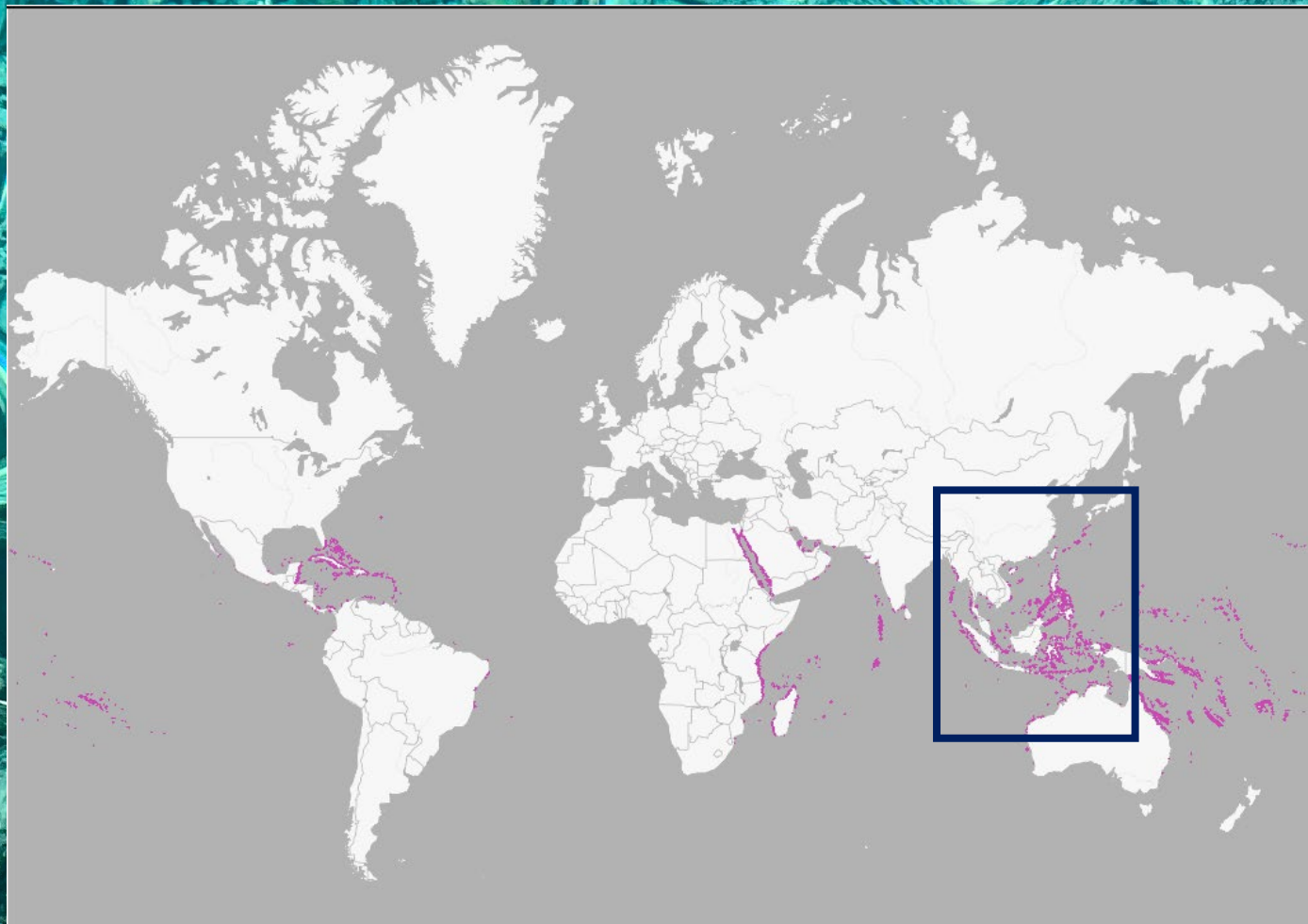




CORAL REEFS IN COBSEA



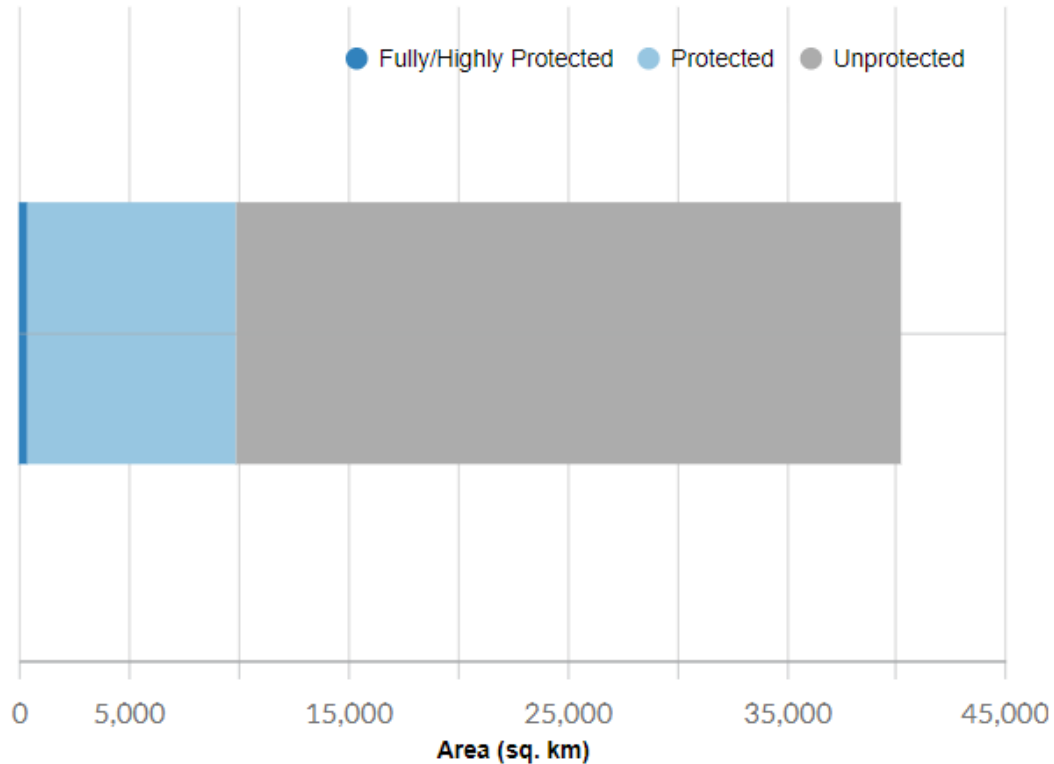
Source: UNEP-WCMC

Coral Reefs: East Asia | Resource Watch

Protection of Coral Reefs in East Asia



Protection of Coral Reefs in East Asia



Data: UNEP-WCMC, Protected Planet, MPAtlas

Coral Reefs

27-30% of the world's coral reefs are in the East Asia region. Different sources offer different figures for the total area of reef cover:

| <u>Source</u> | <u>Area (km²)</u> | <u>Global Share</u> |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Global Distribution of Coral Reefs (UNEP-WCMC) | 40,249 | 27.0% |
| Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Report | 78,272 | 30.1% |

24.5 % of East Asian coral reefs are located within marine protected areas; only 1% are in “Fully or Highly Protected” areas.

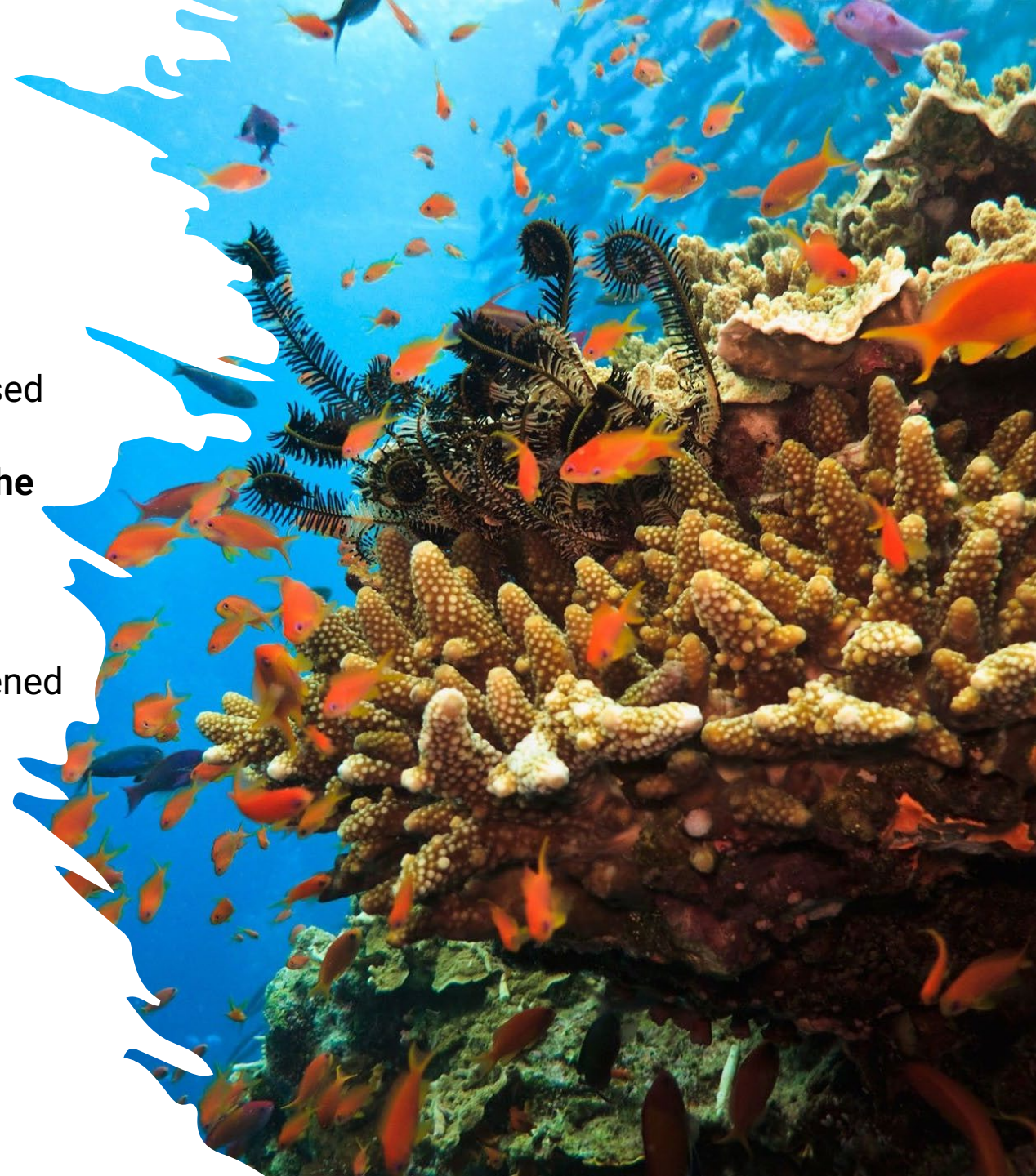
Key Actors

- Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
- Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security
- The Reef-World Foundation
- Reef Watch
- Reef Check
- Coral Triangle Centre

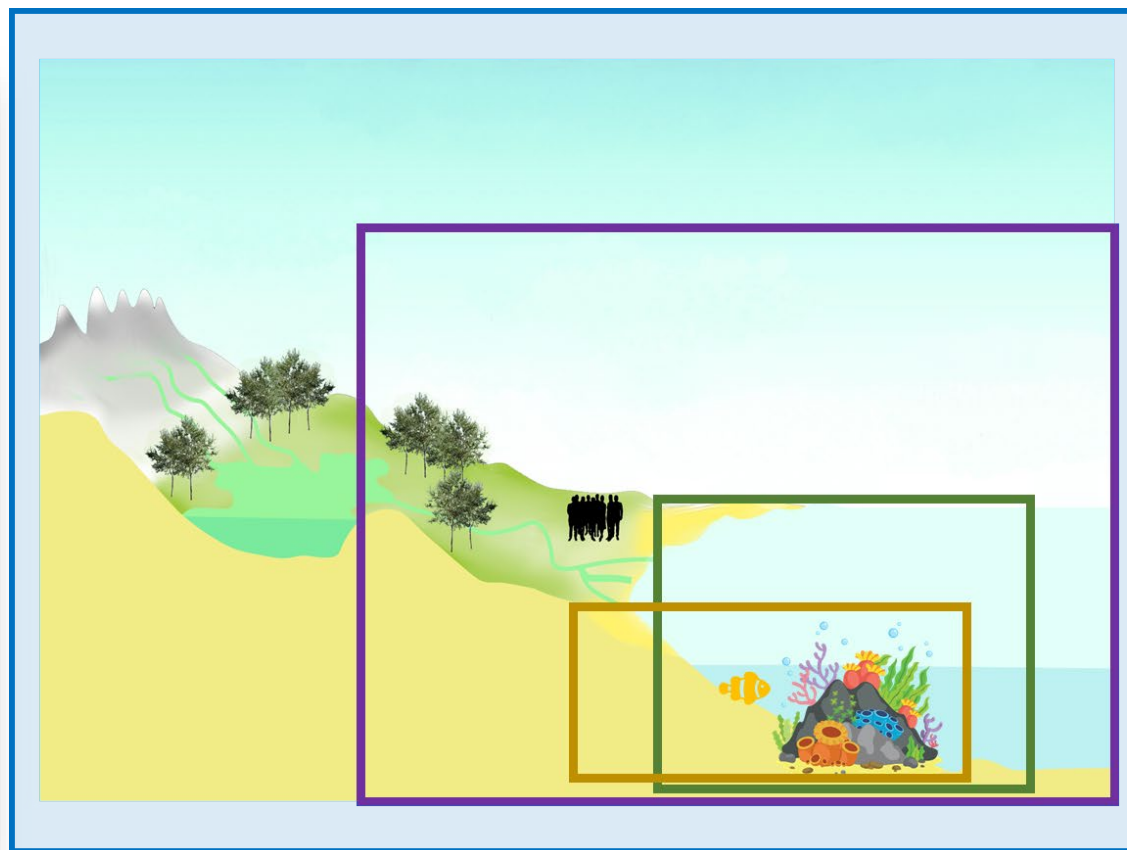


HISTORY OF COBSEA CORAL REEFS EFFORTS

- **UNEP/ICRAN Small Grants Fund (2002-2003)**
 - 9 small projects in monitoring and community-based management
- **GEF Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (2002 – 2009)**
 - TDA/SAP
 - National Action Plans
 - Marine Protected Areas established and strengthened
 - Monitoring
- **Green Fins (2004 – 2009)**
 - Thailand as birth of Green Fins
 - Improving code of conduct in scuba diving
- **Green Fins (2013 - 2014)**
 - Regional Project under Mangroves for the Future
 - Improving dive tourism in Viet Nam



COBSEA MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS FRAMEWORK



Blue Economy

- Sustainable ocean ecosystems
- Economic and livelihood opportunities
- Community participation and empowerment
- Equitable and inclusive benefit sharing

Marine & Coastal Spatial Planning

- Support and guidance on MCSP
- Institutionalization of MCSP
- Transboundary and regional collaboration
- Vertical and horizontal integration

Marine Protected Areas

- Establishment of Regional MPA Network
- Strengthening of MPAs and MPA Networks in the region

Habitat Conservation and Restoration (Coral Reefs, Mangroves, Seagrass, Coastal Wetlands)

- Small grants fund programme
- Green Fins Project
- Monitoring, restoration and protection

Cross-Cutting Priorities and Supporting Mechanisms

Community Participation | Knowledge Management

UPCOMING AND PLANNED WORKS

An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The scene is bathed in blue light from above, with sunbeams filtering through the water. A diver is visible in the upper right, swimming towards the left. The reef is covered in various types of coral, including branching and table corals, and is populated by numerous small orange fish.

- **Increasing the role of tourism in MPA management by mainstreaming GREEN FINS towards sustainable tourism practices (18months)**
 - Supported by Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility (IUCN)
 - Project Partners: The Reef World Foundation, Coral Triangle Centre
 - The project aims **to strengthen Green Fins' value proposition and investment readiness of sustainable marine tourism efforts** in coral reef MPAs through investigating and building the evidence basis of its environmental, social and economic returns for reef health as well as local communities.

UPCOMING AND PLANNED WORKS

- Assessing the utility of **environmental DNA** as a complement to traditional to **boost coral reef monitoring** and management in the East Asian Seas
 - Shortlisted in the 1st CORDAP Call for all 9 COBSEA countries
 - Resubmitted for 2nd CORDAP Call for Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore
 - Partners: National University of Singapore and UNEP-WCMC
 - Harmonized coral reef monitoring and guidelines in the region.



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