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- 13 Figure S1. Species richness maps for (a) coral species and (b) reef fishes species. The
- 14 richness of both groups peaks in the coral triangle, in the centre of the Indo-Pacific Ocean.
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Figure S2. Thermal suitability for coral reefs hindcasted for mid-Eocene from the niche-18 based model. The colour gradient from blue to red corresponds to suitability for coral reefs. 19 Blue indicate low thermal suitability for coral reef while red indicate high suitability for coral 20 reef. Projected reef were limited to shallow water based on reconstructed shallow oceanic 21 regions from paleogeographic environment data for the middle Eocene (45 Ma; Smith et al., 22 1994). Continents are shown in their absolute reconstructed position using plate rotations 23 24 based on Müller et al. (2008). Coral reefs reached latitudes of 50°N and 50°S during the middle to late Eocene corresponding to previous fossil studies (Wallace & Rosen, 2006). The 25 projection also suggests that coral reefs were absent from the east Tethys sea. Highest 26 27 temperatures occurred in the eastern Tethys around the Indian subcontinent and on the eastern side of Africa, up to North East Africa, while the western Tethys and paleo-Atlantic ocean 28 would be immersed in relatively cooler waters, as were southern latitudes near Australia 29 continent (Huber & Caballero, 2011). 30 31

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35 Figure S3. Response curve of the model in relation to sea surface temperature when calibrated on current species occurrences and mean annual sea surface temperatures. The 36 modern model shows a truncated response curve limiting forecasts under climate change. 37 38 When the niche-based model was calibrated using current species occurrences, the response curve was truncated limiting inferences beyond a threshold of 30°C corresponding to the 39 maximum modern yearly average temperature. In contrast, when the model was calibrated 40 using both current occurrences and fossil records spanning the broader combined SST 41 42 gradient, the niche-based model calibrated a full hump-shaped response curve (Fig. 1). 43



Figure S4. Coral reef suitability forecasted under (a) EC-earth RCP8.5 and (b) ISPL RCP8.5
climate change scenarios for the end of the century (2090-2100). Red values indicate high

48 suitability for coral reef while blue values indicate low suitability.

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