



Pacific Blue Futures

MARINE STEWARDSHIP & ISLAND RESILIENCE

The Living Coastline

A coast-to-reef learning kit

Understand how inland decisions reach the lagoon, and how communities can ask better questions before taking action.

FREE TO READ • NO REGISTRATION

Teachers, students, youth groups and community educators

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE • OCTOBER 2026

An Apollo NZ Global open-learning initiative. Not a funded programme, official endorsement or professional certification.

Begin with the right questions

A short briefing for the facilitator and participants.

Understand how inland decisions reach the lagoon, and how communities can ask better questions before taking action.

01 / CONNECTED HABITATS

Rainwater, streams, beaches, mangroves, seagrass and reefs form linked environments. Changes upstream can be experienced downstream.

02 / OBSERVATION IS NOT DIAGNOSIS

An unusually cloudy lagoon or changes to fish observations are starting points for inquiry, not enough to prove one cause.

03 / LOCAL KNOWLEDGE IS ESSENTIAL

Place names, customary rights, access, seasons and stewardship histories should come from the people with recognised local knowledge.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where does rainwater go after it falls near the village or school?
- Which habitats, activities and livelihoods connect along that path?
- What information would help distinguish a natural seasonal change from a new concern?
- Whose consent is needed before anyone studies or enters a sensitive place?

A guided group session

One 50–60 minute guided session + optional follow-up

00–08

Set the place

Ask participants to name the catchment and the sea it reaches; no sensitive locations on public handouts.

08–20

Draw the connections

Small groups create a hill-to-lagoon map with habitats, drains, settlements and uses.

20–35

Sort observations

Create two columns: what we have seen / what we do not yet know.

35–47

Hear local perspectives

List who can explain customary use, seasonal patterns and local rules.

47–60

Agree next learning step

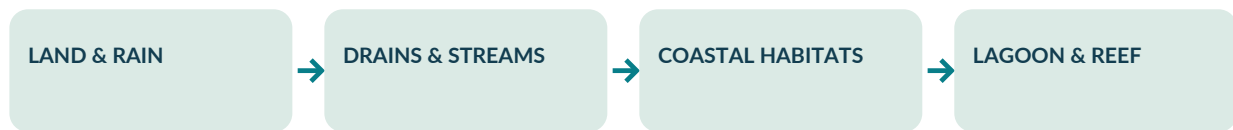
Choose a respectful question, a local discussion owner and a date to review.

FACILITATOR CHECK

Use locally meaningful language. Invite corrections. Avoid gathering or publishing private, culturally sensitive, or personal information without consent.

Coast-to-reef systems map

Use arrows to describe possible connections, not proven pollution pathways. Add locally relevant habitats and knowledge with permission.



Illustrative planning pathway — adapt locally; arrows do not imply measured causation.

GROUP ACTIVITY

- 1 Draw where rain or drainage might travel.
- 2 Mark natural habitats and community uses on the same diagram.
- 3 Add question marks where evidence or permissions are missing.
- 4 Agree who can validate the map before public sharing.

REFLECTION

Which conclusion can we support today? Which question still needs local advice, permission or reliable evidence?

A planning sheet to keep

Fill this in together. Leave space for uncertainty and for local voices.

01 OUR PLACE AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT

02 WHAT WE ACTUALLY OBSERVED, AND WHEN

03 WHAT REMAINS UNCERTAIN

04 WHO SHOULD BE CONSULTED OR GIVE PERMISSION

05 OUR NEXT AGREED LEARNING ACTION AND REVIEW DATE

Review, do not rush

Keep the value in informed discussions and locally accountable decisions.

WHAT A USEFUL FIRST REVIEW LOOKS LIKE

- ☐ A place-specific map exists and sensitive knowledge is protected.
- ☐ Observations are separated from assumptions.
- ☐ Local stewards and competent public authorities are identified.
- ☐ No site intervention is proposed without authorisation.

PRIORITY HANDOFF

Who should receive the discussion summary? Who can confirm cultural, health, planning, environmental or engineering requirements? Agree a review date rather than promising an intervention.

INDEPENDENT FURTHER READING

SPREP — Locally Managed Marine Areas guide

www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Pacific_Region/229.pdf

UNESCO-IOC — Ocean Literacy resources

oceanliteracy.unesco.org/resources

IMPORTANT

Educational learning only. Not a fieldwork permit, ecological assessment, legal marine reserve designation or conservation certification.