SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL #14 AIMS TO CONSERVE AND USE THE WORLD'S OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY

HOW ARE OCEANS CHANGING?

70% of the world's surface is ocean

By 2050 it is estimated that the volume of accumulated plastics in the oceans could be greater than that of fish

1 BILLION people rely on marine and coastal diversity for their livelihoods

3 BILLION people depend on oceans for their protein

How many pieces of plastic are thought to be floating in the ocean? 5,250 BILLION

the annual damage of plastics to marine ecosystems is at least USD 13 billion per year

the cost of ocean plastics to the tourism, fishing and shipping industries in Asia is estimated to be USD 1.3 billion

the global plastics sector will account for 15% of the global annual carbon budget by 2050

90% of the total heat from global warming is absorbed by the ocean

1°C is the amount that global sea surface temperature has increased by over the past 35 years

16% of the world's coral reefs were destroyed during a bleaching event caused by El Niño in 1997-98

HOW IS HEALTHY CORAL FORMED?
Tiny plants called zooxanthellae feed animal polyps through photosynthesis on the coral
These interactions generate the bright colours that characterize coral

HOW IS CORAL BLEACHED?
When water temperatures increase persistently, the polyps reject their plant parents and the coral appears bleached
If this continues, then the coral will die

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CORAL DIES?
Algae grow on dead coral making it impossible for new colonies to form
Fish can help clean the algae away and allow the corals to return

The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the world’s biggest structure made from living organisms
It supports more than 10,000 species including 1,600 fish species
It generates an annual revenue of AUD$ BILLION from tourism and AUD$ BILLION for fishing

In 2016 the Great Barrier Reef suffered the worst bleaching event ever recorded
At Lizard Island in Far North Queensland, around 90% of the coral died