



Land reclamation with Ste Anne Marine Park in background, Seychelles

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## CORAL REEFS UNDER THREAT



Bora Bora, Society Islands © UNESCO/Yann Arthus-Bertrand

### Natural Breakwaters

In parallel with other tropical ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrasses, coral reefs protect our beaches, shorelines and coastal property.



Schooling French Grunts (*Haemulon flavolineatum*) South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands © Edmund Green

### Breeding Grounds

Reefs provide nurseries and shelter for juvenile fish and other important and economically valuable reef creatures.

Coral reefs have evolved to cope with many natural obstacles such as hurricanes, floods, diseases and periods of mass extinction. Although they have existed for millions of years, the health of coral reefs is now rapidly deteriorating due to additional threats from human activities. Threats include climate change, unsustainable land use and development, overexploitation for fisheries, the souvenir and aquarium trades, pollution and physical damage from destructive fishing techniques, coastal construction, ships and other recreational activities.

Scientists say that sixty percent of reefs are either severely damaged or threatened unless we act soon. Protecting coral reefs is a challenge. But we believe it is possible.

ICRAN's strategic approach to reef management, assessment and education has been developed to secure the future of these valuable ecosystems, as well as the future of the communities they sustain.



Red Sea, Egypt © Mary L. Frost

### Natural Assets

Coral reefs benefit people and their natural world far beyond their boundaries. Reefs also provide food, income and employment for many of the world's poorest people through tourism, marine recreation, and fishing.

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