

***Reefs at Risk Revisited***  
**Key Messages**

**Message #1: A new, comprehensive analysis confirms that the majority of the world's coral reefs are threatened due to human activities.**

- Approximately **75%** of world's coral reefs are currently threatened by a combination of local and global pressures. This includes recent impacts from climate change, which causes rising ocean temperatures and coral bleaching.
- The most immediate and direct threats arise from local sources, which currently threaten more than **60%** of coral reefs. Local threats include overfishing, destructive fishing, coastal development, and pollution.
- Left unchecked, the percent of threatened reefs will increase to more than **90% by 2030** and **to nearly all reefs by 2050**.
- *Threat levels have increased dramatically over a ten-year period.* In the 10 years since the first Reefs at Risk analysis, threats have increased in **30%** of reefs (comparing data from 1997 and 2007)

**Message #2: For the first time, this analysis includes impacts from climate change, coral bleaching, and changes in ocean chemistry, which are significant and growing global threats to reefs.**

- Impact of CO<sub>2</sub>: Rising carbon dioxide emissions are warming the atmosphere and, as a result, increasing sea surface temperatures.
- *Coral bleaching*: Mass coral bleaching, a stress response to warming waters, has occurred in every coral reef region and is becoming more frequent as higher temperatures recur.
- *Rising acidity*: Increasing carbon dioxide in the ocean is raising its acidity, which can slow coral growth rates and, ultimately, weaken coral skeletons.

**Message #3: Reefs hold great value for people around the world who depend on them for food, protection, recreation, income, and even pharmaceutical use.**

- ***People***: More than **275 million people** live in the direct vicinity (30km/18 miles) of coral reefs.
- ***Shorelines***: Coral reefs protect **150,000 km [over 93,000 miles]** of shorelines in **more than 100 countries and territories** – helping defend against storms and erosion.
- ***Tourism***: **At least 94 countries and territories** benefit from tourism related to reefs; in **23 of these**, reef tourism accounts for more than **15%** of gross domestic product (GDP).
- ***Disease Prevention***: Many reef-dwelling species harbor the potential for forming life-saving pharmaceuticals, including treatments for cancer, HIV, malaria, and other diseases.

**Message #4: The report finds people living in some countries are particularly vulnerable to reef loss and degradation.**

- For the first time, the report identifies the **27 nations** most vulnerable to coral reef degradation and loss in the world (this is out of 108 reef countries assessed). Of these, **19 are small island nations**.
- **The nine countries** most vulnerable to the effects of coral reef degradation are: **Haiti, Grenada, Philippines, Comoros, Vanuatu, Tanzania, Kiribati, Fiji, and Indonesia.**
- Reefs in these countries face high threats – and the people are highly dependent on reefs and have limited capacity to adapt to reef loss.

**Message #5: Growing awareness means unprecedented attention is now being given to reef conservation. It is not enough, but it points the way to a better future.**

- Currently over **one-quarter** of the world’s coral reefs fall within marine protected areas, a higher proportion than for any other marine habitat.
- However, only **6%** of the world’s coral reefs are located in effectively managed MPAs and **13%** are in areas rated as only partially effective for achieving management goals.

**Message #6: This information offers a new opportunity for policy makers, government officials, ocean managers, and others to better understand the threats, to take action to protect reefs, and to manage risks locally and globally.**

- **Reefs are resilient**-- they can recover from coral bleaching and other impacts.
- Reducing **local pressures** on reefs— overfishing, coastal development and pollution— offers the best way to “buy time” for reefs and help them survive warming seas and ocean acidification.
- Meanwhile the global community needs to do more to reduce **global pressures**, especially rising greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide.

***About the report:***

- ***Reefs at Risk Revisited*** is the most detailed assessment of the threats to the world’s coral reefs ever undertaken. It maps out local and global pressures; assesses the vulnerability of people in reef-dependent countries; and provides recommendations to safeguard reefs into the future.
- The analysis uses the latest data and satellite information to map coral reefs—including a reef map that has a resolution **64 times higher** than the original *Reefs at Risk* report from 1998.
- This new comprehensive report is led by **the World Resources Institute**, along with **The Nature Conservancy, the WorldFish Center, ICRAN, UNEP-WCMC, GCRMN**, and a network of more than **25 global partners** to raise awareness of the threats to reefs and how to protect these valuable and beautiful ecosystems.