Greenhouse gas emissions have caused temperatures to soar.  
Warmer temperatures have caused seawater to expand, pushing up sea levels.  
Sea levels are also rising because of the melting of glaciers and polar ice caps.

More than 93% of all the heat humans have added to the planet since the 1950s has been absorbed by the oceans.

The situation

Rising temperatures
Greenhouse gas emissions have caused temperatures to soar.

Rising sea levels
Warmer temperatures have caused seawater to expand, pushing up sea levels. Sea levels are also rising because of the melting of glaciers and polar ice caps.

Loss of biodiversity
As the sea absorbs more CO₂, it is becoming warmer and more acidic.

70% of coral has died in some regions.

Global land-ocean temperature index (5 year means, relative to 1951-1980 average temperatures)

Increase in temperature has caused coral bleaching across the world.

Deviation in Sea Ice Extent (million km²)
The solutions

**Fighting climate change**

Without adaptation, the projected rise in sea levels by the end of the 21st century would put hundreds of millions of people at risk of flooding.

**Acidification**

Ocean acidification prevents marine organisms like shellfish and zooplankton from building shells and skeletons, which in turn could negatively affect the food chain of thousands of organisms.

**Adapting to climate change**

Governments can take action to prevent or minimise the adverse effects of climate change.

- **Ensure/promote water efficiency and reuse.**
- **Revise building codes,** e.g. on energy efficiency and risk reduction measures.
- **Promote Green Infrastructure to deal with coastal flooding,** e.g. wetlands restoration.

**Citizens’ contributions**

We are all part of the solution. Small, everyday actions count.

- **Insulate**
  - Installing double-glazing can **cut heat energy loss by 50-70%.**
- **Switch off and unplug**
  - Even when your phone isn’t connected, your charger uses energy.
- **Green your travel**
  - Cycle, walk or take public transport instead of a car.

**MEETING THESE GOALS REQUIRES A CONCERTED EFFORT FROM GOVERNMENTS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CITIZENS.**

Without action, all of these trends are predicted to get worse. We need to act now to protect the oceans we depend on.