

Why our reefs are not doomed

Our coral reefs are in trouble – but knowing that doesn't mean we get to sit back and watch.

We've made problems for corals, for sure. Ocean acidification is caused by humans' carbon dioxide emissions, making it harder for corals to live and grow. To top it off, our greenhouse gas emissions are also making the ocean warmer... which makes ocean acidification faster and worse. With both factors combined, 90% of the world's coral reefs will experience conditions that lead to severe bleaching annually by the year 2055, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Unless we change.

Coral reefs are resilient. Some Pacific island reefs are documented 'hope spots' where change is happening slower and with fewer impacts. These places could serve as refuges for reef-associated species.

Coral reefs are not all the same. Some special Pacific island sites have naturally acidified seawater that let us see what the future ocean might look like: and those sites still have some corals.

Coral reefs can respond to local management, where we protect and restore healthy native reef systems in harmony with nearby environments. Healthy seagrasses, marshes, and mangroves may even help buffer the local, coastal ocean acidification.

But corals aren't going to clean up our problems.

We have power to cause change: we can ask our policy makers to stand up for our planet, we can change the way we do business, and we can adjust our daily behaviours. For example, the Jump campaign has set out six actions we can all take to have less stuff and more joy, while reducing our greenhouse gas emissions: <https://takethejump.org/>

We have work to do, and we all have a part to play.

When you talk about hope for coral reefs, you are saving the ocean – and saving us too.

Help give voice to this Pacific Conversation – learn more about **marine and coastal biodiversity in the Pacific islands**.

**Join in the Pacific Conversation: #SaveOurOcean
#ResilientPacific**



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