

Coral reefs across the globe are currently severely threatened and are dying at an alarming rate. Home to more than a quarter of the ocean's living things, these reefs are important underwater ecosystems, and also some of the most diverse environments on Earth. Because they are so sensitive to changes in the environment, coral reefs serve as a kind of 'canary in the coal mine', and their decline is a stern warning that other plant and animal communities will soon follow.

Coral reefs are under threat from numerous sources such as overfishing, runoff, pollution, as well as bleaching caused by rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification. While some efforts to restore the reefs such as coral aquafarming, habitat creation, and relocating have shown promise, if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise the reefs will eventually go extinct. This would also mean many other species would vanish as well, and the impact to the global ecosystem would be catastrophic.

Despite their importance, very little is known about coral reefs in comparison to other ecosystems. However, we do know that they are facing destruction on a planetary scale, and that if we don't take immediate action, we might lose these crucial "forests" of the sea.

More information about coral reefs can be found at:

<https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/marine-life-education-resources/coral-reef-ecosystems>



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/nature/is-sunscreen-killing-our-coral-reefs.aspx>