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© Scott Henry, Green turtle and eel, Florida

## Coral Reef Management

Marine Protected Areas are a tool to manage the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems. Of those reefs which are protected only 4% are covered by the strictest IUCN management categories and potentially destructive activities are allowed in 40%.



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## Dependence on Shallow Water Habitats

Artisanal seine net fishermen working on seagrass banks in Montepuez Bay, Mozambique. The world's shallow water habitats cover 6,037,100 km<sup>2</sup>, only 7% of which is protected.

## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS Conservation of Coral Reefs

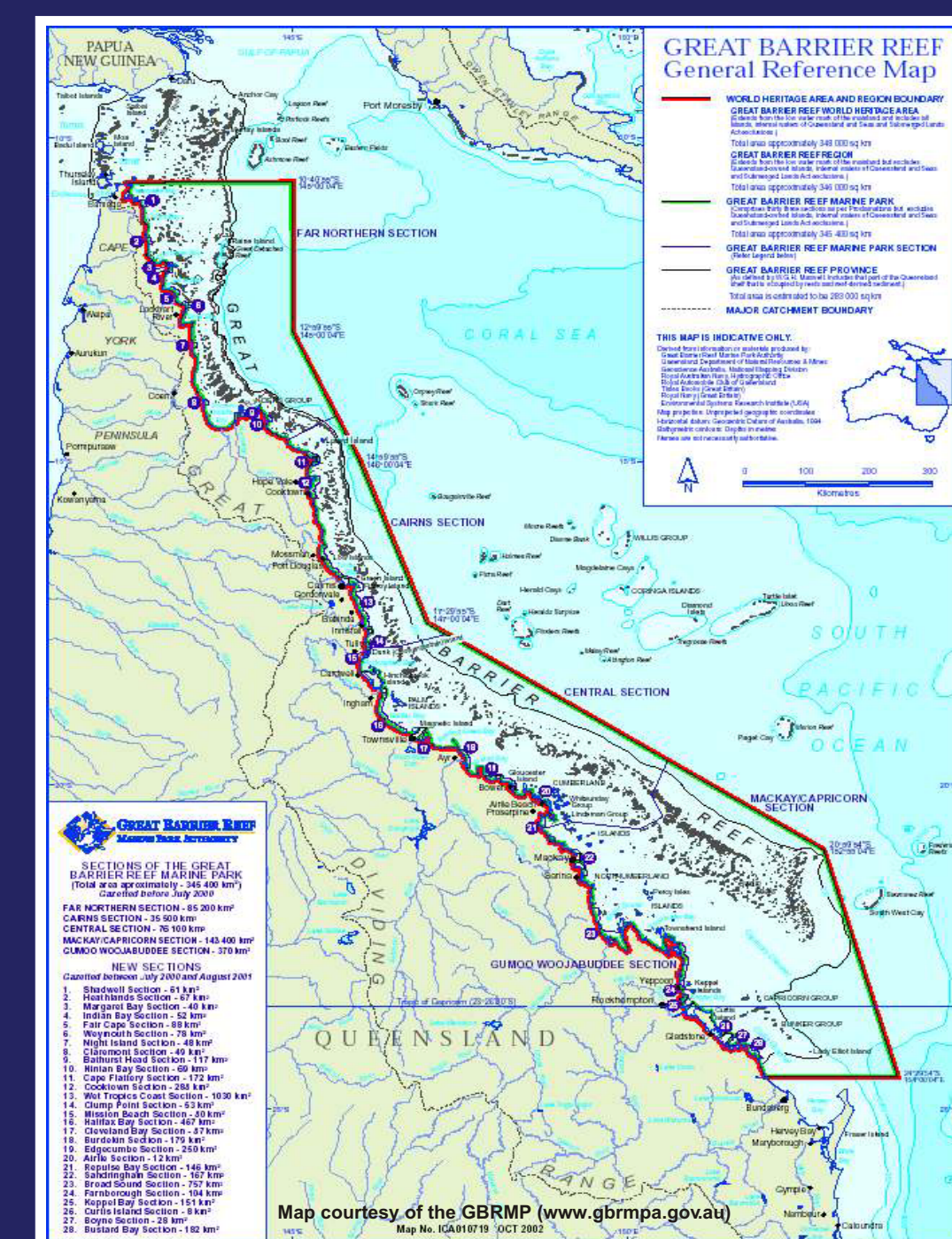
The world's coral reefs only cover an area equivalent to half the size of France, but they support at least 25% of all marine life and provide approximately US \$ 30 billion in net benefits to world economies.

The physical, social, economic and cultural lives/needs of more than one billion people is intrinsically linked to coral reefs, making the protection of this fragile ecosystem of vital importance.

Currently, 667 MPAs protect 20% of the ocean's 284,000km<sup>2</sup> of coral reefs, but 90% of these MPAs are based in 10 countries. This leaves over 90 countries and territories with insufficient protection for their precious reefs.

By calling for the establishment of a broader MPA network by 2012, environmental leaders at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development have made it clear that safeguarding coral reefs and the lives of people dependent on them is an urgent priority.

[www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)



## The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP) in Australia covers 348,000 km<sup>2</sup> and contains more than 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> (or 13%) of the world's coral reefs. The GBRMP contains 72% of all protected coral reefs and 45% of the world's protected tropical shallow water habitats.

Collaborators:  
UNEP Post Conflict Assessment Unit, NOAA National Ocean Service, SeaWiFS Project, World Fish Centre, Earth Sciences and Image Analysis Laboratory, NASA.