

"Changing Ocean Conditions and the Future of Coral Reefs"

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Global oceans are rapidly changing. Sea temperatures are warming, oceans are acidifying and coastal reef systems are becoming increasingly impacted by human populations and rapid urbanisation. These compounding stressors have led to the widespread degradation of shallow-water coral habitat. This is of major concern because marine ecosystems, like coral reefs, provide important provisions to nearby coastal communities (e.g. food security, tourism, cultural identity and coastal protection). However, assessing declines in ocean condition and coral reef health is difficult because there are very few long-term datasets to compare with present day reef systems. In an era of unprecedented environmental and ecological change, can coral reefs maintain their biodiversity and geological functioning into the future?