



## Information Paper 9

### Session 7: Community-Based Fisheries Networks.

<b>Time allocated</b>	120 mins
<b>Session objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To discuss what constitutes community networks in fisheries.</li> <li>2. To identify the potential costs and benefits of networking</li> <li>3. To identify lessons-learned from existing networks in influencing policies and legal frameworks (e.g., Acts, Regulations, By-laws)</li> <li>4. To identify lessons learned from existing networks in management and compliance uptake.</li> <li>5. To identify lessons learned in cost-effective ways of networking</li> </ol>

#### Summary/Short description:

The CBFM Framework<sup>1</sup> describes under ‘Direct Actions required to drive the scaling-up of CBFM’, the necessity to ‘put in place feedback and sharing mechanisms to ensure that:

- *Communities and other stakeholders have an independent means of sharing experiences and information between themselves and to government;*
- *Recorded feedback is used for strategies, policies and responses, and this action is communicated to communities’.*

Many communities have been involved in various Networks: historically (e.g., with trade, cultural and customary politics) and also more recently sponsored by governments or NGOs. Networks for supporting CBFM can be a successful tool to connect communities, governments (subnational and national), and other stakeholders.

Active networks and networking events currently carried out throughout the Pacific Islands region range from national community representative networks to networks for specific groups, networks targeting a certain local fishery to networks using social media (e.g., Whatsapp, Viber, Messenger, etc.).

Support to Networks often includes hosting gatherings of network members to provide face-to-face sharing of updates on community management, feedback on activities implemented and the planning of future activities. Underdeveloped potential appears to include community feedback into policy or their use to achieve integrated management or cross-sector benefits (e.g. disaster risk reduction or response).

This session aims to identify the current status of CBFM networks in the Pacific region, how networks can contribute to various aspects of CBFM, and to verify the factors needed to develop

<sup>1</sup> <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/yr5yv>



and sustain CBFM networks. The session through Panel Discussion and the Breakout Groups will encourage participants to learn about and from the different networks currently occurring in a number of Pacific countries and contexts, and to contribute to regional learning to improve and sustain CBFM networking activities.