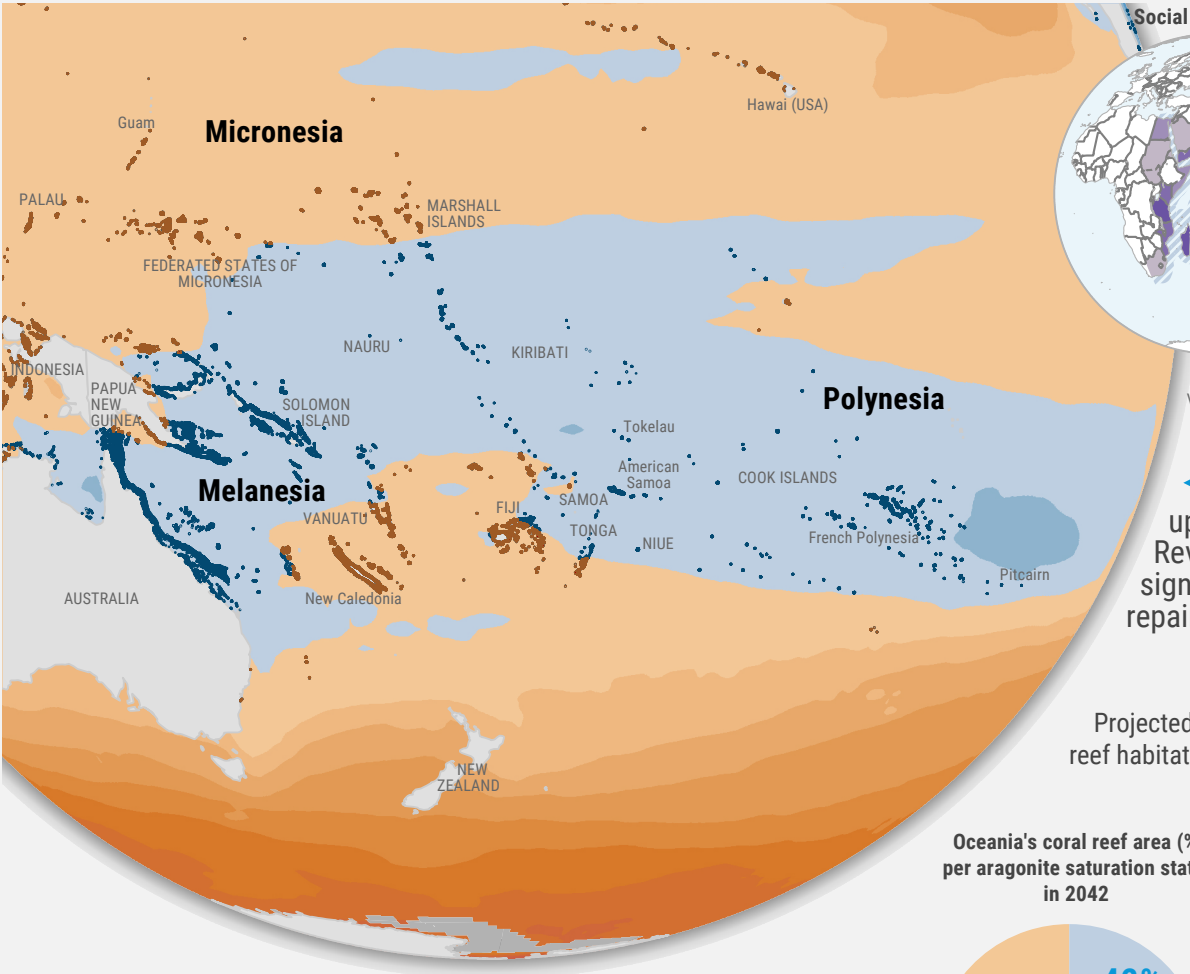
14 LIFE BELOW WATER

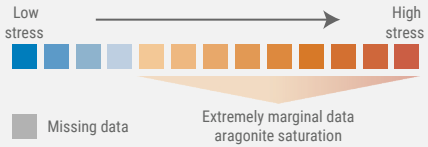
CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

Estimated aragonite saturation state in 2042, under a "business-as-usual" scenario (RPC8.5, IPCC)



Estimated aragonite saturation state in 2042

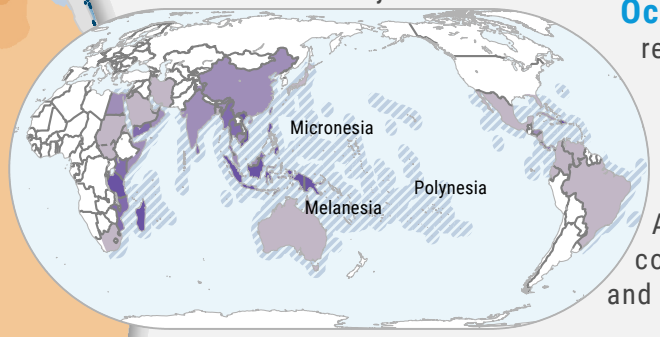


Stress of coral reefs based on aragonite availability (saturation)

- Coral reefs under **low stress**
- Coral reefs under **high stress**

Source:
Water Resources Institute, 2011
http://onesharedocean.org/?q=data

Social and economic vulnerability of countries to reef loss



Source: Water Resources Institute, 2011

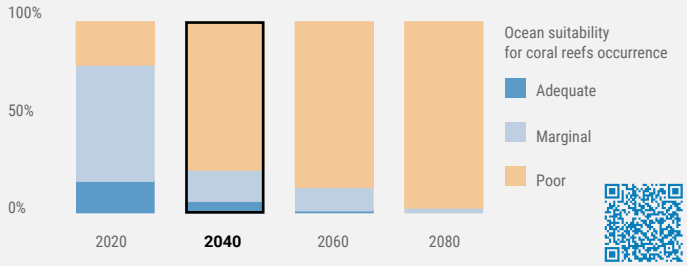
Oceania, particularly the Tropical Pacific region, holds about **25% of the global coral reefs**

Coral reefs provide **375 billion USD** per year around the world in **goods and services**

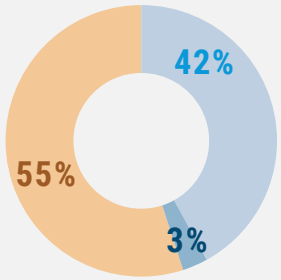
At least **500 million people** rely on coral reefs for food, coastal protection, and **livelihoods**

The ocean absorbs about **25% of the CO^2** (carbon dioxide) we emit. By taking up extra CO^2, the **ocean has acidified by 30%** since the start of the Industrial Revolution, faster than any rate in the past 300 million years. Ocean acidification significantly reduces the availability of aragonite for corals' skeleton building and repair.

Projected suitability of global coral reef habitat (%) in terms of acidity



Oceania's coral reef area (%) per aragonite saturation state in 2042



The Sea Women of Melanesia program raise awareness and help indigenous women create and manage marine protected areas on their own coral reefs. They have been named Champions of the Earth in the Inspiration and Action category, the UN's highest environmental honour

UNEP Photo - Roa Paul

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