

CORALS

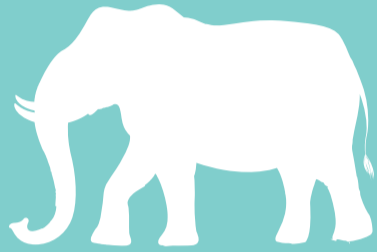
flowers of the seas

MY GREEN PLEDGE:
APPRECIATE NATURE 

green tips
- Jun 2020

DID YOU KNOW?

Corals are **animals**, not plants.



Corals are sessile animals, belonging to Phylum Cnidaria that also includes an enormous range of jellyfish, hydroids, soft corals, anemones, and many others.

Corals **don't die** from aging.



Coral colonies can grow continuously and do not die from aging. Their death is entirely caused by environmental and anthropogenic pressures.



Certain corals grow **< 1 cm** a year only.

The growth rate of massive corals is slow, usually less than 1 cm a year. A massive *Porites* colony of 1 meter high is over 100 years old.

CODE FOR VISITING CORAL AREAS:



Do not stand, sit, or touch corals.

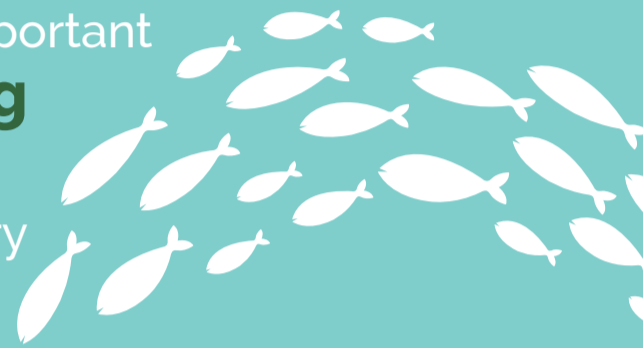
Such contact exposes live coral tissues to disease and can cause extreme damage to coral colonies.

Do not collect corals.

It will help to preserve the biodiversity of the coral community and ensure good underwater scenery.

WHY SHOULD WE PROTECT CORALS?

1 They are important **spawning** and **nursery** grounds for fishery resources.



2 Corals and many coral-associated organisms contain natural products of high **pharmaceutical value**.



3 They protect **coastlines** and stabilize substrata from wave action and storms.



4 Corals are our priceless **recreation** venues.



READ MORE:

+ Hong Kong Underwater Photo and Video Competition 2019
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

+ Coral Bleaching on the Reef
- World Wildlife Fund Australia

 PolyU Green Campus