

# OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

UNHEALTHY

HEALTHY

## 1 WHAT IS OCEAN ACIDIFICATION (OA)?

The burning of fossil fuels continue to increase the amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere rises, larger amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> will be taken up by the ocean. This causes a change in the oceans water chemistry by increasing hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>). An increase of H<sup>+</sup> in the ocean will cause an increase of acidity in the oceans water.

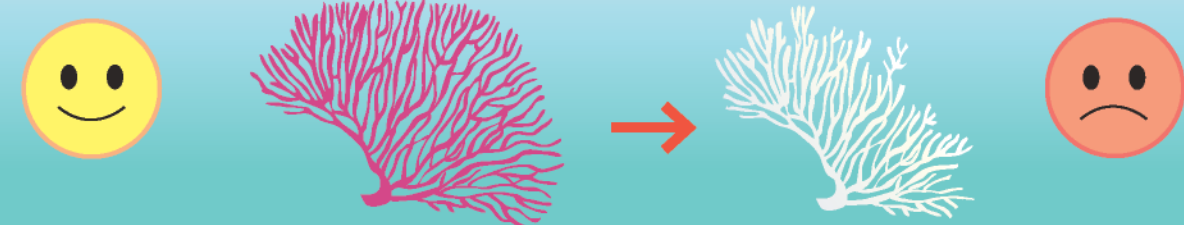
## 2 THREATENING:

- Biodiversity
- Fisheries
- Tourism
- Food Security
- Jobs and Income
- Coastal protection
- National Economy

## 3 EFFECTS OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION?

As the ocean becomes more acidic it will cause effects to many marine resources.

It will make it difficult for corals and sea shells to build, resulting to weaker sea shells, weaker coral skeletons, weaker coral reefs and coral reef habitats



It will affect the growth and reproduction of many types of shell builders, fin fish and plankton species



## 4 WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW & AS A COMMUNITY WHAT WE CAN DO:

You can help your Coral Reefs health by:

- Protect and conserve your coral reef, seagrass and mangrove areas
- Support your communities conservation efforts
- Stop overfishing
- Stop destructive fishing practices
- Do not pollute your land, beach or ocean (keep it clean)
- Reduce the use of plastics
- Reduce your carbon emissions (walk more and drive less)
- Reduce use of fertilizers
- Stop fertilizer and waste run off (including human and animal waste) into our rivers and oceans
- Keep your eyes on the reef and report any changes
- Help save your ocean and coral reefs, educate others and spread the word



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The Pacific environment – sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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