

# Agroforests are important.

*Agroforests provide vital resources to our communities.  
Agroforests perform important services for the environment.  
Agroforests are a part of our island culture.*

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## RESOURCES



**FOOD**  
Fruits, roots, and leaves provide nutrients that keep us healthy and strong. Coconuts contain healthy liquid, great for hydration.



**MATERIALS**  
Wood is used to make houses, canoes, tools, carvings. Other plant parts become fiber, rope, fabric, clothes, baskets, and mats.



**FERTILIZERS**  
Organic material from plants is full of nutrients. It can be added to the ground to improve soil conditions.



**MEDICINE**  
Plants can provide many forms of healing when we are sick or injured.



**FUEL**  
Plant materials are used as fuel for cooking, heating, and even to power engines.



**DOMESTIC ANIMALS**  
Animals that people keep, such as chickens and pigs, often stay in agroforests and find food there.

## SERVICES



**BIODIVERSITY**  
By providing habitat for many kinds of animals and plants, agroforests preserve biodiversity (variety of living things) on our islands.



**HEALTHY SOIL**  
Leaves and other plant litter on the ground decompose and replenish the soil. The soil stays fertile with rich decomposer communities and ample nutrients.



**EROSION CONTROL**  
Plants protect the soil from being eroded away. Canopy reduces the impact of rain and roots hold the soil in place.



**FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER QUALITY**  
Soil absorbs and filters water as it passes through. This reduces the potential for floods and keeps streams, wells, and coastal areas clean.



**SHADE AND WINDBREAKS**  
Shade from trees keeps the land moist and lush. Big trees provide shelter from wind and certain species can block salt spray from the ocean.



**SEQUESTERING CARBON**  
CO<sub>2</sub> in the air boosts global warming. Plants turn it to biomass (roots, trunks, leaves) and organic matter in the soil. Carbon stored like this does not contribute to global warming.

## CULTURE



**CONNECTION WITH LAND**  
By maintaining agroforests and getting the food and other things we need from them, we get to know the land that belongs to us and show that we value it and take care of it.



**CONNECTION WITH PEOPLE**  
Working together in agroforests makes families and communities stronger. Our roles and skills in farming influence how we live, how we see ourselves, and how we relate to our traditions and culture.