Status of Coral Reefs of the Pacific and Outlook: 2011

The Pacific's coral reefs support the livelihoods and culture of over 9 million people in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Threats and pressures

Many reefs are in good condition, but existing pressures such as overfishing, coastal development, and population growth, as well as climate change, suggest a poor long-term outlook.

"The longer-term outlook for the coral reefs of the Pacific is [...] poor, due to threats posed by climate change."

Securing the Future of the Pacific's Coral Reefs

To secure the future of the Pacific's coral reefs there must be renewed efforts to address global climate change and continued support for local actions to improve the health and resilience of these reefs and of the Pacific peoples who depend on them.

ADDRESS LOCAL ISSUES:

tackle overfishing, sedimentation, pollution and poor development practices; address underlying social and economic factors such as population growth and loss of traditional management.

COORDINATE ACTION ON LARGER-SCALE ISSUES:

work with the international community to address global climate change; work at regional levels to plan for climate change adaptation.

ENHANCE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS:

build local capacity in reef management and research to effectively apply and monitor the management and regulations already in place in the Pacific.

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