

Development on the coastline

No. 2

Did you know?

- Coastal erosion is the loss of land due to a land-ward movement of the beach.
- Coastal erosion is normally only a problem if people build houses or roads too close to the coastline.
- Development close to the coastline is at great risk from damage due to storms and typhoons.
- Seawalls built to try and protect land, or reclaimed land, will in many places cause coastal erosion and beach loss to increase.



How does it affect you?

Developing, or building on land close to the coastline:

- Puts your family and property at risk from damage caused by coastal erosion, storms and typhoons..
- Can caused increase coastal erosion (loss of land) on neighboring sections of coast.
- Can have effects on water quality, fish and other marine life, and human health due to septic tanks being placed too close to waterways.



The building of the airport at Okat, the Causeway to Lelu, and the building of the circumferential road have all had a detrimental impact on the coastal environment. As a result of the airport, the fish catch at Okat dropped by half. Dredging at Tafunsak for road construction caused severe coastal erosion resulting in the need for coastal defenses costing over \$3 million.



What can you do?

To help reduce the effects of coastal erosion, storms and typhoons on you, your family, and property:

- HELP – by building new development as far from the coastline as possible – at least 100 feet from the vegetation line.
- HELP – by not clearing vegetation within 50 feet of the coastline. Encourage coastal vegetation such as Beach Morning Glory (Ros) and Pandanus (Mweng) to grow.
- HELP – by not building on, or land-filling areas that are flooded at high tides
- HELP – by ensuring septic tanks are at least 50 feet from the coastline or other water areas.
- HELP – by sharing this information and factsheet with friends and neighbors who may be planning to develop land close to the coastline.



Where to get more information

To get more information on coastal defenses, contact the Development Review Commission on 370 2076 or come into the office in Tofol.

There are also a number of other factsheets on coastal issues. Contact the DRC for more information.