

# ECOSYSTEMS SUPPORT ALL LIFE ON EARTH.

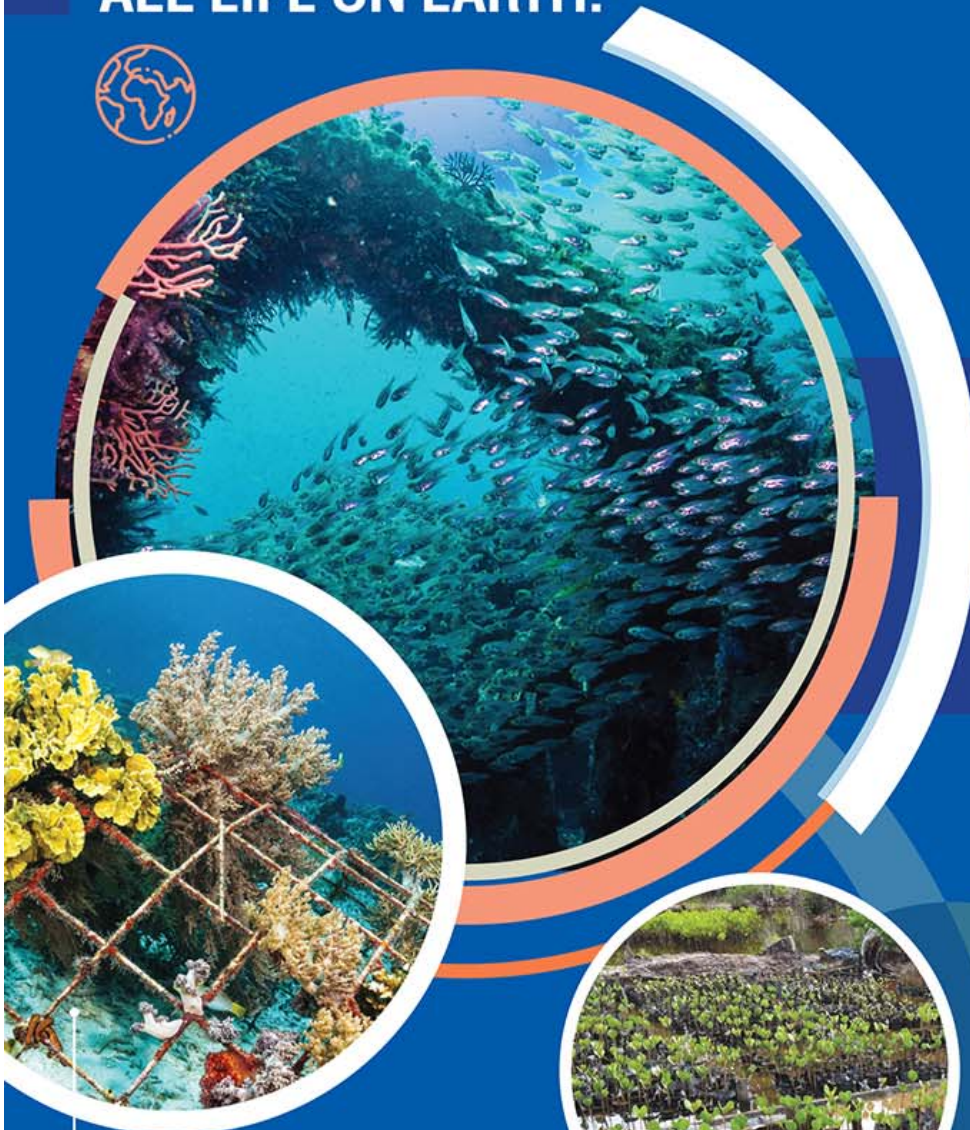


The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet... and its people.

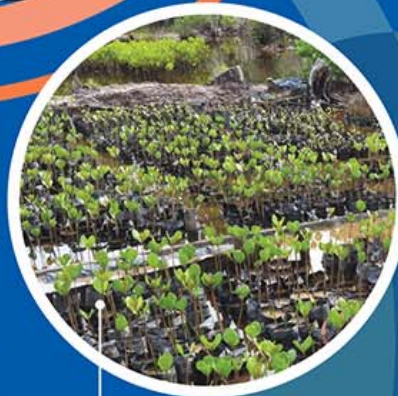
But unchecked global warming is collapsing entire ecosystems across our planet.

## STEEL and its by-products

play a vital role in ecosystem restoration, assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed. In the marine environment, for example, STEEL and its by-products are used in various restoration projects.



Coral reefs are some of the most ecologically and economically valuable ecosystems. However, as much as 50 percent of our coral reefs have been lost. STEEL is helping to replenish this vulnerable ecosystem – coral reef creation, transplantation and rehabilitation are done by several leading countries using steel by-products as a substrate for the transplanted corals and for larval settlement of the different coral types. In East Asia, most steel artificial reefs are designed specifically for commercial fishery development.



Mangroves are important because they help stabilise coastline ecosystems and prevent erosion. Rehabilitation of mangrove habitat has become common practice, particularly in Asia. Young mangrove seedlings are planted in nutrient-rich STEEL slag to enhance their growth.



STEEL slag and moulds are used in the manufacture of coastal marine blocks, tetrapods, bio-rocks and gabions to improve the ocean environment and protect the shoreline from erosion.

**STEEL and its by-products are essential to many of the technologies and solutions that are crucial in restoring our environment – now and in the future.**

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5 JUNE 2021**



South African Iron and Steel Institute

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