RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

SELA SPECIAL SERIES | MINI-GUIDE

SELA
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

COASTAL EROSION AND SEA LEVEL RISE

KNOWLEDGE FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Practical recommendations to reduce risks, protect coastal ecosystems and strengthen community resilience to sea level rise.



PREVENTIÓN

PREPAREDNESS

PROTECCIÓN AND RESPONSE

RECOVERY

REGIONAL COOPERATION

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1

PREVENTION

KNOW THE RISKS AND REDUCE THEM

Stay ahead of the impacts of coastal erosion and sea-level rise. Reduce vulnerability and protect your community.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE SEA AND THE WEATHER.

Check forecasts and alerts for high waves and storm surges.

IDENTIFY RISKS IN YOUR AREA.

Recognize areas prone to erosion and flooding.

RECOGNIZE WARNING SIGNS.

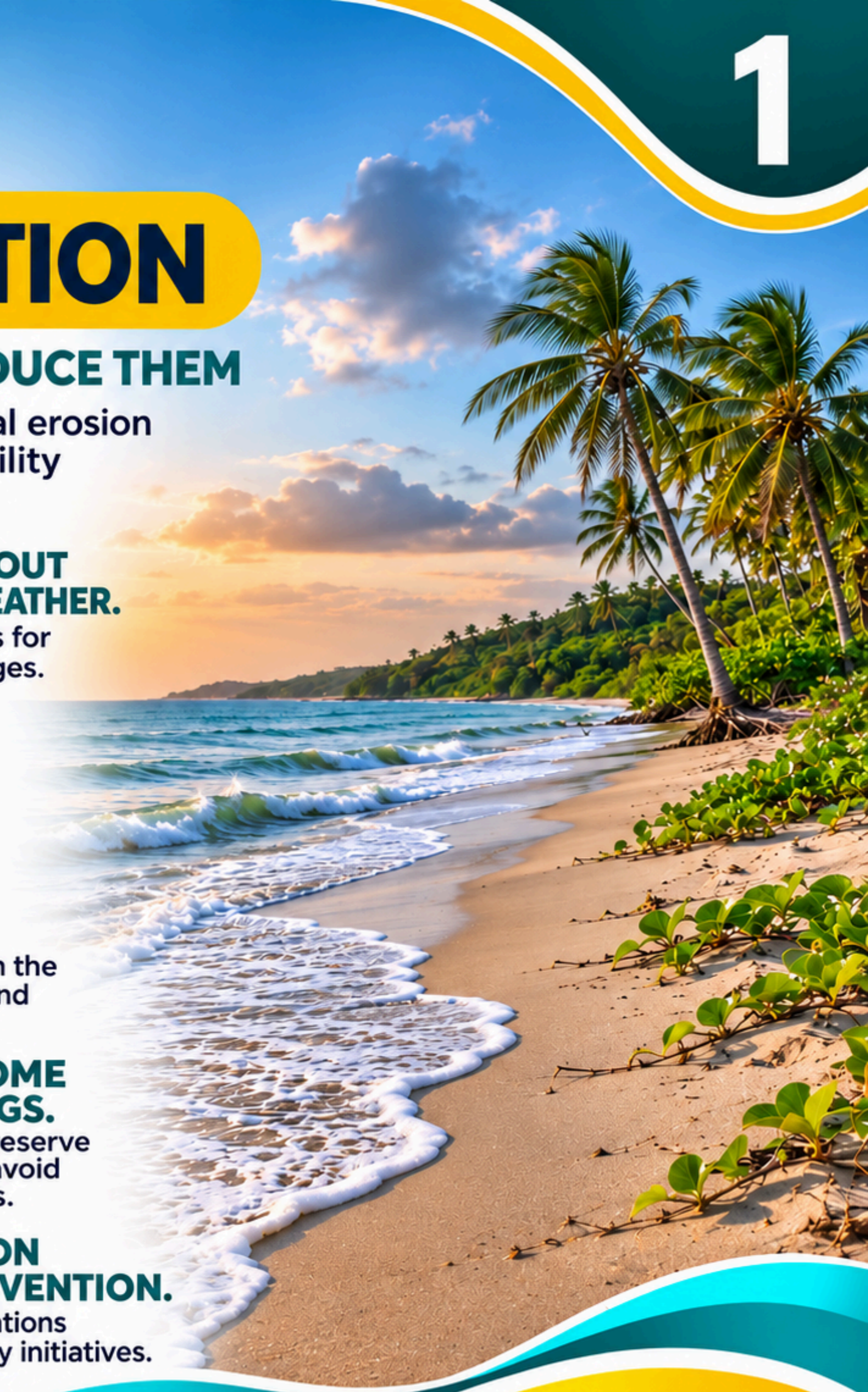
Pay attention to changes in the shoreline, beach retreat, and intense wave activity.

PROTECT YOUR HOME AND SURROUNDINGS.

Strengthen structures, preserve coastal vegetation, and avoid building in high-risk areas.

SHARE INFORMATION AND PROMOTE PREVENTION.

Share official recommendations and take part in community initiatives.



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2

PREPAREDNESS

PLAN AND COORDINATE THE RESPONSE

Organize actions and strengthen your community's capacity to respond to coastal erosion and sea-level rise.

1. ORGANIZE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.
Define responsibilities and establish response teams.

2. KNOW THE WARNINGS AND FORECASTS.
Stay informed and follow official guidance.

3. PREPARE AN EMERGENCY PLAN.
Identify evacuation routes and safe areas.

4. ANTICIPATE RESOURCE NEEDS.
Have a first-aid kit, flashlight, radio, water, and essential supplies.

5. COORDINATE ACTIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS.
Build partnerships with authorities, emergency services, and community organizations.



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3

PROTECTION

PROTECT YOUR COASTAL COMMUNITY

In the face of coastal erosion and sea-level rise, protect your safety, your property, and your community's natural environment.

STRENGTHEN YOUR HOME.

Protect your home against erosion and potential flooding.

AVOID HIGH-RISK AREAS.

Stay away from areas affected by erosion, highly exposed beaches, and areas at risk of flooding.

PROTECT THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT.

Preserve coastal vegetation (mangroves, dunes, and other ecosystems), which helps reduce the impact of waves.

STAY INFORMED.

Follow advisories and forecasts on sea conditions, storm surges, and sea-level changes.

TAKE PART AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY.

Get involved in local initiatives for prevention, adaptation, and coastal protection.



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4

RESPONSE

ACT PROMPTLY AND PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

In the face of coastal erosion and sea-level rise, act promptly, follow official recommendations, and prioritize people's safety.

1. FOLLOW WARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Stay informed about coastal flooding, storm surges, and changes in the shoreline. Follow instructions from the authorities.

2. STAY AWAY FROM VULNERABLE AREAS.

Avoid eroded beaches, unstable cliffs, and areas exposed to coastal flooding or scour.

3. PROTECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY.

Move people and belongings to safe locations whenever there is a risk of flooding or damage to homes.

4. REPORT DAMAGE AND HAZIRDOUS CONDITIONS.

Report shoreline retreat, infrastructure damage, flooding, and impacts on ecosystems.

5. COORDINATE THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE.

Work with authorities and response agencies to assist affected people and protect coastal resources.



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5

RECOVERY

BUILD BACK BETTER AND STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY

Recovery from coastal erosion and sea-level rise requires restoring livelihoods, rehabilitating ecosystems, and reducing the vulnerability of coastal communities.

1. ASSESS THE DAMAGE AND FOLLOW OFFICIAL GUIDANCE.

Identify impacts on homes, infrastructure, and services. Consult the authorities before starting repairs.

2. RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

Prioritize the restoration of drinking water, electricity, sanitation, communications, and access routes.

3. REBUILD MORE SAFELY.

Avoid rebuilding in high-risk areas. Incorporate coastal adaptation and land-use planning principles.

4. RESTORE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS.

Promote the recovery of mangroves, dunes, wetlands, and other ecosystems that help protect coastlines.

5. PROMOTE COMMUNITY RECOVERY.

Support the livelihoods of affected families, strengthen local participation, and promote sustainable solutions.



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6

REGIONAL COOPERATION

JOINT ACTION FOR MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Cooperation among countries makes it possible to share knowledge, strengthen capacities, and coordinate actions to address coastal erosion and sea-level rise.

1. REGIONAL COORDINATION.
Promote agreements and joint actions to protect coastal areas.

2. INFORMATION SHARING.
Share data on coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and adaptation experiences.

3. APPLIED RESEARCH.
Promote scientific studies to understand coastal changes and assess their impacts.

4. INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS.
Promote monitoring systems, resilient infrastructure, and nature-based solutions.

5. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.
Coordinate efforts among governments, international organizations, scientific institutions, and coastal communities.



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COASTAL EROSION AND SEA-LEVEL RISE

PREVENT AND TAKE ACTION

TO BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.



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More and Better Integration