Coral Reef Restoration Monitoring Guide

Methods to evaluate restoration success from local to ecosystem scales

SUMMARY

Why restore coral reefs? Coral reefs are important to coastal communities worldwide and serve many cultural, commercial, and ecological purposes. As coral reefs continue to decline around the world, more people are using restoration to help corals and coral reefs.

Why a Monitoring Guide? This Guide provides standardized scientific monitoring metrics to facilitate consistent, effective evaluation of coral reef restoration success. Both Universal and Goal-based Performance Metrics are described with key points, suggested methods, reporting guidelines, and criteria.

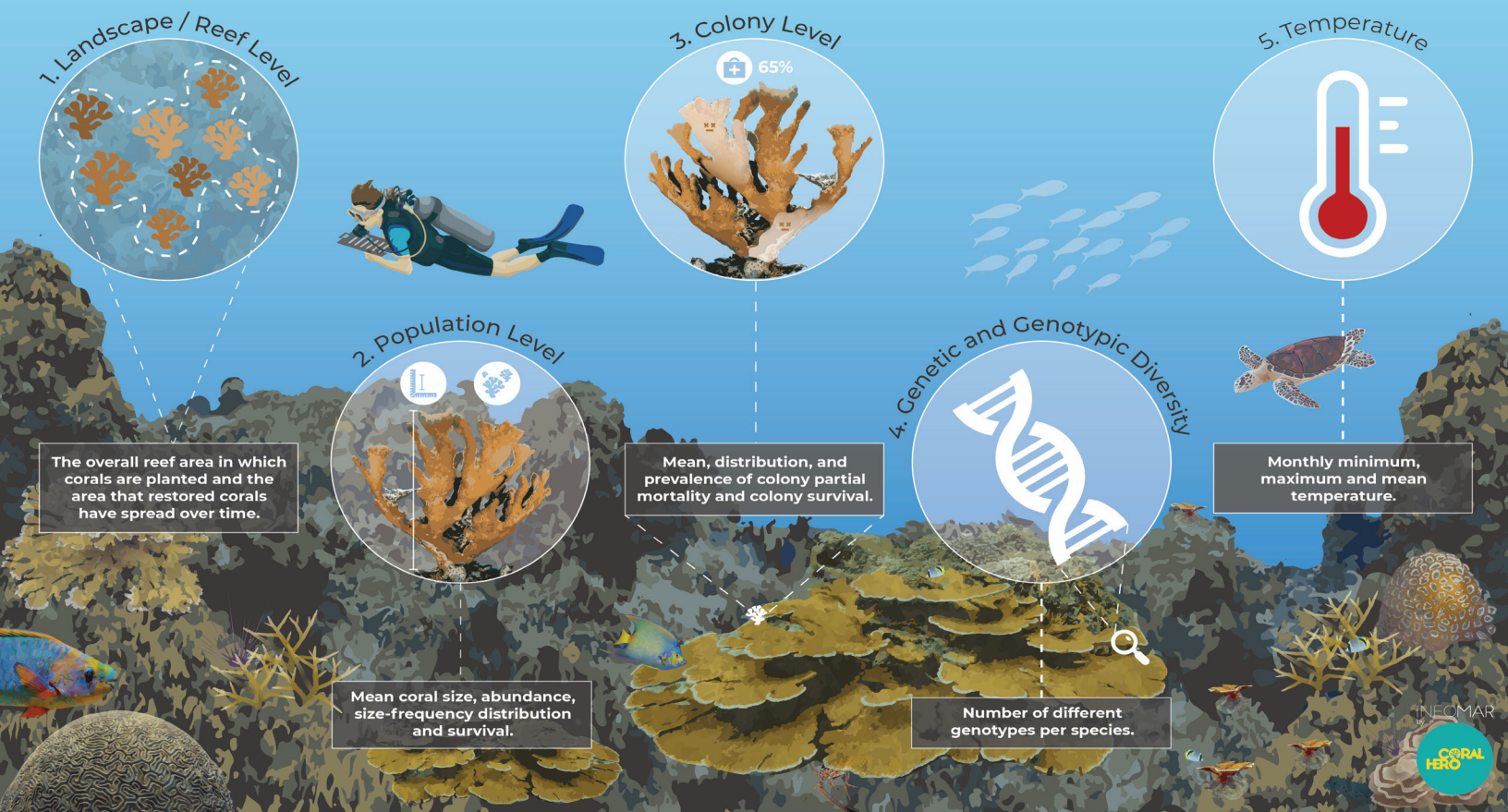
Universal Metrics are recommended as basic monitoring for all coral restorations.

Universal Metrics evaluate restoration at different scales (Landscape, Population, Colony, Genetic), and the Environment.

Universal Metrics provide data on the size, growth, condition, and diversity of the corals used for restoration, and on the water temperature of the restoration site.

Universal Metrics for Monitoring Coral Reef Restoration

Universal metrics are the basic level of information that should be collected on all coral restoration projects. These metrics allow for comparative evaluation of the status of the coral reef restoration over time.



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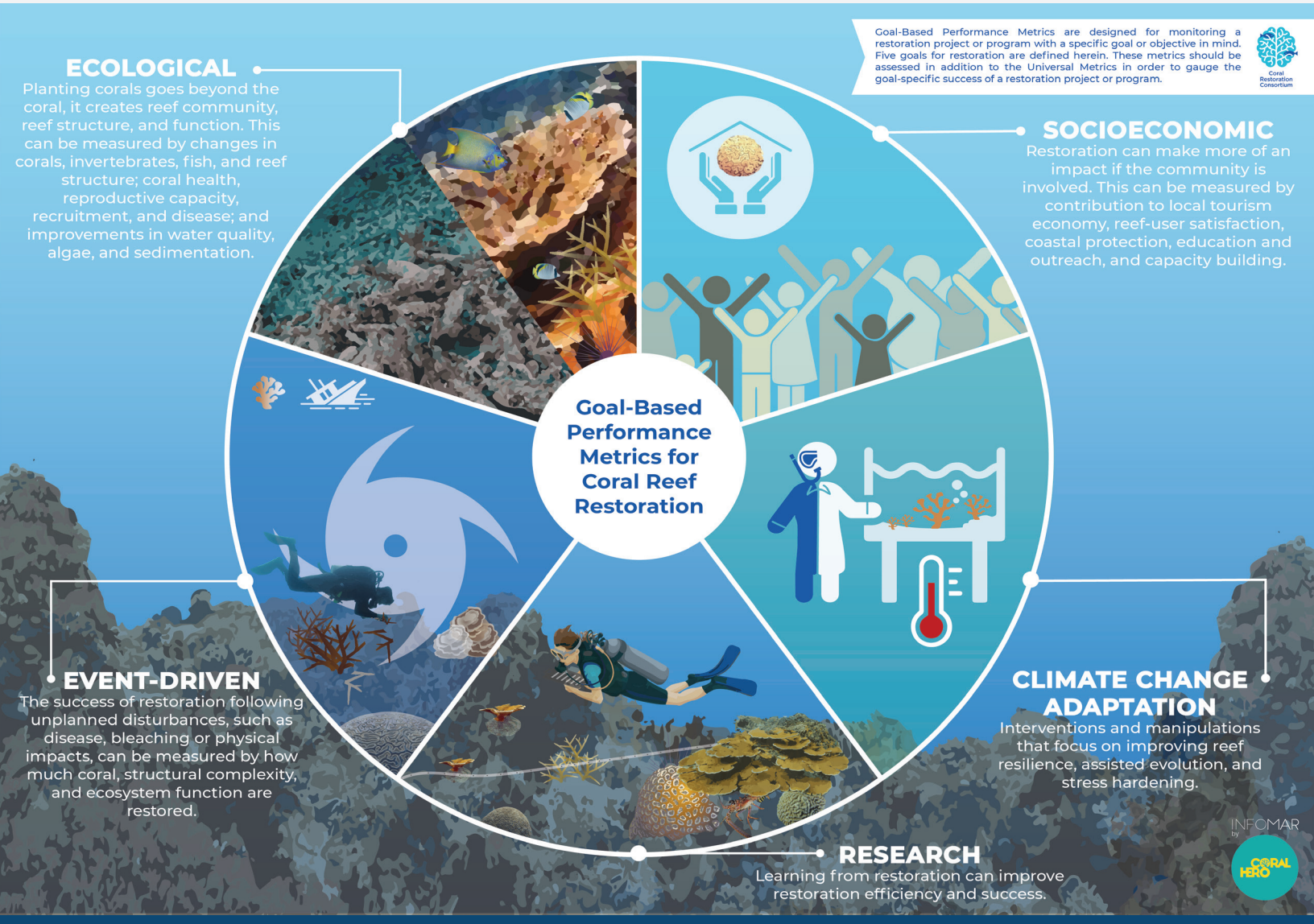
Goal-Based Performance Metrics are recommended for evaluation of progress towards meeting specific restoration goals.

Definitions of restoration success can be different depending on the program or project goals.

Restoration goals are defined herein as Ecological, Socioeconomic, Event-Driven, Climate Change Adaptation, and Research.

Goal-Based Performance Metrics should be used in addition to the Universal Metrics to evaluate the goal-specific success of a restoration project or program.



The Monitoring Guide and this Summary are products of the Coral Restoration Consortium's Monitoring Working Group, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, and NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

Coral Restoration Consortium

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce

NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program