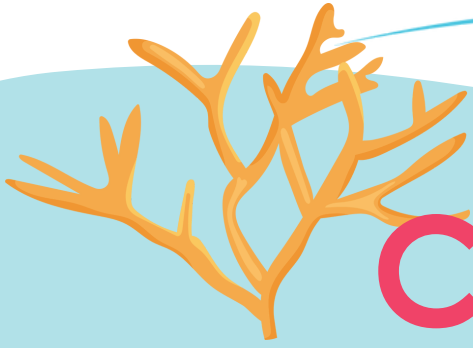


CCMI



Coastal defenders

Coral reefs are natural buffers against storms, wave energy, coastline erosion, and flooding. Worldwide, reefs offer protection to 5.3 million people and \$109 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) per decade**!



CORAL CONNECTIONS

Coral reefs are not just beautiful, they are essential for a healthy ocean and a healthy society. Human actions impact coral reef health, which can then have negative impacts on other important ecosystems.



Supporting livelihoods

More than 500 million people worldwide depend on coral reefs for food and a source of income, and more than one billion people benefit directly from coral reefs.



Biodiversity hotspots

Coral reefs support 25% of all marine species, contributing to a balanced ecosystem and high biodiversity.



Human health

Coral reefs may be a source of new medicine, with many reef organisms providing potential compounds for treating diseases, including cardiovascular disease and several types of cancer.



HEALTHY REEFS FOR THE FUTURE



Humans around the world are connected to coral reefs, whether they live adjacent to the coast or many miles inland. Here are some important ways human existence is interwoven with reef ecosystems.

Breathe deep

Thanks to the symbiotic algae living in the tissue of coral animals, coral reefs produce around 50% of the oxygen in the atmosphere.



Interconnected ecosystems

Many reef fish start life in seagrass meadows or mangroves, which filter pollutants and germs and protect coral reefs from disease. These habitats also trap and store carbon, helping reefs cope with climate change. Coral reefs in turn shelter seagrasses, enhancing their ability to sequester carbon.



Do your part!

Help protect coral reefs today:

- Avoid contact with the reef and other wildlife
- Reduce consumption of single use plastic items
- Use reef-safe products
- Reduce your CO2 emissions
- Support organisations that work to protect and restore coral reefs



For more information and to support our work:
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