



# Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) in Solomon Islands

Presented by Meshach Sukulu

# Solomon Islands context

- Located in the **South Pacific Ocean**, **northeast of Australia** and **east of Papua New Guinea**
- Made up of **over 900 islands**,
- 9 Provinces and **over 3000 coastal communities**
- Population: **around 700,000 people**
- Home to **Melanesian**, **Polynesian**, and **Micronesian** communities
- Over **80 languages** spoken — showing rich cultural diversity
- Economy depends on **fisheries**, **forestry**, and **agriculture**



# Importance of coastal fisheries to food security, nutrition and culture



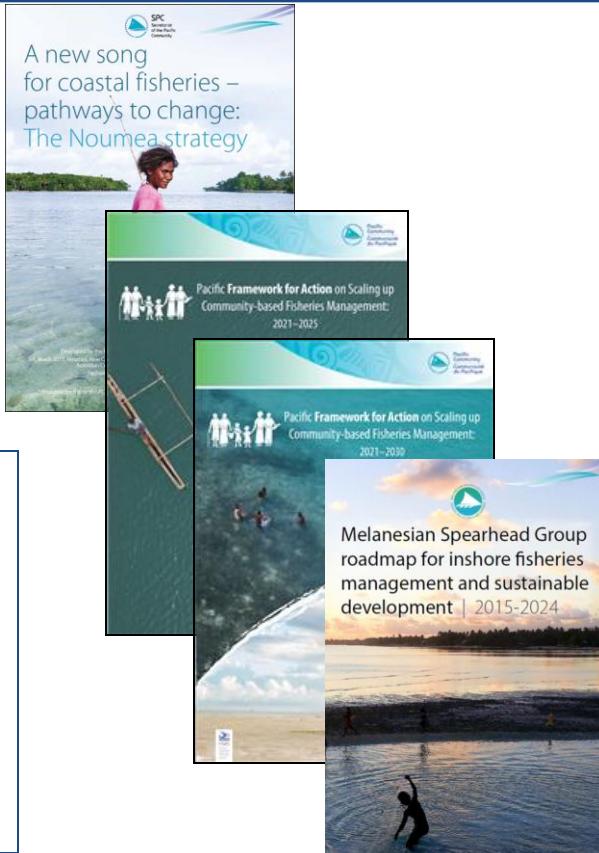
- **Over 80% of Solomon Islanders live in rural coastal areas**, relying on reefs, mangroves, and lagoons for daily needs.
- **Fish is the main food source** — over **90%** of local fish comes from **small-scale coastal fisheries**, providing **60–70%** of animal protein.
- **Fishing supports livelihoods** — about **half of rural households** fish for food or income; in some provinces, it makes up **70% of household earnings**.
- **Women play key roles** in post-harvest activities like marketing and processing.
- **Marine resources hold cultural value**, tied to **customary tenure, identity, and traditions** such as **shell money and ceremonies**.

# Why CBRM was adopted

-  **Coastal fisheries** are vital to the livelihoods, food security, and culture of Solomon Islanders.
-  **Increasing population, market demand, and climate change** are putting pressure on marine resources.
-  **Communities are traditional custodians** of coastal areas and best placed to manage their own resources.
-  **Government capacity is limited** — few fisheries officers, many remote islands, poor transport and communication networks.
-  **Communities hold rich ecological knowledge** — they know habitats, breeding and nursery grounds, and seasonal patterns.
-  They also understand **local ownership rights, disputes, and social dynamics**, ensuring fair management.
-  Therefore, **CBRM was adopted** as the main national approach, empowering communities with support from government and partners.



# How CBRM has been adopted (Policies and Strategies)



Adoption of CBRM has been guided by several **key national and regional frameworks**

Through national policies (CBRM Strategy 2021–2025, Fisheries Policy 2019–2029).

Regional Frameworks (A New Song, Pacific CBFM Scaling Strategy. Melanesian Spearhead Group Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries Management and Sustainable Development 2015), Solomon Islands has institutionalized community-based management as the foundation for coastal fisheries governance.

# Governance Levels Involved in CBRM in Solomon Islands

## Puriasi Mangrove Management Plan

To improve the quality of life of the present and future generation through community-based sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.

A sustainable and productive coastal and marine resource system that is equitably accessible for resource use development, managed by the Mararo management committee and supported by local government and NGO partners.



### Puriasi management area rules

- No use of gill nets/catch nets
- No diving during day and night
- No light fishing in the management area
- No fishing with bow and arrow and spear
- No harvesting of Rariri, Tatara, Asu'u
- No harvesting of coconut crab or mud crab for 3 years
- No harvesting of trochus or crayfish for 3 years
- No using mangrove tree for firewood (No aotim skin blong manguru tri fo hemi dae an iusim fo faewud o bildim haus fo 3 ias)
- No unnecessary cutting of trees

### Su'u Paura tabu area rules

- Total ban for harvesting in the Su'u Paura tabu area for 3 years.
- Access granted for short cut to Honoa along the Tariapuapu passage
- After the 3 years ban, the tabu area will be opened only for 1 week for any special occasions and then will be closed again.

### Penalties

- Fine of \$500 if anyone breaks the Su'u Paura tabu area rules
- Fine of \$300 if anyone breaks the Puriasi management area rules

This management plan has been developed and endorsed by the Mararo Management Committee on behalf of Mararo and surrounding communities

## 1 National Level – MFMR & MECDM

- Lead agency for fisheries policy and CBRM strategy.
- Provides training, technical support, and coordination with partners
- 6 officers focus on CBRM within the Inshore Fisheries Division.

## 2 Provincial Level – Provincial Fisheries Offices

- Coordinate and implement CBRM with communities.
- Monitor plans and link villages to MFMR.
- Typically, 2–6 officers per province - depending on province size and funding.

## 3 Community Level – CBRM Management Committees

- Develop and Implement Management Plan rules
- Supported by provincial officers, NGOs, and research partners.

## 4 Development Partners (Across All Levels)

- WorldFish:** technical support and scaling.
- SPC:** training, policy, and monitoring.
- LMMA Network:** regional learning.
- TNC, WWF, LLCTC, TNC & SICCP:** site-level and ecosystem management.
- Donors (DFAT, MFAT, ACIAR, USAID, JICA):** funding and capacity support.

# Where Are We Now?

## Solomon Islands CBRM Strategy 2021–2025



**Purpose:** To scale up and strengthen community-based management of coastal and marine resources across the Solomon Islands, ensuring sustainability, food security, and resilience for coastal communities.

### ★ **Seven Programmatic Areas**

1. **National CBRM Network** – connect practitioners and partners for coordination, learning, and support.
2. **Provincial Government CBRM Programs** – strengthen provincial capacity and link communities with national systems.
3. **Information, Education & Communication (IEC)** – raise awareness and promote behavioral change.
4. **Capacity Building** – train communities, provincial officers, and facilitators.
5. **Sustainable Livelihoods Integration** – link CBRM with alternative income and food security activities.
6. **Community Resilience & Climate Change Adaptation** – integrate CCA and disaster risk reduction into CBRM.
7. **Implementation, Monitoring & Reporting** – improve data collection, learning, and accountability.

# Where Are We Now?

## National CBRM Statistics from 2015 to 2025



- **700+ Communities** received CBRM awareness and dissemination of information.
- **180+ communities** across Solomon Islands have established or are implementing CBRM initiatives
- **8 of the 9 provinces** have at least a few active CBRM sites, with **Malaita, Western, and Guadalcanal** having the highest concentration.
- **CBRM training** has reached **over 150+ Provincial Fisheries Officers and Community Facilitators** since 2015.
- MFMR, MECDM and partners have produced **CBRM guidelines, community management plan templates, and monitoring tools** to standardize practice nationwide.

*(Note: Numbers vary slightly across reports, but these are the best available national-level estimates.)*

# Linking into Regional Networks – Lessons and Knowledge Sharing



## 1. Regional Collaboration Platforms

- Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network
- SPC (Pacific Community) initiatives

## 2. Knowledge Sharing and Learning – activities include:

- Regional workshops and trainings, field visits.
- Participation in fisheries and coastal management conferences

## 3. Scientific Publications and Regional Evidence

- SPC Bulletins and Technical Reports
- WorldFish Briefs
- Peer-reviewed journal articles



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Scaling-up community-based resource management in Solomon Islands

Jan van der Ploeg<sup>1</sup> | Meshack Suku<sup>2</sup> | Hugh Govan<sup>3</sup> | Hampus Eriksson<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Locally Managed Marine Areas, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Velp, the Netherlands  
<sup>2</sup>WorldFish, Aotu, Solomon Islands  
<sup>3</sup>Solomon Islands Department of Environment and International Affairs, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji  
<sup>4</sup>Australian National University, Research & Security, Canberra, Australia

**Abstract**  
This perspective reflects on the marine protected areas (MPAs) scaling-up model in the Solomon Islands. The paper highlights the challenges and opportunities for scaling-up community-based resource management (CBRM) in the Solomon Islands. It discusses the need for a more integrated approach to CBRM, involving local communities, government, and external partners. The paper also highlights the importance of capacity building and technical support for local communities to manage their own resources effectively. The paper concludes by emphasizing the need for continued research and monitoring to ensure the long-term success of CBRM in the Solomon Islands.

**Keywords**  
In Solomon Islands, community-based resource management (CBRM) is the main strategy for managing marine resources. Administrators have not been involved in the planning of CBRM, which has resulted in a lack of support and capacity for local communities to manage their resources effectively. This perspective highlights the challenges and opportunities for scaling-up CBRM in the Solomon Islands. It discusses the need for a more integrated approach to CBRM, involving local communities, government, and external partners. The paper also highlights the importance of capacity building and technical support for local communities to manage their own resources effectively. The paper concludes by emphasizing the need for continued research and monitoring to ensure the long-term success of CBRM in the Solomon Islands.

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"Management over ownership": Modern community cooperation in Langalanga Lagoon, Solomon Islands

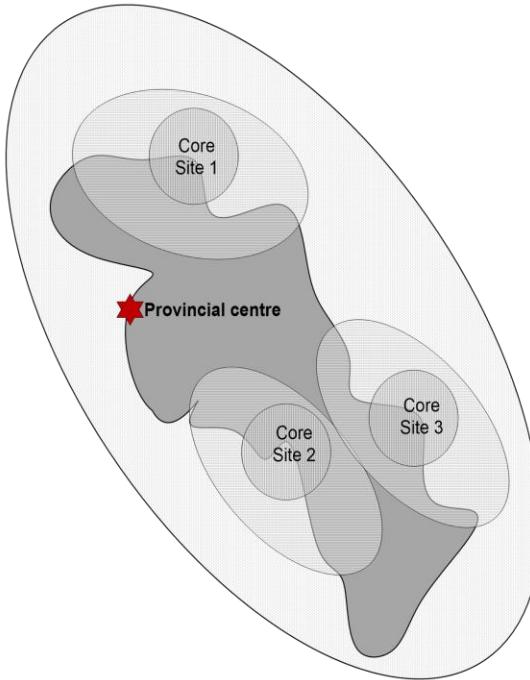
Meshack Suku<sup>1</sup>, Grace Oriona<sup>1</sup>, Dominique Odapugia<sup>2</sup>, Benjamin Watela<sup>2</sup>, Reuben Sulu<sup>1,2</sup>, Anne-Marie Schwarz<sup>1</sup>, Jan van der Ploeg<sup>1</sup> and Hampus Eriksson<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract**

In some Pacific Island countries, modernity has redefined the foundation of community-based resource management. In this article, we describe a collaborative process among six communities in Langalanga Lagoon in order to explore how collective efforts to improve natural resource management can evolve in situations where natural resources are degraded and contested, and where traditional and modern management approaches are in conflict. The article highlights the challenges faced by these communities in Langalanga Lagoon to reach a state of sustainable management that has been proposed as a model for other local communities to follow. The article also discusses the role of external partners in supporting this process. A CBRM framework has been developed to support the implementation of CBRM in Langalanga Lagoon. This framework is designed to be flexible and adaptive, allowing for the integration of traditional and modern management approaches. The article concludes by emphasizing the importance of continued research and monitoring to ensure the long-term success of CBRM in Langalanga Lagoon.



# CBRM Scaling Example: The Malaita Experience



	Management area of Core Site
	Area of influence of Core Site
	Provincial media and information coverage

Source: Govan et.al.2011

The '*lite-touch*' approach:

It focuses on **building the capacity of one “core” community**, which then helps to **inspire and guide neighboring communities** to start their own management efforts — allowing CBRM to spread naturally and cost-effectively across an area.

**Testing the ‘lite-touch’ approach ran for 3 years (2012–2015) — covering:**

- 2012:** Mararo community requested assistance, and the first site scoping and awareness visit was conducted.
- 2013:** Drafting and finalizing the management plan; formation and registration of the Mararo Community-Based Organization (MCBO).
- 2014–2015:** Implementation of the plan, awareness outreach to 14 neighboring villages, and follow-up visits.

# CBRM Scaling Example: The Malaita Experience

**The *Community Facilitators (CFs)* model\_super ‘lite-touch’:**

Trains community representatives from multiple villages and sends them back to lead CBRM in their own communities.



29 August to 2  
September 2022

Workshop minutes, Second Community  
Facilitator's CBRM Training Workshop,  
Auki, Malaita Province  
(Funded by PEUMP CP 820-204)  
Janet Saen-i-Oeta and Delvene Boso

27-30 July 2021

# CBRM Scaling Example: The Malaita Experience

## The roll-out of the CFs model

- **2016–2020:** CF model tested; **26 CFs** from **21 communities** trained; **12 management plans** created and implemented
- **2020–2022:** Model expanded ; **68 CFs** from **44 communities** were trained; **12 management plans** were created and implemented; 10 still in draft.
- **2022–2025:** In total now — **90+ CFs** across **65+ communities**, directly influencing local marine resource management — **34 management plans** across **42 communities**.



# The Way Forward: Scaling CBRM in Solomon Islands

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## 1. National Level

- Focus on **networking and coordination**, as highlighted in the National CBRM Strategy.
- Ensure proper coordination among **NGOs, government agencies, donors, and other stakeholders**.
- Promote **information sharing** and alignment of CBRM efforts nationwide.

## 2. Provincial Level

- Support **Provincial CBRM Programs** directly through donors or projects.
- Ensure **strong coordination** between Provincial Fisheries Divisions, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders.
- Prioritize **capacity building**, including:
  - Gender inclusivity training
  - Standardized CBRM toolkits
  - Conflict resolution training (e.g., land disputes)

## 3. Community Level

- Focus on **local capacity building**, like programs provided for **Provincial Fisheries Officers (PFOs)**.
- Support communities in implementing and managing **locally-driven CBRM initiatives**.
- Strengthen **monitoring, enforcement, and adaptive management**.

# Thank You

