

Coral Triangle

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Coral Triangle Latest News

The Philippines is preparing to host Southeast Asia's first coral larvae cryobank which links research institutions in the Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to create a network of cryobanks across the Coral Triangle.

About Coral Triangle

- It is often referred to as **the 'Amazon of the seas'**, is a huge marine area spanning over 10 million square kilometres.
- **Countries of coral Triangle:** It includes countries like **Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, and the Solomon Islands.**
- **Significance:** The Triangle is home to more than **three-quarters of the world's coral species**, a third of all reef fish, the vast mangrove forests, and six of the seven marine turtle species.
- It also sustains the **food security and livelihoods** of more than 120 million people.

- **Threats:** Growing carbon emissions, destructive fishing, air, water, and soil pollution, and the accelerating effects of climate change are all driving coral bleaching, habitat loss, and species decline.

What are Corals?

- Corals are essentially animals, which are sessile, meaning they permanently attach themselves to the ocean floor.
- Corals share a **symbiotic relationship** with single-celled **algae called zooxanthellae**.
- The algae provide the coral with food and nutrients, which they make through photosynthesis, using the sun's light.
- They use their tiny tentacle-like hands to catch food from the water and sweep into their mouth.
- Each individual coral animal is known as a polyp and it lives in groups of hundreds to thousands of genetically identical polyps that form a 'colony'.

Source: TH

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