



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

ACTION PLAN

ACTION #3

REDUCE LOCAL POLLUTANTS

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REDUCE LOCAL POLLUTANTS THAT EXACERBATE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Implement actions that reduce local inputs of land-based pollutants (e.g., nutrient loading, storm water, and wastewater) that make conditions worse. Local actions to reduce these exacerbating stressors can increase the resilience of our marine species and ecosystems. Local actions to reduce impacts of OA also have multiple co-beneficial outcomes.

- Support research and modeling to help characterize and determine the impact of local contributions to OA from land-based sources of pollution (e.g. nutrients, organic carbon, other) from sewage systems and wastewater.
- Implement strategies to limit the flow of nutrients and sediments from rivers and coastal catchments onto coral reefs, or into bays or estuaries. This could include vegetation-based remediation systems, for use in upland habitats and in vulnerable areas.
- Where pollution sources are identified, amend allowed land or water uses, update wastewater and storm water treatment requirements, and regulate land use actions to prevent and reduce run-off and water quality issues exacerbating coastal acidification.
- Ensure coastal development plans and land-use changes are managed in a way that considers local hydrology changes to water movement that could further exacerbate impacts of coastal acidification.
- Determine whether existing water quality criteria are adequate for tracking OA. Include OA as a potential point of concern and review in local water quality policies and permitting decisions.
- Eliminate destructive fishing activities, mining of coral rock, unregulated sand and gravel mining from streams and coasts and damage from boating and tourist operations.

