

# Climate change is killing the world's coral reefs: Study

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Global warming has killed 14% of the world's coral reefs in a decade and more will be wiped out if oceans keep rising in temperature, a study released recently has revealed.

According to a report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), coral reefs equaling about 11,700 square kilometers — which is 2.5 times the size of Grand Canyon National Park — were lost between 2009 and 2018.

## **Key Highlights**

- The report by the United Nations-supported global data network is the largest ever survey of coral health and covers data for 40 years, among 73 countries and 12,000 locations.
- The study also identifies dynamite fishing and pollution, but it is global warming that is seen as the primary reason behind the loss of coral reefs, which has left swathes of bleached skeletons in place of vibrant ecosystems.
- Corals in South Asia, Australia, the Pacific, East Asia, the Western Indian Ocean, the Gulf, and the Gulf of Oman, were among the hardest hit. Much of the loss was attributed to coral bleaching, as per the report.
- Coral bleaching is a phenomenon that takes place when corals — under stress from warmer water— expel the colorful algae that live inside their tissues, turning them white.
- During the study, scientists also found that there was about a 2% regain among coral

reefs in 2019, indicating they can be resilient when given respite from the facets working against them.

**SOURCE:** *Hindustan Times*