

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910781378603321
Autore	Goodwin Edward J.
Titolo	International environmental law and the conservation of coral reefs / / Edward J. Goodwin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon ; ; New York, N.Y. : , : Routledge, , 2011
ISBN	1-136-72527-X 1-283-24165-X 9786613241658 1-136-72528-8 0-203-81688-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (321 p.)
Collana	Routledge Research in International Environmental Law
Disciplina	346.04/695/5316
Soggetti	Coral reef conservation - Law and legislation Environmental law, International
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	International Environmental Law and the Conservation of Coral Reefs; Copyright; Contents; List of figures; List of tables; List of conventions; List of abbreviations; Preface; PART I Preliminaries; 1 Coral reefs; 1 Introduction; 2 Scope of the study: hermatypic corals and tropical coral reefs; 3 Reef building and reef distribution; 4 Coral reef ecosystems: a marine oasis; 5 Interaction, predation and grazing upon corals and algae; 6 How do coral reef ecosystems help humankind?; 7 Human impacts; 8 Responses; 9 Conclusion: the future for coral reefs; 2 The role of international law 1 Introduction2 Multilateral legal responses; 3 The benefits of involving the international community; 4 Initiatives beyond this study's boundaries; 5 Conclusions; 3 International law and maritime jurisdiction; 1 Introduction; 2 Dividing the oceans under the law of the sea; 3 The significance of the distribution of coral reefs between the maritime zones; PART II The multilateral environmental agreements; 4 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the regional seas agreements; 1 Introduction to protection of the marine environment under the law of the sea

2 The Convention on the Law of the Sea and the promotion of marine protected areas  
3 Fisheries regulation; 4 Land-based sources of pollution and coral reef conservation; 5 Regional seas governance; 5 Coral reefs and the conservation of biological diversity; 1 Introduction; 2 The Convention on Biological Diversity: from early beginnings to signature; 3 The CBD's conservation provisions; 4 Administering the CBD; 5 The role of protected areas under the CBD; 6 The Jakarta Mandate; 7 Addressing coral reefs; 8 National implementation by coral reef states; 9 Conclusions

6 The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance  
1 Introduction; 2 The Ramsar Convention; 3 Marine protected areas under Ramsar; 4 Legal competence under Ramsar; 5 Geographical coverage through membership of states; 6 Promoting action by contracting parties; 7 Listing of coral reef ecosystems as wetlands of international importance; 8 Ramsar and the international community; 9 Conclusions;

7 Coral reefs as world heritage; 1 Introduction; 2 An overview of the WHC's provisions and structure; 3 Geographic coverage; 4 Promoting the conservation of coral reef ecosystems under the WHC

5 Listing of coral reefs as World Heritage Sites  
6 Practical implications of the WHC and listing for coral reefs; 7 Conclusions; 8 CITES and the regulation of international trade in coral reef specimens and products;

1 Introduction; 2 The CITES system for regulating trade; 3 International trade in coral reef species; 4 CITES regulation of coral reef species; 5 Engaging coral reef nations and other significant states; 6 Limitations of CITES for coral reef conservation; 7 Conclusions; 9 Coral reefs and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; 1 Introduction; 2 Climate change; 3 Ocean acidification; 4 Conclusions

PART III Conclusions

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## Sommario/riassunto

Tropical coral reefs are important ecosystems. They are economically important to coastal communities living in predominantly developing countries, and also provide shoreline protection, catalyse land formation enabling human habitation, act as a carbon sink and are a repository for genetic and species diversity rivalling rainforests. In the face of mounting man-made pressure from pollution, climate change and over-exploitation, these ecosystems increasingly need action to be taken to ensure their conservation and long term sustainable development. International Environmental Law

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