

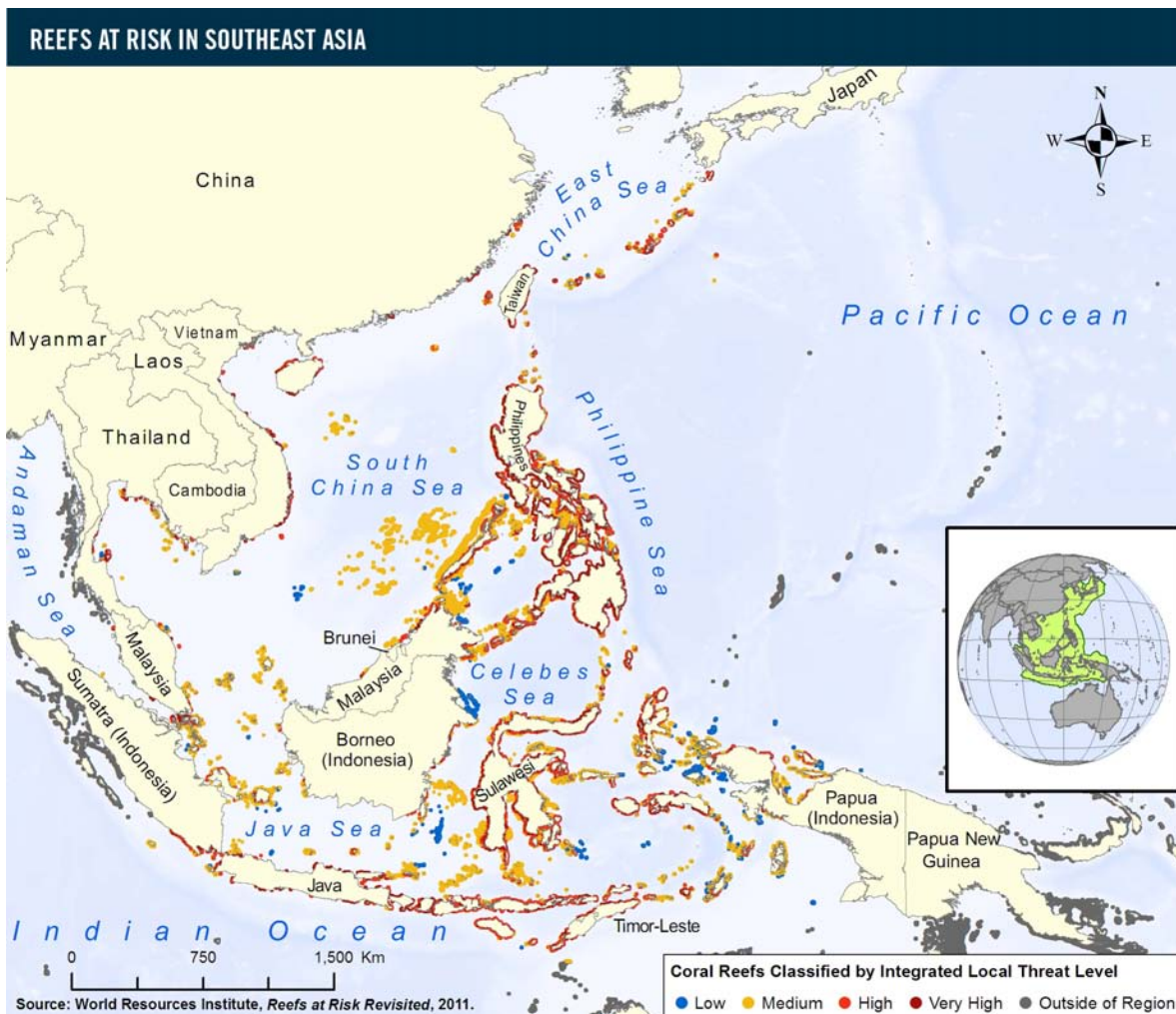
**WRI FACT SHEET**

# Reefs at Risk Revisited: Southeast Asia

The World Resources Institute (WRI) spearheaded a broad collaboration of leading conservation organizations and research institutes to conduct a global, map-based analysis of threats to the world's coral reefs called Reefs at Risk Revisited. This report provides detailed examination of human pressures on coral reefs, implications for reef condition, and projections of associated socioeconomic impacts in coastal communities.

**REGIONAL KEY POINTS**

- Southeast Asia is home to the most extensive and diverse coral reefs in the world, making up 28 percent of the global total (almost 70,000 km<sup>2</sup>).
- More than 138 million people live on the coast within 30 km of a coral reef – more than every other region combined.
- Reefs in this region are the most threatened in the world – 95 percent are at risk from local threats (coastal development, marine-based pollution and damage, overfishing and destructive fishing, or watershed-based pollution), with almost half in the high and very high threat categories.
- Of the nearly 600 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) covering 17 percent of the region's reefs, only 3 percent of reefs are in MPAs rated as effectively managed.



## REGION

Southeast Asia has the most extensive and diverse coral reefs in the world. They make up 28 percent of the global total (almost 70,000 sq km), concentrated around insular Southeast Asia, where fringing reefs predominate, and supplemented by barrier reefs such as the extensive Palawan Barrier Reef in the Philippines.

## PEOPLE

Human populations are dense across much of the west of this region, including the Philippines and western Indonesia. More than 138 million people in Southeast Asia live on the coast within 30 km of a coral reef, which is more than in all of the other coral reef regions combined. Fish, including reef fish, form a major part of the diet even in urban populations; across the region, fish and seafood provide an average of 36 percent of dietary animal protein.

## STATUS

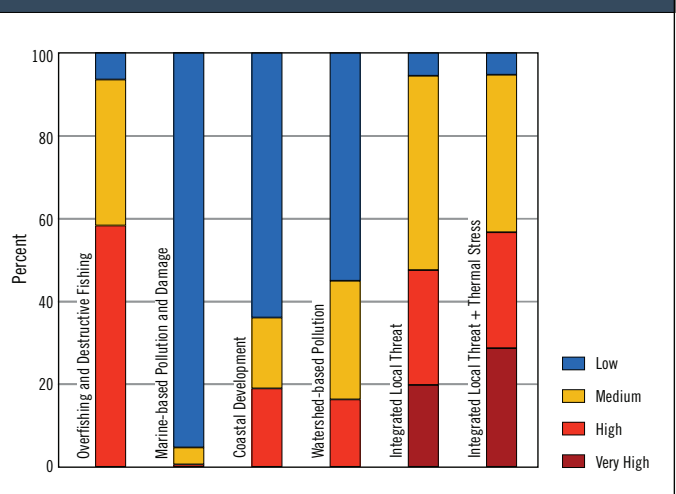
The reefs in this region are the most threatened in the world. About 95 percent are at risk from local threats, with almost half in the high and very high threat categories. The few places that are in the low-threat category are located in the more sparsely populated eastern areas. Overfishing has affected almost every reef in Southeast Asia, including areas remote from human habitation. Destructive fishing (blast and poison fishing) is rampant in this region, and although illegal, represents a major enforcement challenge. Sedimentation and pollution from land are significant, while coastal development is a growing threat. The future threats from both warming and acidification will compound the problems in this region: it is projected that by 2030, 99 percent of reefs will be threatened, with the vast majority (more than 80 percent) at high, very high, or critical levels. In 2050, all reefs will be threatened, with about 95 percent at the highest levels.

## REEF CONSERVATION

Nearly 600 protected areas cover 17 percent of the region's reefs. Unfortunately, of the 340 that were rated, 69 percent were classified as not effective and only 2 percent as fully effective, covering a mere 16 sq km of coral reef. Nonetheless, there have been some important developments in the region. Apo Island in the Philippines stands testimony to the considerable value of MPAs to local communities who have benefited for almost 30 years from increased fish catches due to the presence of a strict no-take zone.

FOR MORE, SEE PAGES 53-56 OF *REEFS AT RISK REVISITED*

## Reefs at Risk in Southeast Asia



## ABOUT WRI

The World Resources Institute is a global environmental think tank that goes beyond research to put ideas into action. We work with governments, companies, and civil society to build solutions to urgent environmental challenges. For more information on our coral reefs work, visit [www.wri.org/reefs](http://www.wri.org/reefs).

## ABOUT REEFS AT RISK REVISITED

The groundbreaking report, *Reefs at Risk Revisited*, is the most detailed assessment of threats to coral reefs ever undertaken. The report was led by the World Resources Institute, along with the Nature Conservancy, the WorldFish Center, ICRAN, UNEP-WCMC, and GCRMN.

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