

**Table S8. Costs associated to coral reef monitoring for different programs/geographic regions using different protocols.**

Monitoring program / Geographic region	Scope	Measurements	Expenses	Estimated cost (US\$)
Long-Term Monitoring Program (LTMP)  Reef Plan Marine Monitoring Program (MMP) Australia's Great Barrier Reef (GBR)	150 midshore and offshore reefs of the GBR  34 inshore reefs of the GBR	Reef-wide coral cover among other aspects through manta tows and imagery (sampling methods in: <a href="http://www.aims.gov.au/reef-monitoring/gbr-condition-summary-2016-2017">http://www.aims.gov.au/reef-monitoring/gbr-condition-summary-2016-2017</a> , accessed June 26, 2017)	Salaries, shiptime, and all operational costs	2.3 million / year
Pacific Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (Pacific RAMP)	Survey area includes the Hawaiian Archipelago in the North Pacific, all of the islands of American Samoa in the South Pacific, Mariana Archipelago in the Western Pacific, and the 7 islands/atolls of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in the central Pacific	Status and monitor trends in population/abundance estimates of reef fishes, corals (diversity, cover, status), benthic community structure, environmental conditions (temperature, salinity, oxygen, dissolved inorganic carbon, etc). Also monitor cryptobiota diversity (using ARMS), microbial diversity, and plankton diversity (methods described in <a href="https://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/cred/survey_methods.php">https://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/cred/survey_methods.php</a> , accessed June 22, 2017)	Salaries, shiptime, and all operational costs	2.2 million / year (plus leverage in kind)
East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania)	Basic set of reef surveys from 10-20 sampling sites in one location within 100-150 km of coastline	Benthic cover, coral cover, algal cover, reef state (bleaching, diseased), fish abundance and biomass and mobile invertebrates.	Only operational costs and boat rental	20,000 / per survey
Caribbean (Venezuela)	Basic survey of 6 to 7 sites within one local reef	Coral cover and state along with some fish assessments using the CARICOMP protocol ( <a href="http://biogeodb.stri.si.edu/physical_monitoring/downloads/caricomp_manual_2001.pdf">http://biogeodb.stri.si.edu/physical_monitoring/downloads/caricomp_manual_2001.pdf</a> )	Only operational costs and 2 day boat rental	1,000 / per survey