



IMPACT OF SEDIMENTATION FROM LAND-BASED RUNOFF ON CORAL COVER (HC) & LIGHT AVAILABILITY - by Alyntha

Research question

Does sedimentation from land-based runoff influence coral cover and light availability?

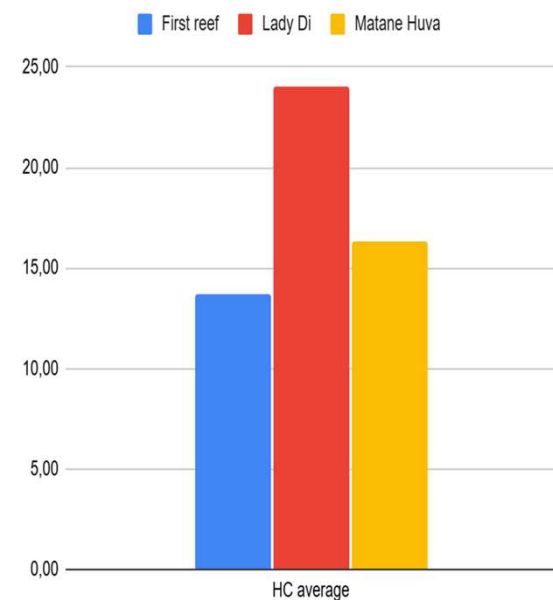
Method

Sites:

3 reefs (First reef, Matane Huva & Lady Di).

Methods:

Benthic survey (HC %) using LPT, Underwater loggers (1-3pm) & Sedimentation suspension time (at water outlet, 5m and 10m in).



Result and implications

Coral cover (HC): Highest at Lady Di, lowest at First reef; no significant differences (mainly influenced by the distance from the Walindi outlet).

Light: Highly variable; influenced by weather.

Light vs coral: Weak, non-significant relationship. The graph indicates **no clear positive relationship between light levels and hard coral cover** across the sites.

The lack of significant differences is likely due to data being collected over three consecutive days, while sedimentation from the Walindi outlet appears to reduce coral cover at First Reef and decreases offshore, allowing higher coral cover at the furthest site, Lady Di.

