Implementing Ecosystem Based Approaches to Enhance Resilience in the Federated States of Micronesia

Example from Kosrae
The FSM has 607 islands making a land mass of only 271 sq.miles scattered over 1 million square miles in the western Pacific Ocean.

Approximately 65 of the islands are inhabited

Four island States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae
Key Hazards Faced by the State of Kosrae and FSM as a whole

- FSM is prone to natural and man-made hazards, and has had 15 presidential disaster declarations in the past 26 years.
- Type of key hazards affecting individual states as well as those affecting all of FSM include:

  - Coastal Erosion
  - Sea-level Rise
  - Storm Surge
Five principles for successful adaptation and reduction of coastal hazard risks:

1. Continued management of Kosrae’s natural environment and resources is fundamental for effective and sustained coastal protection and long term adaptation.

2. Primary focus on where to build.

3. Focus also on how to build.

4. Recognition that impact reduction measures (e.g. coastal defenses) are not a long-term option for achieving resilient infrastructure and communities on Kosrae.

5. Effective adaptation needs to start now.
Hard measure: Moving critical infrastructure away from the coastline.

Soft measure: People and development will eventually move inland allowing mangrove and natural defenses to grow back.
Remaining challenges

- Varying local and internal arrangements in other States hinder replication of this measure to other States.

- Such measure cannot apply to outer islands (atolls and flat islands)

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