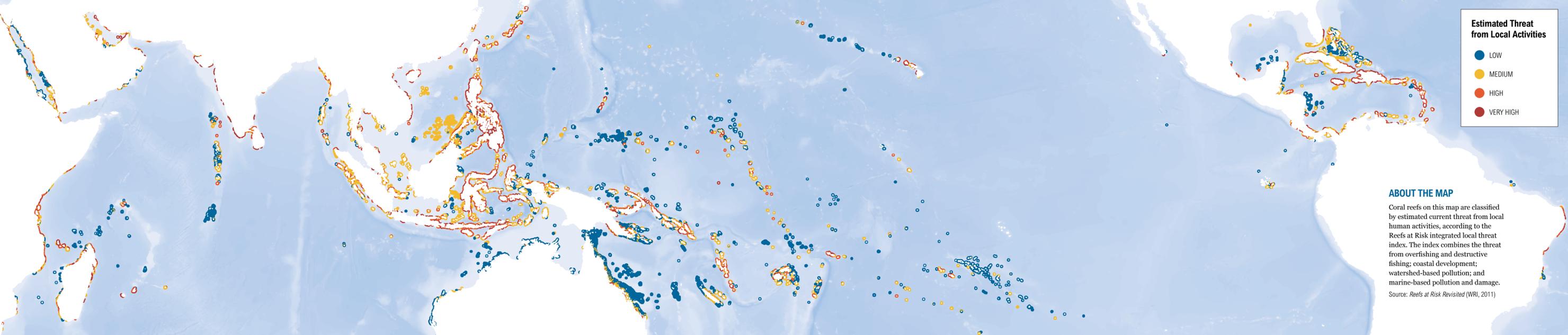


Reefs at Risk HUMAN PRESSURE ON THE WORLD'S CORAL REEFS



Estimated Threat from Local Activities

- LOW
- MEDIUM
- HIGH
- VERY HIGH

ABOUT THE MAP
 Coral reefs on this map are classified by estimated current threat from local human activities, according to the Reefs at Risk integrated local threat index. The index combines the threat from overfishing and destructive fishing; coastal development; watershed-based pollution; and marine-based pollution and damage.
 Source: *Reefs at Risk Revisited* (WRI, 2011)

CORAL REEFS, the “rainforests of the sea,” are among the most biologically rich and productive ecosystems on earth. However, they are also among the world’s most fragile and threatened ecosystems. Human activities such as overfishing, coastal development, and pollution—as well as rising ocean temperatures and acidity associated with greenhouse gas emissions—are seriously threatening coral reefs.

The World Resources Institute’s *Reefs at Risk Revisited* project found that more than **60 percent** of the world’s reefs are currently **threatened by local human activities**, as shown on this map. But reefs are resilient and have the ability to recover from damage; with immediate action, there is still time to reverse the decline and save these precious ecosystems for the future.

VALUE

Coral reefs provide vital benefits in more than 100 countries and territories around the world. They supply millions of people with food, income, and employment; generate significant tourism and export revenue; and protect coastal communities from waves and storm damage.

THREATS

Despite the important benefits reefs provide to people, the majority of the world’s coral reefs are threatened by human activities. As shown on this map, more than 60 percent of the world’s coral reefs are threatened by activities like overfishing, destructive fishing, coastal development, and pollution from land and sea.

Increases in global greenhouse gases compound these pressures, warming the atmosphere and oceans and altering ocean chemistry. These changes can cause:

CORAL BLEACHING | Bleaching is a stress response to warming waters where corals expel their symbiotic algae, the source of their brilliant colors. Without their algae, corals are deprived of an important source of energy and become weak and vulnerable to disease.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION | Increasing carbon dioxide in the ocean alters ocean chemistry and makes water more acidic, which can slow coral growth and weaken coral skeletons.

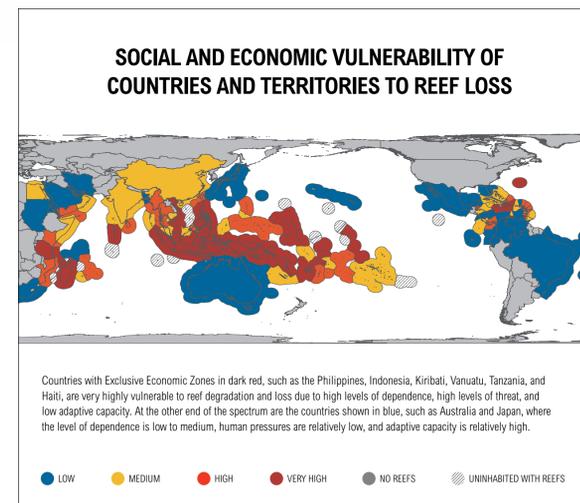
Projections indicate that if local and global threats are left unchecked, the percentage of threatened reefs will increase to more than 90 percent by 2030 and to nearly 100 percent by 2050.



IMPACT

These threats to coral reefs cause damages such as reduced live coral cover, increased algae cover, decreased species diversity, and—in extreme cases—death of the reef. All countries and territories with coral reefs are likely to be affected by coral degradation and loss, but some are more at risk than others.

The map below shows countries’ and territories’ social and economic vulnerability to reef loss. Vulnerability levels reflect a combination of current human pressures on reefs; the level of dependence of coastal communities and national economies on the food, tourism revenues, and other services reefs provide; and the capacity of each nation to adapt to the loss of reef-related services.



ACT NOW!

Coral reefs are severely threatened by the combination of local and global threats, but there is still hope—by nature, reefs are resilient. They can recover from bleaching and other impacts, particularly when local pressures are reduced. As communities around the world work to mitigate these stressors, the international community needs to do more to decrease global pressures, by curbing greenhouse gas emissions. You can act now to reduce both global and local threats and safeguard coral reefs for the future:

- REDUCE** your carbon footprint.
- BE A CORAL-CONSCIOUS CONSUMER.** Choose sustainably caught seafood and eco-conscious tourism and marine recreation providers. Avoid buying souvenirs made from marine species.
- BE GENTLE WITH CORAL.** Follow local regulations while near reefs, dive and snorkel carefully, and never touch coral.

VISIT AND SUPPORT marine protected areas (MPAs). These areas help protect coral reefs and support reef resilience and recovery.

GET INVOLVED. Support a conservation candidate and/or a conservation organization.



PROJECT PARTNERS FOR REEFS AT RISK REVISITED



SPREAD THE WORD! View and share our videos, explore our interactive map, and download the full *Reefs at Risk Revisited* report at WRI.org/reefs