



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Oceans cover **70% OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE AREA**, forming the largest habitat on Earth, while coastal areas contain some of the world's most diverse and productive ecosystems, including mangroves, coral reefs, and sea grasses.

MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CORAL REEFS, SOMETIMES CALLED THE “TROPICAL RAINFORESTS OF THE OCEAN”, provide livelihoods to **100 MILLION PEOPLE** and provide the basis for industries such as tourism and fishing, worth an **ANNUAL NET BENEFIT OF US\$ 30 BILLION.**



Although reefs cover only **0.2% OF THE WORLD'S SEA FLOOR**, they contain about **25% OF MARINE SPECIES**. Increases in sea surface temperatures and changes in water chemistry can cause large-scale coral bleaching, increasing the probability of coral death. Hence, the effects of climate change, added to other existing coral reef stressors, could lead to coral death.

AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF COULD LOSE UP TO 95% OF ITS LIVING CORAL BY 2050 due to changes in ocean temperature and chemistry.

Climate fluctuations in North America reduce plankton populations, the main source of food of the North Atlantic right whale. Only about 300 individuals remain at present and the **REDUCED AVAILABILITY OF FOOD DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE** is becoming an increasing cause of mortality.

Warmer temperatures in the Pacific regions could reduce the number of male sea turtle offspring and threaten turtle populations. The sex of sea turtle hatchlings is dependent on temperature, with warmer temperatures **INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FEMALE SEA TURTLES.**

The conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity represents an important option for the adaptation to climate change. Many coastal ecosystem components, such as coral reefs, seagrasses, salt marshes and mangroves provide significant coastal protection and thus contribute substantially to the resilience of coastal ecosystems and populations.

