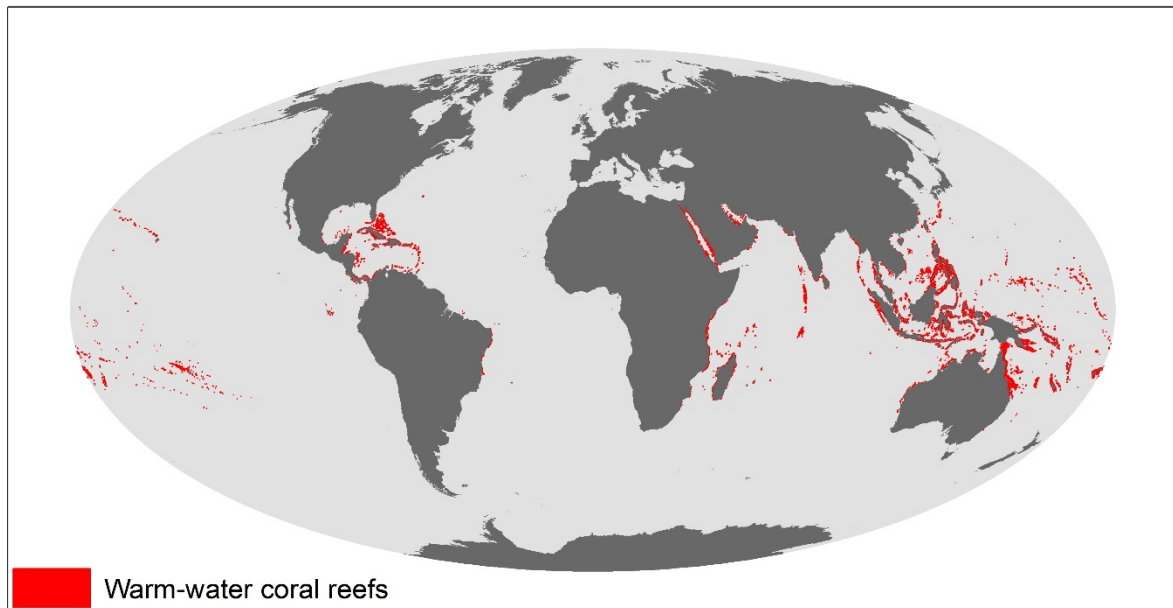


Global Distribution of Coral Reefs



Description:

This dataset shows the global distribution of coral reefs in tropical and subtropical regions. It is the most comprehensive global dataset of warm-water coral reefs to date, acting as a foundation baseline map for future, more detailed, work. This dataset was compiled from a number of sources by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the WorldFish Centre, in collaboration with WRI (World Resources Institute) and TNC (The Nature Conservancy). Data sources include the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project (IMaRS-USF and IRD 2005, IMaRS-USF 2005) and the World Atlas of Coral Reefs (Spalding et al. 2001).

Citation:

UNEP-WCMC, WorldFish Centre, WRI, TNC (2021). Global distribution of coral reefs, compiled from multiple sources including the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project. Version 4.1, updated by UNEP-WCMC. Includes contributions from IMaRS-USF and IRD (2005), IMaRS-USF (2005) and Spalding et al. (2001). Cambridge (UK): UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Data DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34892/t2wk-5t34>

For further information on the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project, see:

Andréfouët S, Muller-Karger FE, Robinson JA, Kranenburg CJ, Torres-Pulliza D, Spraggins SA, Murch B. (2006). Global assessment of modern coral reef extent and diversity for regional science and management applications: a view from space. Proceedings of 10th International Coral Reef Symposium: 1732-1745.

Citations for the separate entities:

IMaRS-USF (Institute for Marine Remote Sensing-University of South Florida) (2005). Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project. Unvalidated maps. These maps are unendorsed by IRD, but were further interpreted by

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Cambridge (UK): UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

IMaRS-USF, IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement) (2005). Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project. Validated maps. Cambridge (UK): UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Spalding MD, Ravilious C, Green EP (2001). World Atlas of Coral Reefs. Berkeley (California, USA): The University of California Press. 436 pp. URL: <https://archive.org/details/worldatlasofcora01spal>

A form of this dataset was used in the following publication:

Burke L, Reynter K, Spalding M, Perry A. (2011). Reefs at Risk Revisited. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. 115 pp. URL: <http://www.wri.org/publication/reefs-risk-revisited>

Data collection date: 1954-2009

Geographic range: Global

Supplementary information:

Attribute table: Automatically generated number (OBJECTID); Unique ID distinguishing the data entry (LAYER_ID); Metadata ID linking to the source of the dataset, found in the associated metadata table (METADATA_ID); English name of the feature as provided by the data provider (NAME); Name of the feature as provided by the data provider in original language (ORIG_NAME); Local definition of feature as provided by the data provider (LOC_DEF); Scientific (Latin) name(s) of family, genus and species (FAMILY, GENUS, SPECIES); Reported area in square kilometres (REP_AREA_KM2); Area calculated using GIS, in square kilometres (GIS_AREA_KM2); description of whether data have been obtained through remote sensing and/or field survey (DATA_TYPE); data gathering approach (SURVEY_MET); start and end date of data collection (of survey), supplied as text in the format YYYY-MM-DD (ISO date format) (START_DATE, END_DATE); character code that identifies accuracy of dates used in START_DATE and END_DATE to the nearest day(s), month(s), or year(s) (DATE_TYPE); Minimum/maximum depth in metres that the feature was found (MIN_DEPTH and MAX_DEPTH); verification by government or expert (VERIF).

Purpose of creation:

IMaRS-USF was funded by the Oceanography Program of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) to provide an exhaustive worldwide inventory of coral reefs using high-resolution satellite imagery, under the framework of the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project (Andréfouët et al. 2006). As a fully validated Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project product was not available at the global scale, there was a need to create an 'interim' global amalgamated map product. The dataset was hence created to further mobilise the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project products and their validation.

Creation methodology:

Approximately 85% of this dataset originates from the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project, of which 35% was validated (by IMaRS-USF and IRD-Noumea) and 50% remains unvalidated (but was interpreted by UNEP-WCMC). Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project products (validated or not) are at a consistent 30 m resolution (multispectral Landsat 7 images acquired between 1999 and 2002, <http://www.imars.usf.edu/MC/index.html>). Additional information regarding methodology and 'validated' and 'unvalidated' polygons can be

obtained from

<http://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/LANDSAT/HTML/README.html>

Where there were no Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project products, data (representing the remaining 15%) were compiled from other sources by UNEP-WCMC. These sources include data from the World Atlas of Coral Reefs (Spalding et al. 2001) and coral reef maps reproduced with permission from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and the UK Hydrographic Office (www.ukho.gov.uk) © British Crown Copyright and/or database rights. The dataset is mostly fitted to ESRI's base layer.

Version: 4.1 (March 2021)

Data lineage:

Version 4.1 (March 2021):

PARENT_ISO and ISO3 (ISO 3166-3 character code of country or territory where the feature is located) and SUB_LOC (ISO 3166-2 sub-national code) were removed. The fields PROTECT (binomial value indicating whether the feature occurs in an area protected), PROTECT_FEAT (feature protected by law or by any other conservation measures) and PROTECT_STAT (measure that protects the feature) were removed.

Version 4 (November 2018):

The dataset was augmented by additional datasets identified through an extensive literature review.

Version 3 (June 2018):

Geographic attributions (ISO3 and Parent ISO3 codes) of points and polygons in the datasets have been matched to the World Vector Shoreline Plus and VLIZ World EEZ v10 geographic layers. This improves the accuracy of these datasets for national and regional studies. ISO3 codes need to be updated regularly due to codes becoming obsolete or EEZ boundaries being adjusted. Multipart points and polygons features were created to reduce the complexity of the attribute tables, merging those with identical attributes. This reduces the processing power required to handle the data while maintaining the level of detail required. The habitat datasets have been quality checked for obsolete ISO3 codes, overlapping claims identified and "Not Reported" consistently used for missing values rather than NA or blanks.

Version 2.0 (December 2017):

Standardises the feature and metadata attributes using a new schema, which aligns the attributes used across the habitat datasets curated by UNEP-WCMC. The updated attribute schema is outlined in "Supplementary Information." Specific changes include the addition of information on level of protection (e.g. PROTECT, PROTECT_FEAT, PROTECT_STAT), indication of whether the data have received expert or government verification (VERIF), and information on the start and end dates of data collection (i.e. START_DATE, END_DATE). The new schema will be used to inform a set of quality indicators, assessing changes in data quality over time.

This dataset supersedes the one used in the World Atlas of Coral Reefs (Spalding et al. 2001), and should by no means replace the official release of the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project. There may be future updates as better information becomes available and as further

Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project products become available. Changes to the original dataset (ver. 1.0) include:

- Ver. 1.1: Attributes were consolidated in July 2012;
- Ver. 1.2: Duplicate polygons were removed in April 2013;
- Ver. 1.3: further minor-scale corrections (spatial shifts reported by users, duplicate polygons) were carried out in April 2014, and were updated online on the 11th February 2015. The total extent (after dissolve) is 150,048 sq km (326,019 polygons).

Category:	Biogenic habitat		
Keywords:	coastal, marine, corals, biogenic		
Similar datasets:	WCMC-009, WCMC-045, WCMC-001		
Limitations:	<p>While having global coverage, the dataset was compiled from multiple sources with varying scale and quality (outlined in "Metadata_CoralReefs.dbf" included in the package). The dataset has yet to undergo external review.</p> <p>The 'validated data' correspond to the final standard of Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project products; they can evolve according to minor corrections and modifications, but no major changes should be expected. In the 'unvalidated data', boundaries of occurrence polygons are unchecked and associated attributes are incomplete. In some areas, unvalidated and validated polygons of differing shapes overlap.</p> <p>As the dataset may still contain overlapping polygons, a dissolve operation (within a GIS) might be needed before surface area calculations are carried out. Most of the dataset's polygons align relatively well (spatially) to the base layer (coastline) of Open Street Map (used in ESRI ArcGIS software).</p>		
Maintenance frequency:	Corrections are made on an ad-hoc basis.		
Main access/use constraint:	UNEP-WCMC General Data License (excluding WDPA). See https://www.unep-wcmc.org/policies/general-data-license-excluding-wdpa#data_policy for details.		
Organisation type:	Custodian		
Contact Organisation:	UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre		
City:	Cambridge, UK		
E-mail:	oceanplus@unep-wcmc.org		
Data format(s):	Vector (polygon); KML (.kml); WMS;	Dataset size (uncompressed):	1.33 GB
Webpage and/or download:	https://doi.org/10.34892/t2wk-5t34		
Web map service:	http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=97071c96008d4ea6b0aabe4ed125661f		
Factsheet:	http://wcmc.io/warm_coral_reef		

Resolution, scale:	Variable	Reference system:	WGS 1984
West bounding:	-180	East bounding:	180
South bounding:	-34.3	North bounding:	32.5
Metadata standard:	UNEP-WCMC Specific	Date of metadata:	26/03/2021