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.

**RESOURCES**

**FOOD**
- Fruits, nuts, and leaves provide nutrients that keep us healthy and strong.
- Coconuts contain healthy aqua great for hydration.

**MATERIALS**
- Wood is used to make houses, canoes, dishes, and containers. Other plant parts become fiber, rope, baskets, and mats.

**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.

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

**DOMESTIC ANIMALS**
- Animal hair and other parts are used for insulation, clothing, and even to create fabrics.

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

**SERVICES**

**HEALTHY SOIL**
- Seaweed and other plant materials on the ground decompose and replenish the soil. The soil stays fertile, which supports vegetation and people's needs.

**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**
- Seaweed and plants filter water as it passes through. This reduces the potential for floods and keeps streams, wells, and coastal areas clean.

**SHADE AND WIND BREAKS**
- Seaweed from trees keeps the land moist and fresh. Big trees provide shelter from wind and certain species can block salt spray from the ocean.

**SEQUESTRING CARBON**
- CO₂ in the air boosts global warming. Plants turn this carbon into leaves, fruits, 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 how that we 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 act ourselves, and how we relate to our traditions and culture.