

THE CORAL REEF CRISIS



THE GLOBAL IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS

Coral reefs are biodiversity hot spots, home to 25% of all marine species. They provide protection from tropical storms, hurricanes and even tsunamis. What's more, they also provide food and work for over 500 million people, contributing around USD 30 billion to the global economy every year. Plus, many coral-dwelling species produce compounds with medicinal benefits.



LOCAL THREATS TO CORAL REEFS





Many phenomena can disrupt the ecological balance of coral reefs:

- Overfishing and destructive fishing practices
- Pollution and sedimentation
- Coral mining
- Destructive coastal development
- Damage caused by boats and other human activity
- Diseases, invasive species and attacks by species that feed directly on corals



GLOBAL THREATS TO CORAL REEFS

The main global threats come from climate change and include:

-  Increasing seawater temperatures
-  Increased frequency and intensity of marine heatwaves
-  Increased destructive storm activity
-  Ocean acidification



DESTRUCTION OF CORAL REEFS WITHOUT IMMEDIATE ACTION

Global Loss Predictions

- By **2030**, **more than 90%** of the world's reefs will be threatened by local and global factors
- By **2030** **60%** of coral reefs will be facing high, very high, or critical threat levels.
- By **2050** **more than 90%** of the world's coral reefs will have been destroyed



RESTORING CORAL REEFS

Restoration aims to regenerate reefs by putting healthy resilient coral into a system that can no longer recover naturally. Resilient corals able to withstand climate change are grown in underwater nurseries or aquariums and then out-planted back on the reef. When combined with protection from local threats, restoration is an effective conservation strategy.

A CORAL CRISIS



Loss of coral coverage in Caribbean Reefs since the **1970s**



Loss of coral coverage worldwide since the **1950s**