

Protecting Climate-Resilient Coral Reefs: A High-Level Global Commitment

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT?

At the 3rd UN Ocean Conference (Nice, June 2025), 11 governments and 22 partners joined WCS to launch the first global pledge to protect climate-resilient coral reefs – vital strongholds for biodiversity, food, and coastal protection.



By joining, Governments commit to:

- Protect reefs using the best available science.
- Integrate climate-resilient reefs into national biodiversity and climate plans (NDCs, NBSAPs, 30x30).
- Reduce local threats such as overfishing, pollution, and unsustainable development.
- Mobilize new global finance for coral reef conservation.
- Track and report progress through robust reef monitoring.

WHY CORAL REEFS MATTER:

Coral reefs cover less than 1% of the ocean yet support a quarter of all marine life and nearly one billion people worldwide. They generate US\$375 billion annually in food, tourism, coastal protection, and biodiversity, while protecting coastlines and reducing wave energy by up to 97%. But with over 70% of reefs threatened by climate change and experiencing severe coral bleaching worldwide, protecting reefs most likely to endure is critical for nature, people, and climate adaptation.

LINKING GLOBAL GOALS TO POLITICAL ACTION:

The [Coral Reef Breakthrough](#) sets the global goal: secure 125,000 km² of reefs and mobilize US\$12 billion by 2030. The [High-Level Commitment for Climate-Resilient Coral Reefs](#) is a political pathway: governments pledge to deliver this goal by embedding resilient reefs in climate and biodiversity policies, creating new protected areas, and aligning with 30x30. Together, they connect science, policy, and political will into a unified global effort.

CURRENT SIGNATORIES

As of September 2025: **Bahamas, Belize, France, Indonesia, Madagascar, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, & Vanuatu** have signed on:



The Commitment has also been signed by **22 global conservation organizations, funding partners, and leading NGOs** to accelerate funding, knowledge sharing, and action toward the global 30x30 target.



NEXT STEPS

Our collective goal: 31 governments sign the Commitment by COP31, representing over 90% of the world's coral reefs. At upcoming high-level events, we will welcome new signatories and partners.



Learn more
and read the
Commitment



Call to Action

**JOIN US TO PROTECT THE
WORLD'S MOST CLIMATE-
RESILIENT CORAL REEFS.**



To learn more or sign
the Commitment, reach:

Marie-Céline Piednoir
WCS High-Level Coral Commitment
Coordinator
marieceline.piednoir@gmail.com

Emily Darling, PhD
Director, Coral Reefs, WCS
edarling@wcs.org



For more on why climate-resilient reefs
matter, read the new *Together for the
Ocean* essay by Dr. Emily Darling (WCS) and
Margaux Monfared (ICRI): [Read it here](#)