NOVEMBER 2017

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- As carbon dioxide (CO_2) dissolves in sea wat ds such as coastal protection or provision of food and income.
- Increased ocean temperatures

What is the issue?

Ocean acidification is a direct consequence of increased human-induced carbon dioxide (CO_2) concentrations in the atmosphere. The ocean absorbs over 25% of all anthropogenic emissions from the atmosphere each year. As CO_2 dissolves in sea water it forms carbonic acid, thereby decreasing the ocean's pH, leading to a suite of changes collectively known as ocean acidification. Ocean acidification is happening in parallel with other climate-related stressors, including ocean warming and deoxygenation. This completes the set of climate change pressures on the marine environment – heat, acidity and oxygen loss –

fishing industries and decrease natural shoreline protection. They will also increase the risk of inundation an d erosion in low-lying areas, thereby hampering climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts.

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