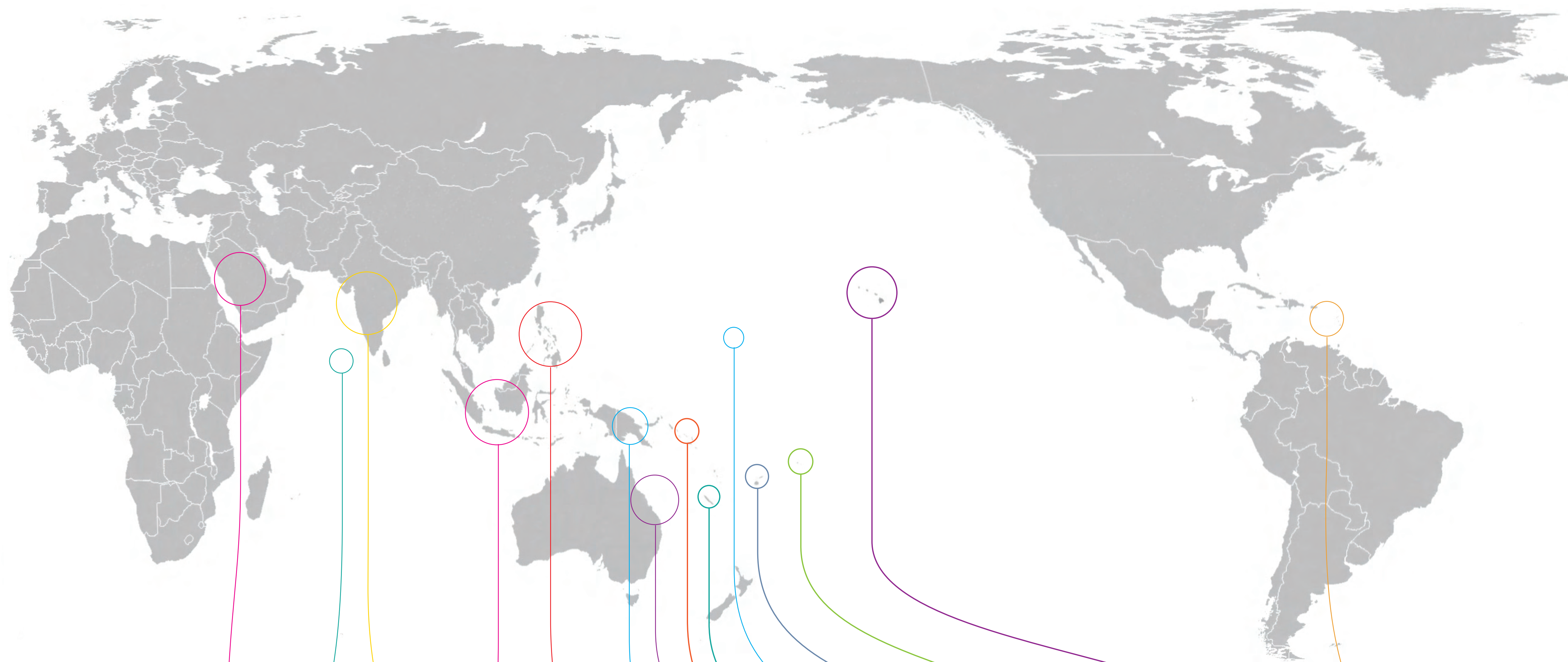


# REEFS AT RISK

Indicated by Selected Countries in Relation to Coastal Population



Coastal Population Density (pp/sq.km)

(pp/sq.km)

400

350

300

250

200

150

100

50

20

40

60

80

100

% of Reef area at Risk

Saudi Arabia

Maldives

India

Indonesia

Philippines

Australia

Papua New Guinea

Solomon Islands

New Caledonia

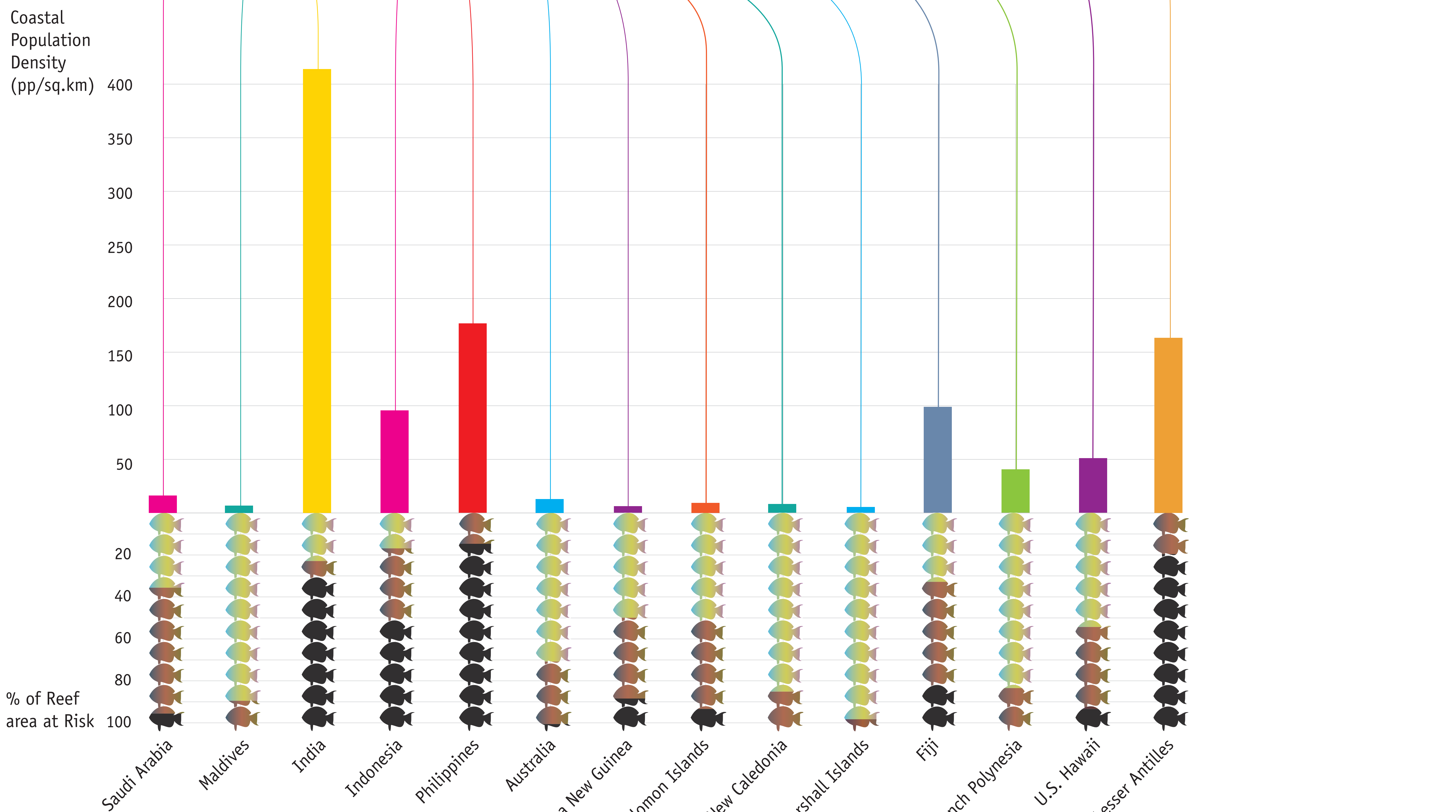
Marshall Islands

Fiji

French Polynesia

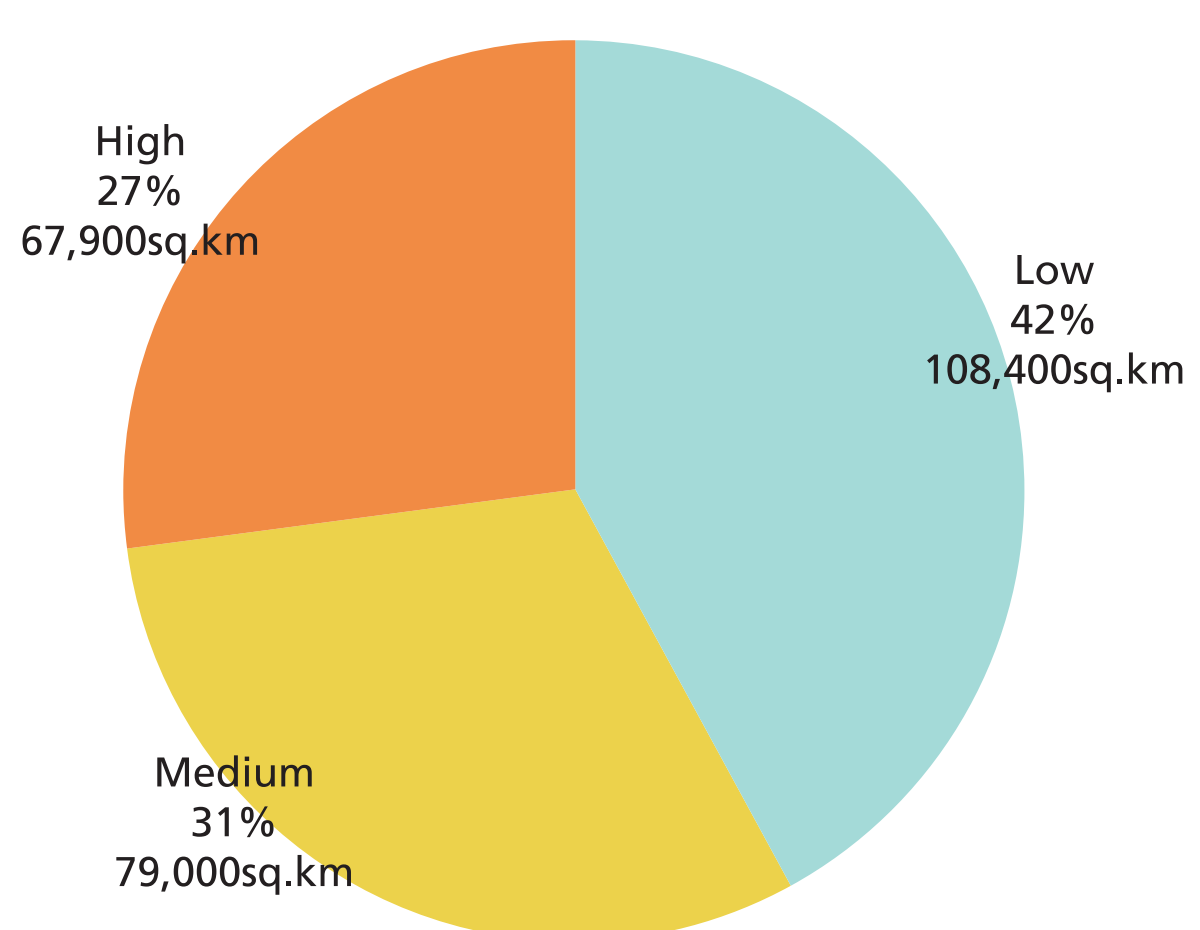
U.S. Hawaii

Lesser Antilles



## 58% of the World's Reefs are at Risk

Percentage of Reefs at High, Medium, and Low Risk



**Coral reefs**, which are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet, are also some of the most ancient. They first appeared in the Mesozoic era some 225 million years ago and some living coral reefs may be as much as 2.5 million years old. Outstanding examples of our biological and natural heritage, coral reefs are an important asset to local communities — serving as a source of seafood, providing materials for new medicines, generating income from tourism, and buffering coastal cities and settlements from storm damage. Yet, in just a few decades, human activities have devastated many of these biologically rich, ancient ecosystems. In the next two or three decades, more are destined for destruction.

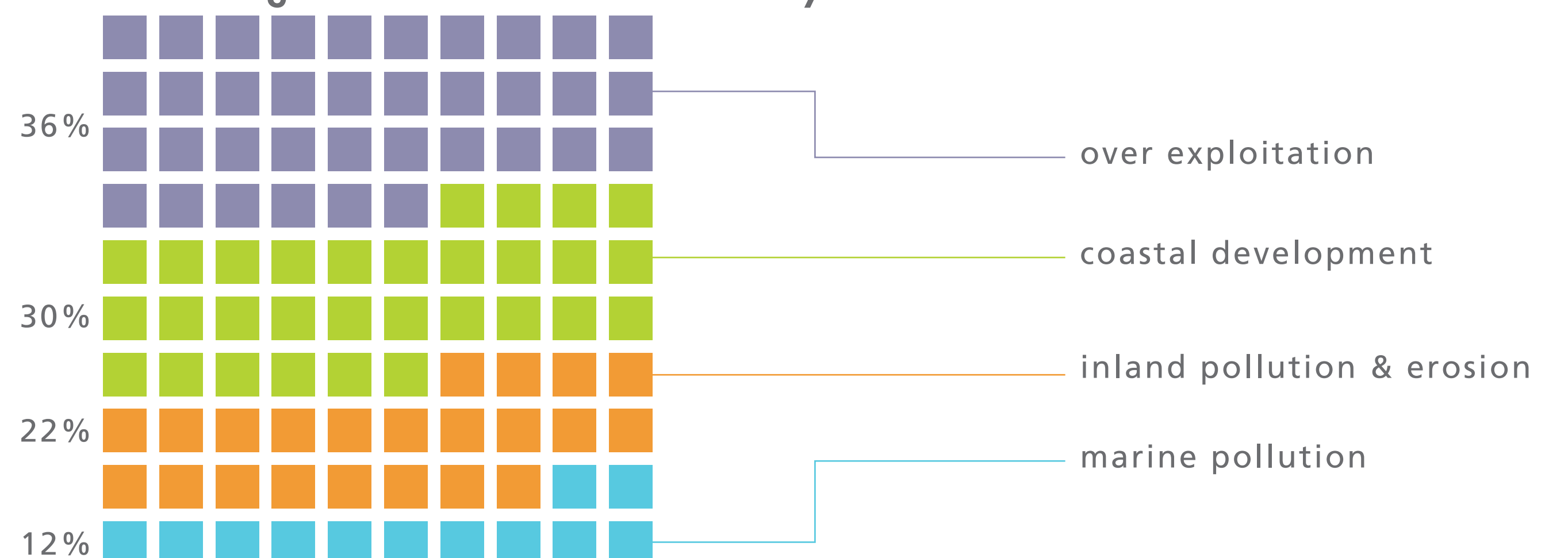
Many of the protective measures needed to ensure the health of these ecosystems are “win-win” options for both reefs and people. For example, creating marine parks and sanctuaries may enrich local communities by attracting tourists and may benefit nearby fisheries by protecting breeding stock of target species. Eliminating perverse and often costly subsidies to fisheries and agriculture, for example, may reduce overfishing, sedimentation, and pollution of reefs, and building sewage treatment facilities within coastal communities may provide both environmental and health benefits.

This analysis offers a stark warning: the pressure of human activities poses grave danger to reefs in most of the world's oceans, and irreparable damage is occurring rapidly. The exceptions are places still isolated from intense human pressures and those few places that have implemented effective measures to protect reefs.

### LEGEND

- Low Risk Level
- Medium Risk Level
- High Risk Level

### Percentage of Global Reefs at Risk by Individual Threat Factors



DAI 523 Information Design I  
Instructor: Pino Trogu  
Design and Industry Department  
College of Creative Arts  
San Francisco State University  
California, USA - December 2009

Case Study No.04  
Designed by Rae Chu-Colwell

The 34x44 poster can be folded down to 8.5x11 as shown on the grid.

