



## Mission

Coral reefs are an essential part to the culture and well being of many people living in Puerto Rico. Our mission at CIROM is to produce ecologically-important marine organisms to aid in the recovery and survivorship of marine ecosystems. The animals reared in our systems are used for restoration efforts. We provide training and education to local stakeholders, and public educational tours upon request.

## OUR APPROACH

Coral reefs are declining at a rapid pace. Today's reefs are characterized by high abundance of seaweed and little coral. Here at CIROM we are taking an ecosystem-based approach to coral reef restoration. We are not only producing and outplanting coral microfragments, we are also restoring herbivory to the coral reefs by releasing lab-reared sea urchins. Sea urchins eat the seaweed and enhance the overall reef condition by improving coral survivorship and growth.



Our team of experts have released more than 5k sea urchins to different coral reefs in Puerto Rico. And have produced more than 16k coral microfragments.



# WHO WE ARE

The Center for Research and Restoration of Marine Organisms (CIROM in Spanish), is the first land-based coral and sea urchin nurseries in Puerto Rico. CIROM has two facilities, one in Ceiba and the other in La Parguera at the Department of Marine Science at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez.

CIROM is a partnership between the Institute for Socio-Ecological Research (ISER), PR Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), Department of Marine Science, UPRM and NOAA Restoration Center.



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