



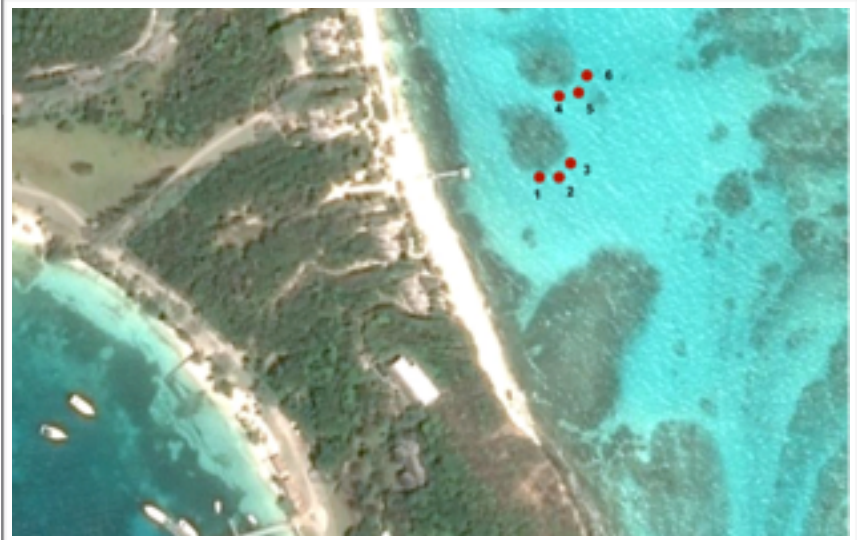
THE PHILIP STEPHENSON FOUNDATION



Coral Garden PSV

The Philip Stephenson Foundation <https://www.philipstephensonfoundation.org> has partnered with **CLEAR Caribbean** <http://www.clearcaribbean.org/> to implement a coral restoration and reef monitoring project on the private island of Petit St. Vincent (PSV) in the Southern Grenadines.

Based on exploration, water quality surveys and site research around the island conducted since 2016, the first coral nursery has been built and deployed on the East side of PSV in June 2017.



The coral nursery on PSV (location shown above) consists of six tables anchored at a depth of 10 feet in sandy bottom near former coral outcrops about 150 feet from shore. The tables (shown below) have been populated with fragments of Elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*) collected from around the island.





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The shallow barrier reefs East and North of the island were once teeming with live coral, fish and other marine life.

Elkhorn and Staghorn coral were the predominant species as evidenced by the size and extent of skeletons in the area.

Most of these corals died as a result of a presumed epidemic of white band disease that decimated populations throughout the Caribbean in the 1980s and 1990s and were further damaged by overfishing and hurricanes.

After about nine months some of the coral will be transferred to the reef inside the restoration zone. The expectation is that the outcrops of juvenile coral will help repopulate the reefs in the area, which will continue to be monitored and increasingly protected.

Helping the reefs regenerate is a crucial conservation step on the way to ultimately creating an effective, well-managed and enforced, designated marine protected area around PSV.

To maximize its benefits and increase the chances of success, the project included local staff from the PSV resort and from the nearby island of Petite Martinique.

Eight coral gardeners have been PADI certified for open water scuba diving and took part in the building, deployment, maintenance and monitoring of the coral nursery, under the guidance and supervision of CLEAR Caribbean and the local dive shop operators.



The team have named themselves the **Elkhorn Divers**. In addition to the activities above, they will take photos and videos of the coral nursery and restoration area.

