

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS IN THE PACIFIC

WE CAN BUILD RESILIENT COASTS

Climate change and natural hazards can threaten our coastal communities and infrastructure. Here are some ways to protect our coasts and build our resilience.

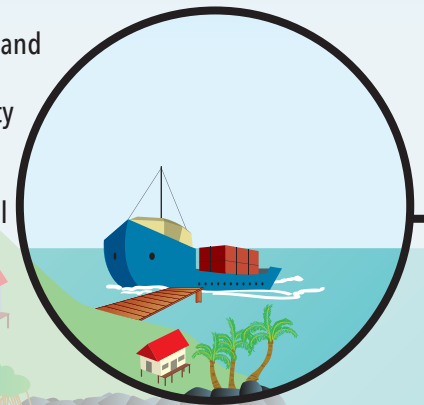
Address the risk - Ensure that all relevant policy, planning and practice considers climate change and disaster risks and take measures to protect our coastal communities

PLAN FOR RESILIENT COASTS

- Include all stakeholders in the coastal planning process: community members, civil society, local businesses, government officials and coastal experts
- Include cultural and gender considerations in the context of coastal land use and ownership
- Follow a management approach that integrates both land-based and marine sectors
- Understand how the local coastal processes work, using contemporary science, local and traditional knowledge
- Adopt a policy of working with natural systems, allowing for natural coastal variability
- Place early warning signs for hazards such as tsunamis, and identify evacuation routes and centres to be used in case of disaster
- Develop disaster preparedness policies and plans for coastal areas, linked to national disaster risk reduction plans and strategies



Recognise and support the different roles of women, men, children, elderly and persons with disabilities in coastal use and management



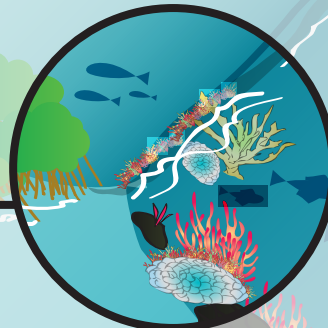
PRACTICE SMART COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

- Develop regulations that restrict unsuitable development in areas that are vulnerable to hazards or are environmentally protected
- Develop, apply and enforce the use of engineering standards and building codes that integrate standards to reduce impacts of climate and disaster risks
- Consider current hazards and future climate projections and apply coastal setback zones in the design and location of coastal infrastructure



PROTECT AND ENHANCE NATURAL COASTAL DEFENCES

- Raise awareness with communities on the benefits of healthy natural coasts
- Assign locally managed areas, and design community processes to limit destructive practices
- Restore and protect the natural environment along the coasts, including mangroves, seagrass, and coral
- Replant and protect inland vegetation, in catchments and watersheds



USE HARD DEFENCES WISELY

- Prioritise the use of soft (natural) coastal protection (e.g. vegetation), and managed retreat, over hard (built) defences (e.g. sea walls or revetments) where possible and appropriate
- When developing hard defences, always carry out wide consultation including with government and community and undertake detailed impact assessment. Develop government and community processes to ensure this occurs
- Where hard defences are the only viable option, bring in technical expertise - coastal engineers - to ensure the design is effective and does not create more problems

