# ALLEN CORAL ATLAS

A global collaboration using satellite imagery to map and monitor the world's coral reefs in unprecedented detail. Powered by Arizona State University.

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## **Overview**

- 1. About the Allen Coral Atlas
- Informing SDG 14: Life Below Water
  Features of the Atlas
- 4. Data for conservation decision-making



### **The Allen Coral Atlas**

The first ever globally consistent, high resolution mapping and monitoring system of the world's shallow tropical coral reefs.

#### It started with four goals...



Create a seamless satellite mosaic



Monitor bleaching in real-time



Map the world's reefs with a consistent method



Create a community of coral reef conservationists, scientists, and educators



#### ALLEN CORAL ATLAS

253,000 km<sup>2</sup> of shallow coral reefs mapped

480+ datasets used to calibrate and validate global habitat maps

2.25 million satellite images used

### **SDG 14: Life Below Water**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.



More than 500 million people depend on coral reefs worldwide.

Coral reefs prevent an estimated \$94 million in flood damages every year.





About 25% of marine species are supported by coral reefs





## SDG 14: Life Below Water

<u>Target 14.2</u>: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

<u>Target 14.5:</u> By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

#### Benthic Maps (Ocean Composition)



Geomorphic Maps (Seascape Structure)



### **Global Habitat Maps**

Downloadable data on a reef's benthic and geomorphic make-up

#### Use Cases

- Marine spatial planning
- Assessing environmentally sensitive areas
- Disaster risk assessments
- Country-wide strategy action plans
- Prioritizing areas for restoration

### **Bleaching Monitoring System**

Biweekly visualizations of detected coral bleaching around the world.

#### **Use Cases**

- Prioritizing areas for restoration
- Identifying areas of high coral tissue loss
- Focusing monitoring efforts
- Informing rapid response
- Monitoring reef resilience between managed and unmanaged areas



Allen Coral Atlas shows coral bleaching in Papua New Guinea, 27 September 2021



Marine Protected Areas surround Fiji shown on the Allen Coral Atlas



### Marine Protected Areas and National Maritime Boundaries

Marine Protected Area and National Maritime Boundary information alongside reef habitat data provides a comprehensive look at ecosystems within human-drawn boundaries

#### **Use Cases**

- Track progress on Target 14.5
- Inform marine spatial planning
- Identify amount of habitat within a country's territory and within MPA boundaries
- Assess connectivity between areas

National maritime boundaries on the Allen Coral Atlas



# Habitat data is having an impact

Mozambique Country-wide spatial planning

Sri Lanka Creation of a National Park at Kayankerni Reef

Vanuatu Resilience assessments and country-wide spatial planning



# What's next

Near-term... Monitoring turbidity On the horizon... Monitoring land-based threats Flood protection value of reefs



# The Atlas of the Future

60% of the world's reefs are threatened by local activities like overfishing, coastal development and watershed pollution...

## **Calling for Collaborators**

Partnership: Innovative coastal monitoring program. Join us as a collaborating partner

Funding Opportunities: Help us provide essential data to decisionmakers to inform coastal management

#### ALLEN CORAL ATLAS



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