

# What Is the Natural Coral Reef Crisis? | An Urgent Call to Action



## What Is Natural?: Coral Reef Crisis by Jan Sapp

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Coral reefs are some of the most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth, and they provide food and shelter for a wide variety of marine life. However, coral reefs are under threat from a number of human activities, including pollution, overfishing, and climate change.

Pollution can damage coral reefs in a number of ways. Chemicals from fertilizers and pesticides can run off into the ocean and harm coral larvae. Sediment from construction and other activities can smother coral reefs, blocking out the sunlight they need to survive. Oil spills can also damage coral reefs, and they can be particularly harmful if they occur during coral spawning season.

Overfishing can also damage coral reefs. When fish populations are depleted, algae can grow unchecked on coral reefs. Algae can block out

the sunlight that coral needs to survive, and it can also release toxins that can harm coral.

Climate change is a major threat to coral reefs. As the ocean warms, coral reefs are more likely to bleach. Coral bleaching is a process that occurs when coral expels the algae that live in its tissues. These algae provide coral with food and energy, and without them, coral can starve to death.

Ocean acidification is another threat to coral reefs. As the ocean absorbs more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, it becomes more acidic. This can make it difficult for coral to build their skeletons, and it can also damage their reproductive systems.

The natural coral reef crisis is a serious threat to our planet. If we don't take action to protect coral reefs, we will lose these vital ecosystems and all the benefits they provide.

### **What Can We Do to Help?**

There are a number of things we can do to help protect coral reefs. We can reduce our pollution by using less fertilizer and pesticides, and by recycling more. We can also support sustainable fishing practices, and we can avoid buying products that are made from coral.

We can also support organizations that are working to protect coral reefs. These organizations are working to reduce pollution, overfishing, and climate change, and they are also working to restore damaged coral reefs.

By taking action to protect coral reefs, we can help to ensure that these vital ecosystems continue to thrive for generations to come.

The natural coral reef crisis is a serious threat to our planet. However, by taking action to protect coral reefs, we can help to ensure that these vital ecosystems continue to thrive for generations to come.

Here are some additional things you can do to help protect coral reefs:

- Use less fertilizer and pesticides on your lawn and garden.
- Recycle more.
- Support sustainable fishing practices.
- Avoid buying products that are made from coral.
- Support organizations that are working to protect coral reefs.

By taking action to protect coral reefs, we can help to ensure that these vital ecosystems continue to thrive for generations to come.



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