

Table 4. Ranking of Actions Needed To Reduce Threats To International Coral Reefs

This table summarizes the relative importance (H = high, M = medium, L = low) of the objectives under each goal outlined in the Strategy and National Action Plan to addressing key threats to international coral reef ecosystems by region. Rankings were provided by official representatives to the International Working Group of the United States Coral Reef Task Force for use in this document. A higher ranking suggests that conducting the objective is considered more important to addressing current threats to coral reefs in the region. Lower rankings suggest that although implementing the objective may make significant contributions, it is currently less important to addressing the major threats to coral reefs in the region. The actual importance of each objective in addressing threats to reefs will vary within and between regions depending on conditions, location, and other factors.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	REGIONS				
		Wider Caribbean	East Asia	Pacific	East Africa / Indian Ocean	Middel East
Map coral reefs	Map shallow reefs (<30 m)	M	L	L	L	M
	Map deep reefs (>30 m)	L	L	L	L	L
Assess & Monitor reef health	Conduct rapid assessments & inventories	L	L	M	M	L
	Monitor coral, fish, and other living resources	H	H	H	H	H
	Assess water & substrate quality	M	M	L	L	M
	Assess global warming & bleaching	H	H	H	H	H
Conduct strategic research	Understand reef processes	M	L	M	L	H
	Understand reef diseases and bleaching	H	L	L	M	L
	Understand impacts and management solutions	M	L	M	M	M
Understand Social and Economic Factors	Assess human uses of reefs	H	M	M	M	M
	Assess social and economic impacts of reef management	M	M	M	M	M
	Assess the value of reefs	M	M	M	M	L
Increase use of marine protected areas (MPAs)	Strengthen existing MPAs	H	H	H	H	H
	Identify gaps in MPA system	M	M	M	M	M
	Establish new MPAs	H	H	M	M	M
Reduce adverse impacts of fishing	Reduce Overfishing	H	H	H	H	H
	Reduce habitat destruction and other indirect impacts	M	H	M	H	M
Reduce impacts of coastal development	Reduce dredging and other habitat impacts	L	L	M	H	L
	Reduce Impacts from Ocean Recreation	M	L	L	L	M
	Improve Vessel management	M	L	L	L	H
	Increase Coastal Management/ Land planning and zoning	H	H	H	H	H
Reduce Pollution	Reduce Sediment Pollution	H	H	H	H	H
	Reduce Nutrient Pollution	H	H	H	H	H
	Reduce Chemical Pollution	M	M	L	L	H
	Reduce Marine Debris	L	L	L	L	L
	Prevent and Control Invasive Species	L	L	M	L	L
Restore damaged reefs	Improve Response Capabilities	L	L	L	L	M
	Improve Restoration Techniques	L	L	L	L	L
	Restore Damaged Reefs	L	L	L	L	L
Increase education & outreach	Increase awareness	H	H	M	H	M
Reduce Threats to International Reefs	Increase Management Capacity / Support Project Development	H	H	H	H	H
	Support International Partnerships, Institutions, Conventions	H	H	H	H	H
Reduce Impacts from International Trade	Reduce Destructive Fishing Practices / Overfishing	H	H	H	H	M
	Increase International Awareness	M	H	H	M	M
	Work with International Conventions, Regional Organizations	H	H	H	M	M
Improve Coordination	Improve Coordination with Partners	H	H	H	H	H

H = High priority action needed to address threats

M = Medium priority action to address threats

L = Low priority action to address threats