



Revitalizing the Florida Keys Through Reef Restoration and Beyond

Leah Stockton, Florida Keys Area President

Jessica Dockery, Reef Revitalization Project Liaison

How Did We Get Here?

- February 2020 – \$3.5M funding gift from UAE
 - Pledge following Hurricane Irma
 - Restore reefs for economic resiliency and coastal protection
- UAE and United Way share passion of helping those in need.
 - UAE - History of helping following natural disasters
 - UWCK Mission – serve families living paycheck to paycheck by improving health, education and financial stability
- UAE and Florida Keys working towards healthy coral reefs.
 - The UAE has coastlines along the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Gulf and ranks 38th in the world in terms of coral reef size. (U.S. ranks 16th).
 - It hosts large areas of coral reef assemblages of approximately 1,190 sq. km.



**UAE-USA
CORAL RESTORATION
PARTNERSHIP**

Sarah Fangman **Tom Moore** **Holly Raschein**

Michelle Coldiron **Leah Stockton**

Join us September 9th at 11 am EDT/7pm UAE,
as we convene with coral restoration experts
to discuss the UAE supported
Florida Keys reef revitalization projects

The poster is for the UAE-USA Coral Restoration Partnership event. It features a blue background with a coral reef pattern. At the top, the title "UAE-USA CORAL RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP" is written in white. Below the title are five headshots of the event's speakers: Sarah Fangman, Tom Moore, Holly Raschein, Michelle Coldiron, and Leah Stockton. The text below the headshots invites the audience to join on September 9th at 11 am EDT/7pm UAE to discuss UAE-supported Florida Keys reef revitalization projects. At the bottom, there are logos for NOAA, the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, DC, United Way Collier and the Keys, and Cultural Diplomacy.

Why is UWCK involved?

- Our goal is to revitalize the very lifeblood of the Florida Keys community, the coral reefs, while supporting sustainability through related education.
 - This helps Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed (ALICE)
 - Supports the 60% of Keys residents whose livelihoods are dependent on marine environment
 - We know the future of our community depends on this
 - Healthy Florida Keys ecosystem provides over \$4.7 billion in annual revenue, a critical economic driver for the 76,000 Keys residents we serve



UWCK Revitalization Initiative



- Global Partnerships
 - UAE/UWCK to sponsor **Reef Futures Conference**
 - UAE/UWCK to collaborate on a coral restoration **Global Learning Exchange** between the Florida Keys and international partners
- Youth Engagement
 - **Scholarships** for Monroe county students enrolled at Florida universities engaged in Keys coral restoration
 - **Marine science education** initiative for Florida Keys students



Photo Credit: Sugarloaf School

UWCK Revitalization Initiative



- Reef Revitalization RFP
 - Open January 6, 2021 – February 15, 2021
 - Up to \$2.5M available to **local coral restoration practitioners**
 - Supports Phase 1A (5 years) - *Acropora*
- Sites: Carysfort (north & south), Horseshoe, Sombrero, Looe Key
- Unique priorities:
 - Internships (paid)
 - Long-term and short-term economic benefits for community
 - Community engagement and stewardship

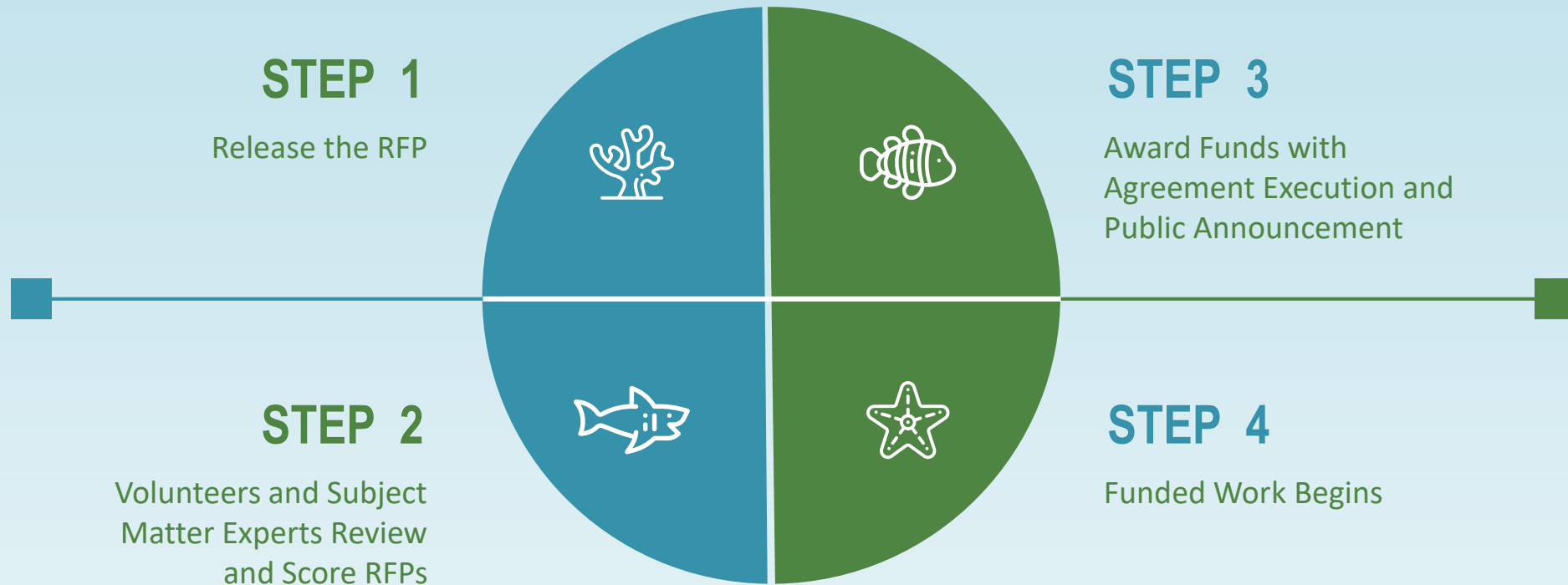


UWCK Reef Revitalization RFP Process



- RFP process
 - Subject matter experts and community volunteers to assist with reviews
 - Working closely with IR Implementation Manager and will continue to do so for monitoring and accountability

STRATEGY



Stay tuned...funding announcements to follow in May 2021!

Collaborating with NOAA and Other Partners



- Engagement from NMSF, FKNMS, and NOAA Restoration Center throughout this initiative
- *Mission: Iconic Reefs Working Groups*
 - Funding & Fundraising
 - Stewardship & Community Engagement
 - Communications & Outreach

For more information:

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 United Way of Collier and the Keys – Monroe

 United Way of Collier County

