Climate Change & Shorelines
Threats and Problems

What are the current threats to shorelines & nearby structures?

- Natural events, like waves, currents & storms can cause flooding & loss of land
- Destructive human activity & coastal development has damaged shorelines
- Climate change is already causing increased flooding & loss of land from higher seas & severe storms

With climate change, threats to shorelines are expected to become more frequent and severe

- Higher seas can cause:
  - more frequent flooding
  - loss of land
  - salt water to enter homes, gardens & farms

- Higher seas combined with severe storms can cause:
  - extreme flooding
  - increased erosion of land & soil
  - damage to roads, houses & other buildings

- Warmer seas can cause:
  - coral to bleach or die
  - less shoreline protection if coral reefs are damaged

Remember, communities with healthy environments will be less affected by the impacts of climate change

In the last 20 years, communities throughout Micronesia have experienced many changes to their shorelines due to natural events, human activity & climate change.

But, healthy coral reefs, seagrass, mangroves, beaches & forests provide natural protection to shorelines & will be less affected by climate change.