

# Facilitator's Guide: Local Guide to Better Resource Management



# TANKIO TUMAS

This facilitator's guide supports capacity building to deliver community-led discussions using the *Local Guide to Better Resource Management*, a conversation starter for communities to host their own discussions to get better catches for food and income by managing their fishing grounds.

There is a coalition of people, community networks and partners working together to scale-up community-based fisheries management (CBFM) in Vanuatu.

This guide supports the Government of Vanuatu's National Strategy for Scaling Up Community-based Fisheries Management, which seeks to find ways to reach all communities with information to make better resource management decisions.

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Using the *Local Guide to Better Resource Management* booklet to host discussions

# CHAPTER 1: THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU START HOSTING COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

## Who is this guide for?

This guide is for **community-based fisheries management (CBFM)** practitioners and community champions who are concerned about the decline of marine resources and who want to host community dialogues to help communities manage their fishing grounds.

This guide shares background information for a simple approach to promoting CBFM through hosting community discussions. This guide is to be used in a training or capacity building setting. It is not technical and you will not need a scientific background to use it.

But successful use of this guide does require:

- Passion and commitment to supporting discussions over time
- Time to read the guide and supporting information thoroughly

Those who meet these requirements will be most successful in hosting community discussions.

**If that's you, read on.**



# Community-based fisheries management in Vanuatu

Across Vanuatu, communities are coming together **to find solutions to address the decline of their marine resources**. However, communities do not have equal access to information to help them manage their marine resources themselves.

In 2021, the Vanuatu Government endorsed a national scaling-up strategy to pave more ways to reach all coastal communities with information about fisheries and marine resource management.

This guide and accompanying booklet: *Local Guide to Better Resource Management* will help

make information about resource management more accessible for communities to take the lead themselves.

There are many things that communities can do to manage their marine resources. But here's the catch: communities should not wait for someone from outside to solve these problems. Communities need to sit down together and discuss the problems they face and what they can do to revive catches.

And for that to happen, we need people like *you* to host community discussions.

## Helping communities manage their fishing grounds themselves



Photo credit: Raymond Nasse

# Understanding your role as a facilitator

It's important to always remember that your primary role is to create dialogue. This is the main role of a facilitator. To facilitate effectively means that you are making it easier for your audience to engage in dialogue.

## Your goal is to:

1. Help people understand the changes they may experience daily
2. Share information that can help address their concerns
3. Find ways to share their feedback

You want people to reflect on how fishing has changed and discuss practical actions that the community might take to improve their catches. And you want people to feel welcome and know that everyone's voice will be heard.

Put simply, your role is to provide access to information and support reflection and discussion.

You do not need to be an expert in all the issues. You just need to bring people together.

## Tips:

**Make sure you are familiar with the material.** This means reading everything, all the materials, beforehand to a level where you can easily share the core content during talks and presentations.

**Involve your audience in your presentations.** This means listening and encouraging people to share their ideas and experiences through sharing stories as much as possible.

**Admit when you don't know an answer.** Explain that your role is to give access to information, and at times, you may need to get back to them after consulting experts.

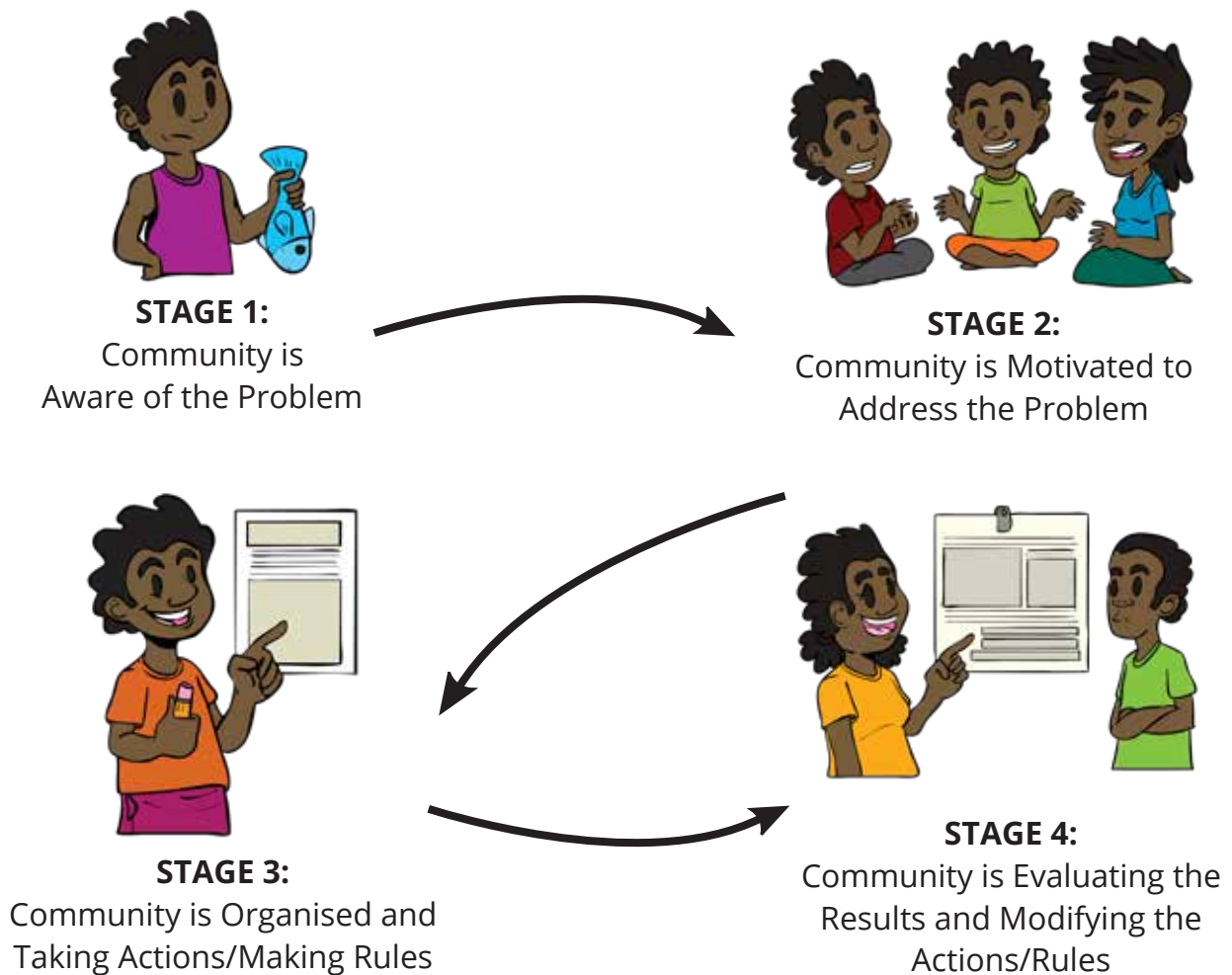
**Be friendly, and inclusive.** This includes not arguing with people who disagree. Your role as a facilitator is to listen and encourage discussion.

# Creating change in your community

Your goal when hosting community discussions is best described as changing mindsets.

People are already facing challenges meeting their daily needs from the sea. So changing the way they fish is often a hard discussion, and often takes time, *a lot of time*, for people to come around to new ideas.

**It's best to think about changing mindsets in stages:**



**Tip:** It is important to understand that people often move too fast through Stage 1 and Stage 2. Time is needed to ensure everyone gets to talk through the issues on numerous occasions. The process of changing mindsets takes time. This is your biggest task and the focus of this guide.

# About the Information Toolkit

**So what exactly is the toolkit? Well first things first, there are no hammers or screwdrivers or fishing gear in this toolkit.**

**This Information Toolkit includes an illustrated discussion booklet, flipchart, and facilitator's guide, as well as videos and radio shows to help you host community discussions.** Each of these tools are intended to promote discussion.

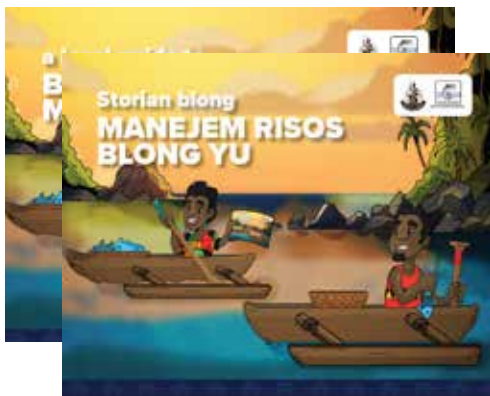
At the heart of the Information Toolkit is the *Local Guide to Better Resource Management* (discussion booklet). And this guide explains the thinking behind the illustrations and information in the booklet, and shares discussion activities to promote dialogue.

During your community discussions, you might find that you prefer to sit and talk without the use of the booklet or videos. Perhaps just sitting down with fishers and talking informally is the best way to

encourage dialogue. Others will find that the booklet gives them an easy structure to cover key points. Without the booklet, they might ramble and not ask enough questions to spur discussion. And videos can inspire communities to follow the lead from other communities.

It is important to also capture discussions and share community stories about what they are doing to manage their fishing grounds.

For regular updates and to share community stories, follow the Vanuatu Fisheries Department on Facebook and visit your nearest community-based or provincial fisheries development officer at a provincial office.



Booklet, guide & flipchart



Videos on YouTube



Regular information updates on Facebook & radio

## Where to pick up or download the toolkit?

Pick up from VFD in Port Vila or a Provincial Centre.

Free download via SPC's Echoes of Oceania website:  
<https://cbfm.spc.int/countries/vanuatu>



# Getting organised to host discussions

- You know what CBFM is about
- You understand the task ahead to create change in communities
- You have picked up or downloaded the booklet and supporting tools

Now it is time to get organised and prepare to host community discussions.

To do this, you'll need to understand the steps to host community discussions. In the next few pages we will share some recommendations. You can modify these suggestions to best suit the community, and your needs.

## Tips:

**Make sure you are familiar with the material.** This involves accessing the Information Toolkit and reading, watching or listening to all the materials to a level where you can easily share the information during talks and presentations.

**Get the right contacts from the start.** Find out who you need to talk with first to host discussions in a community. This could include a clan leader or a church leader.

**Learn about the different village committees.** Find out which committees will be most suitable to meet with when visiting communities. Can you meet with the village planning, women's, fisher's or youth committee/s, and village development committee.

**Plan your discussions around people's availability.** Find out the best day and time to meet with the village chief, committee/s and wider community.

**Share information and videos.** Don't keep these materials to yourself. Share what information you have. If you have a smartphone, share the information via Share It or another way.

**Report back to VFD on what happened when hosting community discussions.** This is important so we can learn from your experience and better understand how to support you and the communities you are working with to manage their marine resources. We also need to track community reach! If you have a smartphone, send a message to VFD on Facebook Messenger or share with an officer from VFD or provincial fisheries.

# Visualising action

Visualising your awareness can also be helpful to think about what you need to do in preparation to host discussions, and in time, change mindsets. This page provides an example of the what you can expect to happen. Modify to suit for your context.

Remember, it takes time to change mindsets.

## 1. Engage community leaders

Meet with traditional leaders to get approval to conduct community discussions. Reach out to the provincial fisheries officer who might be able to assist with this meeting. You can also talk with other community leaders and church leaders who might be able to assist you with engaging traditional leaders.



## 2. Conduct lots of small group discussions

You might sound like you are repeating yourself but hosting *lots* of small group discussions can help ensure everyone gets a chance to understand the issues and share their perspectives. Find out about the different community committees and ways to engage *everyone* - women, men, youth, the elderly, fishers, farmers ...

During this step record feedback from the different groups you engage. You will need this feedback to help inform the next step.

**TIP:** Remember not to move too fast and consider visiting people again to see if they have thought more about the issues discussed.



## 3. Call for a village meeting

Call for a village meeting to report back on what was shared during your community discussion groups. In this meeting, discuss whether the community wants to consider making new fishing rules or improving existing rules. **If the community wants to move to management planning, reach out to VFD or local partners for additional information or advice.**



# Action plan template

## Steps to prepare

Village name: \_\_\_\_\_

VFD & CBAO contacts: \_\_\_\_\_

Engaging community leaders:

Village headman name & contact \_\_\_\_\_

Area administrator name & contact \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared entry letter / arranged entry

Date/s to host small group discussions:

Family & friends group \_\_\_\_\_

Village committees \_\_\_\_\_

Fisher group \_\_\_\_\_

Women's group \_\_\_\_\_

Youth group \_\_\_\_\_

Church group \_\_\_\_\_

Other (teacher/healthcare/farming) \_\_\_\_\_

Date to host village-level meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Yes / No Meeting with the village *nakamal*

Yes / No Do you have enough materials prepared to share? [*restock your materials*]

Yes / No If you have a smart phone, save videos, documentaries, movies, radio shows, animations ready to share via Share It in the village

## Steps to follow-up

Thank the village and community leaders

Arrange a follow-up visit to assist with next steps

Share a simple report with tabu area committee / Chief / CBAO / Provincial Fisheries Development Officers / VFD

Share updates in Facebook Messenger groups

Share your story with VFD and local journalists

# CHAPTER 2: HOW TO MASTER COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

## Using the booklet: Local guide to better resource management

The booklet has been designed as a simple, easy-to-use discussion tool with no jargon, and lots of illustrations to help people understand and implement community-based fisheries management.



Many people can simply read the booklet on their own, but some may need to talk through the information and ask questions to really understand the content. There is also a flipchart to further guide community discussions.

The booklet is available in Vanuatu Bislama and English. However, only the English copy is used in the following pages.



# Each section is designed to create inclusive dialogue

To make it easy to host discussions, the booklet is broken into three sections that are designed to create community dialogue.

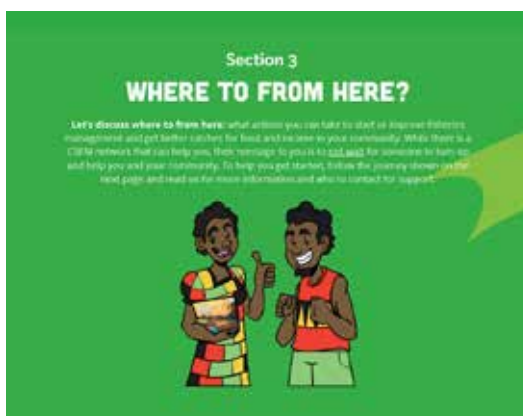
The following pages outline these sections and provides additional information, including discussion objectives and simple ways to encourage dialogue.



## SECTION 1 WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



## SECTION 2 WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT DECLINING CATCHES?



## SECTION 3 WHERE TO FROM HERE?

# SECTION 1: WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



# How has fishing changed?



This first section, “What’s the problem?” is intended to prompt discussions and reflections on how fishing has changed and, if so, how it has impacted the community. This initial discussion is foundational for subsequent CBFM discussions.

Too often, outreach focuses only on the solutions to a problem without asking the community if they believe they have a problem. Remember that people need to first be aware that declining marine resources is an urgent problem before they will to take action.

## Section learning objectives:

**By the end of this section, community members should understand:**

It’s our communities that suffer when marine resources decline, so it’s the communities that need to initiate discussions on what can be done – to find ways to get better catches.

The community can acknowledge changes and identify which ones that have led to increased fishing and the decline in marine resources, whether that be from drivers within or outside of the community.

The community can acknowledge that it is important to start talking about what has changed – changes in what we catch and collect from the sea, and also understand other changes in our community that have led to increased fishing. We can’t fix the problems if we don’t know what’s driving them.

The best way to understand the changes is to sit and talk with each other and reflect on how fishing has changed over the years:

- Are we catching the same amount of fish and other marine species as before?
- Are the size of fish and other marine species getting smaller?
- Are we taking longer and going further to get a good catch?

**TIP:** These are some of the questions you should explore in your discussion groups.

## Remember to listen, listen, listen ...

Sometimes when we go to conduct outreach on fisheries or marine management, it is done in a way that assumes that no one has heard of it before.

But even in remote areas, it's rare to find anyone that has never heard of efforts to promote CBFM and does not have existing opinions.

Sometimes what they have heard was too technical and focused on scientific concepts and abstract benefits such as biodiversity and conservation.



As a result, CBFM is perceived as outsiders trying to prevent communities from using their resources, rather than seeing tangible benefits such as improving food security and livelihoods. Common comments we hear: "How will I feed my family?", "What alternative livelihoods do you offer?", and "Who are you to tell us how to use our resources?"

If people have resistance during community discussions, it's best to get them to share their opinions straightaway. We recommend acknowledging from the start that people might have negative views of fisheries management or no trust in the process.

**How do you address this? By listening and asking questions.** Ask them how they feel about fisheries management? What have they heard? Do they think it's worthwhile to help them meet their needs? Do they think it's an NGO initiative?



## ... and this illustration can help



This illustration, from the booklet is used to acknowledge that some people have reservations about CBFM. This also helps establish that it's OK if we disagree and that you are there to encourage and guide discussions.

**Show this illustration to the group and listen respectfully to their answers:**

- ! Do you have similar opinions when you hear about fisheries management?
- ! Are there other responses that could be added?
- ! What are your first thoughts, sitting down today, talking about fisheries management?

**Spend as much time as needed on this issue.**

Make it clear that you are just looking to start a community discussion about how fishing has changed. If people start to jump to actions remind them that we will get to those soon.

# Reflecting on how fishing has changed

The next few pages of illustrations are intended to help people reflect on the changes they have seen and experienced: How lifestyles have changed and how fishing has changed.

This section is important for a few reasons:

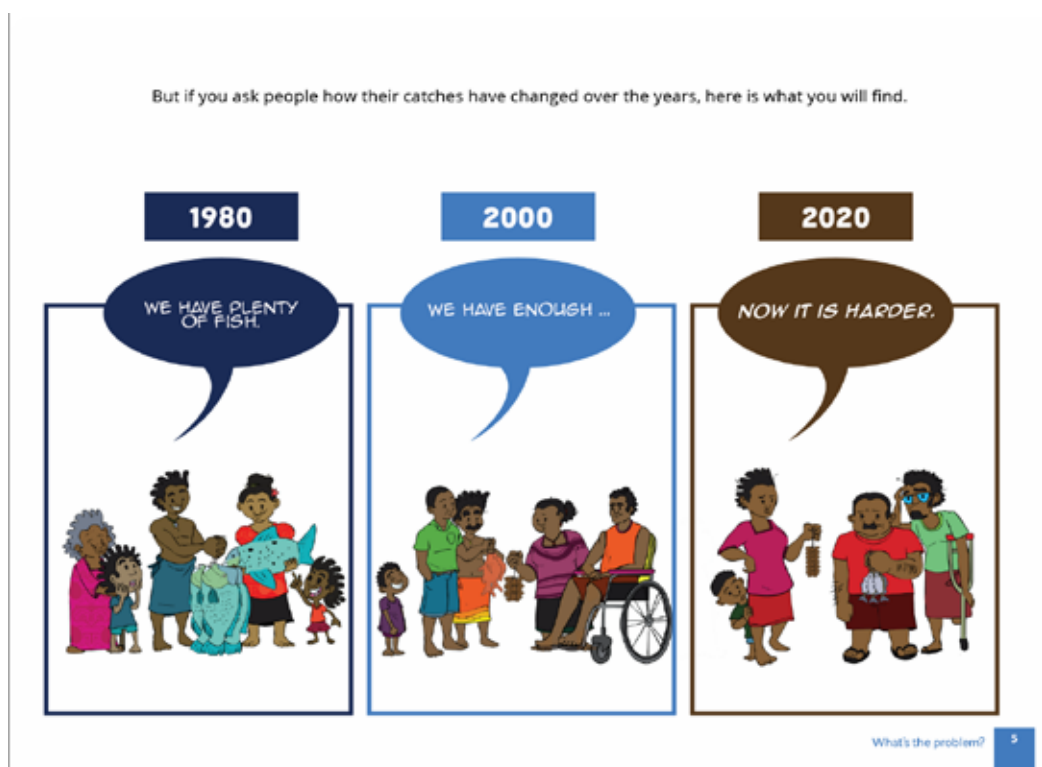
## 1. It's important to build urgency for action, and to do this, people need to see the problem in their own lives.

Marine resource declines happen over time, sometimes over generations. Fishers may not notice the changes immediately as they are used to dealing with fishing day-to-day. But if they reflect on how fishing has changed over years, or generations, they can see how different fishing is today.

By taking time to reflect on the changes over a longer period, attitudes can often change towards the urgency of the problem.

That's why we ask these questions: Are your catches getting smaller over time? Are you going further to get a good catch?

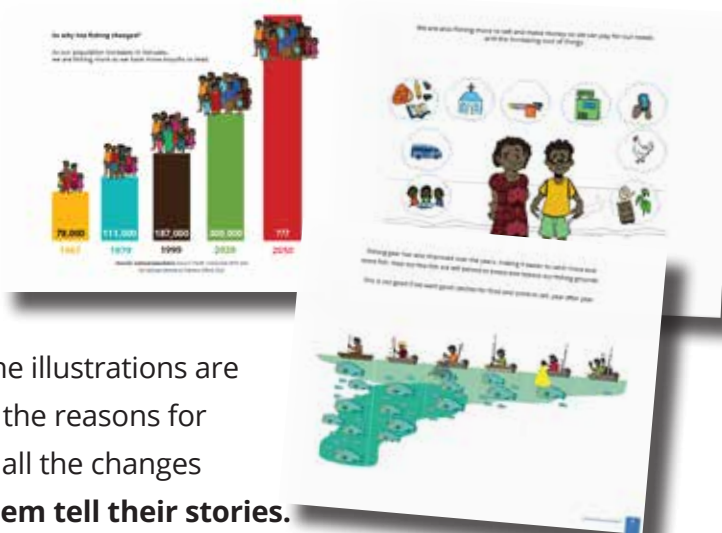
**Tip:** Asking different members of the community about how fishing was in the past can provide varied answers depending on their age. Be sure to encourage older fishers to share their experiences with younger fishers.



## 2. It's important for people to acknowledge that life has changed over the years, and that these changes are causing marine resources to decline.

**These days, we have more needs to pay for and more mouths to feed. Having better fishing gear is making fishing easier but sometimes fishers leave too few behind.**

The point behind the illustrations about the reasons for why fishing has changed is to show change in (1) population growth, (2) lifestyle, and (3) fishing gear. **Using these illustrations as a guide, ask the participants if they have seen these changes in their community.** The illustrations are intended to present some ideas behind the reasons for declining catches. Let people talk about all the changes they have seen and experienced. **Let them tell their stories.**



**Tip:** Evolving fishing practices often provide a lot of opportunity for reflection and discussion. It allows older fishers to share how they used to fish versus how they fish today. Ask them if they can remember when they noticed catches declining, and if fishing practices also changed around that time. In many instances, they remember such things as the introduction of torches to fish at night, resulting in change. Let them tell their stories as no one knows as much as they do about their fishing grounds.

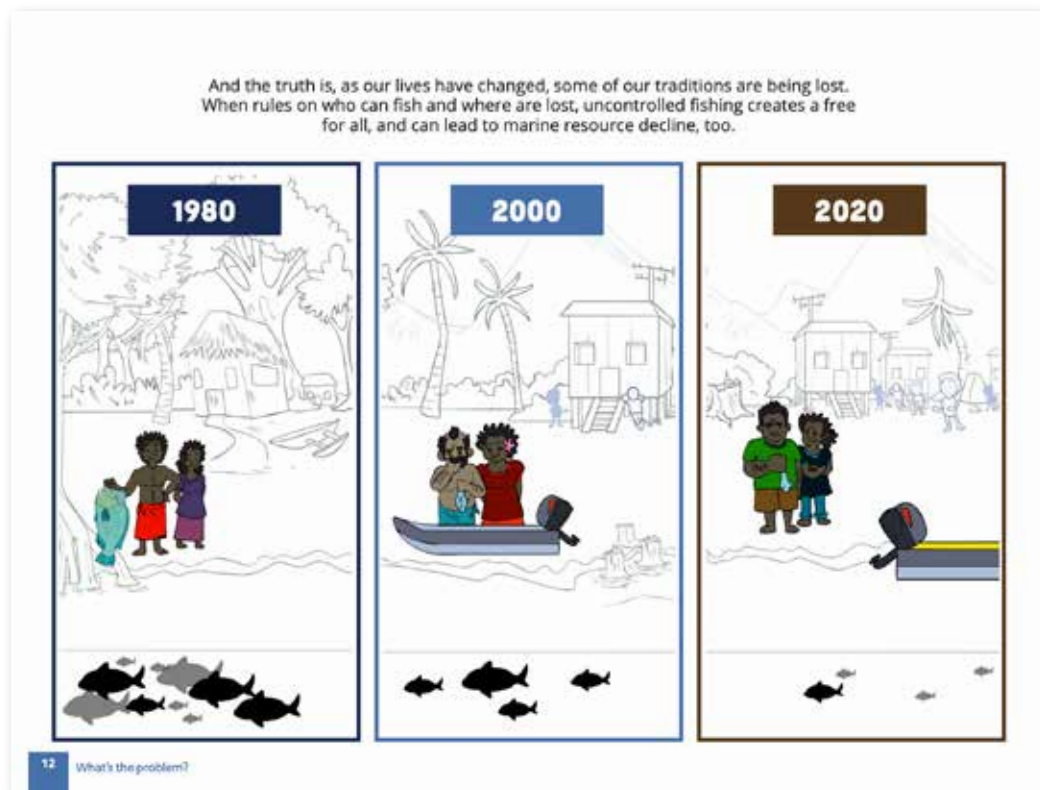
## 3. It's important to help communities understand that declines in catches can also be driven by non-fishing activities. These include habitat destruction, breaking coral, crown-of-thorns starfish, pollution and coral bleaching from warming waters.

The illustrations on pages 10 and 11 of the booklet intend to help the community understand the different threats, beyond fishing, which can damage habitats. The community will later need to decide what are their biggest threats - both fishing and non-fishing. Remember, if they have questions you can't answer, you can tell them you will inquire and be back in touch with the answers.

**Tip:** There is almost always someone in an audience who wants to show how much they know and will try to ask tough questions to trip you up! Don't take the bait. Tell them if you don't know the answer. You do not have to be an expert and making up answers will hurt your credibility. If this happens, contact VFD or local partners for help.

**4. An issue that is shared again and again, and which almost every community will discuss at length, is how traditional culture is being lost. Such losses can impact things like fishing, creating a situation where people take whatever they want, leaving too few or nothing for the next person.**

Give people space to talk about changes beyond fishing. It's important to acknowledge that some changes are good, with increased access to things like education and health care. But we are also losing traditions that helped communities thrive for thousands of years.



**Tip:** If the discussion strays from fisheries management, remind them that you are there to talk about fishing today. To help focus the discussion, ask them why and how these changes have impacted fishing and the health of fishing grounds.

Discuss if the loss of traditions and changes in traditional practices have influenced how they fish today, compared to the past. What do they do differently today that they didn't do before?



# Discussion Tips & Capturing Insights

For this section, we suggest using the illustrations on each page to host a short discussion. This helps to clearly show that you are there to listen, learn and help the community think through the issues. Alternatively, you can present all the illustrations and use page 13 in the booklet to prompt the discussion.

**If possible, take notes on the community discussions.** This can be helpful for you to have a record of what was discussed, to present to the whole community later. You can also share your notes with VFD or local partners to help inform what other information might be needed.

If you are unable to both present and take notes, ask for help from the group to write down people’s stories and opinions.

Documenting the discussion also helps show that you are listening, and the community has been heard.

**The following table offers an example of what to record for later use.**

Notes to capture: WHAT’S THE PROBLEM (SECTION 1)		
Date:	Place:	Presenter:
Length of discussion:		
Phone / video consent: Y / N		
Group name/meeting type:	No. of women:	
	No. of men:	
	No. of youth:	
What were the common opinions/experiences with fisheries management?		
Have catches declined? Are people travelling further?		
What is driving these changes? List all and rank.	1 2 3	
Are they interested in learning more about CBFM & ways to increase catches?		
Other comments?		

# SECTION 2: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT DECLINING CATCHES?



# What can we do about declining catches?

Now it's time to start talking about "What the community can do about declining catches".

As we discussed in *Section 1: What's the problem?*, there are a lot of existing views on fisheries management. Some are good, some not so good. Hopefully you have had lots of thoughtful discussions about changes in fishing while reflecting on current catches and what it was like in the past.

The purpose behind Section 2 is to help people understand that there are many things that communities can do to address the decline of their marine resources and communities should discuss what might make the most sense for them.

## Section learning objectives:

**By the end of this section, community members should understand and reflect on these key messages/issues:**

CBFM is an approach to ensure that fish and other marine resources are harvested at sustainable levels.

CBFM is not about stopping people from fishing. It is an approach to balance short-term needs and long-term needs for communities to thrive.

There are several local actions communities can take to improve their marine resources to get better catches. These actions include:

- Temporary closures
- Permanent closures
- Bans on harmful fishing
- Limits to fishers / catches
- Restrictions on vulnerable species
- Minimum sizes
- Selective harvesting
- Protection of key habitats
- Bans on harmful land practices
- Fish Aggregating Devices, (FADs)

Communities can set rules, but any rules should be chosen based on locally-identified problems, and rules that are enforceable.

National fishing regulations exist to help protect the most vulnerable species from collapse.

# Background on fisheries management

This section shares the actions that communities can take in response to declining marine resources. By presenting all the actions that communities can potentially take, it can clarify what is fisheries management and help communities take ownership of any decisions.

For you, as the facilitator, there are a few things to understand when you host discussions on these actions.

## Fisheries management basics

Fisheries management is an approach to ensuring fish and other marine species are harvested at sustainable levels. It is not about stopping people from fishing or collecting. It is about balancing short-term and long-term needs for communities to thrive.

## Government vs community management

Government agencies such as VFD are mandated to manage inshore fisheries and large commercial fisheries such as those based on tuna. VFD also conducts scientific research to assist management decisions, such as the minimum sizes at which different species reproduce to set allowable limits accordingly. VFD also has a dedicated CBFM Division (Pathways) that facilitates community engagement to support management planning.

But government agencies have limited resources and face many challenges to reach every community spread out over long coastlines and many islands. Because of this, fishers and communities can feel excluded from government decisions and so are less likely to buy into fisheries management and respect restrictions and regulations over which they have had no effective participation in developing. This is why VFD has unpaid Community-Based Authorised Officers to assist with the work of VFD and support community-based management.

Communities are often better placed to establish local fishing rules that deal with local problems to manage their marine resources themselves.

Communities often have (1) legal rights to the resources, (2) broader traditional information on their marine resources, such as the knowledge of places and times where fish and other marine species reproduce, and (3) a better understanding of the impacts of imposing controls on different people in the community. And to support communities to make their own decisions, VFD has a national CBFM Scaling-Up Strategy to find ways in reaching more communities and empower them to manage their marine resources themselves. This is the rationale behind the booklet and this simple approach to enable more people to engage communities in CBFM.



**Tip:** Talk with a representative from VFD or visit <https://fisheries.gov.vu> to learn more about this strategy and help scale-up CBFM in Vanuatu.

## Does CBFM work?

Yes, but it can be complicated. CBFM works when fishing rules and restrictions are arrived at by common agreement and respected by fishers. Where there is positive community engagement and ownership, rules are more likely to be respected by communities. In addition, local rules, if backed by traditional, customary or religious structures, are also more likely to be respected. If all fishers – men, women, young and old – support communally-made decisions, enforcement is also less challenging, and in time marine resources recover.

However, sometimes communities struggle with issues like enforcement, particularly with poachers from outside their community. Community fisheries management plans might also benefit from outside support at times. In these scenarios, a government agency, like VFD's CBFM team can help support community efforts.

The term co-management is also often used to describe the situation where different stakeholders, such as government agencies and fishing communities work together to manage fisheries and marine resources.

**The key message is that communities should not wait for an outsider to turn up and start management. Communities need to step in and seek support, as needed and where available.**





# The CBFM Toolbox for better management

Fisheries management is an approach to ensuring that fish and other marine species are harvested at sustainable levels. It is about balancing short-term needs with long-term needs for communities to thrive.

It's about smart fishing practices and rules and habitat protection that can address marine resource declines to get better catches overall.

It is not about stopping people from fishing or collecting.

So, what actions can communities take through CBFM? The booklet shows the most common actions communities can take.

Please review the booklet for short explanations of each action (pages 15 - 20 in the booklet).



## WHERE TO GO TO LEARN MORE

There is loads more information about CBFM online. **Visit SPC's Echoes of Oceania website and search: Infosheets for fishing communities.** You can also click on the Vanuatu country page to find more information on CBFM in your country.

<https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/x9znz>

Got a smartphone?  
Scan the QR code to  
access SPC's CBFM  
Information Sheets.



## Discussion tips & capturing insights

For this section, we suggest using each page to host a short discussion. This will help to clearly show that you are there to listen, learn and help the community think through the issues.

Alternatively, you can present all pages (15-20 of the booklet) without opening any discussion, and use the final page, page 21, to spur one large discussion on all key points.

If possible, take notes of the community discussions for later use. It is always good to have a record to refer to over time and this is useful if you present the feedback to the whole community. You can also share the results with VFD and local partners to help inform further support.

If you are presenting using a flipchart or powerpoint presentation, ask for help from the group to record people's comments.

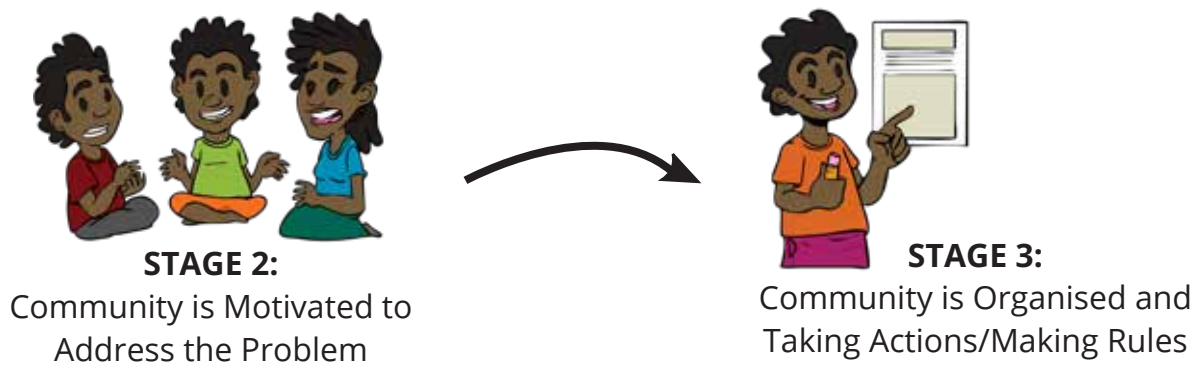
Recording what was said also shows that you are listening and will make the community feel that they have been heard.

**The following table is designed to make it easier for you to keep a record of the discussions for use later.**

Notes to capture: MAKING RULES SUMMARY REPORT (SECTION 2)		
Date:	Place:	Presenter:
Length of meeting:		
Phone / video consent: Y / N		
Group name/meeting type:	No. of women:	
	No. of men:	
	No. of youth:	
Do you think it makes sense to consider new rules to improve our fishing groups? If not, what are your concerns?		
What rules, if any, do we have today? Are they helping?		
What rules do you think would be most effective for your community? (Rank list).		
What further information do you need to help decide on the best rules for your community?		
Other comments?		

# SECTION 3: WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Section 3 of the booklet is designed to simply show how motivated communities (Stage2) can create fishing rules to address marine resource declines (Stage 3).



**The key message here is that communities don't need to wait for outside support to create fishing rules, and as a facilitator, you can help guide them, and empower them to do this themselves.**

This section also:

- Shares what government and partners are doing to support communities with creating Community Fisheries Management Plans, should a community request and need additional help.
- Share national regulations and important information for fisheries to follow.

# What communities are doing

**Section 3 introduces what communities can do to manage their marine resources themselves by showing an example billboard that outlines fishing rules.**

The example billboard on page 24 of the booklet aims to demonstrate fisheries management planning in a straightforward way and includes the key elements: the problem, the rule (or solution) and then the penalty for breaking the rule. It is intended to help the community visualise the process of doing local management plans.

As the community considers what actions make the most sense for them, they will likely need more information than what is provided in the booklet. We encourage you to reach out to VFD and local partners as you become more organised and motivated hosting community discussions. And visit SPC's Echoes of Oceania website to search for more information: [www.cbfm.spc.int](http://www.cbfm.spc.int).

## **TIPS FOR COMMUNITIES CONSIDERING RULES:**

**The choice of the action should depend on a few criteria, which you can discuss with the community:**

- 1. Does it address the issues driving the decline of marine resources?** Such as harmful gear, too many fishers, or perhaps habitat destruction. In other words, make sure the solution matches the problem.
- 2. Will fishers and the community support the rule?** This is why hosting community discussions are so important, to ensure everyone is involved and can accept the decisions being made. Some rules will limit current fishing practices more than others. Encouraging the community to talk through problems and solutions is critical to understanding how the rules may impact all fishers and what rules will be most supported.
- 3. Can it be enforced, if people don't obey it?** If there are concerns about people not complying, this question is about assessing how hard it will be to enforce. For example, if you are banning catching a specific fish, perhaps you can check people's catches when they return to shore. But if you are establishing a protected area, can you monitor it, or is too far from the village?
- 4. Will fishers from outside the community obey the rule?** In some places, as gear and boats improve, poaching from outsiders has increased. Will this be an issue for this community? The community will lose support quickly if people see outsiders stealing the benefits while community fishers obey the rule. If outsiders poach, how can the community stop them?

# What government & partners are doing

The next few pages show what government and partners are doing to support communities to manage their marine resources. **It is important to let communities know there are many ways VFD and their partners support CBFM in the Vanuatu. This support is usually triaged and then responses are dependent on available resources.** The key message remains that communities should not wait for outside support to start management. The more organised and committed a community is to CBFM, the more likely they will get support.

The national government also has regulations to prevent fisheries from collapsing. These regulations are introduced when a resource is heavily overfished or overharvested. For example, seasonal closures and minimum sizes for beche-de-mer to help sea cucumber populations recover. There are also laws that state what size fish, shells and crabs need to be before they are caught and bans on destructive and harmful fishing practices.

Some of the laws that communities should follow to help revive marine resources, that are an important source of cash in rural communities, are shown on pages 26-29 of the booklet.

**COASTAL FISHERIES LICENSE INFORMATION**

Licensing fishing activities helps with the management, monitoring and control of coastal fisheries that communities depend on for income. The information below outlines how to apply for a license, if needed.

**STEP 1:** Fill the License Application Form\*  
**STEP 2:** Submit Documents via email or through Fisheries Development Officer  
**STEP 3:** Compliance Checks  
**STEP 4:** Fisheries License Issued or Declined

\*For fisheries investors, a business proposal might be required. Contact VFD before filing application.

**License type** Activities

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**SEA CUCUMBER**

<b>AB</b> <b>Anaballs</b>   <i>Amblypneustes</i> Thalassozoa order Dry: 15cm / 1kg   Wet: 40cm / 10kg	<b>BA</b> <b>Black seafile</b>   <i>Strombosyllis</i> Larvifish   <i>Dohrnichia</i> sp. Dry: 12cm / 2kg   Wet: 25cm / 10kg	<b>BT</b> <b>Stiletfish</b>   <i>Cliphant</i> snailfish <i>Platichthys</i> sp. Dry: 20cm / 20g   Wet: 40cm / 100g	<b>LP</b> <b>Larfish</b>   <i>Syllis</i> fish <i>Polychaeta</i> spp. Dry: 10cm / 1g   Wet: 20cm / 20g	<b>RP</b> <b>Red seafile</b>   <i>Strombosyllis</i> Larvifish   <i>Dohrnichia</i> sp. Dry: 15cm / 3kg   Wet: 30cm / 10kg
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**COASTAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS**

**BANNED FISHING PRACTICES**

- Fisher must not use scuba for the purpose of fishing.
- Any cast net that has a mesh size >28mm when fully stretched or a radius that exceeds 2 metres in diameter.
- No use a fish fence for fishing.
- A drag net or a beach seine net that has a mesh size >80mm when fully stretched.

**TURTLES**

- Takes, kills, or harms possession, export, sell or purchase, interferes with or disturbs in any way a turtle nest or any turtle that is in the process of preparing to nest or laying eggs.
- Takes, have possession, consumes, export, sell or purchase any turtle egg.
- Have possession any marine turtles that is held in captivity in any way.
- Harm, capture, kill, consume, sell, purchase, export or destroy any turtle species (including juveniles or adults) including by use of any weapon.

**SEA CUCUMBER**

<b>AB</b> <b>Anaballs</b>   <i>Amblypneustes</i> Thalassozoa order Dry: 15cm / 1kg   Wet: 40cm / 10kg	<b>BA</b> <b>Black seafile</b>   <i>Strombosyllis</i> Larvifish   <i>Dohrnichia</i> sp. Dry: 12cm / 2kg   Wet: 25cm / 10kg	<b>BT</b> <b>Stiletfish</b>   <i>Cliphant</i> snailfish <i>Platichthys</i> sp. Dry: 20cm / 20g   Wet: 40cm / 100g	<b>LP</b> <b>Larfish</b>   <i>Syllis</i> fish <i>Polychaeta</i> spp. Dry: 10cm / 1g   Wet: 20cm / 20g	<b>RP</b> <b>Red seafile</b>   <i>Strombosyllis</i> Larvifish   <i>Dohrnichia</i> sp. Dry: 15cm / 3kg   Wet: 30cm / 10kg
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**SEA CUCUMBER LAWS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE ...**



# HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE SO COMMUNITIES CAN MANAGE THEIR FISHING GROUNDS THEMSELVES!



Remember, CBFM is about empowering communities to manage their fishing grounds themselves.

Part of VFD's CBFM Scaling-Up Strategy is to reach 100 percent of coastal communities with information on CBFM. If communities have access to practical information and there are ways for them to share feedback and learnings, they can make informed decisions to get better catches for their food security, income and cultural practices.

This is why VFD shares information through radio, news media, social media, forums and

printed materials. So, hosting community discussions in communities is an important part of the strategy to reach all coastal communities with important information.

In order to reach every community, we have to work together - government, partners, community leaders and champions, like you. And as you start hosting community discussions, be sure to share what you are doing with VFD.

Please contact VFD if you have any questions, comments or feedback.

## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED & KEEP LEARNING

**1. VISIT FISHERIES TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE**

**2. START HOSTING DISCUSSIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES**

**3. STAY INFORMED: TUNE INTO VFD'S RADIO SHOW EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT, 6PM - 7PM & FOLLOW VFD ON FACEBOOK FOR REGULAR UPDATES**



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