



CAN-055-Dying Coral-World's Oceans

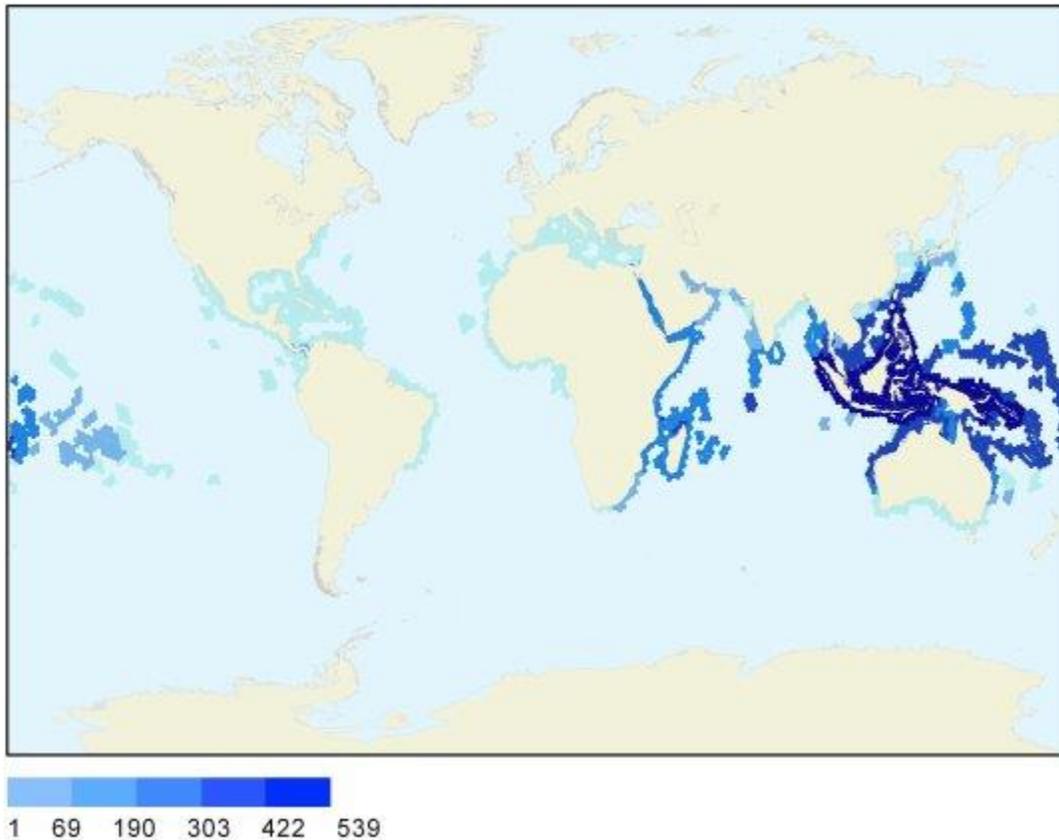
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Liberty Cast

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation 281.971.7703 P.O. Box 311117 Houston Texas 77231
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Coral Reefs Are Dying Around the World

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, is the world's oldest environmental organization, working around the world.



Periodically, they produce the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to highlight species that are extinct or extinct in the wild, critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable. Their spatial data shows the threats that coral reef species face around the world:

Threatened coral richness (number of species), IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, accessed February 13, 2010

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is perhaps the best managed in the world. A 2009 report by the Australian agency in charge of it (discussed further below) fears for the future and that "catastrophic damage to the ecosystem may not be averted."

But concerns about coral reefs have been raised for many years around the world.

The Status of Coral Reefs Around the World, 2004 notes that:

- 20% of the world's coral reefs have been effectively destroyed and show no immediate prospects of recovery;



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- Approximately 40% of the 16% of the world's reefs that were seriously damaged in 1998 are either recovering well or have recovered;

- The report predicts that 24% of the world's reefs are under imminent risk of collapse through human pressures; and a further 26% are under a longer term threat of collapse;

— Clive Wilkinson, Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2004 [PDF format], World Wildlife Fund, p.7

A report from the World Resources Institute (WRI) in 1998 suggested that as much as 60 percent of the earth's coral reefs are threatened by human activity.

Scientists have said that as much as 95 percent of Jamaica's reefs are dying or dead.

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/173/coral-reefs>

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The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"....Edmund Burke