

Other likely benefits of doing CBRM

Apart from the expected benefits for fisheries and marine resources over time, experience is showing that there are other benefits to communities organizing themselves to do CBRM.

These can include:

- Being better equipped with decision making tools and skills to handle a range of situations.
- Working together can improve community cooperation and cohesion for a harmonious community.
- Communities sometimes like to register as community based organizations so that they can apply for funding to support related community activities themselves.

CBRM in Solomon Islands

On a national level, CBRM is supported through the national government ministries of Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM). Both of these agencies have or soon will have legislation that supports community initiatives in management.

Many communities have been carrying out CBRM in one form or another in Solomon Islands for a number of years. Co-ordinated by the Solomon Islands Locally Managed Marine Area (SILMMA) network based in MFMR, community representatives can sometimes come together to share lessons. SILMMA is the first place to go when seeking information about CBRM.

CBRM is also gaining support at the provincial government level supported through the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).



Solomon Islands Government
Ministry of Environment,
Climate Change, Disaster
Management and Meteorology
Ministry of Fisheries
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WWF The Nature Conservancy Conservation International



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Solomon
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Community - Based Resource Management in Solomon Islands A starter's guide!

So you are interested in doing something in your community to look after your marine resources for the future?

Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) could be for YOU.

CBRM means resource owners and local communities managing their own natural resources.

CBRM can be undertaken by a well organised community on their own with a little bit of help and information from an outside organisation.

CBRM is a long-term process that should be able to be continued for generations and to become part of daily village life. Most communities already actively undertake stewardship or caring for resources. CBRM just builds on that existing role and responsibility.

This leaflet describes some of the first steps that interested communities can take and where they can find further information about how to get started with CBRM.



CBRM involves everyone in the community

● **Community-Based** means that chiefs, tribes, resource owners, community leaders and community members themselves can all contribute to designing how they go about looking after their resources.

Some communities may need extra assistance to go through the steps of getting organised and to understand what CBRM is all about.

● Facilitators from NGO's or government ministries may be able to assist you by providing awareness, sharing lessons learned from other Solomon Islands communities and by helping communities to link with their provincial governments and national legislation.

● An important aspect of CBRM is that it involves learning-by-doing and adapting the management approach to each specific situation in different communities.



Sharing ideas

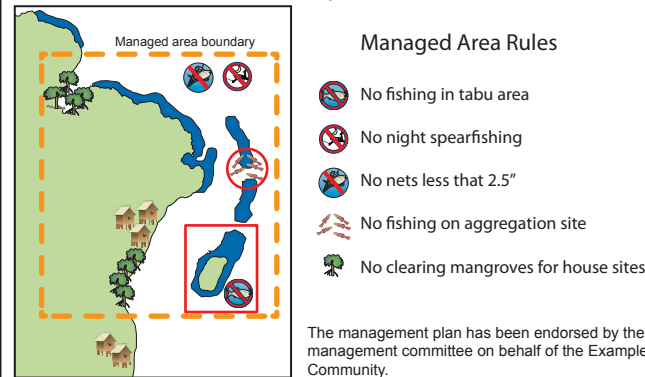
What are some CBRM activities that a facilitator can help you with?

1. Writing a marine resource management plan. A management plan is a short document that outlines the communities goals, and the rules that they have agreed to put in place to meet those goals.

Example Community Marine Resource Management Plan

Management Plan Goal

"To manage marine resources to meet future household and community needs"



2. The rules come from the community, but a facilitator may be able to provide some scientific advice to combine with the knowledge you have about your resources to help best meet your goals of management.

3. Selecting the best method to monitor your management plan for your community and providing training in monitoring methods.

4. Ensure that the rules you select are compatible with provincial and national laws.

5. Help you connect with other communities and with your provincial government to discuss better ways of doing CBRM.

6. Conduct community awareness on marine resource management and ecology. This can be targeted at specific groups within the community including men, women and youth.

What are some CBRM activities that a community group / leaders can get started with on their own?

1. Form a committee or agree to use an existing committee that will oversee the management.

2. Think about the issues and problems you are facing with regard to your marine resources as this will help you target your management.

3. Think about what your goals for management will be?

4. Understand who the resource owners are that need to be involved in decision making.

In many communities some form of rotational closure or traditional "tabu" system of closing a reef or fishing ground for a period of time is the marine management tool of choice. Rules about the type of fishing gear that can be used and when it can be used are also common.



5. Think about some of the strengths that you can draw on in your community to help you get a wide agreement on management approaches.

For example:

● Do you have church, women or youth groups that get together to discuss what management might mean for your community?

● Do you have some traditional practices around marine resources that you could build upon?

