Tropical coral reefs are planetary flagship ecosystems. They are uniquely high in biodiversity despite being geographically restricted and have enormous value to people. However, coral reefs and the ecosystem services they provide have been severely degraded over past century by human-caused climate change and coastal degradation. These negative impacts continue to increase due to unsustainable growth in human population and consumption, resulting in worsening climate change stress and habitat degradation. Thus, steps taken during upcoming global negotiation and decision-making events to limit warming by 1.5°C, followed by the implementation of policies shaped by existing and new goals and targets, will have enormous importance for the future of coral reefs.
A PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD'S CORAL REEFS
Establish Commitments - Promote Coherence - Drive Innovation

Slow Climate Change and Limit Warming To 1.5°C
- Substantially reduce CO2 emissions.
- Reduce ocean acidification and warming.
- Halt fossil fuel dependence and transition to green energy.
- Increase carbon storage via conservation of tropical forests.
- Increase blue carbon sequestration with nature-based solutions.
- Improve filtration of coastal run-off to protect mangroves, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs.

Improve Local Conditions To Build Resilience
- Empower local communities to promote stewardship.
- Reduce negative impacts of human activities, such as overexploitation of reef resources, pollution and habitat change.
- Implement and enforce sustainable Marine Protected Areas.
- Commit to coherent action across National, Regional and Local levels.
- Remove barriers to cross-sector and jurisdictional cooperation.

Invest In Active Restoration and Support Innovation
- Sustain corals through current period of stressful climatic conditions with active restoration, rehabilitation and conservation.
- Invest in technology to facilitate remote monitoring and more frequent reef health updates.
- Develop scalable and cost-effective technologies to fast-track natural reef recovery.

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