

The Great Barrier Reef

PROBLEMS:

- Over fishing
- Pollution from agriculture and development
- Destruction and bleaching of Coral

SOLUTIONS:

- ✓Designated fishing zones, MPAs, NTAs
- ✓Mangrove protection, restricted development on coast, environmentally friendly fertilizers
- ✓Coral replant projects, mangrove protection, education programs for tourists and natives, MPAs



It is estimated that close to 60% of reefs may be lost by 2030



Mangroves along the coast

Mangroves are an instrumental part of coastal, as well as, reef life. Due to demand for coastal hotels and homes, mangroves are being destroyed rapidly. Mangroves provide:

- A nursery vital to many animal life cycles
- Trap sediment before they flow into the ocean
 - Sediment causes flood algal plumes that can kill coral by blocking light and smothering it
- Store flood waters and allow recharge of aquifers



Relationship to Career Goals

In my future career I aspire to improve the relationship between humans and the environment. I believe that environmental regulations should be constantly re-examined and altered to provide access to resources as well as the strictest protection of the environment that is possible. In Australia I was exposed to many different environmental issues and was able to witness first hand how they were being solved. Many of the solutions were still in the first stages (such as the fishing zones in the Great Barrier Reef) and it was amazing to see how much work was put into the trial and error process. Australia depends on tourism and it was interesting to see how hotels, boating companies, restaurants and the like attempted to use environmentally safe practices while serving the consumers, most of who could care less about the ecosystem surrounding them. This is very applicable to any job I could have in the future where I would want to attempt to make a service in high demand (such as oil and gas drilling, pipeline production, construction) more environmentally friendly.

Protecting the Rainforest

Many parts of the rainforest can be bought and sold (for industry, logging, urban development) resulting in fragmentation of habitat. **Wet Tropics Heritage Area** (400 km belt) is striving to prevent this.

- Highest biodiversity
- Rare endemic species of evolutionary importance
- Area of research and education to the public



References

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