Piko Assessments Thu Mar 28 07:21:38 HST 2024

Name	Regional Decline of Coral Cover in the Indo-Pacific: Timing, Extent, and Subregional Comparisons
Lead Agencies	UNC-CH
Contacts	John Bruno, Professor of Biology, jbruno@unc.edu
Types	- Risk and Vulnerability or Problem-focused
Area of Applicability	- National and Regional
Focus Area	- Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems
Regions	- South Pacific
Status	- Completed
Description	A number of factors have recently caused mass coral mortality events in all of the world's tropical oceans. However, little is known about the timing, rate or spatial variability of the loss of reef-building corals, especially in the Indo-Pacific, which contains 75% of the world's coral reefs. This study provides the first regional scale and long-term analysis of coral cover in the Indo-Pacific. Our results indicate that the loss of coral cover began earlier than assumed and that coral cover is currently very similar across the Indo-Pacific, suggesting that coral decline is a general global phenomenon.
Url	http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.000071