

## COP28 VIRTUAL OCEAN PAVILION EXHIBITS

### YOUTH4OCEAN FORUM



#### Description

The [Youth4Ocean Forum](#) is a free platform for young ocean changemakers. Initiated by the Directorate-General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission and facilitated by Youth Environment Europe and Nausicaa, its goal is to empower and connect the Europeans aged from 16 to 30 years old to help them shape our common future with a healthy ocean that sustains us all. Therefore, the Youth4Ocean Forum provides its members with the opportunities to speak up for their generation, share their ideas, showcase their Ocean Literacy projects and connect with like-minded young people and experts all over Europe. Find out more about us on [our website](#), in our [brochure](#) and by contacting us! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

#### Links

1. Our member's actions

The members of the Youth4Ocean forum are taking action to combat climate change and its consequences. Find out more about their actions:

#### **Thalassophile project**

The fight against climate change and its impact on the oceans is everyone's business. But sometimes the content is not accessible to people with disabilities. Our members taking part in the thalassophile project are working to make ocean literacy resources accessible to all.

More info: <https://www.thalassophileproject.org/>

**Amar el Mar: Corales y Vida**


Coral reefs are a treasure trove of biodiversity, but they are under threat from the impacts of climate change. Find out how the members of this project are going to help revive the coral reefs in Colombia in partnership with local communities.


## The Marine Diaries

The Marine Diaries is a non-profit ocean science communication and conservation organisation. By telling the stories of the seas through digital diaries, podcasts and webinars that embody modern culture, they hope to inspire ocean initiatives around the world and create a network of ocean advocates. Let's discover their actions on the climate change topic:


ECOSYSTEM  
TROPICAL  
CORAL REEFS

# THE RAINFORESTS OF THE SEA





### LOCATION



Tropical coral reefs are located between the latitudes of 20° North and 20° South of the equator. They are found in the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf. Coral reefs also occur further from the equator in places where warm currents flow out of the tropics, such as in Florida and southern Japan.

The total area covered by tropical coral reefs is around 284,300 km<sup>2</sup>, which is around 0.1% of the ocean floor.

Reef-building corals are found in temperatures ranging from 18°C to 29°C.

### IMPORTANCE

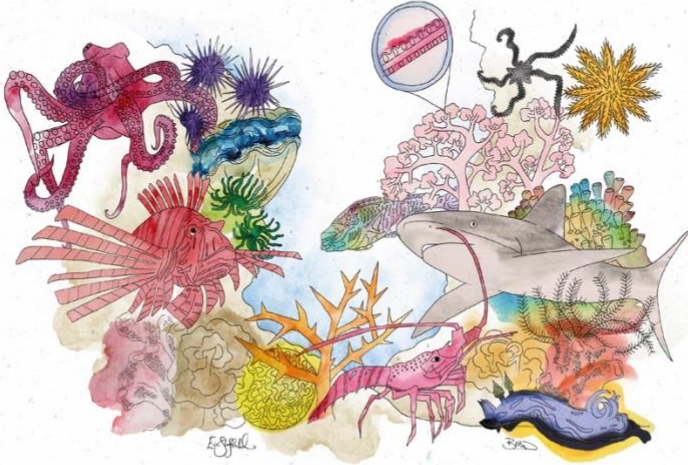
Coral reefs are the most biodiverse regions in the world and are home to more than 25% of marine species. Between 1 to 9 million species of fish, invertebrates, and algae are supported by the world's tropical coral reefs.

Tropical coral reefs protect coastlines from erosion by absorbing 97% of the energy from waves. This benefits around 197 million people who live near reefs, reducing damage from storms by more than \$4 billion annually.

They are also an important source of food and income, especially for coastal communities. Reefs generate a variety of seafood products including fish, molluscs, crustaceans, sea cucumbers and seaweeds. Globally, recreation and tourism activities arising from coral reefs provide an estimated \$35.8 billion annually. The total worth of coral reefs globally is estimated to be up to \$1 trillion per year.

Coral reefs are often referred to as the "medicine cabinet of the 21st century", as they provide numerous substances with medicinal properties. Coral reefs are important sources of medicines that could treat cancer, arthritis, human bacterial infections, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, viruses, and other diseases.

Tropical coral reefs are built by animals that lay down a calcium carbonate skeleton as they grow. Over millions of years these skeletons accumulate to form vast coral reefs. Reef-building corals come in many shapes and sizes; they can be thin and finger-like or shaped like boulders. The largest coral colony was found in American Samoa and is thought to be between 420 and 652 years old! Much like tree rings, corals are aged by counting the number of high and low density bands in their skeletons.



[WWW.THEMARINEDIARIES.COM](http://WWW.THEMARINEDIARIES.COM)

### THREATS

Climate change is increasing the acidity and temperature of the ocean. This is leading to a global decline in coral reefs. If carbon emissions continue at their current rate, we may no longer have coral reefs by 2100.

A temperature increase of just 1.2°C can cause corals to expel their symbiotic algae, in a process known as coral bleaching. If temperatures don't decrease quickly the coral will die. Mass bleaching events are now occurring yearly, leaving no time for corals to recover.

Ocean acidification makes it harder for corals to deposit their calcium carbonate skeletons. This slows down coral growth, and also makes coral skeletons weaker - leaving them more vulnerable to storms and predation.

Coral reefs are also threatened by coastal pollution and development and removal of fish for the fishing industry and aquarium trade. Human activities are leading to increases in natural coral predators (crown of thorns starfish & Diadema urchins), which decimate coral reefs.

### CONSERVATION

Conservation efforts must focus on tackling global warming, reducing local stressors, and replanting degraded reefs.

Researchers are working on increasing coral's tolerance to stressors such as heat. Replanting reefs with heat tolerant corals may help them survive warmer oceans.

Creating marine protected areas, where human activities like fishing, mining, and recreation are restricted, will make reefs more resilient to ocean warming and acidification.

**How you can help**

- Donate to coral restoration projects or adopt a coral.
- Reduce your carbon footprint & support governments who are tackling climate change.
- Use reef-safe sunscreen.
- Check that tropical aquarium corals and fish you buy have been sustainably sourced.

DISCOVER ALL THE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS DIARIES ON OUR WEBSITE

Illustrators - Bethany Morgan Davis, Erin Sheffield; Researcher - Heather Baxter; Graphic Designer - Janina Rossiter

Seagrass Beds: Prairies of the Sea

A Lens on the Ground: Meeting David Miller

If you want to follow the actions of the Marine Diaries, we invite you to their newsletter: [the Weekly Splash](#)

## Housing relocation in coastal areas

Rising sea levels due to climate change will have a major impact on coastal communities. Thanks to our member Joana Ferreira find out more about this subject and its consequences: [click here](#).

## Clean Boating

Development of circular economy is one of the key to reduce our carbon emissions. Discover how the members of Clean Boating involve private boaters and nautical charter companies in Mallorca to remove plastic litter from the seas. Clean Boating provides buckets and nets, to fish out the floating plastic they find when they go out on their boating excursions.

More infos: <https://clean-boating.com/index.html>

### **Refill Cyprus**

Reducing the consumption of single-use plastic bottles, cleaning up beaches to encourage recycling... our Cypriot members are carrying out a wide range of initiatives to reduce the impact of human activity on the environment. We invite you to discover their projects.

#RefillCyprus Launch Event – Agios Tychonas

Beach Cleanup with NEXTERS

### **Oceanum**

The members of this project want to run a business along the lines of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) They focus on four SDGs: 12-Responsible Consumption and Production, 13-Climate Action, 14-Life Below Water and 15-Life on Land. Check our solutions below to see how they relate to the four SDGs. Discover their actions on the field to produce food while regenerating nature.

More info: [download the pdf](#)

### **Children for the oceans**

This youth-led initiative aims at empowering young people on the ocean & climate issues.

More info: <https://childrenfortheoceans.eu/>

## **2. Our actions**

### **1) Helping young people understand the UNFCCC COP**

Climate change and its consequences are a major issue for young people. As their presence at the UNFCCC COP is limited, it is vital to improve their understanding of the climate negotiation process. As part of our Meet a Blue Expert webinar series, we welcomed Angélique Pouponneau, member of the Seychelles delegation, to explain what goes on at this type of event.

### **2) Helping Young people to speak for their generations**

Young people will suffer the most from the consequences of climate change. Yet their place in the negotiation process remains limited. For COP26, we were able to give one of our members the opportunity to speak for its generation at a side event organised by the GOF.

### **3) Our members mobilised to raise awareness about ocean and climate change**

On the occasion of COP26, our members have produced a series of videos to raise awareness of the ocean and climate change.

#### **Ocean and Climate Facts by Youth4Ocean Forum Members**

**How to mobilize our family, friends and colleagues on ocean & climate change issues?**

**What is needed to understand the issues facing our oceans?**

### **3. Our event**

#### **Connecting generations for ocean and climate action**

Join our event on the Virtual Ocean Pavilion!

Friday 8th December: 1:00-2:30 PM (GMT+4)

As the impact of climate change becomes more concrete and eco-anxiety among the youth is rising, there is an urgent need to foster transgenerational cooperation and develop modern ocean / climate literacy tools that will accelerate societal transformations needed to address climate change.

This youth initiated transgenerational workshop is the first step of a global consultation by the Youth4Ocean Forum. Through a collective intelligence methodology young people and senior experts will identify major youth concerns and existing practical solutions to respond to the climate challenges facing the youth. The results will feed a modern ocean literacy tool that will empower its users by providing them with reliable information and good practice to take ocean and climate action.

4. LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/youth4ocean-forum/>
5. Our website [https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/ocean-literacy-and-blue-skills/ocean-literacy/youth4ocean-forum\\_en](https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/ocean-literacy-and-blue-skills/ocean-literacy/youth4ocean-forum_en)
6. Brochure [https://www.nausicaa.fr/sites/default/files/paragraphs/download\\_document/2023-11/y4o\\_brochure\\_13052022-light.pdf](https://www.nausicaa.fr/sites/default/files/paragraphs/download_document/2023-11/y4o_brochure_13052022-light.pdf)

#### **Videos**

1. Clean boating – become a clean boating activist video <https://player.vimeo.com/video/885600038>

#### **Documents**

1. Youth4Ocean Forum brochure  
<https://vepimg.b8cdn.com/uploads/vjfnew/10412/content/docs/1700219776y4o-brochure-13052022-light-pdf1700219776.pdf>
2. Clean boating  
<https://vepimg.b8cdn.com/uploads/vjfnew/10412/content/docs/1700219834clean-boating-cop28-recap-pdf1700219834.pdf>
3. Discover the marine diaries  
<https://vepimg.b8cdn.com/uploads/vjfnew/10412/content/docs/1700483115the-marine-diaries-overview-pdf1700483115.pdf>
4. Coastal erosion: how to adapt territories?  
<https://vepimg.b8cdn.com/uploads/vjfnew/10412/content/docs/1700487711article-joanaferreira-pdf1700487711.pdf>
5. Oceanum  
<https://vepimg.b8cdn.com/uploads/vjfnew/10412/content/docs/1700487978oceanum-arthur-friedrich-pdf1700487978.pdf>