

# TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Long-term changes in global weather patterns and temperatures, mainly due to human activities like burning fossil fuels, leading to global warming.

## MARINE HEATWAVE

Periods of unusually warm ocean temperatures that last for days, weeks, or even months, causing stress to marine life, especially coral reefs.

## CORAL BLEACHING

When corals expel the algae living in their tissues due to stress, usually from warm water, turning them white and leaving them vulnerable to disease and death.

## ADAPTATION

The process by which organisms adjust to environmental changes over time, improving their chances of survival.

## BIO-DIVERSITY

The variety of living species in an environment, from plants to animals and microorganisms, which contributes to ecosystem health and stability.

## FUNCTIONALITY

How well the coral reef ecosystem performs vital processes, like supporting marine life and protecting coastlines.

## FECUNDITY

The reproductive capacity of coral, or how many offspring it can produce in a spawning event.

## NATURAL SELECTION

The process by which corals with traits best suited to their environment survive and reproduce, passing on those traits.

## RESILIENCE

The ability of coral reefs to recover from stressors like bleaching, storms, or pollution.

## ASSISTED EVOLUTION

Human-guided interventions to help corals adapt faster to environmental changes, like breeding corals with higher tolerance to heat.

