



# Belize's reef, an underwater wonder, may be out of risk

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## Highlights

- The Mesoamerican Reef, an underwater wonder world whose survival was considered to be at risk for years, may now be removed from UNESCO's list of threatened World Heritage Sites, thanks to bold steps to save it by activists and the Belizean government.
- Second in size only to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Caribbean reef was named to the prestigious World Heritage List in 1996, but placed on endangered status in 2009 because of Belize's plans to allow oil exploration nearby.
- The warning also encompassed the mangroves that help protect the reef and serve as a breeding ground for many of the hundreds of fish species that inhabit the area.
- As the threat to one of its top tourist attractions began to sink in, the Belizean government adopted a series of laws to protect the reef.

Source: [Environmental News](#)

