The Earl of Wessex (now HRH The Duke of Edinburgh) launches the Coral Fund and breaks ground on a new facility in Little Cayman

2024 - CCMI establishes the CCMI Endowment Fund to ensure long-term sustainability of the projects and programmes of the organisation

2025 - CCMI creates the position of Head of Marine Science Education as part of the efforts to scale up our outreach and advocacy in response to the ocean crisis following the fourth global mass bleaching event (2023). CCMI also acquires the adjacent property in Little Cayman, including a 6,000 sq ft building, to expand facilities immediately.

2026 - CCMI invests US \$300,000 in scholarships to host every Year 6 student in a Cayman Islands Government primary school for the foundational level Marine Ecology Course.

CONTACT

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