

Why Healthy Oceans Are Valuable to Asia and the Pacific

The global ocean economy is estimated to be worth

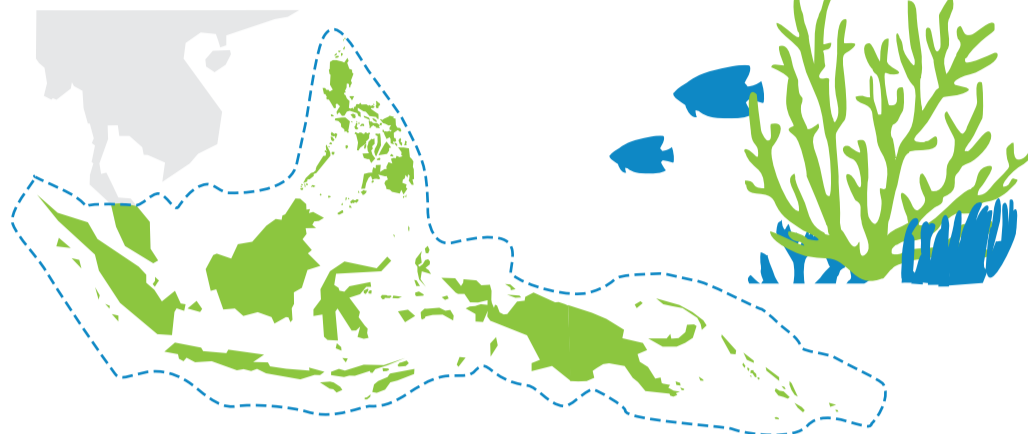
US\$3 trillion by 2030

90% of Pacific Islanders live within five kilometers of the coast (excluding Papua New Guinea).¹

37 million people in East Asia and the Pacific live within one-meter elevation of the ocean.



The Coral Triangle, which covers six countries in Asia and the Pacific (Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands), is the **center of marine life and coral diversity in the world.**



The area has **76% of all known coral species in the world and is home to 37% of the world's total coral reef fish.**²

Asia and the Pacific is home to approximately **46% of the world's mangroves.**

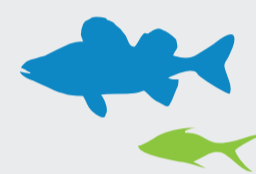


Mangrove forests can hold **up to four times more carbon than tropical rainforests.**⁴

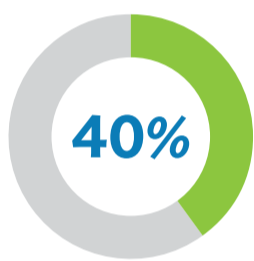


Southeast Asia holds 21 seagrass species, which is **29% of the world's seagrass species.**³

Coral reefs, coastal wetlands and other coastal ecosystems act as buffers against storms and large waves.



Mangrove forests and seagrass beds act as nurseries for thousands of fish species in the region.



The coastal zones of Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka contain about **40% of the economic activities** in South Asia.⁵

Six out of the ten largest fisheries in the world are in Asia (People's Republic of China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Viet Nam, and the Philippines).



Thirty-four million people in Asia and the Pacific are engaged in commercial fishing.



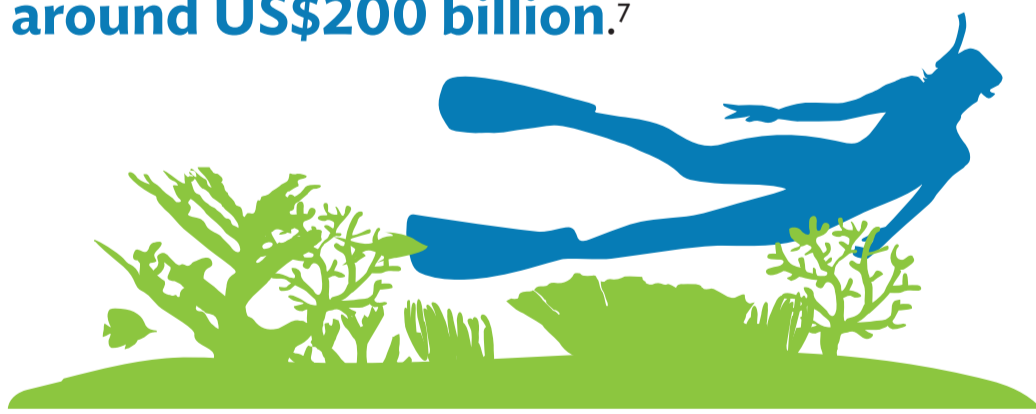
Six Pacific Islands (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tokelau, and Tuvalu) **derive at least 45% of all government revenue from tuna.**

In many least developed countries of Asia, **fish accounts for more than 50% of the total animal protein intake.**⁶

Total production of aquaculture in Asia reached 103 million tonnes in 2017. That supplied **60% of fish for global human consumption.**



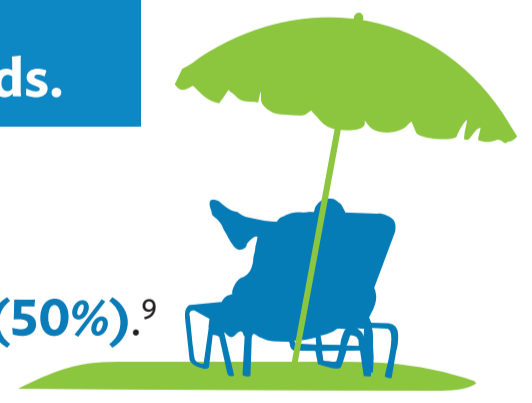
In the East Asia Seas region (Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam), the gross value added of coastal and marine tourism is worth **around US\$200 billion.**⁷



International arrivals to six Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) **grew almost 50% between 2005 and 2015.**⁸

Tourism is a significant employer in the Pacific Islands.

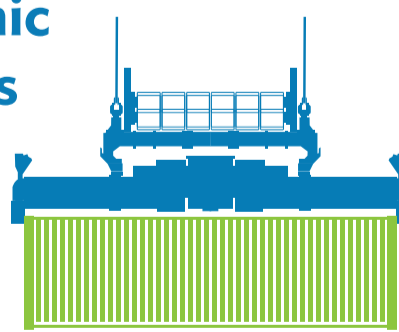
The highest levels of tourism employment are in **Tonga (15%), Samoa (18%), Palau (50%).**⁹



The East Asia Seas region serves as a conduit of **90% of the world's trade through shipping.**¹⁰



Every 1 million tons of cargo volume handled by a port generates an additional **US\$100 of economic benefit and creates 300 new jobs.**¹¹



Marine and offshore renewable energy powers coastal communities and mitigates climate change.



NOTES

¹ Andrew NL, Bright P, de la Rua L, Teoh SJ, Vickers M (2019) Coastal proximity of populations in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. PLoS ONE 14(9): e0223249. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0223249>.

² Oposa, A. (2019). Saving the Coral Triangle. *Development Asia*. URL Available: <https://development.asia/case-study/saving-coral-triangle>.

³ Fortes, Miguel & Ooi, Jillian & Tan, Yi Mei & Prathep, Anchana & Bujang, Japar Sidik & Yaakub, Siti. (2018). Seagrass in Southeast Asia: A review of status and knowledge gaps, and a road map for conservation. *Botanica Marina*. 10.1515/bot-2018-0008.

⁴ USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station (2011). Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics; Coastal trees key to lowering greenhouse gases. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/04/110404173247.htm>.

⁵ Abdullahel Bari. (2017). Our Oceans and the Blue Economy: Opportunities and Challenges, *Procedia Engineering*, Volume 194, 2017, Pages 5-11. ISSN 1877-7058, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proeng.2017.08.109>.

⁶ FAO. (2020). Small-scale fisheries - Web Site. Nutrition and food security. FI Institutional Websites. In: *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department* [online]. Rome. Updated. [Cited 29 May 2020]. <http://www.fao.org/fishery/>.

⁷ PEMSEA (2018). *State of Oceans and Coasts 2018: Blue Economy Growth in the East Asian Seas Region*.

⁸ Everett, H., Simpson, D., Wayne, S. (2018). *Tourism as a Driver of Growth in the Pacific*. Asian Development Bank.

⁹ World Bank (2018). Tourism. Pacific Possible Series. URL Available: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/95491462763645997/WB-PP-Tourism.pdf>.

¹⁰ Footnote 7.

¹¹ Footnote 7.