

Project Update: February 2025

Project activities are ongoing along the coast of Alagoas. Between July and December 2024, as well as in February 2025, we will continue diving on coral reefs and shipwrecks to monitor the presence of the invasive Sun Coral. While this species has not been recorded on the coral reefs, our team recently identified a new occurrence on another shipwreck, “*Dragão*” near to Maceió coast. This discovery was made on February 8, 2025, and a report is currently being prepared to inform the region's environmental agencies.

In addition, the project has carried out important awareness initiatives within traditional fishing communities through interviews and community meetings. These interviews aim to assess local perceptions regarding the presence of invasive species and their impacts on the community, while also strengthening relationships with local fishers. The data collected will serve as a baseline for evaluating the effectiveness of the project's actions. A few weeks after the interviews, we organized meetings with fishers to further discuss the identification, monitoring, and impacts of invasive species, as well as strategies for controlling these invaders in the region.

See more information, photos and videos: <https://www.instagram.com/coraisdobrasil.br/>

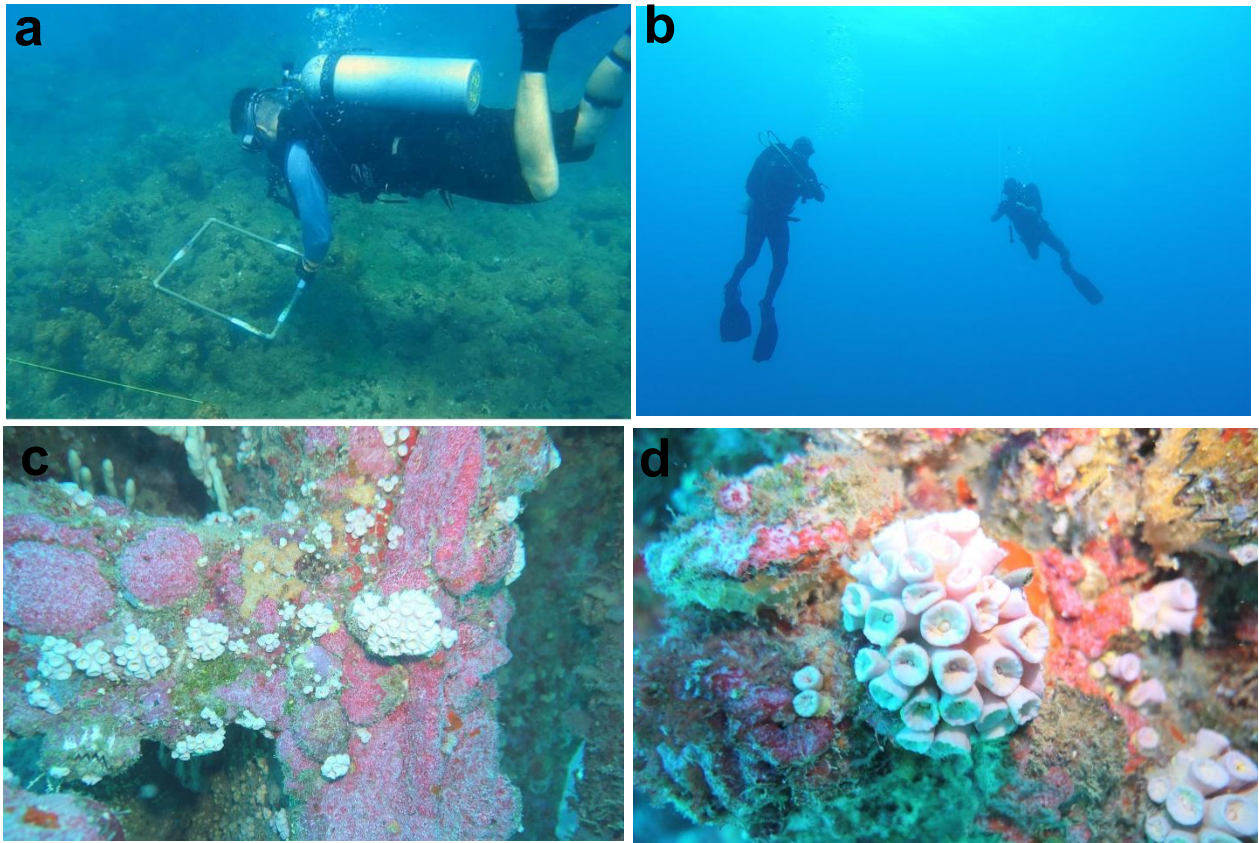


Fig. 1 – Field work activities in different reef sites along Alagoas coast between July and December 2024 and February 2025: a) diver conducting photoquadrat method for data collection on coral reef site, b) divers at Dragão shipwreck, c-d) Sun Coral (*Tubastraea* spp.) at Dragão shipwreck.



Fig. 2 – a) Interview with traditional fishermen at Lagoa Azeda, b) local fisher holding an invasive Sun Coral skeleton, c-d) Encounter/meeting with local community at Extractive Reserve Jequiá da Praia (Lagoa Azeda) and e) fishermen and local fishing leaders gathered after meeting about invasive species.