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3 Title: Quantifying global potential for coral evolutionary response to climate change

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26  
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29 **Abstract**

30  
31 Incorporating species' ability to adaptively respond to climate change is critical for robustly  
32 predicting persistence. We present the first global ecological and evolutionary model of competing  
33 branching and mounding coral morphotypes to examine the adaptive role of algal symbionts in  
34 setting coral thermal tolerance under global warming and ocean acidification. Symbiont shuffling  
35 (+1°C) was more effective than symbiont evolution in delaying coral cover declines with the  
36 largest differences occurring mid-century, but stronger warming rates associated with high-  
37 emissions scenarios outpace the ability of these adaptive processes and limit coral persistence.  
38 Acidification has a small impact on rates of reef degradation relative to warming rate. Global  
39 patterns in coral reef vulnerability to climate are sensitive to the interaction of warming rate and  
40 adaptive capacity, and cannot be predicted by either factor alone. Overall, our results show how  
41 models of spatially-resolved adaptive mechanisms can inform conservation decisions.  
42

## 43 Introduction

44  
45 Anthropogenic climate change is affecting marine ecosystems worldwide<sup>1</sup> and accelerating the rate  
46 of species extinctions<sup>2,3</sup>. Range shifts and rapid adaptation can circumvent this risk<sup>4</sup>, but sessile  
47 species with low adaptive capacity are among those most threatened<sup>5</sup>. Incorporating adaptive  
48 capacity (e.g., due to genetics or acclimatization) into models of population size and geographic  
49 distribution can better predict climate change effects on species survival and ecosystem  
50 function<sup>4,6,7</sup>.

51  
52 Mechanistic predictions of adaptive capacity at a global scale can indicate where adaptation most  
53 affects future predictions<sup>4,6</sup>. Accounting for adaptive capacity might then shift expectations about  
54 overall vulnerability and where climate impacts might be greatest<sup>8,9</sup>, which can inform  
55 conservation priorities<sup>10</sup>. For example, locations projected to experience greater future climate  
56 variability and extremes might be expected to also experience the greatest impacts. Yet species in  
57 these same locations might undergo selection for higher heat tolerance and therefore have greater  
58 adaptive capacity to warming. Given these contrasting possibilities, accounting for both  
59 evolutionary dynamics and climate stress can inform which locations might require more  
60 protection<sup>9,11</sup>.

61  
62 Coral reefs provide a model system for exploring interactions between adaptive capacity and  
63 vulnerability to climate stress. Corals are economically and ecologically important foundational  
64 species that have already experienced climate driven losses<sup>12</sup>. Under moderate emissions scenarios,  
65 global models suggest corals will experience bleaching more frequently than anticipated recovery  
66 rates by mid-century<sup>13-15</sup>, though few have explicitly considered adaptive capacity (but see <sup>16-20</sup>).  
67 Compounding temperature-driven bleaching is ocean acidification (OA), which can impede coral  
68 skeletal growth, such that a challenge for predicting coral vulnerability is understanding the  
69 potential interactive effects of temperature and OA<sup>15</sup>. Coral growth and thermal tolerance are  
70 greatly affected by endosymbiotic photosynthetic microalgae<sup>1</sup> and symbiont-mediated adaptive  
71 capacity may enable corals to rapidly respond to warming. With large population sizes, high  
72 genetic diversity, and short generation times, symbionts have high adaptive potential<sup>1-3</sup> and  
73 shuffling towards more heat-tolerant taxa has been shown to increase bleaching thresholds by up to  
74 1.5°C over ecological timescales<sup>21,25</sup>. Modeling natural adaptive processes is critical for making  
75 conservation decisions especially given human interventions being considered to increase coral  
76 heat tolerance<sup>26,27</sup>.

77 Here, we quantitatively assess the effect of symbiont-mediated adaptive capacity using a global  
78 ecological and evolutionary model capable of simulating coral responses to warming and OA. Our  
79 model ([Fig. S1](#)) includes two ecologically realistic coral morphotypes<sup>28</sup> that compete for space: (1)  
80 a competitive, faster growing, heat-sensitive branching coral relative to a (2) slower growing, heat-  
81 tolerant mounding coral. We assume coral growth and thermal tolerance are an emergent property  
82 of symbiont population size and thermal characteristics<sup>29</sup>. Symbiont genotypes determine thermal  
83 optima, while the coral host determines sensitivity to temperature departures from that optimum,  
84 with initial symbiont genotypes matched to local thermal history. We simulate symbiont-mediated  
85 adaptive capacity in both coral morphotypes through a) natural selection of symbiont populations  
86 (evolution<sup>22-24</sup>), and b) shifts between heat-sensitive and heat-tolerant symbiont communities  
87 (“shuffling”<sup>21,25</sup>). Evolution is simulated using a quantitative genetic model which results in  
88 thermal tolerance increases of 0.3-1.8°C depending on climate scenario and reef location. Shuffling  
89 is simulated by addition of a heat-tolerant symbiont population with a thermal growth optimum

90 +0.5, 1, or 1.5°C above that of a heat-sensitive symbiont population<sup>21</sup> that becomes competitively  
91 superior under warming. We also estimate potential effects of OA on coral growth based on  
92 changes in aragonite saturation<sup>30</sup>. We apply the model to projected monthly sea surface  
93 temperatures through 2100 in 1,925 reef cells to characterize regions where adaptive capacity most  
94 alters expectations about relative climate impacts.

## 95 **Results**

96  
97 The global model supported coexistence of mounding and branching coral populations at steady-  
98 state between 1861 and 1950, prior to major anthropogenic warming, given our parameterization  
99 for interspecific competition. In simulations where the anthropogenic signal was removed, both  
100 morphotypes coexisted through 2300, regardless of starting proportions (Fig. 1; Fig. S2). At  
101 steady-state, branching corals comprised ~90% of total carrying capacity and mounding corals  
102 filled ~1%. To quantify changes in coral cover in simulations with and without adaptive capacity,  
103 we examined how relative coral extent varies through time. Relative coral extent is defined here as  
104 the percent of fixed pre-warming carrying capacity (K) made up by both coral morphotypes in each  
105 reef cell and averaged across all cells (weighted equally). Actual available coral habitat varies  
106 widely by reef so relative extent does not directly correlate to geographic extent.  
107

108 In baseline model runs (i.e., no adaptive capacity), relative coral extent was  $\leq 3\%$  by 2100 under all  
109 climate scenarios except RCP 2.6 (37%) (Table 1). In these RCPs, most reef cells had experienced  
110  $\geq 2$  bleaching events in the previous decade or were dead by 2050 (such reef cells hereafter are  
111 referred to as “degraded”; see *Methods*) reaching degradation rates  $> 95\%$  by 2100 (Fig. 1 and S3,  
112 black lines). We define bleaching as a decrease in symbiont density below 30% of the minimum  
113 symbiont population size in the previous year (Fig. S4). Although end-of-century degradation rates  
114 were lower in RCP2.6 (43%), 98% of reef cells were comprised of only mounding corals,  
115 following a shift from branching to mounding communities in the 2040s across all RCPs (Fig 2,  
116 top row). Sensitivity analyses shows that coral persistence is enhanced if the model is normalized  
117 to a lower 1985-2010 global bleaching frequency but that relative differences among adaptive  
118 mechanisms remain the same (Fig. S5).  
119

### 120 *Effects of Symbiont-Mediated Adaptive Capacity*

121  
122 Shuffling (+1°C advantage) significantly delayed or prevented widespread mortality by 2100, with  
123 the largest differences in RCP4.5 and RCP6.0 (Table 1). Relative coral extent at 2100 increased  
124 dramatically in RCP4.5 (3 to 28%) and branching coral populations increased from 0 to 18% in  
125 relative coral extent across most reef cells. In RCP2.6, shuffling averted mid-century population  
126 declines and a shift towards mounding coral communities (Fig. 2). In contrast, shuffling had little  
127 effect in RCP6.0 and RCP8.5 by 2100 (Table 1), with relative coral extent remaining  $\leq 5\%$ .

128 Shuffling (+1.5°C advantage) increased relative coral extent to 58% for RCP6.0, but remained  
129  $\leq 3\%$  for RCP8.5 (Table S1). Shuffling (+0.5°C advantage) had little effect on relative coral extent  
130 at 2100 ( $\leq 2\%$  for all RCPs except RCP2.6) (Table S1). Fidelity to heat-tolerant symbionts occurred  
131 in both coral morphotypes between 2010-2025 in most reef cells, maximizing thermal tolerance by  
132 2040 (Fig. S6). A complete transition to heat-tolerant symbiont communities occurred in under 5-  
133 10 years on some reefs (Fig. S7).  
134

135 Evolution also delayed degradation most under RCP4.5 and RCP6.0, but had little effect on  
136 relative coral extent under RCP 8.5 (Figs 1 & 2). Relative coral extent increased most under

137 RCP4.5, from 3 to 41% by 2100 (Table 1) and degradation was delayed by ~50 years (Fig. 1b, blue  
138 vs black lines). By 2100, mounding coral populations became dominant in most reef cells (Fig. 2).  
139 Under RCP2.6, evolution increased relative coral extent from 37 to 81% (Table 1) and branching  
140 corals remained dominant in most reef cells by 2100, albeit with large mid-century population  
141 declines (Fig. 2, third row). Compared with shuffling (+1°C), evolution was slightly more effective  
142 in averting decline of coral populations in RCP2.6 initially, but less effective by mid-century under  
143 all RCPs (Fig. 1 & 2; Table 1).

144  
145 In model runs where shuffling (+1°C) and evolution occurred concurrently, coral persistence  
146 dramatically increased in RCP4.5, RCP6.0, and RCP8.5 (Fig. 1). These simulations show similar  
147 trends to shuffling-only during mid-century, but evolution continues to increase thermal tolerance  
148 through 2100. Relative coral extent was ≥58% by 2100 in all RCPs except RCP8.5 where it  
149 remained 10% (Table 1). Only simulations where both shuffling (+1.5°C) and evolution co-occur  
150 enabled moderate coral persistence by 2100 under RCP8.5 (47% relative coral extent) (Table S1).

151  
152 To examine how adaptive capacity altered expectations for relative vulnerability across locations,  
153 we compared the last year in which reef cells avoided degradation under RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 (Fig.  
154 3). In the baseline model, degradation occurred earliest in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the  
155 western equatorial Pacific (Fig. 3a,b). Coral persistence was higher in the central Pacific, and near  
156 Malaysia and western Indonesia. Shuffling (+1°C) slowed rates of degradation in the central  
157 Pacific and Coral Triangle under RCP8.5 (Fig. 3d,b), areas with both lower projected warming and  
158 SST variability (Fig. S9b,j). Under RCP4.5, shuffling had a stronger global effect compared to  
159 baseline, except in high latitude areas with higher seasonal variability (e.g., northern Red Sea, East  
160 China Sea) and locations projected to have high interannual maximum SST variability (e.g.,  
161 southern Caribbean, equatorial Pacific) (Fig. S9e,f). Evolution showed similar geographic patterns  
162 as for shuffling under RCP4.5. Exceptions include parts of the Caribbean, where evolution only  
163 increased persistence near the Greater Antilles (Fig. 3e) in relation with relatively lower projected  
164 warming (S9a,b) and SST variability (S9i,j). Under RCP8.5, evolution had a small effect compared  
165 with baseline model runs (Fig. 3f,b) with no apparent refugia emerging, although global  
166 degradation rates were delayed ~5-10 years. In simulations with combined evolution and shuffling  
167 (+1°C), most reef cells within the Coral Triangle and central Pacific survived through 2080 under  
168 RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 (Fig. 3g,h).

169  
170 To evaluate environmental predictors of modeled extinction risk, we compared model vulnerability  
171 maps (Fig. 3) to global maps of warming rate and SST standard deviation (Fig. S9), but none were  
172 consistent indicators of vulnerability across locations. Correlations were highest between relative  
173 coral extent and future SST variation (all months) in shuffling runs, with  $R^2$  ranging from 0.41 to  
174 0.55; all other SST metrics and simulations had average  $R^2$  values < 0.2 (Table S4).

### 175 176 *Effects of Ocean Acidification*

177  
178 In simulations where OA negatively affected coral growth, coral degradation was greater across all  
179 reef cells, but not by more than 5% in any year (Fig. S5). This effect was greatest when warming  
180 drove moderate reef mortality. For example, in RCP8.5, OA increased percent of degraded reefs  
181 from 55.7% to 58.6% by 2050. Prior to 2020 when many reefs were still healthy and after 2070  
182 when mortality was high, OA had little effect on growth rate.

### 183 184 **Discussion**

185  
186 Our results demonstrate that incorporating species' ability to adaptively respond to climate change  
187 is critical for robust, global-scale predictions of species' future persistence and extent. Model  
188 simulations without adaptation predicted coral persistence through 2100 only under RCP2.6 (Fig.  
189 1-2), similar to previous threshold-based global-scale bleaching models<sup>13-15</sup>. Symbiont-mediated  
190 adaptive capacity significantly altered coral population trajectories under low and moderate  
191 warming scenarios, but had little effect under RCP8.5. Shuffling was generally more effective than  
192 evolution in delaying coral cover declines and shifts towards mounding coral communities (Figs.  
193 1-2). Under RCP8.5, the only simulation with >1% of "healthy" reef cells by 2100 included both  
194 symbiont evolution and shuffling, resulting in a relative coral extent of 10% (Table 1).

195  
196 These results expand upon previous studies<sup>17,19</sup> to demonstrate how adaptive mechanisms can  
197 increase coral persistence under low to moderate but not severe climate change. We found that  
198 when shuffling provided +1°C thermal advantage, coral persistence increased more than with  
199 evolution alone (Fig. 2). Evolution enabled most reef cells to persist through 2100 under RCP2.6  
200 (Fig. 1-2) but was slightly less effective at increasing persistence than shuffling with a +1°C  
201 advantage as the more rapid shuffling mechanism has its largest impact between 2010 and 2040  
202 (Fig. 2 & S6) whereas evolution occurs at a slower rate but over a longer duration (Fig. 2 and S8).  
203 Under RCP8.5, adaptation delayed complete coral mortality by less than a decade but did not  
204 significantly change century-scale outcomes. Symbiont-mediated adaptive processes acting  
205 concurrently substantially prolonged coral survival under RCP4.5 and RCP6.0 with minimal shifts  
206 in coral community composition (Table 1; Fig. 1).

207  
208 Coral community shifts described here have been reported in the field following bleaching events<sup>31</sup>  
209 but have not previously been globally projected. From an ecological perspective, community shifts  
210 are likely to compromise reef structural complexity and long-term stability of reef-associated  
211 biodiversity<sup>32</sup>. We found that shifts towards mounding coral communities began earlier with  
212 evolution than with shuffling (Fig. 2), further demonstrating how these mechanisms result in  
213 different outcomes. Shuffling maximizes thermal tolerance in most reefs by 2040 after which time  
214 both coral morphotypes exhibit fidelity to heat-tolerant symbionts (Fig. S6), as has been observed  
215 in some of the hottest reefs in the world<sup>33</sup>. We also identified scenarios where adaptive capacity  
216 enabled coral communities to shift back to baseline when warming rates declined (e.g., RCP2.6  
217 with evolution; Fig. 2). Though this trajectory would only be possible under conditions not fully  
218 considered in our model (i.e., adequate recruitment, available substrate, and reduction of local  
219 stressors), it suggests adaptive mechanisms may enable some reefs to retain present-day structure  
220 and function under RCP2.6.

221  
222 Previous work has suggested only a minor additional impact of ocean acidification (OA) on coral  
223 persistence compared with warming<sup>14</sup> with benefits of higher latitude thermal refugia largely offset  
224 by relatively lower aragonite saturation ( $\Omega$ ) values<sup>15</sup>. Our results suggest an even lower OA  
225 sensitivity with an attributable global reduction of coral persistence to OA of <5% (Fig. S5). This  
226 agreement suggests that effects of OA through  $\Omega$ -reduced bleaching thresholds and  $\Omega$ -reduced  
227 growth rates are minor compared to warming. However, modeling including substrate strength  
228 effects found a 70% drop in coral cover with a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub><sup>34</sup>. Thus, OA  
229 influences through  $\Omega$  effects on bleaching susceptibility and substrate strength may play a much  
230 more important role than through the growth rate mechanism in the present study.

231

232 Our model identifies regions where adaptation alters expectations about where climate impacts are  
233 highest. In some cases, we found that relative vulnerability was similar with and without  
234 adaptation. For example, higher latitude reef cells with higher seasonal variability were among the  
235 most vulnerable locations regardless of adaptation under RCP4.5 (Fig. 3; left panels). Yet, in other  
236 regions, relative vulnerability differed when adaptive capacity was included. In the Coral Triangle,  
237 most reefs persisted through 2100 with adaptation in RCP4.5, whereas large portions were among  
238 the most vulnerable with no adaptation. Geographic patterns of persistence were somewhat similar  
239 between evolution and shuffling, with some key exceptions. For example, shuffling is projected to  
240 increase persistence across the entire Caribbean region under RCP4.5, whereas evolution only  
241 enabled long-term persistence in reef cells where both warming magnitude and SST variation is  
242 projected to be relatively lower (Fig. S9a,i). Under RCP8.5 (Fig. 3 right panels), evolution had  
243 little effect but shuffling enabled reefs in the central South Pacific and central Coral Triangle to  
244 persist 20-25 years in relation with relatively less projected warming and SST variability (Fig.  
245 S9b,j).

246  
247 Given the threat to coral reefs even with  $<1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  of global warming<sup>35</sup>, research is increasingly  
248 focusing on identifying conservation priorities. Overall, the results highlight that such research,  
249 typically based on current reef status and response to past disturbances<sup>36</sup>, should include relative  
250 future warming and adaptive potential. For example, Walsworth et al. (2019) found that optimal  
251 management strategies focus on coral thermal refugia in models without adaptation, but  
252 prioritizing trait and habitat diversity or high cover is more effective in models with adaptation<sup>11</sup>.  
253 We also show that geographic patterns in model results depend on adaptive mechanism modeled  
254 (Fig. 3) and areas predicted to be more vulnerable based on change in SST or SST variation alone  
255 did not always predict vulnerability (Fig. S9). Other adaptive mechanisms not simulated here may  
256 produce different geographic patterns of persistence and vulnerability.

257  
258 Like all models, our simplistic representation of coral reef ecology and evolution introduces  
259 several uncertainties and biases that might affect our results. Abiotic and biotic factors not included  
260 here might lead us to overestimate coral persistence and recovery, including light, sea level rise,  
261 storm damage, pollution, overfishing, herbivory, coral disease, and competition for space with  
262 other organisms<sup>37</sup>. Factors that might lead us to underestimate likelihood of persistence include  
263 other mechanisms of adaptation<sup>38</sup> (e.g., coral host adaptation/acclimatization or epigenetics), and  
264 explicit representation of gene flow<sup>17,18,39</sup>. In addition, while coarse resolution SSTs can capture  
265 average bleaching incidence across locations<sup>40</sup>, bleaching incidence will further depend on local-  
266 scale factors such as high-frequency temperature variation and depth, which are potential  
267 mitigators of bleaching<sup>41</sup>. Climate model downscaling would be needed to inform local-scale  
268 management decisions. Furthermore, models with different climate sensitivity<sup>42</sup> and climate  
269 variability (e.g., ENSO) may give quantitatively different results. In addition, uncertain model  
270 parameters could lead to over- or underestimation of coral persistence. Selectional variance  
271 (symbiont thermal tolerance breadth) was the most sensitive parameter in a sensitivity analysis  
272 completed on a regional version of this model<sup>19</sup>. In our study, selectional variance was calibrated to  
273 reef cell thermal history and historical global bleaching frequencies. Future studies could include  
274 revised estimates of past bleaching events.

275  
276 Our model also highlights research avenues that could improve our understanding of symbiont-  
277 mediated adaptive processes. First, the prevalence of shuffling across coral taxa in wild  
278 populations remains unclear. Although multiple symbiont types have been detected at low  
279 abundance in most coral taxa examined<sup>43</sup>, not all corals have the flexibility to “shuffle”<sup>33,44–46</sup>.

280 Second, the degree to which symbiont thermal tolerance can evolve and confer coral host tolerance  
281 in the wild is unknown. Heat-evolved Symbiodiniaceae lab strains have shown increased growth at  
282 temperatures 1-4°C above ambient temperatures after 40-120 generations, but these gains did not  
283 always increase coral heat tolerance<sup>24,47</sup>. Finally, more empirical measurements of time-dependent  
284 thermal performance curves<sup>48</sup> for both coral and symbiont growth would improve our ability to  
285 model population growth dynamics.

286  
287 Due to recent increases in mass bleaching events worldwide<sup>12</sup>, the management community is  
288 evaluating human interventions that may increase the persistence of coral reefs<sup>26,27</sup>. If the 2015  
289 Paris Agreement upper goal of limiting warming to less than 2°C is reached, this would align  
290 mostly closely with RCP2.6. Under this scenario, symbiont-mediated increases in thermal  
291 tolerance might enable corals to survive through 2100 without drastic shifts in coral community  
292 composition. Under RCP4.5, evolution and shuffling could improve projections of coral cover and  
293 degradation rates. However, under RCP6.0 and 8.5, coral-dominated communities as we know  
294 them today are expected to essentially disappear. As managers and decision makers consider  
295 human interventions to increase thermal tolerance or decrease local thermal stress<sup>26</sup>, assessing  
296 existing potential natural adaptive capacity using mechanistic models could help inform  
297 decisions<sup>27</sup>.

298



299 **Methods (online only)**  
 300

301 We scaled and modified a coral-symbiont eco-evolutionary model originally described in Baskett  
 302 et al. (2009) to the global level<sup>19</sup>. Here we provide a description of the model (Fig. S1) and  
 303 modifications made to globalize the model and incorporate potential effects of ocean acidification.

304 *Coral population dynamics and parameters.* The model follows area cover for two coral  
 305 morphotypes, a heat-tolerant slow-growing mounding type ( $C_M$ ) and a heat-sensitive fast-growing  
 306 branching type ( $C_B$ ) (Fig S1, equations 1-6). These traits are generally based on those associated  
 307 with common mounding and branching morphotypes, respectively<sup>49</sup>. Coral thermal tolerance  
 308 depends on symbiont populations whose genotypes determine thermal optimum (see *Symbiont*  
 309 *population dynamics* section below). Corals compete for space in a closed system using Lotka-  
 310 Volterra dynamics with a competition factor  $\alpha_{mn}$  (the competitive effect of coral  $n$  on coral  $m$ ) and  
 311 a fixed carrying capacity ( $K_{Cm}$ ) that varies by coral type  $m$  ( $M$  or  $B$ ). Branching corals are more  
 312 competitive than mounding corals as in Langmead and Sheppard (2004)<sup>50</sup>. Carrying capacity was  
 313 determined based on area occupied by each morphotype (to report coral cover in  $\text{cm}^2$ ) and  
 314 multiplied by a conversion constant from projected area to total surface area<sup>51</sup>. Coral growth rates  
 315 decline linearly with increasing coral density to represent coral density dependence. Growth rates  
 316 increase linearly with symbiont density ( $S_{im}$  relative to symbiont carrying capacity per unit of coral  
 317 density  $K_{Sm}$ ) to represent corals' dependence on symbionts for carbon<sup>29,52</sup>, up to a coral-specific  
 318 maximum growth rate of  $\gamma_m$  based on<sup>53</sup>. The model assumes that symbiont density is within a  
 319 range such that increases in symbiont densities lead to increased coral carbon acquisition and  
 320 growth<sup>54,55</sup>. Coral basal mortality rates are fixed ( $\mu$ ) in the absence of symbionts with parameters  
 321 based on<sup>51,56</sup> and decrease as symbiont density increases. Mortality rates exceed growth rates  
 322 when symbiont density is  $\sim 0.5 \times 10^6$  cell/ $\text{cm}^2$  (a density where bleaching has been observed in the  
 323 field<sup>57</sup>) and are represented in the model by  $u_m$ , the influence of symbiont density on coral  
 324 mortality. In simulations with ocean acidification, we multiply coral growth by the coral  
 325 calcification rate  $f$  (see *Ocean acidification* section below).

326 All coral parameters ( $K_{Cm}$ ,  $\alpha_{mn}$ ,  $\gamma_m$ ,  $\mu_m$ ,  $u_m$ ) vary by coral type  $m$ , with branching corals  
 327 ( $C_B$ ) having a higher fixed carrying capacity ( $K_{Cm}$ ), a greater competitive ability ( $\alpha_{mn}$ ), a faster  
 328 growth rate ( $\gamma_m$ ), higher basal mortality in the absence of symbionts ( $\mu_m$ ), and a lower value for the  
 329 influence of symbionts on mortality ( $u_m$ ) (Table S2 and references therein). Coral population  
 330 dynamics are:

331

$$332 \quad \frac{dC_m}{dt} = C_m \left[ \frac{f^2 \gamma_m \frac{\sum_i S_{im}}{K_{Sm} C_m}}{K_{Cm}} (K_{Cm} - \sum_n \alpha_{mn} C_n) - \frac{\mu_m}{1 + u_m \frac{\sum_i S_{im}}{K_{Sm} C_m}} \right]. \quad (1)$$

333

334

335 *Symbiont population dynamics and parameters.* We follow symbiont population size  $S_{im}$  as the  
 336 number of cells of symbiont type  $i$  in coral type  $m$  (cells/ $\text{cm}^2$  of coral) (Fig. S1, equation 2).  
 337 Density dependence regulates symbiont density in each coral. Total symbiont carrying capacity per  
 338 unit area,  $K_{Sm}$ , is proportional to  $C_m$ , the three-dimensional coral surface area and based on peak  
 339 values for symbiont densities described in<sup>57</sup>. Symbiont carrying capacity is independent of  
 340 genotype and scaled by the maximum symbiont population growth rate  $\hat{r}(t)$  such that the symbiont  
 341 type with the greater population growth rate,  $r_{im}(t)$ , is competitively superior. In other words,  
 342 because we scale competition between symbiont types by growth rate, relative growth for a given

343 temperature determines the competitive outcome. The temperature-dependent maximum symbiont  
 344 population growth rate function,  $\hat{r}(t) = ae^{b\theta(t)}$ , is based on the Eppley equation, where  $a$  and  $b$  are  
 345 constants found for phytoplankton<sup>58,59</sup>. Symbiont population dynamics,  $S_{im}$ , of symbiont type  $i$  in  
 346 coral type  $m$  are:

$$347 \frac{dS_{im}}{dt} = \frac{S_{im}}{K_{Sm}C_m} [r_{im}(t)K_{Sm}C_m - \hat{r}(t) \sum_j S_{jm}], \quad (2)$$

351 where  $S_{im}$  is number of cells for symbiont type  $i$  in coral type  $m$ . Symbiont populations grow based  
 352 on the difference between their thermal tolerance phenotype and the temperature  $\theta(t)$  (which  
 353 varies with time  $t$ ) according to a temperature-dependent exponential growth rate equation derived  
 354 from phytoplankton<sup>58</sup> given parameters  $a$  and  $b$ .  $a$  was set such that the maximum symbiont growth  
 355 rate is similar to the value reported<sup>29</sup> and  $b$  is from<sup>59</sup>. The width of this thermal tolerance function,  
 356 thermal tolerance breadth  $\sigma_{wm}^2$ , depends on coral type  $m$  and is inversely related to selection  
 357 strength in simulations with evolution. Thermal tolerance breadth varies by coral host to allow  
 358 greater thermal tolerance (i.e., slower drop-off in growth with temperature departures from the  
 359 symbiont-genotype-determined optimum) in mounding versus branching coral morphotypes (e.g.,  
 360 due to coral morphology or physiology) through differential susceptibility of each coral's  
 361 symbionts to thermal stress. Symbiont populations have thermal tolerance phenotypes (temperature  
 362 at peak performance) normally distributed around mean genotype  $\bar{g}_{im}$  with environmental variance  
 363  $\sigma_e^2$  (described below). Thermal tolerance genotypes also follow a normal distribution with mean  
 364  $\bar{g}_{im}(t)$  and variance  $\sigma_{gim}^2(t)$ , both of which are constant in simulations without evolution and vary  
 365 in time for evolution model runs. The overall population growth rate  $r_{im}(t)$  for symbiont  
 366 population  $i$  in coral host  $m$  is:

$$367 \quad 368 \quad \left\{ 1 - \frac{\sigma_{gim}^2(t) + \sigma_e^2 + [\min(L, \bar{g}_{im}(t) - \theta(t))]^2}{2\sigma_{wm}^2} \right\} ae^{b[\theta(t) - 2 * \min(0, \theta(t) - \bar{g}_{im}(t) + L)]} . \quad (3)$$

372 Following this equation, symbiont growth rate ( $r_{im}(t)$ ) decreases at temperatures higher or lower  
 373 than the optimum, with steeper declines occurring at temperatures above the optimum for growth  
 374 rate. This modified version of the equation from Baskett et al. (2009)<sup>19</sup> includes a minimum  
 375 function so that a rapid drop in symbiont growth rate only applies when temperatures are higher  
 376 than symbionts' adapted genotype, thus avoiding unrealistic cold water mortality events prior to  
 377 the onset of 20th century warming. The minimum function varies with thermal tolerance breadth  
 378 where  $L = \sqrt{2.6\sigma_{wm}^2}$ . Negative population growth rates indicate that mortality rate exceeds  
 379 reproduction rate and can disrupt symbiosis and lead to bleaching. Symbiont populations have an  
 380 initial mean thermal tolerance phenotype and genotype  $\bar{g}_{im}(0)$  equal to mean historical sea surface  
 381 temperature (SST) in each reef grid cell between 1861-2000. Thermal tolerance breadth  $\sigma_{wm}^2$  is  
 382 proportional to variance in historical monthly SST between January 1861 and December 2001 and  
 383 assumes that corals already living in more variable thermal environments have greater capacity to  
 384 withstand larger thermal fluctuations.

386 *Symbiont genetic dynamics.* In evolution simulations, we model symbiont thermal tolerance as a  
 387 haploid quantitative genetic trait using a continuous time approach. The “thermal tolerance  
 388 phenotype” (described above) is the temperature to which a single symbiont population is adapted  
 389 in each of the two coral morphotypes and based upon its mean population genotype. For each  
 390 symbiont population  $i$  in coral  $m$ , the population genotype is modeled as a normal distribution with  
 391 a mean genotype  $\bar{g}_{im}$  and, for models with evolution, genetic variance of  $\sigma_{gim}^2$  (Fig. S1, equations  
 392 4 and 5). The phenotype varies around the genotype with random environmental variance  $\sigma_e^2$  (i.e.,  
 393 fraction of variation not due to heritability). Heritability ( $h^2$ ) of thermal tolerance was estimated to  
 394 be 0.330, an estimate for typical physiological traits<sup>60</sup>. Heritability estimates of coral thermal  
 395 tolerance driven by symbionts, have been found to range between 0.23 to 0.5. Environmental  
 396 variance  $\sigma_e^2$  was calculated as the fraction of total phenotypic variation ( $\sigma_p^2$ ) not explained by  $h^2$ ,  
 397 such that  $\sigma_e^2 = (1 - h^2) * (\sigma_p^2)$ . The mean genotype dynamics are:

$$\frac{d\bar{g}_{im}}{dt} = \frac{\sigma_{gim}^2(t)[\theta(t) - \bar{g}_{im}(t)]}{\sigma_{wm}^2} a e^{b\theta(t)} \quad (4)$$

401 Within a population, genetic diversity can increase through new mutations and decrease through  
 402 selection. In the model, mutation increases genetic variation a constant rate of  $\sigma_M^2$ . Mutational  
 403 variance is calculated as  $\sigma_M^2 = \sigma_e^2 \times 0.001 \text{yr}^{-1}$  as in Baskett et al. (2009)<sup>19</sup> and based on reported  
 404 values for the ratio  $\sigma_M^2 : \sigma_e^2$  as 0.0001–0.05 per generation for a variety of model organisms<sup>61</sup> and on  
 405 the approximate symbiont generation time of 0.2 years<sup>21</sup>. The model assumes that stabilizing  
 406 selection occurs for the optimal phenotype and is represented by selectional variance ( $\sigma_{wm}^2$ ), or  
 407 thermal tolerance breadth, which is inversely related to selection strength. Selectional variance is  
 408 proportional to the width of the symbiont population growth rate (fitness) function. The genetic  
 409 variance dynamics are:

$$\frac{d\sigma_{gim}^2}{dt} = \sigma_M^2 - \frac{\sigma_{gim}^4(t)}{\sigma_{wm}^2} a e^{b\theta(t)} \quad (5)$$

414 Values for all symbiont parameters ( $K_{Sm}$ ,  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $\sigma_e^2$ ,  $\sigma_M^2$ ,  $\sigma_{wm}^2$ ) are based on Baskett et al. (2009)<sup>19</sup>  
 415 and references therein (Table S2).

417 Finally, we set the selectional variance ( $\sigma_{wm}^2$ ; width of the fitness function or thermal tolerance  
 418 breadth) to be proportional to the historical mean and variance in each reef cell using a  
 419 proportionality constant,  $\rho$ . In the absence of precise global bleaching records available to “tune”  
 420 the model to each individual reef cell’s bleaching history, we applied a heuristic approach at the  
 421 global scale to define  $\rho$ . Similar to our previous study<sup>16</sup>, we modified  $\rho$  to result in a global  
 422 bleaching frequency of 3 or 5% between 1985-2010 (i.e., x% of the reef cells bleach, on average,  
 423 in a given year). The accurate global bleaching frequency during this timeframe is not knowable,  
 424 but these bleaching frequencies are within the range of realistic possibilities based upon  
 425 extrapolation from a high-resolution global bleaching database and fall within the range of annual  
 426 severe bleaching occurrences across 100 regions between 1985-2010<sup>12</sup>.

428 The proportionality constant ( $\rho$ ) was defined for each reef cell based on the ratio between the  
429 historical (1861-2000) mean and variance of the exponential term of Eppley's equation<sup>58</sup>  
430 ( $e^{0.06337T}$ ) to capture physiological effects of temperature variability across time and space:  
431

$$\rho = \frac{1}{s} \left[ \frac{\text{mean}(e^{bT})}{\text{var}(e^{bT})} \right]^y.$$

432  
433  
434 Empirical values  $s$  and  $y$  remain constant across all reefs for any given RCP, but  $s$  varies with each  
435 adaptation simulation (e.g., baseline, shuffling, and evolution) to tune the global bleaching  
436 frequency to the historical bleaching target (see Table S3). The proportionality constant assumes a  
437 greater physiological effect of temperature variability at high than low temperatures; the  
438 physiological effects of temperature variability depending on the kinetics of activation energy  
439 which, for many organic reactions, follow the Eppley exponential curve<sup>58</sup>. We then constrain the  
440 proportionality constant to between 0.5 and 1.50 to best match to the targeted global bleaching  
441 frequency between 1985 and 2010. To determine selectional variance ( $\sigma_{wm}^2$ ), or thermal tolerance  
442 breadth, the proportionality constant is then multiplied by the historical temperature variance in  
443 each cell. For mounding corals  $\sigma_{wm}^2$  is then increased by 25% which provides a wider thermal  
444 tolerance range compared with branching (heat-sensitive) corals.  
445

446 *Symbiont "shuffling"*. To simulate the possibility of "shuffling" as a result of symbiont diversity,  
447 simulations begin with two symbiont populations in each coral type (evolution-only simulations  
448 include only one symbiont population). The additional population begins as a low abundance heat-  
449 tolerant symbiont type (e.g., genus *Durusdinium*). Heat-tolerant symbionts have an initial thermal  
450 optimum ( $\bar{g}_{2m}$ ) of +0.5, 1, or 1.5°C above that of the heat-sensitive symbionts, enabling them to  
451 grow faster as temperature increases. The symbiont population growth rate ( $r_{im}$ ) is calculated from  
452 the mean genotype  $\bar{g}_{im}$ , so the symbiont growth rates are different between the two symbiont  
453 types, with heat-tolerant symbionts having a higher maximum growth rate according to the Eppley  
454 function. Density dependence within and between symbiont populations regulates symbiont  
455 density in each coral morphotype at a level proportional to  $C_M$  given total symbiont carrying  
456 capacity per unit area  $K_{Sm}$ . Density dependence is scaled by the maximum possible population  
457 growth rate  $\hat{r}(t)$  so that the symbiont type with the greater population growth rate  $r_{im}(t)$  under a  
458 given temperature at time  $t$  is competitively superior. The model includes also a trade-off for  
459 hosting heat-tolerant symbionts where corals hosts are penalized with up to a 50% decrease in  
460 coral growth rate (similar to<sup>63</sup>). The growth penalty is proportional to the percent of heat-tolerant  
461 symbionts in each coral and applied by multiplying the coral growth rate ( $\lambda_m$ ) by this weighted  
462 value after each time step. If temperature decreases, the heat-sensitive symbiont type can re-  
463 populate the coral, removing both the thermal advantage and the coral growth penalty. The goal  
464 was to simulate symbiont community shifts due to heat-tolerant symbionts being present in low  
465 abundance that could become dominant after bleaching<sup>64</sup>. Our model also assumes a trade-off  
466 between growth rate and thermal tolerance such that competition between the symbiont  
467 populations depends on temperature (i.e., the symbiont type with the greater population growth rate  
468  $r_{im}(t)$  is competitively superior). To test the effect of symbiont evolution in combination with  
469 shuffling, we also included model runs with and without evolution of both symbiont types.  
470

471 *Ocean acidification*. To test the effect of ocean acidification on coral growth rate, we used a  
472 relationship between  $r$  and coral calcification rate ( $f$ ) previously described<sup>30</sup>, where a 0.15 slope  
473 represents the mean sensitivity of coral calcification to  $\Omega_{Arag}$  across multiple coral taxa:  
474

475 
$$f(\Omega_{Arag}) = 1 - 0.15(4 - \Omega_{Arag}) \text{ where } 1 \leq \Omega_{Arag} \leq 4. \quad (6)$$

476  
 477 Based on equation 6,  $\Omega_{Arag}$  values were calculated for each reef cell for all four RCPs (NOAA-  
 478 GFDL ESM2M<sup>65,66</sup>). For  $\Omega_{Arag}$  values below one the factor is set to zero, and for values above  
 479 four the factor is set to one. For ocean acidification model runs, this function was included in the  
 480 equation for the coral growth rate (equation 1). The value of  $f$  is squared because calcification rate  
 481 correlates with linear growth rates<sup>67</sup>, but coral population size is estimated from total coral surface  
 482 area calculated in two dimensions.

483  
 484 *Model application.* The model applies differential equations (Fig. S1) for coral and symbiont  
 485 growth, competition, and genetic adaptation of symbionts which are integrated forward in time  
 486 using a second-order Runge-Kutta method in Matlab (R2019b; MathWorks, Natick,  
 487 Massachusetts, USA). We scaled this model to 1,925 reef containing grid cells, identified by  
 488 projecting the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project (<https://data.unep-wcmc.org/datasets/1>)  
 489 map of corals reefs to the grid used by the NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory  
 490 (GFDL) Earth System Model 2M (ESM2M)<sup>65</sup>. To validate co-existence of the coral morphotypes  
 491 in the absence of an anthropogenic warming signal, we executed the model from 1861-2300 with  
 492 no warming (Fig. S2). The model was then executed from 1861-2100 using bias corrected monthly  
 493 SST output from ESM2M for each of the four representative concentration pathways (RCP) IPCC  
 494 AR5 warming scenarios<sup>16,65</sup>, using a time-step of 0.125 months. Combining a heuristic model, at  
 495 the scale of a coral, with projected climate model resolution is justified based on the ability of  
 496 coarse thermal stress data to predict the likelihood of bleaching<sup>40</sup>; this approach has been used in  
 497 previous coral modelling studies<sup>9,13-18</sup>. All Matlab code can be found at  
 498 <https://github.com/VeloSteve/Coral-Model-V12> under the following DOI:  
 499 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2639126>.

500  
 501 *Model output analysis (bleaching, mortality, and recovery definitions).* For the purposes of  
 502 visualizing model output for each model year, reef cells are categorized as being healthy, bleached  
 503 or frequently bleached ( $\geq 2$  events within the previous decade), or in a mortality state (Fig. S4).  
 504 However, this heuristic model implementation is not intended to make absolute predictions of coral  
 505 cover, bleaching, or mortality for individual reefs. Instead, it is calibrated to give zero mortality by  
 506 1950 and 3 or 5% bleaching per reef cell per year on average between 1985-2010. This  
 507 approximation to actual conditions allows the model to represent the effect of alternate climate  
 508 scenarios and other conditions. For these purposes, ‘bleaching’ events are defined by comparing  
 509 the minimum annual symbiont density in each reef cell to the previous year. By defining bleaching  
 510 events, we can compare the results to previous threshold based models<sup>13,14,16,68</sup>. Bleaching events  
 511 herein are defined when symbiont density decreases below 30% of the minimum symbiont  
 512 population size in the previous year, based on data showing that visible severe bleaching can occur  
 513 even when corals retain between 20-50% of their original algal population<sup>69</sup>. This definition was  
 514 developed to capture warm water bleaching events, but cold-water bleaching can occur<sup>70</sup>. Reef  
 515 cells also enter a bleached state when bleaching occurs  $\geq 2$  times in the previous decade (similar to  
 516 <sup>13</sup>). If either coral type bleaches in a given year, the reef cell enters a “bleached state”. A single reef  
 517 cell can only bleach once per year.

518  
 519 Following bleaching, a reef cell can remain bleached, transition to a state of mortality, or recover  
 520 back to a ‘healthy’ state (Fig. S4). A mortality state is defined for a reef cell when a coral  
 521 population declines below twice its seed value, regardless of symbiont density. A reef cell also  
 522 enters a state of mortality if it does not recover within five years after bleaching. Although it is not

523 ecologically realistic for a reef to remain bleached for more than a few weeks to months, this  
524 categorization allowed us to differentiate between short- and long-term bleaching effects. To  
525 include the potential for recovery following bleaching or mortality, but in the absence of data to  
526 explicitly model connectivity between reefs globally, a small “seed” population of corals and  
527 symbionts is included at all time steps to represent resupply of larvae from source populations. For  
528 mounding and branching coral morphotypes, respectively, the seed population sizes are 1% and  
529 0.1% of carrying capacity which assumes mounding (heat-tolerant) corals are 10 times more  
530 abundant than branching (heat-sensitive) corals following a bleaching or mortality event<sup>49</sup>. For  
531 symbionts, the seed density is 0.00001% of carrying capacity, calculated with the conservative  
532 assumption that coral population size is at its seed value. In model runs with evolution, seed  
533 symbionts are assumed to be adapted to temperature changes through time. For recovery to occur,  
534 both coral and symbiont populations must grow to at least four times their respective seed values.  
535 In addition, because coral growth can slowly increase despite fluctuations in symbiont population  
536 size, recovery is also defined when a coral population grows to >10% of carrying capacity.

537  
538 *Vulnerability maps based on warming rates and temperature variability.* To compare predicted  
539 regions of vulnerability based on SST changes alone with model results, we produced maps based  
540 on temperature metrics expected to trigger bleaching and mortality (Fig S9). These maps included  
541 five metrics: change in maximum monthly mean SST from the historical period (1861-1900) to  
542 2080, change in SST variability from the historical period (1861-1900) to the period between  
543 2050-2080 (maximum monthly mean, all months), and future SST variability between 2050-2080  
544 (maximum monthly mean, all months) for RCP4.5 and RCP8.5. To evaluate these metrics as  
545 possible predictors of modeled extinction risk, we also compared each metric to relative coral  
546 extent using a least-squares linear regression across all combinations of evolution and shuffling  
547 simulations. R<sup>2</sup> values were calculated each year between 2020-2060 using a sliding window for  
548 the future climatological period or year, for all reef cells containing >5% relative coral extent, and  
549 averaged over time. This timeframe maximized the number of reef cells that could be used in the  
550 analysis, prior to extensive degradation in all simulations (Fig. 1).

551

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561

562

563 **Code Availability**

564

565 All Matlab code can be found at <https://github.com/VeloSteve/Coral-Model-V12> under the  
566 following DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2639126>.

567

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569

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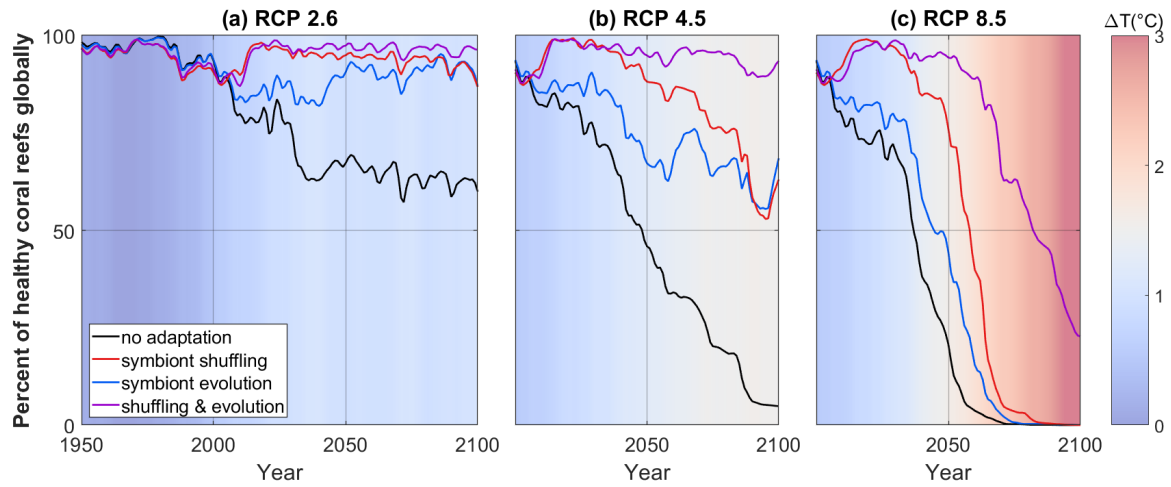
## Figures and Tables

**Table 1.** Global coral health metrics at 2100 in simulations with and without adaptive capacity. For each simulation and RCP, relative coral extent (“% Cover”) reported as percent of a pre-warming fixed carrying capacity in each reef cell, percentage of reef cells not bleached or dead (“% Healthy”), and percentage of reef cells where branching (heat-sensitive) corals (“% Branching”) are the dominant coral morphotype are reported. Color is associated with high ( $\geq 70\%$ : blue-green), moderate (30-70%: yellow-orange), and low levels of each metric ( $\leq 30\%$ : red-orange).

RCP	No Adaptive Capacity			Symbiont Evolution			Symbiont Shuffling (+1°C)			Shuffling (+1°C) & Evolution		
	% Cover	% Healthy	% Branching	% Cover	% Healthy	% Branching	% Cover	% Healthy	% Branching	% Cover	% Healthy	% Branching
2.6	37	57	2	81	84	61	65	85	56	72	96	71
4.5	3	5	0	41	71	18	28	65	20	65	94	62
6	1	1	0	7	21	0	5	21	1	58	90	57
8.5	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	10	23	13

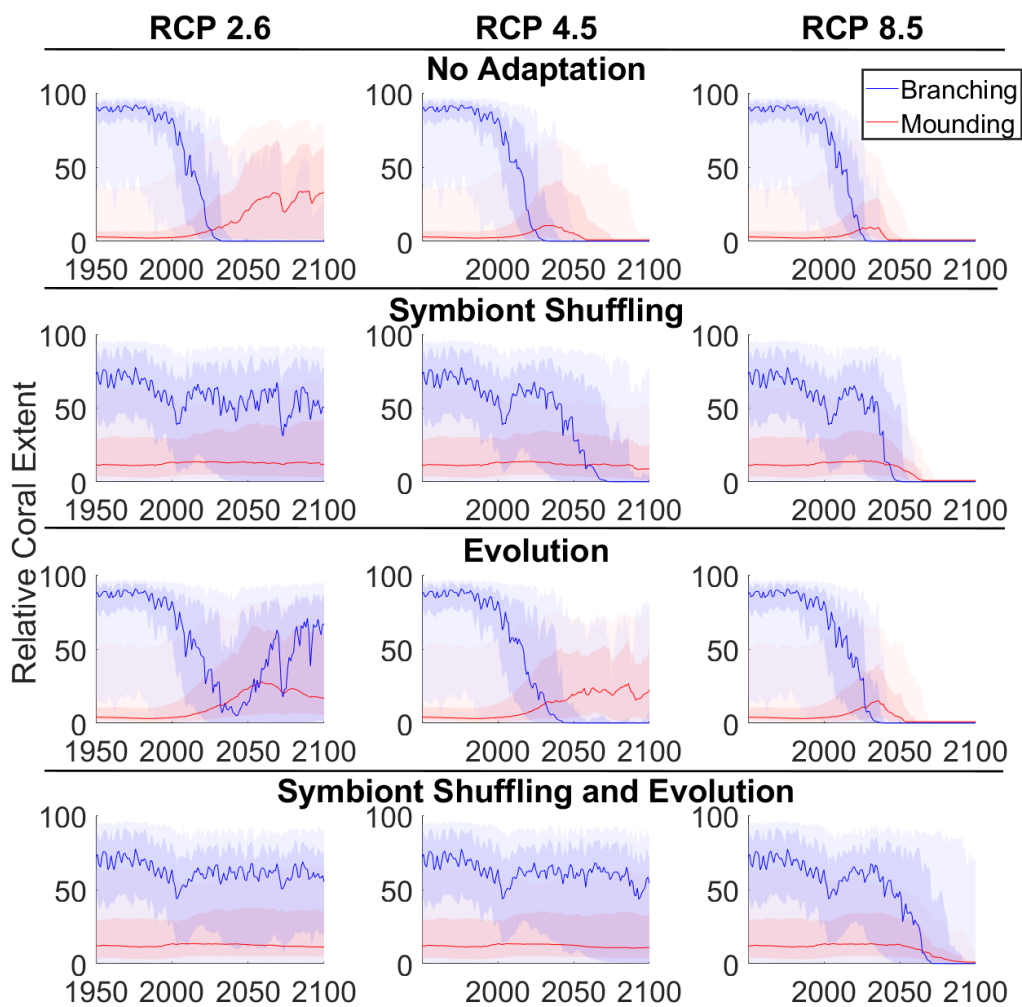
## Figures

Figure 1.



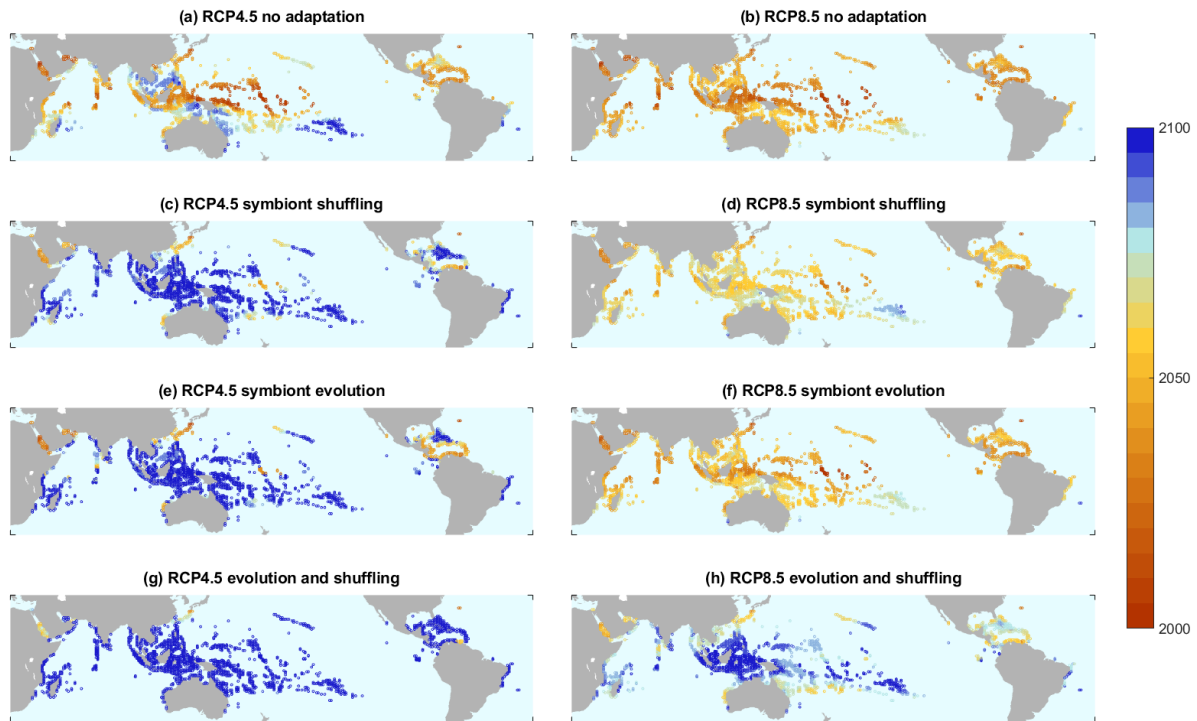
**Figure 1.** Percentage of ‘healthy’ reef cells globally in four RCP emissions scenarios from 1950-2100 ( $n=1,925$  reef cells). Model trajectories are shown with no adaptation (black), symbiont shuffling with a  $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$  advantage (red), symbiont evolution (blue), and combined shuffling and evolution (purple). A reef is considered ‘healthy’ if it is not in a bleached or mortality state (see *Methods*). Background color represents the average increase in annual maximum temperatures relative to the historical average from 1860 to 2000 across all reef grid cells.

Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Relative coral extent with and without symbiont-mediated adaptive capacity. Mean, quartile, and 5<sup>th</sup> to 95<sup>th</sup> percentiles across all reef cells ( $n=1,925$ ) for branching (heat-sensitive) corals and mounding (heat-tolerant) corals as a percent of a fixed pre-warming carrying capacity ( $K$ ) averaged across all reef cells. Panels show simulations with no adaptation (top row), with symbiont shuffling only (+1°C advantage) (2<sup>nd</sup> row), with symbiont evolution only (3<sup>rd</sup> row), and combined shuffling and evolution (bottom row). Columns correspond to low (RCP2.6), moderate (RCP4.5), and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenarios.

Figure 3.



**Figure 3.** Maps depicting the last year at which corals are projected to survive prior to the onset of high frequency bleaching ( $\geq 2$  events within the previous decade) or mortality. Model output is shown with no adaptation (a, b), symbiont shuffling with a  $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$  advantage (c, d), symbiont evolution (e, f), or both shuffling and evolution (g, h) under moderate (RCP 4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenarios. Reef cells in the darkest blue are projected to survive beyond 2100.

Supplemental Tables

Table S1

RCP	No Adaptive Capacity			Symbiont Evolution Only			Symbiont Shuffling Only									Symbiont Shuffling & Evolution								
	% Cover	% Healthy	% Sensitive	% Cover	% Healthy	% Sensitive	+0.5°C			+1.0°C			+1.5°C			+0.5°C			+1.0°C			+1.5°C		
							% Cover	% Healthy	% Sensitive	% Cover	% Healthy	% Sensitive	% Cover	% Healthy	% Sensitive	% Cover	% Healthy	% Sensitive	% Cover	% Healthy	% Sensitive	% Cover	% Healthy	% Sensitive
2.6	37	57	2	81	84	61	30	50	11	65	85	56	77	96	86	58	79	47	72	96	71	76	96	84
4.5	3	5	0	41	71	18	2	3	0	28	65	20	76	97	76	38	62	29	65	94	62	72	96	80
6	1	1	0	7	21	0	1	0	0	5	21	1	58	91	62	18	40	16	58	90	57	73	98	73
8.5	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	8	1	1	0	0	10	23	13	47	86	5

**Table S1.** Global coral health metrics at 2100 in simulations with and without adaptive capacity. For each simulation and RCP, relative coral extent (“% Cover”) reported as percent of a pre-warming fixed carrying capacity in each reef cell, percentage of reef cells not bleached or dead (“% Healthy”), and percentage of reef cells where branching (heat-sensitive) corals (“% Branching”) are the dominant coral morphotype are reported. Color is associated with high ( $\geq 70\%$ : blue-green), moderate (30-70%: yellow-orange), and low levels of each metric ( $\leq 30\%$ : red-orange). For shuffling, the heat-tolerant symbiont population thermal optimum is +0.5°C, +1.0°C, or +1.5°C greater than the heat-sensitive population.

**Table S2.**

Parameter	Value	Units	Description	Reference
<i>Corals</i>				
$K_{Cm}$	m: 7.4125; b: 10.25	$X 10^7 \text{ cm}^2$	coral carrying capacity	Chancerelle (2000); Mumby (2006)
$\alpha$	m: 0.75; b: 0.85		competition coefficient	Langmead and Sheppard (2004)
$\gamma$	m: 1; b: 10	$\text{yr}^{-1}$	growth rate	Huston (1985)
$\mu$	m: 3.849; b: 58.767	$X 10^2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$	basal mortality	Chancerelle (2000); McClanahan et al. (2001)
$u$	m: 20,000; b: 30,000		symbiont influence on mortality	Fitt et al. (2000)
<i>Symbionts</i>				
$K_{Sm}$	m: 3; b: 4	$X 10^6 \text{ cells/cm}^2$	symbiont carrying capacity	Fitt et al. (2000)
$a$	1.0768	$\text{yr}^{-1}$	linear growth rate	Muscatine et al. (1984)
$b$	0.0633	$\text{C}^{-1}$	exponential growth constant	Norberg (2004); Eppley (1972)
$\sigma_e^2$	0.0114	$^{\circ}\text{C}^2$	environmental variance	Mousseau & Roff 1987; Csaszar et al 2010
$\sigma_M^2$	1.142	$X 10^{-5} \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}^2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$	mutational variance	Lynch (1988); Muscatine et al. (1984)
$\sigma_{wm}^2$	m: 2.7702; b: 3.4627	$^{\circ}\text{C}^2$	selectional variance	Baskett et al. 2009
$h^2$	0.33		heritability	Mousseau & Roff 1987; Csaszar et al 2010

**Table S2.** Parameter values used in the numerical analysis of the model, adapted from Baskett et al. 2009 and references therein. m denotes values for mounding corals (heat-tolerant, slow growing) and b denotes those for branching corals (heat-sensitive, fast-growing). Symbiont carrying capacity ( $K_{Sm}$ ) and selectional variance ( $\sigma_{om}^2$ ) vary depending on whether the symbionts inhabit a mounding (m) or branching coral (b).



**Table S3**

Symbiont assumptions	Proportionality constant divisor	
	no evolution	with evolution
Baseline	3.0446	3.2988
Shuffling, 0.5 °C	4.3923	4.8325
Shuffling, +1°C	4.1842	4.1986
Shuffling, +1.5 °C	3.3651	3.5697

**Table S3.** Proportionality constant divisor ( $s$ ) in the proportionality constant equation (see *Methods*). Values were determined empirically to obtain a 5% global bleaching frequency between 1985 and 2010 (i.e., 5% of reef cells bleach each year, on average, during this timeframe). Each set of assumptions which affects historical growth requires a unique  $s$  value.

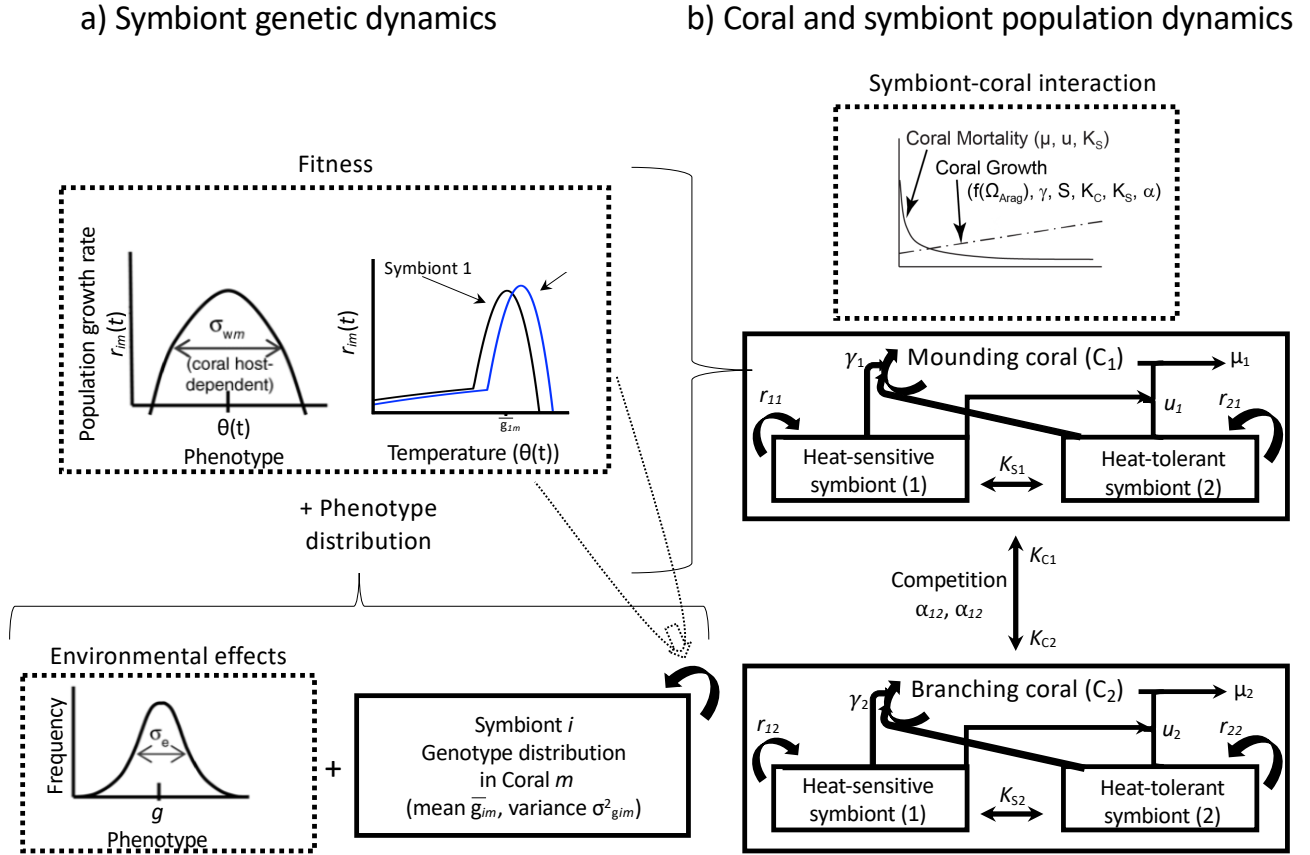
**Table S4**

<b>SST Metric</b>	<b>No Adaptation</b>		<b>Shuffling (1C)</b>		<b>Evolution</b>		<b>Shuffling + Evolution</b>	
	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	RCP4.5	RCP8.5	RCP 4.5	RCP 8.5
Hottest Month Delta SST Historical to Future Year	0.10	0.16	0.09	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.07	0.11
Hottest Month Delta std[SST] Historical to Future Climatology	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.06	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.05
Hottest Month std[SST] Future Climatology	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.11	0.12	0.10	0.03	0.06
All months Delta std[SST] Historical to Future Climatology	0.05	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.07	0.02	0.08	0.09
All months std[SST] Future Climatology	0.04	0.09	0.54	0.41	0.01	0.03	0.48	0.55

**Table S4.** Correlation ( $R^2$ ) between relative coral extent and environmental SST metrics of warming rate and SST standard deviation for RCP4.5 and RCP8.5. A least-squares linear regression was used for all reef cells with >5% relative coral extent in each model simulation. Regression analysis was performed at each year between 2020-2060 using a sliding window for the future year or a 20-year future climatology ending in the analysis year, and averaged over time. The historical climatological period is calculated between 1861-1900.

## Supplemental Figures

Figure S1



## Differential Equations

(1) Coral population dynamics.

$$\frac{dC_m}{dt} = C_m \left[ \frac{f^2 \gamma_m \sum_i S_{im}}{K_{Sm} C_m} \left( K_{Cm} - \sum_n \alpha_{mn} C_n \right) - \frac{\mu_m}{1 + u_m \frac{\sum_i S_{im}}{K_{Sm} C_m}} \right]$$

(2) Symbiont population dynamics.

$$\frac{dS_{im}}{dt} = \frac{S_{im}}{K_{Sm} C_m} \left[ r_{im}(t) K_{Sm} C_m - \hat{r}(t) \sum_j S_{jm} \right]$$

(3) Symbiont population growth rate. In shuffling model runs,  $\bar{g}_{im}$  of the heat-tolerant symbiont population is set to +0.5, 1, or 1.5°C above that of the heat-sensitive population. L represents  $\sqrt{2.6\sigma_{wm}^2}$ .

$$r_{im}(t) = \left\{ 1 - \frac{\sigma_{gim}^2(t) + \sigma_e^2 + [\min(L, \bar{g}_{im}(t) - \theta(t))]^2}{2\sigma_{wm}^2} \right\} a e^{b[\theta(t) - 2 \cdot \min(0, \theta(t) - \bar{g}_{im}(t) + L)]}$$

(4) Symbiont mean genotype (optimum temperature) dynamics (for evolution model runs only).

$$\frac{d\bar{g}_{im}}{dt} = \frac{\sigma_{gim}^2(t)[\theta(t) - \bar{g}_{im}(t)]}{\sigma_{wm}^2} a e^{b\theta(t)}$$

(5) Symbiont genetic variance dynamics (*for evolution model runs only*).

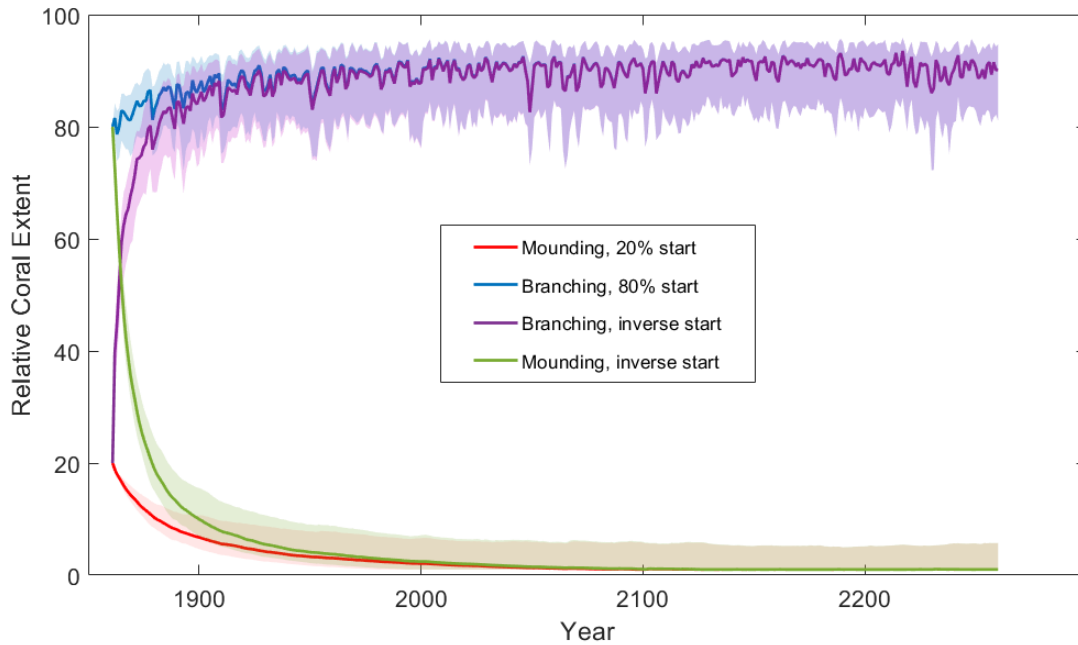
$$\frac{d\sigma_{gim}^2}{dt} = \sigma_M^2 - \frac{\sigma_{gim}^4(t)}{\sigma_{wm}^2} a e^{b\theta(t)}$$

(6) Aragonite saturation effect (*for ocean acidification model runs only*).

$$f(\Omega_{Arag}) = 1 - 0.15(4 - \Omega_{Arag}) \text{ where } 1 \leq \Omega_{Arag} \leq 4$$

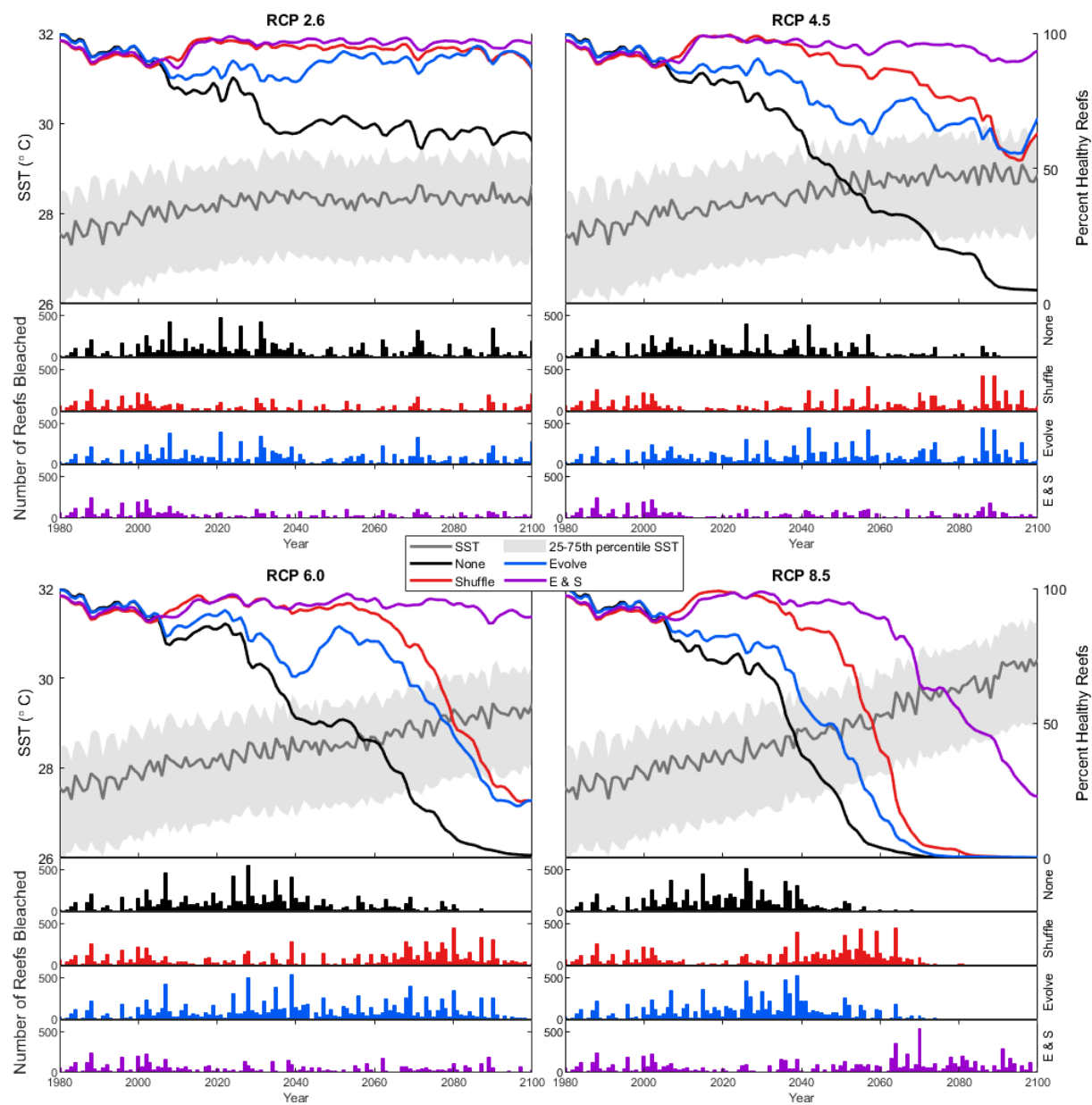
**Figure S1.** Coral and symbiont ecological and evolutionary global model diagram and equations. The left-hand boxes (a) describe the symbiont fitness curve and genetic dynamics. The right-hand boxes (b) describe the coral and symbiont population dynamics.

Figure S2.



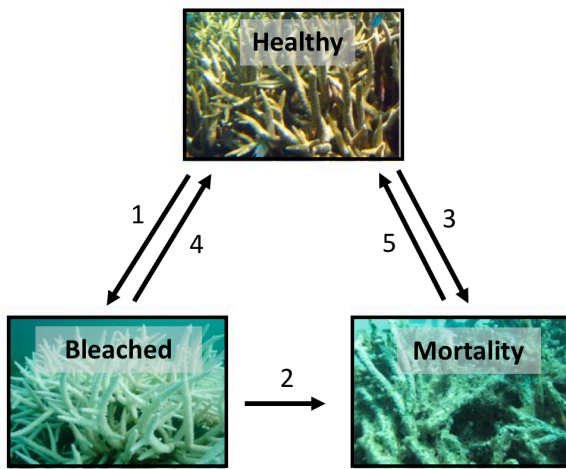
**Figure S2.** Relative coral extent across all reef cells in a 400-year model run with no anthropogenic warming and no adaptive capacity. In all model runs, branching corals (blue) are initialized at 80% and mounding corals (red) at 20% of a fixed pre-warming carrying capacity (K) in 1861 averaged across all reef cells. Initializing coral morphotypes to the inverse of these proportions (80% mounding: 20% branching) results in a similar outcome (~90% branching and 1% mounding corals) by 1950. Shaded colors represent the 50% interquartile range around the mean for all reef cells.

**Figure S3.**



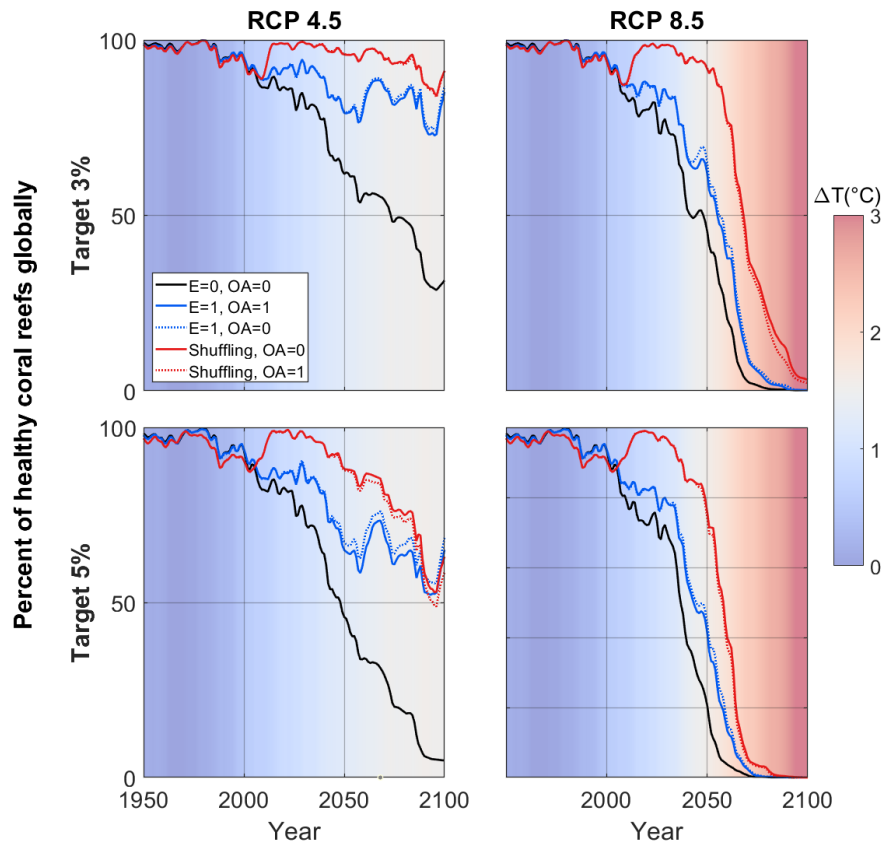
**Figure S3.** Percentage of ‘healthy’ reef cells globally in four RCP emissions scenarios from 1950 to 2100 ( $n=1,925$  reef cells). Model trajectories are shown with no evolution (black), shuffling with a +1°C advantage (red), evolution (blue), and combined shuffling and evolution (purple). A reef is considered ‘healthy’ if it is not in a bleached or mortality state (see *Methods*). SST (grey) is the mean and 25<sup>th</sup>-75<sup>th</sup> percentile increase in annual maximum temperatures across all reef grid cells. Bar plots indicate number of bleaching events per year in each model run.

Figure S4.



**Figure S4.** In each model year, reef cells are defined as being in a ‘healthy’, ‘bleached’, or ‘mortality’ state. Arrows represent transitions between states. 1) “Bleaching” occurs when symbiont populations drop  $<30\%$  of the minimum population size in the previous year or when bleaching occurs  $\geq 2$  times in the previous decade. 2) “Mortality” is defined if a reef bleaches but does not recover within five years, or 3) if coral populations drop to  $<2x$  the seed value. 4-5) Recovery occurs if coral and symbiont populations increase to  $>4x$  their respective seed value or coral populations grow above 10% of carrying capacity.

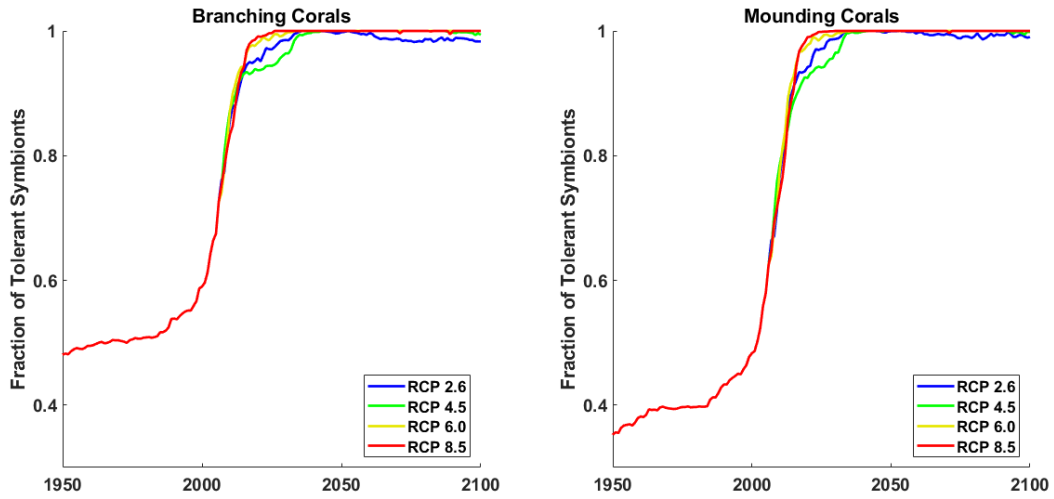
Figure S5.



**Figure S5.** Sensitivity analysis of percent ‘healthy’ coral reef cells when the model is calibrated to estimated bleaching frequencies of 3 or 5% between 1985-2010. In the main text, model output is calibrated to a 5% bleaching frequency during this time. The effect of changing the target to 3 % is shown for RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios. Projected trajectories are shown with and without symbiont evolution (E=1 vs. E=0), and with or without shuffling (+1.0°C advantage) in the tolerant population. The effect of increasing  $p\text{CO}_2$  on coral growth rates is also included (OA=1) with evolution and shuffling.

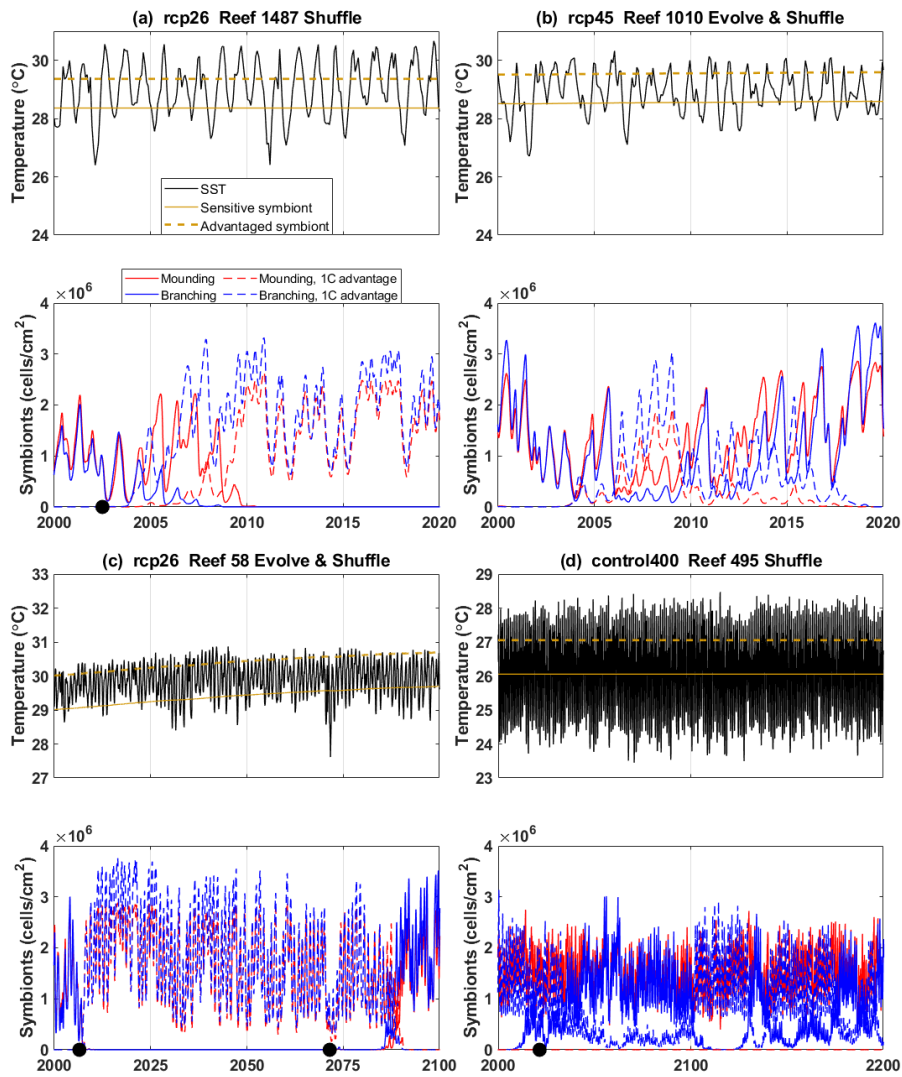


Figure S6



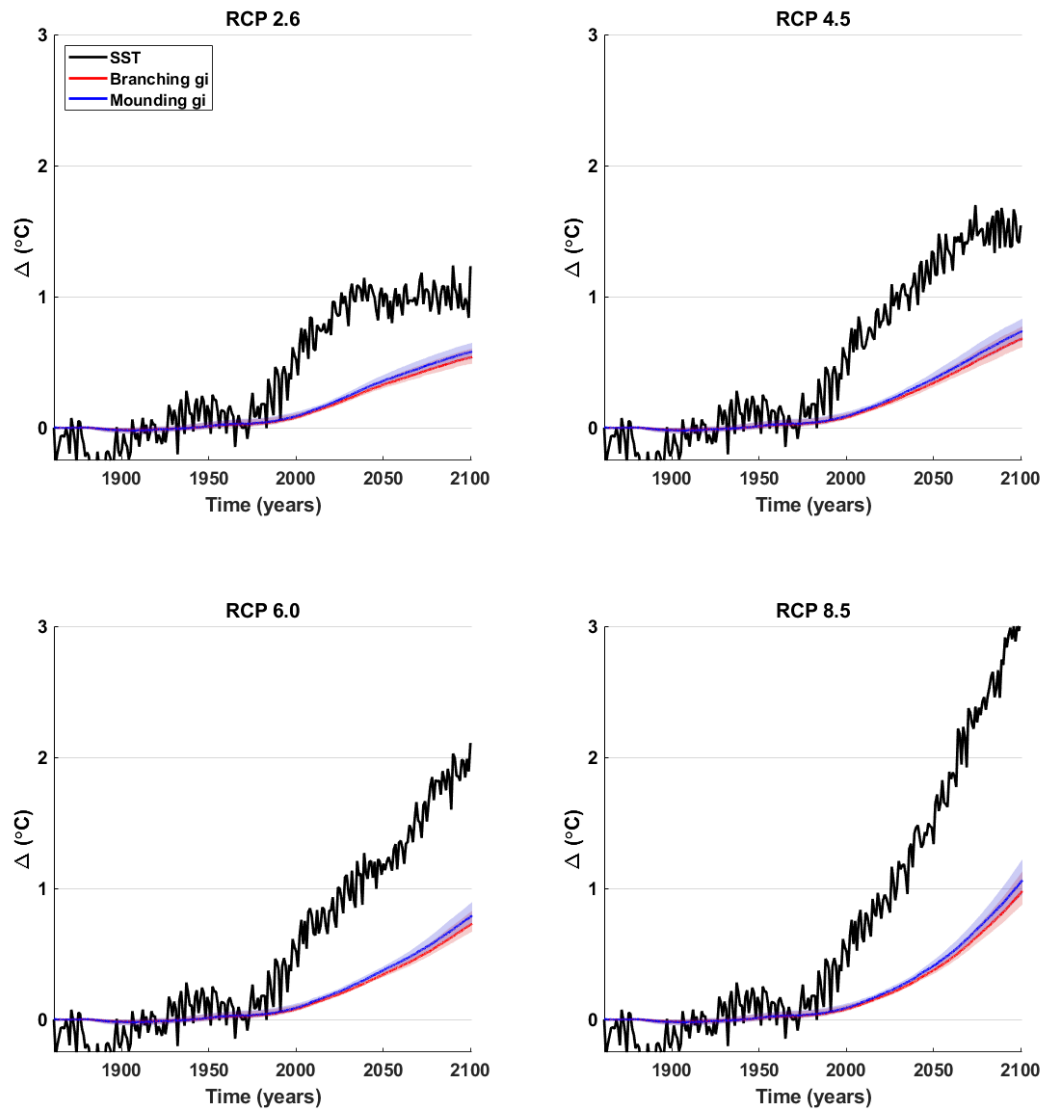
**Figure S6.** Global mean fraction of corals hosting heat-tolerant symbionts in branching (heat-sensitive) corals (left) and mounding (heat-tolerant) corals (right) across all reef cells ( $n=1,925$ ) for all RCPs in shuffling ( $+1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  advantage) simulations. For most reefs, fidelity to heat-tolerant symbiont occurs following a rapid transition between 2010-2040 through 2100.

Figure S7



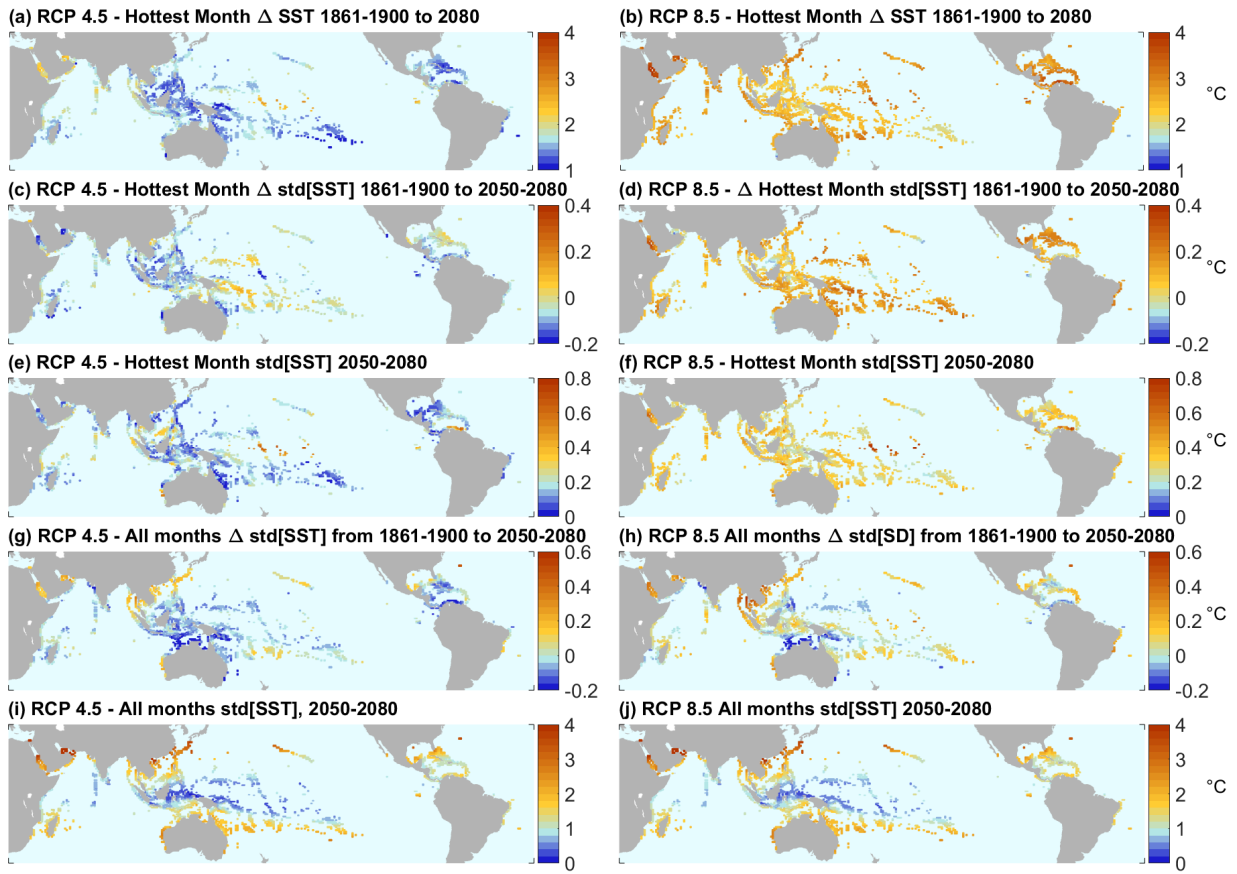
**Figure S7.** Fine-scale shuffling dynamics in four example reef cells. Temperature is monthly sea surface temperature (SST) with the optimal temperature ( $t_{gi}$ ) for each symbiont type overlaid in yellow (top). Symbiont density (bottom) is in terms of cells per cm<sup>2</sup> of coral area for a heat-sensitive and heat-tolerant symbiont population in each coral morphotype. Realistic seasonal fluctuations in symbiont density (a,b) and reversion can occur (c, d), but reversion is uncommon under future RCP scenarios. (d) represents a no anthropogenic warming model run in which reversion occurs several times during a 200-year period. Bleaching events are shown in black circles.

Figure S8.



**Figure S8.** Global change in symbiont genotype ( $g_i$  or optimal temperature in  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and average increase in annual maximum sea surface temperatures (SST) across all reef grid cells in model runs with symbiont evolution for all RCPs. Median (solid lines) and interquartile range (shaded) is shown across all reef cells ( $n=1,925$ ) for mounding (heat-tolerant) and branching (heat-sensitive) corals. Across all RCP scenarios and all reefs, the increase in symbiont optimal thermal tolerance ranged between 0.3 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 1.8 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Figure S9.



**Figure S9.** Global maps of warming rate and SST variability between the historical period (1861-1900) and 2080 (a-d, g-h) as well as future variability between 2050-2080 (e-f, i-j) for RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 climate scenarios. In panels (a) to (f), inputs are filtered to include only maximum monthly mean SST. Panels (g) through (j) include all months.