

Use the word in brackets to form a new word that fits into each blank.

A recent study shows that the world's coral reefs have been showing signs of strong bleaching due to global (1) _____. (WARM). In the 1980s bleaching was a rare (2) _____ (OCCUR) which came about every 25 years. Now the rate has risen to about once every five years. (3) _____ (ENVIRONMENT) predict that by 2050 bleaching will happen every year or two.



*Bleached Coral Reef at Heron Island, Great Barrier Reef
Image: Acropora at English Wikipedia [CC BY-SA 3.0]*

Bleaching is caused when warm water breaks down the algae inside the reefs. They provide food for the corals and keep them (4) _____ (HEALTH). When algae fall off, corals suffer a (5) _____ (LOSE) of colour and can die within a short period of time. Even if the water (6) _____ (SURROUND) the reefs gets colder again it may take years for the damaged reefs to recover (7) _____ (COMPLETE).

While bleaching is especially a problem in the waters of the Caribbean Sea and Western Atlantic, reefs around Australia and South Africa have hardly been hit. In (8) _____ (ADD) to the warming temperatures of the oceans, coral reefs are also (9) _____ (DANGER) by (10) _____ (POLLUTE) and overfishing.

Coral reefs are an important ecosystem. They are home to 25% of all marine species and provide a habitat for (11) _____ (COUNT) types of fish. Reefs protect (12) _____ (COAST) regions from flooding and tidal waves. Coral reefs are also tourist (13) _____ (ATTRACT) that lure millions of people every year. The tourist industry around the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, for example, is worth about 5 billion dollars a year.