

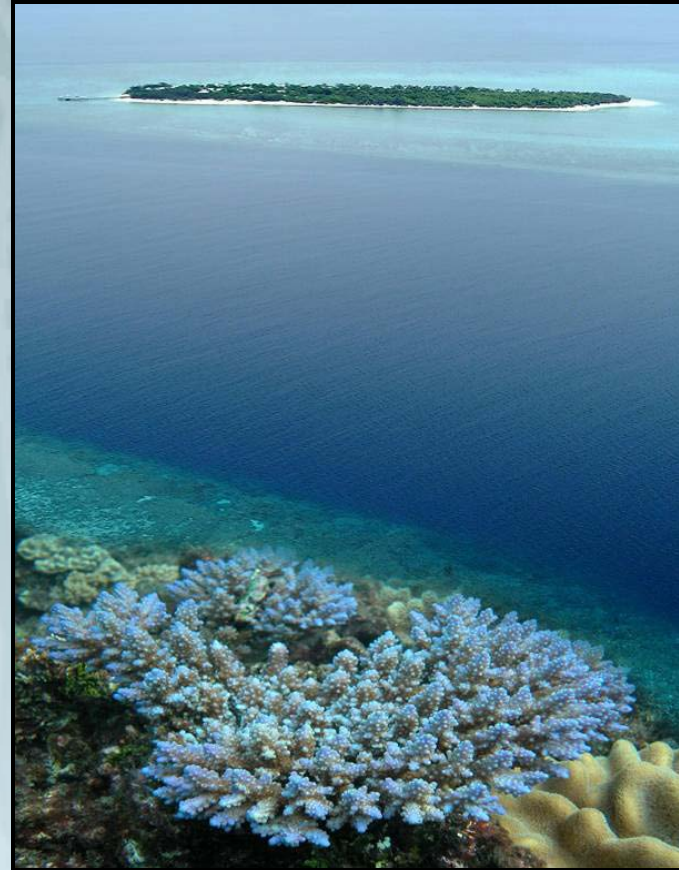
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force



*Working to preserve and protect
coral reef ecosystems*

Value of Coral Reef Ecosystems

Coral reefs cover only 1/10 of 1% of the ocean floor, but provide habitat for over 25% of all marine species



Value of Coral Reef Ecosystems

- \$6-10 billion U.S. tourism industry
- 50% of federally managed fisheries rely on reef ecosystems
- 500 million people in 60 countries rely on reefs for food, income, and protection



Coral Reefs are in Danger



- It is estimated that 70 percent of the worlds coral reefs are threatened, and 20 percent of those are damaged beyond repair
- Human overexploitation, global climate change, pollution, vessel groundings

National Action Plan

to Conserve Coral Reefs (2000)

Prioritized 13 National Goals

Understand Coral Reef Ecosystems:

- **Goal 1:** Map all U.S. coral reefs
- **Goal 2:** Assess, monitor and forecast reef health
- **Goal 3:** Conduct strategic research
- **Goal 4:** Understand social and economic factors

Reduce Impacts of Human Activities:

- **Goal 5:** Improve use of MPAs
- **Goal 6:** Reduce impacts of fishing
- **Goal 7:** Reduce impacts of coastal uses
- **Goal 8:** Reduce impacts of pollution
- **Goal 9:** Restore damaged reefs
- **Goal 10:** Improve outreach and education
- **Goal 11:** Reduce threats to int'l reefs
- **Goal 12:** Reduce impacts from int'l trade
- **Goal 13:** Improve coordination and accountability

Kona Resolution

It is clear that the USCRTF, with partners, must significantly increase our collective effort to address the factors over which we can exercise control. The USCRTF must take immediate action to respond to these threats and, in turn, seek to sustain our coral reef ecosystems and the communities that depend upon them.

Science has demonstrated that reef communities can recover when they are protected and stressors are removed. Urgent action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the meantime, precious time for coral reef ecosystems can be secured through increased protection from land and marine pollution, unsustainable fishing, development, and other stressors, all of which we know can damage coral health.

The time to act is now.

Priority Issues Identified



- Regional management needs and local action strategies
- Climate change
- Land-based sources of pollution
- Fishing Impacts
- Education and outreach

Action to Implement the Kona Resolution

- Continue with management of known threats
- Support the necessary science to facilitate action on global threats
- Work at the individual member level to determine each member's contributions to these efforts
- Report on member commitments at the Fall Puerto Rico meeting

Action to Implement the Kona Resolution

- Foster Targeted Partnerships
- Strengthen Coordination
- Increase Financial and Technical Resources
- Promote Efficiency
- Improve Effectiveness



Action to Implement the Kona Resolution

Overarching theme: Urgent Action Needed

- Drive change for coral reef conservation policy, decision making, and resource allocation
- Facilitate efforts that lead to a measurable difference for coral reefs and the communities dependent on them
- Foster greater political engagement at the national and local levels
- Identify management needs and promote the science and research needed to address these needs

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