

IntelliReefs

Sustainable Marine Solutions

**Dominican Republic Project Letters of
Support and Site Report**

2022



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Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
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COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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Ref. : IOC/VR/21.376/JB/AC/cn

7 October 2021

Dear Ms Brenna,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to inform you of the endorsement of your Decade Action entitled "Coral Reef Restoration Engaging Local Stakeholders Using Novel Biomimicking IntelliReefs, ID 112" as a project forming part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

Please accept my sincere congratulations for this achievement. Let me also thank you for your engagement and commitment to the Ocean Decade vision of the science we need for the ocean we want.

Within the structure set out in the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan, individual projects are typically attached to endorsed Decade programmes.

We are pleased to inform you that your project will be attached to 44. The Coral Reef Sentinels: A Mars Shot for Blue Planetary Health. The attached Charter for Endorsed Projects provides more information on the respective roles and responsibilities of Decade programmes and projects. The contact person at your relevant Decade programme is David Kline (klined@si.edu) and we encourage you to reach out to them to commence exchanges and discussions.

As you further develop and start implementing your project, we would like to remind you of the Ocean Decade endorsement criteria, including those related to co-design and engagement of users all along the ocean science value chain, and those related to open and accessible data management. We strongly encourage you to adopt these principles and approaches in your Decade project and to engage via the Communities of Practice that are described below to share experiences and access information and tools on these approaches. We have also attached here a recent publication from the Ocean Decade on co-design approaches that may prove useful in this regard.

.../...

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Over the course of the Decade there is a potential for your project to grow into a Decade programme. This could occur, for example, through the inclusion of new partners or geographies in your initiative or through consolidation of your project with other projects. If you would like to discuss this possibility in more detail, please do not hesitate the Decade Coordination Unit at oceandecade@unesco.org.

The endorsement of your project marks an important step in your engagement in the Ocean Decade. To get things started I would kindly ask you to carry out the following steps:

- (i) Please review the attached Charter for Endorsed Decade Projects which includes further information on the functioning and roles of projects as part of the Ocean Decade.
- (ii) Please review the information the Communities of Practice provided at this [link](#) and sign up to one or more of the Communities of Practice that are relevant to your project. Via this link you will also be asked if you would be willing to play a lead role in co-organising a virtual “meet and greet” between Community of Practice members in coming months. We typically expect Decade programmes to take these leadership roles, but you are welcome to indicate your interest in these roles as well.
- (iii) Please review, print on your institutional letterhead, and then sign the attached acknowledgement letter confirming receipt of this letter and the information contained herein.

Again, on behalf of the entire Ocean Decade Team, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the endorsement of your Decade Action and together let us create the ocean we want!

Sincerely,



Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary, IOC

29th January 2022

To whom it may concern

This letter to support the proposal submitted by Reef Life foundation for the implementation of IntelliReefs in the Dominican Republic.

In the Dominican Foundation of Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR) we have been working on coral conservation and restoration for more than 10 years, having a solid program that integrates several techniques (asexual and sexual reproduction of corals) and a strong monitoring program.

Intellireefs could complement the actions implemented, and FUNDEMAR could support the proposal on the technical and academic guidance, site selection, baseline assessment, monitoring and publication of the results.

Sincerely



Rita Ines Sellares Blasco
Directora Ejecutiva
[FUNDEMAR](#)





UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE SANTO DOMINGO
FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS

Centro de Investigaciones de Biología Marina Idelisa Bonnelly de Calventi (CIBIMA- IBC)
"Año de la Internacionalización y Resiliencia Universitaria"

January 25th, 2022
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

To whom it may concern:

The Marine Biology Research Center Idelisa Bonnelly de Calventi of the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (CIBIMA IBC- UASD), was created by Presidential Decree in 1962 and ratified by Resolution No. 71-244 of the University Council of the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). Since its beginnings it has ventured into various fields such as taxonomy, biodiversity studies, ecosystems, coastal-marine environmental quality, marine species conservation, legislation, among others.

CIBIMA-IBC-UASD, is interested in participating and collaborating in the project of implementing IntelliReefs technology in the Dominican Republic with the Reef Life Foundation. We have the institutional capacity, the technical capabilities, and the space available for researchers as well as the technical support from our faculty members and students.

We are confirming our support in the implementation of the proposed IntelliReefs project by providing technical and academic guidance in site selection, baseline assessment, monitoring and publication of the results for the mentioned artificial reef structure made from Oceanite materials.

Please, feel free to contact our Center for further information and for any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Gladys A. Rosado

Gladys A. Rosado, MSc.
Director of CIBIMA IBC- UASD



IntelliReefs

Sustainable Marine Solutions

Dominican Republic Caribbean Site Report:

Setting a nearshoring operation will give Reeflife the ability to quickly supply the many locations in The Caribbean, Central and South America regions in a timely manner, while developing a profitable business, resilient manufacturing processes, continuing with effective research and helping with the development of surrounding communities.

The Dominican Republic will be the ideal location to establish a manufacturing plant that will supply the Reeflife corals to The Caribbean, Central and South America region due to its strategic geographic location, trained workforce, year-round stable tropical weather, and macroeconomic stability.

Located in the Caribbean Sea, it is part of the 'La Española' island which is the second largest island in the Antilles, and has a territory of 48 670 km², with a population of around 11 million people.

Its strategic location gives the DR comparative advantages, which makes it ideal for being a hub of operation on the Caribbean.

Being a developing country, the Dominican Republic has averaged a 5% GDP growth since the year 2,000, growing above the average of the Latin America region. This growth is attributed to a stable climate for investment, expansive politics of public spending, and the growth of tourism, construction, manufacturing, and free zones. Exports represent 23% of the GDP and have shown an accumulated growth of 65% from 2010 to 2019. 56% of the exports come from free zone companies.

17.6% of all TEUs of the Caribbean are transported through the main ports of the Dominican Republic. The country has 13 ports, and has 7 airports, being the Punta Cana airport the one with the most tourist traffic in the Caribbean.

The Reeflife production plant could be located in an area from 5km to 15km from the Caucedo port, the largest port in the country. This location would be highly accessible and would also have the Haina Port as a backup which is the second largest port in the country. These ports are located approximately 47km from each other which facilitates transportation for shipping. There are also 2 other smaller ports nearby that can provide logistics flexibility.

The Caucedo port is 25 km from the capital Santo Domingo which is the political and commercial capital of the country, and it is one of the most modern ports in the region, it is being developed as a hub for the region. In June 2017 - IKEA established its logistics hub for the Region in Caucedo. Also, Amazon is working on setting a supply and storage channel on this port.

The adjacent proximity to an international airport (AILA / SDQ) creates an ideal logistics platform in the center of the Caribbean and Central America Region.

Average land cost of the area is around \$50 to \$100 US dollars per square meter in a 5km distance from the Caucedo Port which makes it very viable for setting up a cement plant like operation.

The Reeflife project can apply to be under a Free Zone regime, which is a system where the state incentivises foreign investment to manufacture or provide services within DR territory but whose main market is exports. DR Law 8-90 describes the characteristics a project must fulfill in order to be considered as a free zone. This classification would allow the project to receive several tax exemptions (income tax, property tax, sales tax, equipment import tax, among others), providing the project a starting foundation to establish the manufacturing process while establishing production processes, generating revenue and becoming the main supplier of Reeflife for the region.

By installing its operations in the Dominican Republic, Reeflife will expand its research capabilities by having close access to both the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Finally, Reeflife would be a strong contributor to local employment in the area while providing opportunities for the development of the community

By engaging in this project Reeflife also supports the United Nation 17 Sustainable Development and UNESCO Ocean Decade goals.

Emmanuel Rubio

Ambassador of Business Development

10/27/21



IntelliReefs
Sustainable Marine Solutions



REEF LIFE
FOUNDATION

Melody Brenna

CEO & Co-founder

melody@reeflifefoundation.org

APPENDIX & MAPS



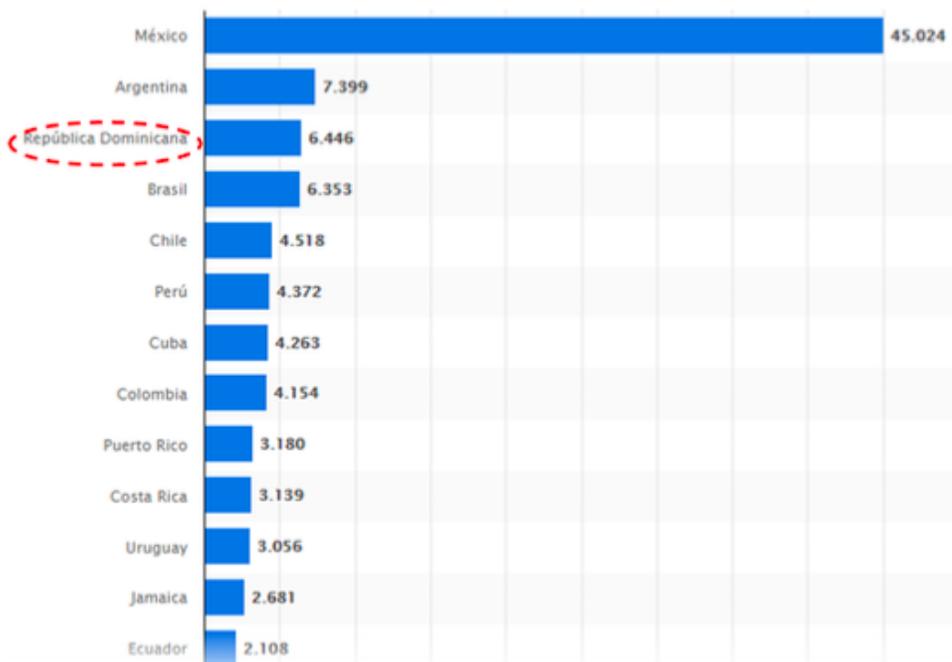




DR Logistics Interactive Map

<https://onltrd.org.do/herramientas/mapa-logistico/>

Thousands of tourists visiting during 2019



2020 Latin America GDP by Country

