

# Erosion

Hiriya School

“ A long, white-sand strand, framed by a rocky shoreline, cooled by coastal breezes, with crashing, pounding waves providing a soundtrack, is our nation of paradise. The beautiful beaches of Maldives is affected by soil erosion.

Soil erosion is one of the most serious environmental problems facing human society, especially for low lying countries like Maldives. Higher rates of erosion and coastal land loss are is being faced by almost all islands of Maldives. Each year, large areas of land is lost due to soil erosion, thus reducing the land available for living and agriculture. Low-lying islands of Maldives are likely to experience increased sea flooding, inundation and salinization as a direct consequence of sea level rise.

There are many things which can be done in order to deal with the problems associated with soil erosion. This includes construction of water breakers and building sea walls with sand sacks and used tires. In addition, planting more trees near the coastal area helps to hold the soil particles together, thus minimizing the damage caused by soil erosion. Preserving mangroves, allowing the growth of sea grass and promoting artificial reefs are some of the permanent ways of preventing our islands from soil erosion.

Awareness programs have to be conducted for students, youth and for the whole community about the dangers of soil erosion. We also believe that media can play a dominant and influential role in delivering the message to the community.

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## Artificial solutions

- Construction of water breakers
- Building sea wall
- Building sea wall with sand sacs
- Building sea wall with used tires
- Coir erosion control mats

## Natural solutions

- Plant more trees & increase vegetation
- Do not take corals from reefs
- Promote coral planting
- Avoid taking sand from the beach
- Preserve mangroves
- Conduct awareness programs

