**RESILIENT REEFS**

**RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

**CORAL REEF CRISIS**

Although coral reefs cover less than 0.1% of our ocean, they are home to 25% of its wildlife and provide for an estimated 850 million people in coastal communities worldwide. This makes them one of our planet’s most productive and important ecosystems. And yet, with ocean temperatures rising, coral reefs are disappearing at an alarming rate.

50% of all coral reefs have been lost since 1980. 90% will be gone by 2050 if trends continue. 850 million people worldwide depend on coral reefs for food and livelihoods.

The disappearance of coral reefs is not just an environmental tragedy; it is a humanitarian disaster waiting to happen. We must act now to protect these habitats and the resources they provide.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- 30% increase in fish stock biomass in selected areas
- 70% of the world’s climate-resilient coral reefs safeguarded
- Improved management in 50,000km² of selected seascapes
- Key reef fish spawning areas and nursery sites under protection
- Improved economic capacity in climate-vulnerable communities
- Upstream sectors switch to more sustainable practices

**OBJECTIVES**

- Conserve and replenish coral reefs
- Empower coastal communities
- Create a global knowledge alliance

**A STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS**

This initiative builds on tried-and-tested interventions, as well as the latest emerging technology.

Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT) is a model that’s used in finance and investments to identify a portfolio of options that can maximise return on investment. We applied this approach to establish a portfolio of reefs that are expected to be the least impacted by climate change, while also safeguarding against the uncertainty of future climate conditions.

MPT modelling also factors future risk into the equation, so even if some locations in the portfolio are severely impacted by climate change, we have a safety net. By protecting reefs first and helping them to recover from disturbance, we can facilitate the recolonisation of neighbouring locations by coral larvae.

Using these innovative and integrated solutions, we aim to secure reefs across all seven countries and safeguard our planet’s most precious corals. Lessons learned in these pilot locations can be scaled and seeded to restore other reefs around the world.

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**A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP**

panda.org

**TURNING THE TIDE**

The Coral Reef Rescue Initiative (CRRRI) is a global effort with local impact. This international network of experts, academics, NGOs, donors and local people is working with governments to conserve coral reefs, while also empowering coastal communities to manage them sustainably.

We are not trying to save all coral reefs at once. We work in seven strategic locations, where research has shown immediate action can make a long-term impact.

**HOW THE 7 WERE SELECTED**

The CRRRI team assessed 194 variables to identify reefscapes with the best chance of long-term survival. Balancing risk and reward in each location, we looked for the following combination of factors:

- Relatively healthy reefs
- Locations less vulnerable to climate change
- High connectivity to other reefs
- Importance to local people and their livelihoods
- Level of threat from emerging local stressors

**SAVING 70 WITH 7**

Some reefs are less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others. 70% of these climate-resilient coral reefs can be found in just seven countries worldwide.

By conserving these strategic locations first, we can gain a vital foothold in the recovery of coral reefs worldwide, then scale up our efforts to make a global impact.

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**“WE NEED TO HAVE ONE MISSION: TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS ENOUGH RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS”**

Willame Katonivere, Traditional Head, Tui Macuata, Fiji

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