



Ocean Acidification
International
Coordination Centre
OA-ICC

Ocean Acidification

**THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR
THE TIME FOR ACTION
IS NOW**

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The ocean is becoming more acidic, getting warmer, and losing oxygen due to the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities.

Ocean warming, deoxygenation, acidification, and cascading ocean system changes will continue for the rest of this century and into the next century. These changes are irreversible on human time scales, and their rates depend on future emissions. These changes are unprecedented in the context of human history.

We know that ocean acidification is affecting marine life, especially organisms that build calcareous shells and structures such as coral reefs, shellfish, and crustaceans. Together with ocean warming, sea level rise, intensifying storms and deoxygenation, this poses challenges for coastal and marine ecosystems and their services, including seafood supply.

We know enough to act NOW

AS A POLICYMAKER WHAT CAN YOU DO?

International
lobbying

Protect

Adapt

Repair

- Continue lobbying to reduce global emissions to protect the interests and natural resources of Pacific Islands Countries and Territories
- Policy and economy-wide packages are able to achieve systemic change.
- Ambitious and effective mitigation requires coordination across government and society

International
lobbying

Lobbying to global
audiences:
Reduce CO₂ emissions

Protect

Safeguard marine
systems for food
security

Adapt

Use aquaculture
technologies for species
at risk

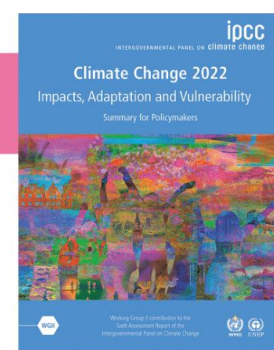
Repair

Restore damaged
mangroves and
coral reefs



WE KNOW THE OCEAN IS CHANGING

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, *Climate Change 2022*, compile thousands of scientific articles and show without ambiguity, from chemistry to biology, that ocean acidification is driving complex changes and threatening marine species, ecosystems, and the services they provide us.

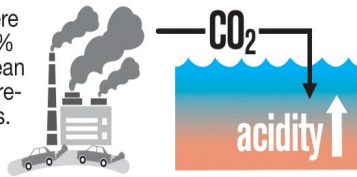


GLOBAL CHANGE

20-30% CO₂ ABSORBED

Burning fossil fuels is releasing excess carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. The ocean is absorbing 20-30% of this CO₂, making its chemistry more acidic.

As a result, there has been a 26% increase in ocean acidity since pre-industrial levels.



DEEP ACIDIFICATION

>2000m CO₂ PENETRATION

Acidification is spreading deeper in the ocean, surpassing 2000m depth in the North Atlantic and the Southern Ocean.

Ocean currents and mixing are moving surface CO₂ into the ocean depths.

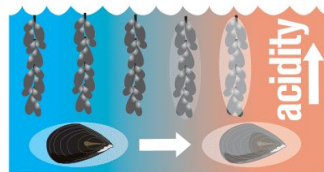


BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS

CHANGES IN MARINE LIFE

There is overwhelming evidence that acidification is having and will continue to have negative effects on marine species and ecosystem services.

Without adaptation, shellfish aquaculture will decline due to ocean acidification.



CORAL REEFS AT HIGH RISK

25% OF MARINE DIVERSITY

Warm-water coral reef ecosystems house 25% of the marine biodiversity and provide food, income, and shoreline protection to coastal communities globally.

Ocean acidification is weakening structure-forming organisms like corals and shellfish.



SOLUTIONS: REDUCE EMISSIONS, PROTECT, ADAPT, AND REPAIR

Our ability to manage marine ecosystems and minimize the negative effects of ocean acidification and other stressors will continue to improve with targeted science to:

- Monitor OA locally on a long-term basis
- Conduct studies on the impact of OA on key biological resource species and ecosystems
- Convey Pacific OA knowledge to regional and global decision-makers
- Raise awareness in developed countries about the impact of OA on Pacific Island communities

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