

# Human Impact

Subject matter: recall the global anthropogenic factors affecting the distribution of coral.

*Recommended reading: Coral Reefs and Climate Change - Recent scientific findings (p.172-174)*

Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report (<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/our-work/reef-strategies/great-barrier-reef-outlook-report>)

## Human impact - Classroom

Read the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report. There are many sections that discuss water quality and the health of the Great Barrier Reef (e.g. Section 9 - Long Term Outlook). List 5 human activities that can affect water quality on the reef. Describe 5 ways that poor water quality can affect the health of reef ecosystems.

## Identifying threats - Field

### Instructions

1. Copy the 'Local Impact Table' onto a waterproof slate.
2. While snorkelling, identify threats. Tally each time you see evidence of that threat affecting the reef. Take photos if you can. Some threats might not be visible but you know they exist. You may observe indirect evidence of their effects (e.g. damaged coral from a cyclone).
3. Compare your results with rest of the class.
3. Answer the following questions:
  - a. Which threats did you observe affecting this reef?
  - b. Do you observe indirect evidence of any threats? Provide details.
  - c. Suggest strategies that individuals or organisations can implement to reduce the impact of these threats.
  - d. Is your area part of a marine park?
  - e. If so, are there regulations in place to minimise impact?

### Equipment

- Mask, snorkel, fins
- Waterproof slate with pencil
- Underwater camera (if available)
- Internet access

### Teacher notes

Students should do additional research to find if the area is part of a marine park and if there are any regulations in place.

# Human Impact

## LOCAL IMPACTS TABLE

Observer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather conditions: windy / calm / cloudy / sunny \_\_\_\_\_

Threat		Tally (every time noticed)
 <p>Chris Roalson</p>	<b>Pollution</b>	
 <p>Angela Dean</p>	<b>Invasive species: Crown of Thorns</b>	
 <p>Diana Kleine</p>	<b>Coral Bleaching</b>	
 <p>Ove Hoegh Guldberg</p>	<b>Algal overgrowth</b>	
 <p>CoralWatch</p>	<b>Damaged coral</b>	
	<b>other .....</b>	
	<b>other .....</b>	