



Photo credit: Waqa - Family WorldFish

FACT SHEET

Community Based Resource Management (CBRM) In Malaita Province



The Solomon Islands National Fisheries Policy prioritises community based approaches to resource management (CBRM) in coastal fisheries. WorldFish supports the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in its strategy with research to improve coastal fisheries sustainability and benefits in Solomon Islands through action research, training and outreach.

Community based resource management allows for flexibility for local indigenous people to identify local sustainability challenges and agree on their own rules about how to manage their coastal marine resources. Fish and other marine resources, for example mangrove wood, shells and seagrasses and seaweeds can be included in CBRM plans. Often, CBRM also embodies a broader view of sustainable development that include rural livelihoods.

Since 2011, WorldFish have worked in partnership with Malaita Provincial Government to carry out research on community management practices and to enable the spread of CBRM in the province through awareness campaigns and events. CBRM plans formulated by communities can be formally approved by Malaita Provincial Government and even become bylaws under the Malaita Provincial Fisheries Ordinance, revised in 2020.

As of 1 August 2020, there were a total of 25 communities in the province which were practicing some form of CBRM following initiatives under this program. In this program, we seek to expand participation in CBRM to all people in communities including women and youth. At the start of 2020, 72% of CBRM committees had minority female membership (of 18 CBRM communities for which data was available) indicating most communities have less participation by women in CBRM. 22% of communities had equal or predominantly female fisheries committee membership, indicating that unequal participation is not a universal pattern and possibly the use and rise of more equitable decision-making models.

The following map indicates where activities – awareness, training, livelihood programs – have been undertaken by WorldFish and Malaita Provincial Fisheries Office (PFO). The map indicates an appraisal of the outcomes of these activities; a management plan being in place, and the management committee being assessed as currently “active”. This assessment is necessarily made complicated by how to define the dynamic and shifting nature of “active management”. We also recognise the many arrangements that exist within communities around access, e.g. tambu sites, beyond the information in this map. The purpose here is to indicate the scale of current CBRM reach of the program as a platform for planning further work in the province.

WorldFish is further strengthening the CBFM program in Malaita Province with our partners through the Pathways Project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme, a multilateral fund financed by the European Union (EU).



CBRM IN MALAITA

LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT

