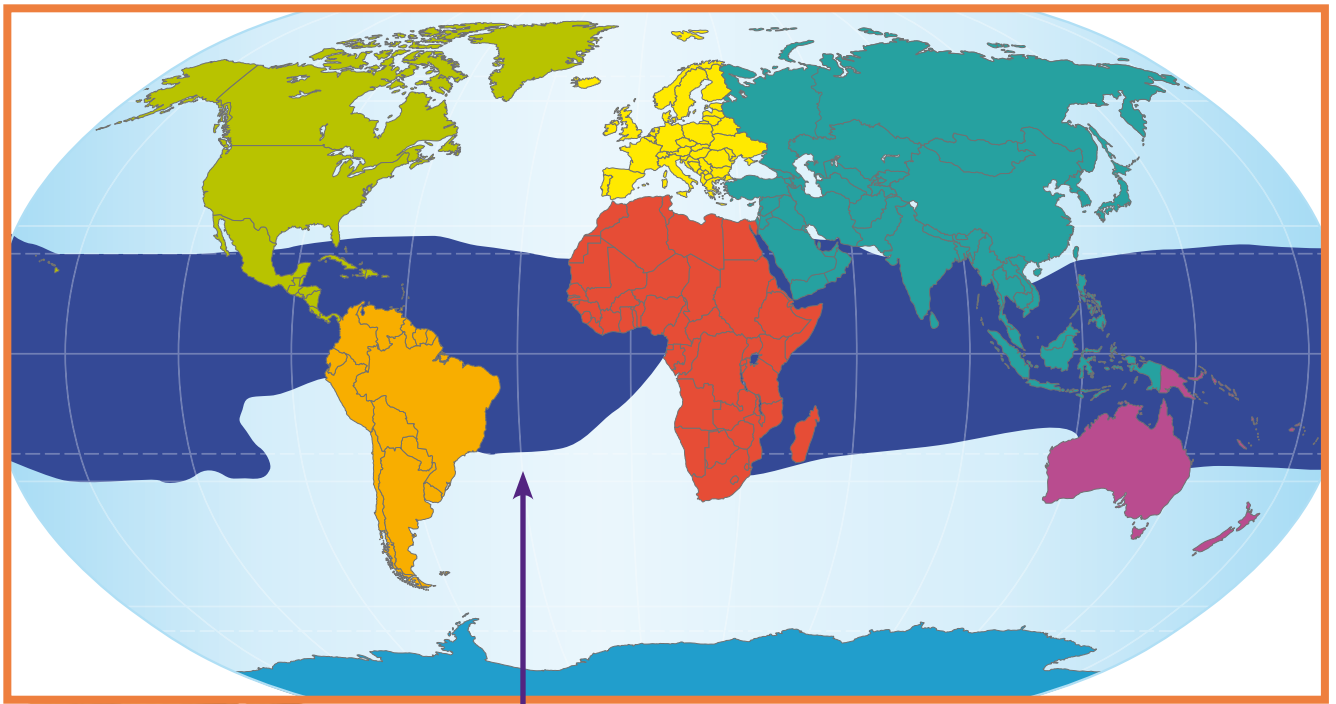




The Most Threatened Place on Earth

Did you know that coral reefs are some of the most threatened habitats in the entire world?

Scientists and conservationists are working to preserve coral reefs because coral reefs are home to 25 percent of the world's **marine** life.



Corals thrive in warm waters. The warmest waters on Earth lie in between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer.





Handle With Care

The coral reef **ecosystem** is extremely **fragile**. Reefs face many threats. Perhaps the most immediate threat is climate change. With climate change comes rising water temperatures. Very warm water hurts coral reefs, slowing down the growth of coral.

Pollution is another threat to coral reefs. Human sewage, run-off from pesticides and fertilizers, poison coral reefs. Offshore drilling and gas pipelines harm the physical structure of reefs. Overfishing threatens the delicate balance of food resources available for the animals in coral reefs.

*Dead or dying coral loses →
its beautiful, vibrant colors.*

