PROTECT WHAT PROTECTS US

Every time I see a coral reef, I see more than color — I see life. Coral reefs are living cities beneath the waves, home to one quarter of all marine species. But today, they are turning ghostly white. The ocean, our greatest ally against climate change, is now in distress.

The video on ocean acidification opened my eyes to how deeply connected everything is. The more carbon we release, the more the ocean absorbs — and that kindness is costing it its balance. Corals are dissolving, fish are migrating, and the delicate rhythm of life underwater is fading.

A *National Geographic* report showed that coral bleaching events are now five times more frequent than they were just 40 years ago. These reefs protect coastlines from storms, feed millions, and support local economies — including fishing communities like those along the West African coast. Losing them means losing a line of defense, a source of food, and a piece of our shared home.

To leaders: protecting the ocean is not charity; it's survival. Invest in renewable energy, ban destructive fishing, and fund coral restoration programs.

To my generation: our voice is stronger than we think. Reduce plastic, join coastal cleanups, plant mangroves, and demand accountability from industries polluting our seas.

Because when we protect the ocean, we protect what protects us. 🌊💙

MY CALL TO ACTION

EVERY SECOND WE DELAY CORAL REEF PROTECTION,

WE LOSE AN UNDERWATER ECOSYSTEM THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALL FIELD

THAT TOOK CENTURIES TO BUILD.

ONE OTHER RESOURCE (ARTICLE, INFOGRAPHIC, OR VIDEO) ABOUT HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS OCEANS AND MARINE LIFE.

NOAA Fisheries — "Climate Change and Marine Animals: A Conservation Challenge"

This video/article explores how rising ocean temperatures, more frequent extreme weather events, and changing habitats are harming marine animals (whales, fish, sea turtles, etc.), affecting their ability to survive, reproduce, and find food.
fisheries.noaa.gov

KEY FACTS – CLIMATE CHANGE & MARINE LIFE (NOAA FISHERIES, 2025)

1 Rising Ocean Temperatures Disrupt Marine Food Webs

- Warmer oceans are causing plankton — the foundation of the marine food chain — to decline in many regions.
- This affects everything from small fish to large predators like tuna and whales, creating a domino effect on marine biodiversity.

2 Marine Animals Are Forced to Migrate

- As ocean temperatures rise, many species are moving toward cooler waters, often hundreds of miles away from their natural habitats.
- This migration disrupts fishing industries, local economies, and entire ecosystems.

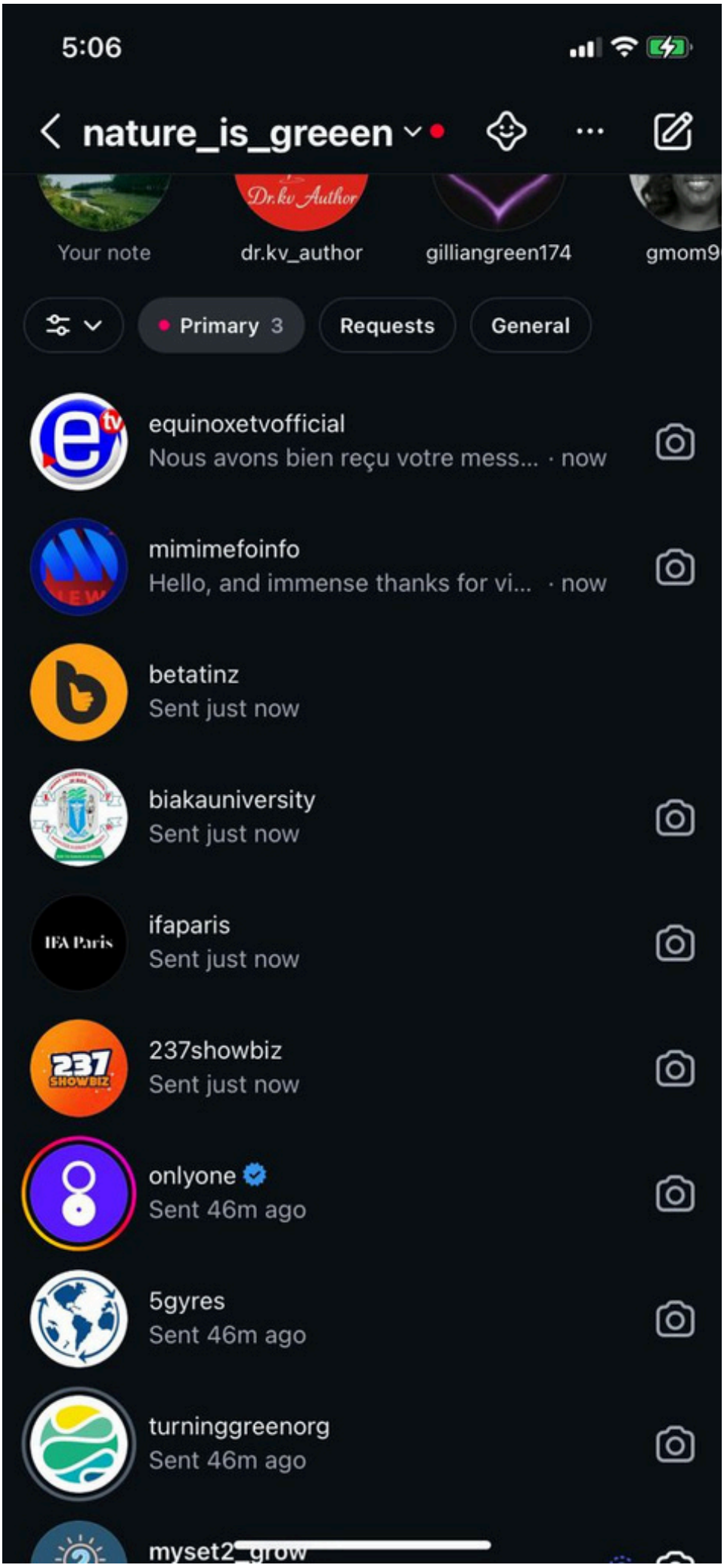
3 Ocean Acidification Weakens Shells and Skeletons

- Increased CO_2 in seawater makes it more acidic, weakening the shells of clams, crabs, and corals.
- Coral reefs — nurseries for nearly 25% of marine species — are becoming more brittle and vulnerable to collapse.

4 Storms and Floods Threaten Coastal Ecosystems

- Extreme weather events damage seagrass beds, mangroves, and coral reefs, which are natural protectors against erosion and floods.
- The loss of these habitats leaves coastal communities more exposed to climate impacts.

SCREENSHOT PROOF OF MY ARTICLE /SOCIAL MEDIA POST SUBMITTED TO MEDIA STATIONS AND BLOGS BASED IN CAMEROON AND MY SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF BUEA AND ALSO TO INTERNATIONAL FASHION ACADEMY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