

Mangroves & Wetland Swamps

No. 5

Did you know?

- Coastal erosion is the loss of land due to a land ward movement of the beach or coastline.
- Mangroves are very effective in helping prevent coastal erosion on coastlines that are sheltered from large waves.
- Mangroves are also very effective in protecting land from the effects of typhoons and tsunamis.
- Mangroves and swamp forests protect the coral reef by trapping earth washed down rivers.
- Wetland swamps help control the flow of water during heavy rains.



How does it affect you?

By carrying out activities, such as burning or over-harvesting of mangroves at the shoreline or draining swamp forest, you may:

- Lose more land due to coastal erosion.
- Increase the risk of damage from storms & typhoons to adjacent land and property.
- Affect fish and marine life that depend on the mangroves and coral reef which are an important source of food and income on Kosrae.



Mangroves areas have been destroyed or over-harvested in many parts of the world. At every location where mangrove destruction has occurred this has led to a vast reduction in the quality of life experienced by the local people.

What can you do?

- HELP – by not cutting mangroves within 100 feet of the seaward edge.
- HELP – by not clearing large areas of land on steep slopes
- HELP – by not affecting drainage patterns through a mangrove or wetland swamp when building farm roads or reclaiming land.
- HELP – by not changing mangrove channel and swamp outlets at the shoreline.
- HELP – by not disposing of chemicals and oil in mangrove areas.
- HELP – by building septic tanks or pig pens at least 50 feet from swamp or mangrove areas.



Where to get more information

To get more information on mangroves and coastal erosion, 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.