

Project Update: June 2024

We have diving to monitor the occurrence of the invasive sun coral in 12 sites (coral reefs and shipwrecks) in 6 cities from north to south of the Alagoas coast and did not find new invaded sites. We only recorded abundance increase of sun coral in one of the previously reported invaded sites, the Itapajé shipwreck. Since the first record at the Itapajé shipwreck in March 2022, in February 2024 we recorded a greater density of colonies and a greater extent of the occurrence of colonies throughout the shipwreck. In addition, the project have carried out social communication and sensibilization actions by publishing information about the biological invasion on social media (please see <https://www.instagram.com/coraisdobrasil.br/>), as well as conducting meetings in traditional fishing communities and participating of educational events for teenagers and children presenting information about Sun Coral and other invaders and their impacts on native species. We also started actions to carry out interviews and meetings at fishermen communities (Paripueira and Lagoa Azeda) in collaboration with local leaders and federal environmental agency (ICMbio) to evaluate local perception and to promote knowledge exchange about invasion impacts on reefs/region, developing strategies and solutions to manage invasions.



Fig. 1 – Photo cover of the video post (reels) on instagram about our project (see <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6o-NvHJynD/>).

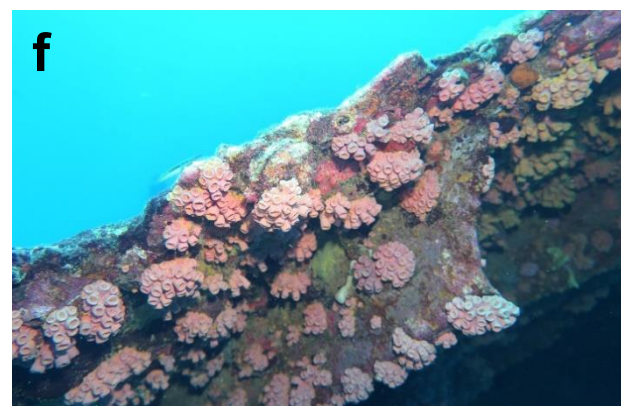
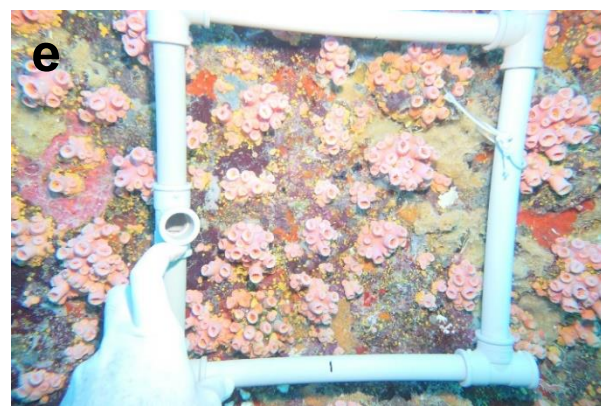
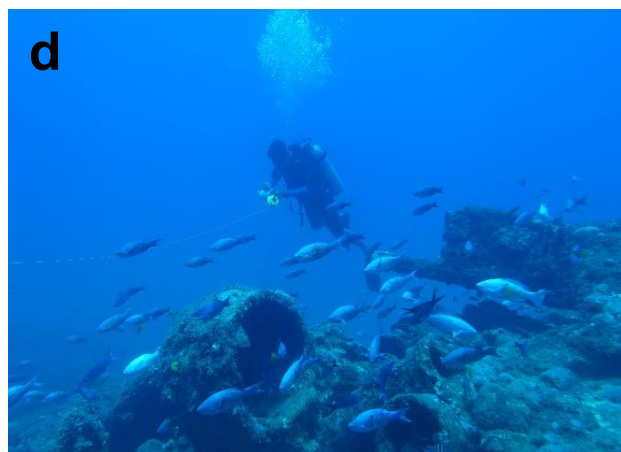


Fig. 2 – Field work activities in different reef sites along Alagoas coast between January and May 2024: a) Pontal do Peba (see <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C8NrSIYJqIR/>), b-c) diver team in Paripueira (see <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6MvxZOp2Qh/>), d) diver collecting fish data communities using underwater visual census at Jequiá da Praia (see <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C7FXrkbJ5oA/>), e) photoquadrat to estimate Sun Coral cover f) Sun Coral (*Tubastraea tagusensis*) at Itapajé shipwreck.



c

Fig. 3 - Social communication and environmental sensibilization activities about biological invasions in: a) traditional fishermen community with managers of the federal environmental agency (ICMBio), b-c) educational events presenting invaders and native species for teenagers and children.