



VI-EPSCoR Annual Conference 2023



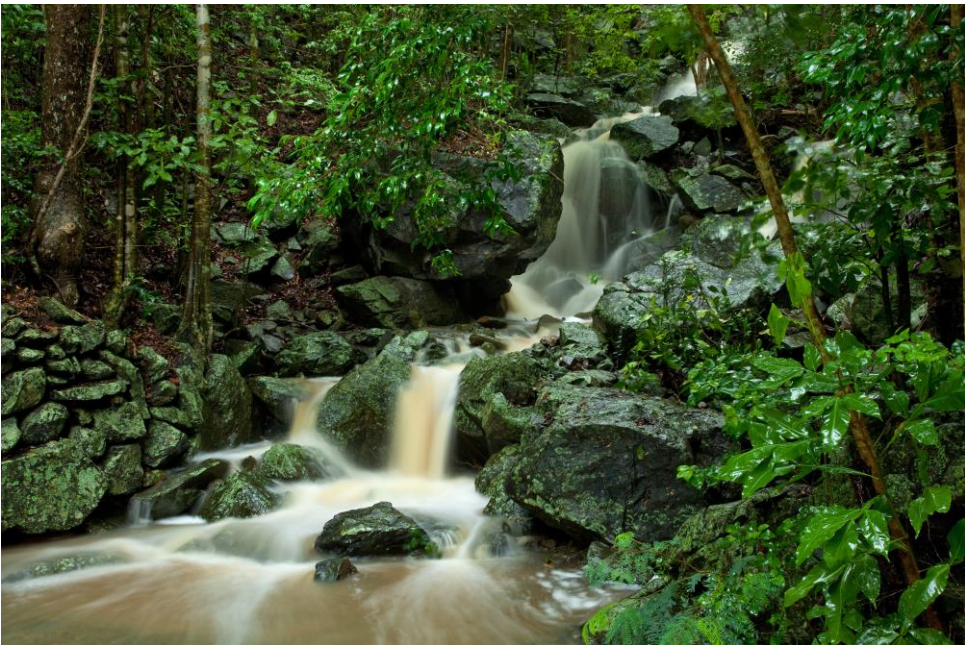
Ridge to Reef (R2R):
Processes and Interdependent
Drivers of Small Island
Resilience

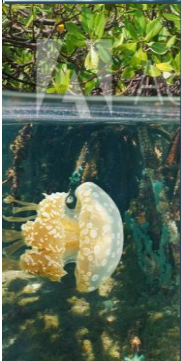
Award No. OIA-1946412



USVI TRACK 1 AWARD HISTORY

RII Four Award No. OIA-1946412
Ridge to Reef: Processes and
Interdependent Drivers of Small
Island Resilience (2020-2025) \$20M

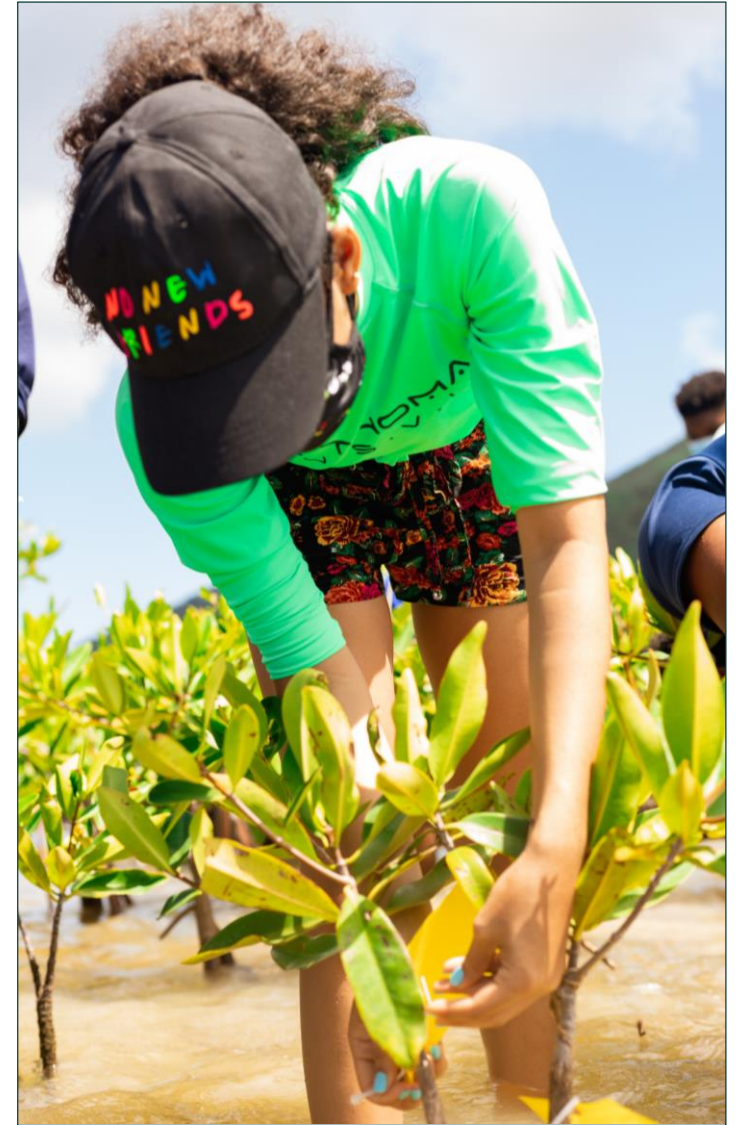


	Mare Nostrum Caribbean	RII Three Award No. OIA-1355437 Mare Nostrum Caribbean: Stewardship through Strategic Research and Workforce Development (2014-2019) \$20M
	Integrated Caribbean Coastal Ecosystems	RII Two Award No. OIA-0814417 Integrated Caribbean Coastal Ecosystems (2008- 2013) \$11M
	Biocomplexity of Caribbean Coral Reefs	RII One Award No. OIA-0346483 Biocomplexity of Caribbean Coral Reefs (2004-2008) \$4.5M



Rationale and Strategy for our R2R Project

- Importance of the Caribbean Sea and its associated coastal ecosystems.
- USVI is a small island territory under threat from climate change and other hazards.
- The future of VI's social-ecological systems is in large part dependent on the local community to manage these resources.
- Improving scientific skills and educational levels of the USVI workforce via STEM education will be the key to sustainability for the Territory.





Vision and Mission of R2R

The **Vision** of the R2R project is to improve our understanding of the drivers, processes interdependencies and consequences of ecological change stemming from natural and anthropogenic disruptions in Caribbean coastal and marine ecosystems.

Our **Mission** is to advance science-informed knowledge that guides managers, researchers and communities to more effectively manage the VI's natural resources while we adapt to the impacts of Climate Change

Research Areas



Watershed Monitoring
and Land Use



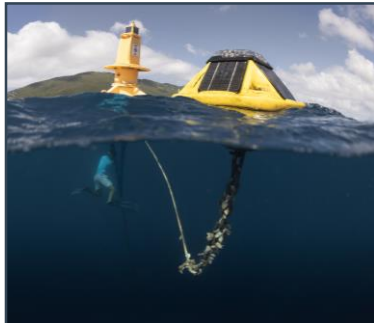
Mangroves Ecosystem
Function & Recovery and
Mangrove Restoration



Emerging Areas of
Research



Fish Ecology



Oceanography



Marine Disease
and Resilience



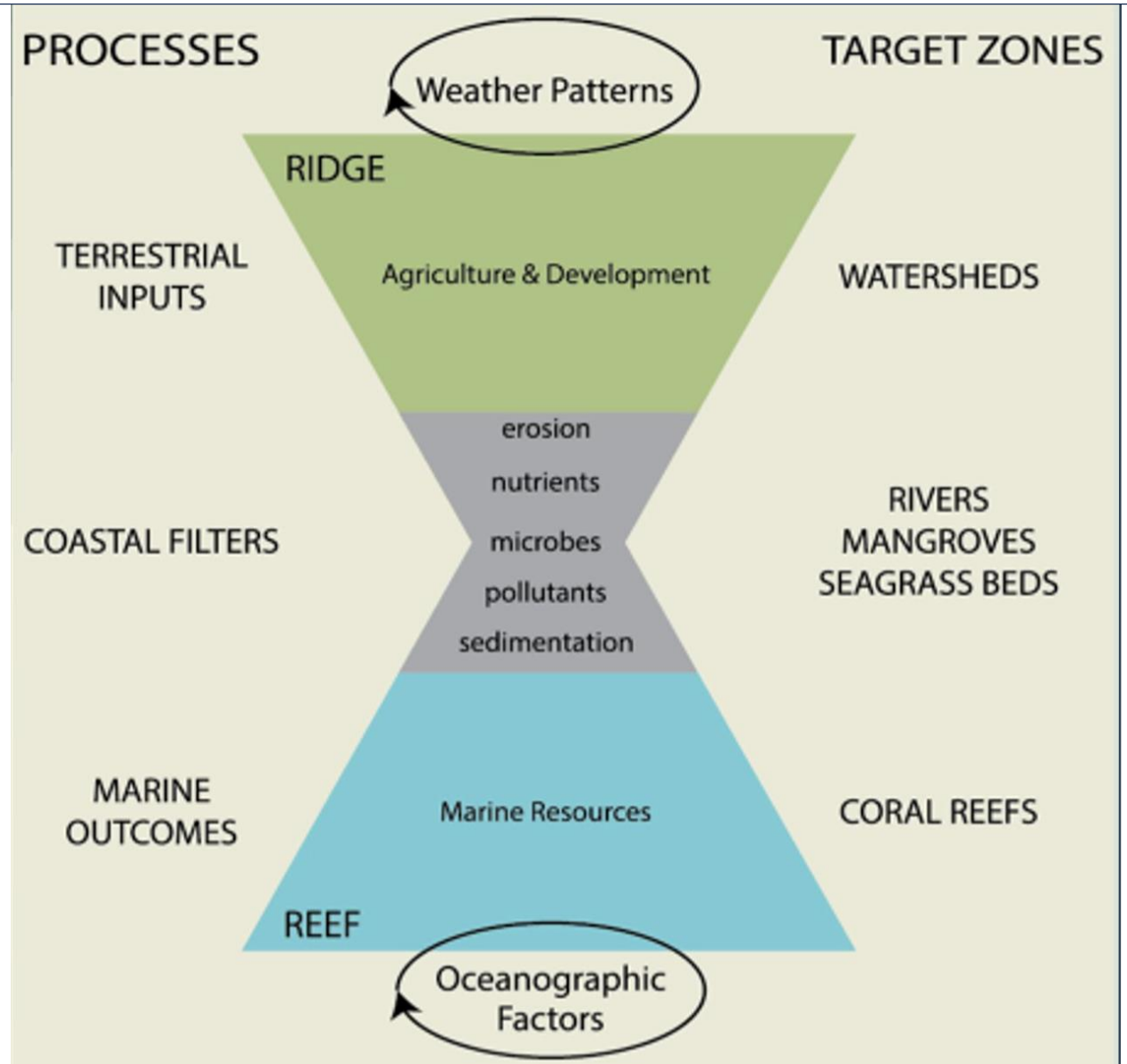
Coral Reef Resilience



Education and Workforce
Development

Overarching Goals

- Determining the impact of environmental inputs on coral reef resilience.
- Mitigating the impacts of terrestrial pollutants in coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Advancing the science of restoration in coral reef, mangrove, and seagrass habitats.
- Developing culturally and place-based STEM curriculum for VI students.



Marine and Environmental Sciences Lead Researchers



DR. RICK NEMETH,
CO-PI, FISH ECOLOGY LEAD



DR. TYLER SMITH,
CO-PI, CORAL
REEF RESILIENCE &
OCEANOGRAPHY LEAD



DR. MARILYN BRANDT,
MARINE DISEASE &
RESTORATION LEAD



DR. PAUL JOBSIS,
EMERGING AREAS:
MOVEMENT ECOLOGY LEAD



DR. KRISTIN WILSON GRIMES,
MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM
FUNCTION, RECOVERY &
RESTORATION LEAD



DAVID HENSLEY,
WATERSHED
TERRESTRIAL MONITORING
& LAND USE LEAD



DR. EDWIN CRUZ RIVERA,
EMERGING AREAS,
SEAGRASS, ECOLOGY LEAD



DR. GREGORY GUANNEL,
EMERGING AREAS:
SHORELINE RESPONSE LEAD

Education & Workforce Development

Lead Researchers

Teacher Professional
Development and
Mentoring &
Infrastructure



DR. NADIA MONROSE MILLS,
TEACHER PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



JOSEPH SQUILLACE,
TEACHER PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, ST. CROIX



DR. VERLEEN MCSWEEN-
MISSOLE,
MENTORING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

Undergraduate
Education
Research



DR. MICHELE GUANNEL,
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
RESEARCH LEAD



DR. MOLLY PERRY,
SOCIAL SCIENCE 100 LEAD

Informal Learning



JARVON STOUT,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST,
ST. THOMAS / ST. JOHN DISTRICT



KAI NIELSEN,
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST,
ST. CROIX DISTRICT

Ridge To Reef Project Administration



KELLY HARRIGAN,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/PA



KAISHA PRENTICE ,
DIRECTOR OF BUDGET &
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION



ELISA BRYAN,
COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST



RESA BERKELEY,
DATA SPECIALIST II



TRAVIS HAMLIN,
DATA MANAGER



RHONDA TONGE,
RESEARCH GRANTS
COORDINATOR



TRACELYN OTTO,
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT II

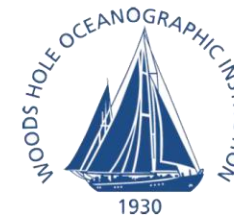


JULENE DORSETT
ADMINISTRATIVE
SPECIALIST I

Collaborations and Partnerships



Collaborations and Partnerships



The Ocean Can Be Your Lab Too!





Thank you!

Dr. Kim Waddell

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Michelle Jewell



Science Communicator
Zoologist
Wildlife Photographer

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Annual Conference!

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