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|               |                |               |                 |                             |            |                       |                     |         |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|
| NOT EVALUATED | DATA DEFICIENT | LEAST CONCERN | NEAR THREATENED | <b>&lt; VULNERABLE &gt;</b> | ENDANGERED | CRITICALLY ENDANGERED | EXTINCT IN THE WILD | EXTINCT |
| NE            | DD             | LC            | NT              | VU                          | EN         | CR                    | EW                  | EX      |



Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Horastrea Coral

**Horastrea Coral**, *Horastrea indica*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is a free-living species found only in the Western Indian Ocean. Horastrea Coral prefers high-sediment reefs, not normally below depths of 20m, because it obtains energy from zooxanthellae algae within its tissues which produce energy by photosynthesis – a process which requires sunlight.

Higher ocean-surface temperatures, resulting from climate change, causes Horastrea Coral to expel zooxanthellae from their tissues. Without the energy that the zooxanthellae produce, the corals die, a process known as coral bleaching. Ocean acidification, caused by increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> dissolving in the sea, also threatens corals as they become brittle and may stop growing. Cyclones, pollution, destructive fishing and trampling also threaten this species.

There are no specific conservation measures in place for Horastrea Coral, and so protection occurs only where there are effectively managed and enforced marine protected areas (MPAs). However, due to the rarity of this species, it cannot be guaranteed that any significant populations are within MPA boundaries. All coral species are also protected by CITES Appendix II which governs the trade of species to avoid unsustainable use or harvesting.

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