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Federal Foreign Office



INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

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EMPOWERING THE YOUTH TO CONSERVE CORAL REEFS

MABUL



LARAPAN



KULAPUAN



SELANAN



SEMPORNA

This brochure is produced as part of the educational awareness activities under the Coral Restoration Project on Mabul Island, Larapan, Kulapuan, and Selanan sponsored by IKI - The International Climate Initiative, implemented by Reef Check Malaysia, and in cooperation with local community organizations.



THE FUTURE PLASTIC OR CORAL REEF?



TOXIC CHEMICAL

Plastic releases toxic chemicals into the ocean, disrupting marine life's reproduction.

MICROPLASTIC

The microplastic particles that are absorbed by the coral will harm them and it can accumulate in organisms through the food chain.



DISEASE TRANSMISSION

Plastic can act as a transport for pathogens, which causes coral diseases and, worst, leads to mortality in the whole colony.



IMPACT TO TOURISM

Plastic pollution will reduce tourist attractions and affect the income of the community.



QR CODE TO JOIN US



QR CODE TO RCM WEBSITE

www.reefcheck.org.my

WHAT ARE CORAL REEFS?



Coral reefs are unique ecosystems formed through a symbiotic relationship with a type of algae called zooxanthellae that live within their cells. Zooxanthellae use the sunlight for photosynthesis, then provide food for the hard coral. The corals generate calcium carbonate to build their sturdy skeletons. These coral reefs form complex marine ecosystems where they can thrive in clear water because they require sunlight to survive.

ARE CORAL REEFS IMPORTANT?

Coral reefs are home to 33% of the fish species in the ocean and serve as spawning and nursery grounds for 25% of marine species. They also act as natural carbon sink areas in efforts to combat climate change.

Providing opportunities in the tourism sector and other marine industries.



Food source to millions of people.



Protecting 20% of the world's coastline from wave erosion.



THREATS TO CORAL REEFS



MARINE WASTE POLLUTION

Unregulated waste disposal contributes to the accumulation of rubbish on coral reefs. This marine debris becomes entangled within the reefs, blocking the sunlight necessary for photosynthesis and damaging the coral reefs.



WASTE RESIDUE

The pollution of waste residue introduces nutrients that stimulate algae growth, which competing with coral reefs.



FISHING ACTIVITIES

Destructive fishing techniques such as fish bombing can harm coral reef ecosystems. Overfishing also leads to instability in marine ecosystems.



PHYSICAL IMPACTS FROM HUMAN ACTIVITIES

The impacts of ships such as binding on coral reefs and chemical leaks from ships. The impact of tourists such as breaking coral reefs, buying souvenirs made from coral reefs.

PROTECT OUR CORAL REEFS



Practice safe and responsible diving and snorkeling.



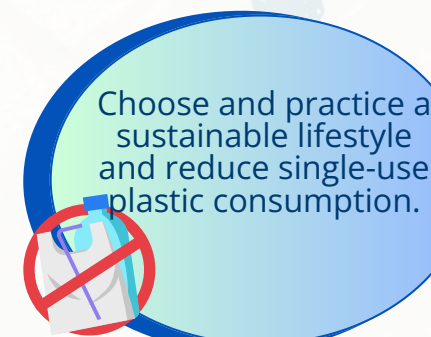
Do not leave trash on the beach! Join or organize beach cleanup programs. For example, participate in or organize cleanups in conjunction with The International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).



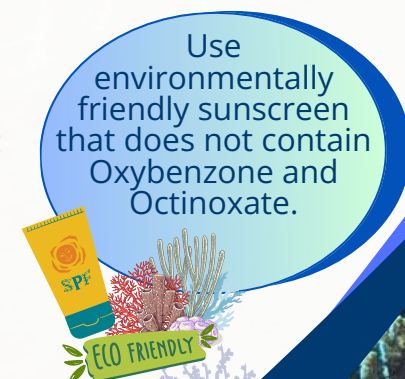
Support or donate to marine conservation and preservation agencies.



Do not step on or break coral! They take a long time to grow.



Choose and practice a sustainable lifestyle and reduce single-use plastic consumption.



Use environmentally friendly sunscreen that does not contain Oxybenzone and Octinoxate.