14. What is the impact of these threats (part 1)?

Requirements: access to the internet
Research team: individually, as a team of 3-5 researchers, or as a class
Curriculum: Science
Time: 20 minutes

There are three main ways that climate change and rising sea temperatures cause damage to coral reef environments.

- Increased acidification of the ocean affects the ability of ocean species to make tough protective shells.
- Increased temperatures cause coral bleaching.
- Increased number of hurricanes and powerful storms physically breaks the coral.

Watch the 'ocean acidification' and 'coral bleaching' videos on the **Fragments of Hope website** and look at the sheet on this site which identifies if coral bleaching has taken place.