

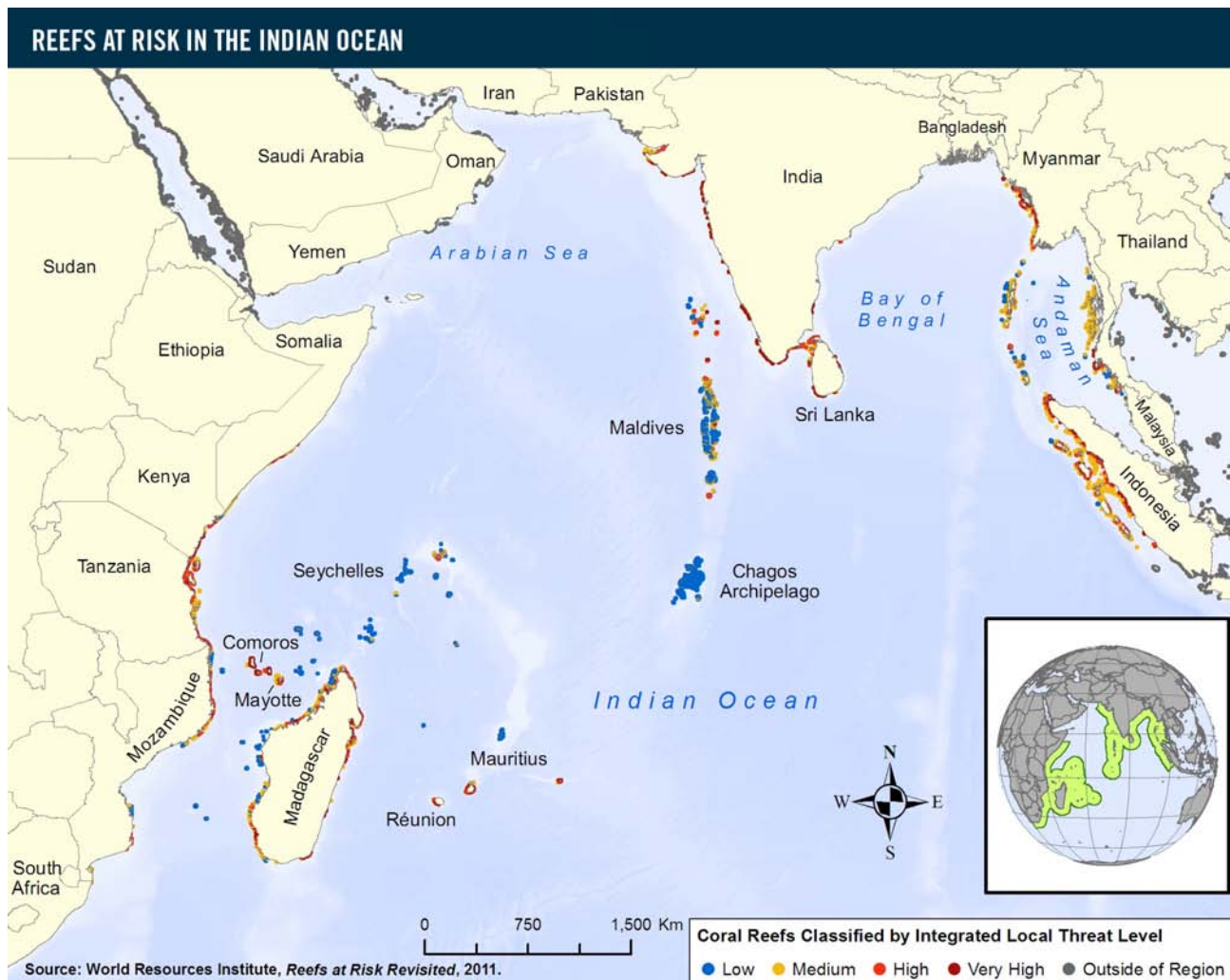
WRI FACT SHEET

Reefs at Risk Revisited: Indian Ocean

The World Resources Institute (WRI) spearheaded a broad collaboration of leading conservation organizations and research institutes to conduct a global, map-based analysis of threats to the world's coral reefs called Reefs at Risk Revisited. This report provides detailed examination of human pressures on coral reefs, implications for reef condition, and projections of associated socioeconomic impacts in coastal communities.

REGIONAL KEY POINTS

- The Indian Ocean region is home to 13 percent of world's coral reefs (31,500 sq km).
- More than 65 million people in this region live on the coast within 30 km of a reef.
- Over 65 percent of reefs here are at risk from local threats (coastal development, marine-based pollution and damage, overfishing and destructive fishing, or watershed-based pollution), with one-third at high or very high risk.
- Marine protected areas (MPAs) cover 19 percent of the region's coral reefs, with 11 percent in MPAs rated as having effective or partially effective management.



REGION

The Indian Ocean has 13 percent of the world's coral reefs. The Indian Ocean basin, stretching from East Africa to Sumatra has extensive reefs (31,500 sq km), which are concentrated in three broad areas. The Western Indian Ocean includes continental reefs and also the oceanic islands of Seychelles, Comoros and Mascarene Islands. Deep oceans separate these from the vast reef tracts along the Chagos-Laccadives Ridge, including the Maldives. In the east, reefs encircle the Andaman Sea, including India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as the islands and complex mainland coasts of Myanmar and Thailand.

PEOPLE

More than 65 million people live on the coast within 30 km of a coral reef, and many are highly dependent on these ecosystems for food, income, and coastal protection. In the Maldives, in particular, the islands themselves are built from reefs and the people depend heavily on fishing and tourism. The same economic pillars of fishing and tourism are featured across the region.

STATUS

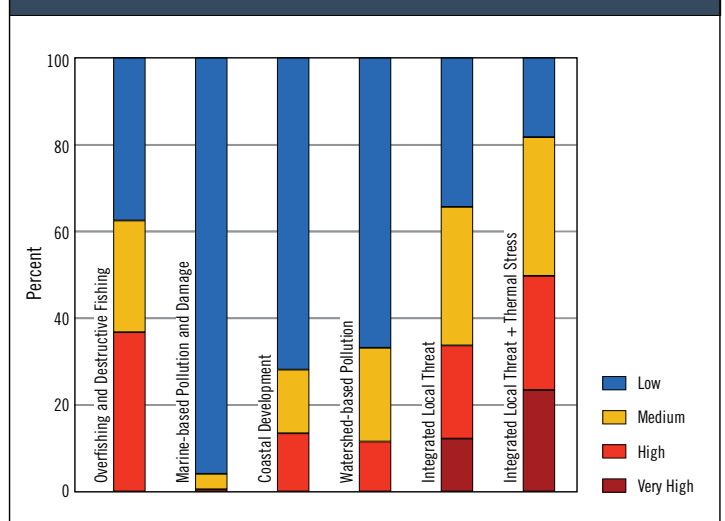
Over 65 percent of reefs in the Indian Ocean are at risk from local threats, with one-third rated at high or very high risk. Closer examination reveals a sharp focus of threatened areas along continental shores where more than 90 percent of reefs are threatened. The single biggest threat is overfishing, which affects at least 60 percent of coral reefs, especially on the densely populated coastlines of southern India, Sri Lanka, southern Kenya, Tanzania, Thailand, and Sumatra. Dynamite fishing in this region is a localized problem, occurring mainly in Tanzania. By 2030, projections suggest that climate-related threats will increase overall threat levels beyond 80 percent. By 2050 all areas will be considered threatened from the combination of local and climate-related threats, and most will fall under high risk from thermal stress and moderate risk from acidification.

REEF CONSERVATION

About 330 MPAs are established in this region, covering 19 percent of the coral reefs. Effectiveness assessments obtained for 58 percent of these MPAs concluded that one quarter were considered ineffective with just under half being partially effective.

FOR MORE, SEE PAGES 51-53 OF *REEFS AT RISK REVISITED*

Reefs at Risk in the Indian Ocean



ABOUT WRI

The World Resources Institute is a global environmental think tank that goes beyond research to put ideas into action. We work with governments, companies, and civil society to build solutions to urgent environmental challenges. For more information on our coral reefs work, visit www.wri.org/reefs.

ABOUT REEFS AT RISK REVISITED

The groundbreaking report, *Reefs at Risk Revisited*, is the most detailed assessment of threats to coral reefs ever undertaken. The report was led by the World Resources Institute, along with the Nature Conservancy, the WorldFish Center, ICRAN, UNEP-WCMC, and GCRMN.

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