



Pacific Blue Futures
MARINE STEWARDSHIP & ISLAND RESILIENCE

From Concern to Conversation

A community marine action starter

Help local groups prepare a thoughtful first conversation around a coastline issue before adopting a solution.

FREE TO READ • NO REGISTRATION

Village committees, traditional leaders, youth groups and local facilitators

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.

Help local groups prepare a thoughtful first conversation around a coastline issue before adopting a solution.

01 / LEGITIMACY COMES FIRST

Decisions about locally used marine spaces require the appropriate customary leaders, rights holders, users and statutory authorities.

02 / A MANAGEABLE ISSUE BEATS A GRAND PROMISE

Begin with one agreed question rather than announcing a reserve, restoration site or new restriction.

03 / REVIEW IS PART OF THE PLAN

An early plan can record people to consult, missing information, responsibilities and a realistic meeting date.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the precise concern, and who first raised it?
- Who uses, owns, governs or has customary rights in the area?
- Which local rules, groups and initiatives already exist?
- Which actions require official permission or specialist environmental advice?

A guided group session

One 60-minute discussion + 30-day follow-up

00–10

Define the concern

Let participants describe the issue in their own words without diagnosing causes.

10–25

Map decision-makers

Identify recognised leaders, resource users, public authorities and absent voices.

25–38

Name the unknowns

Record which claims are observed, second-hand or unverified.

38–50

Explore low-risk next steps

Agree listening, educational or information-seeking actions only.

50–60

Assign review process

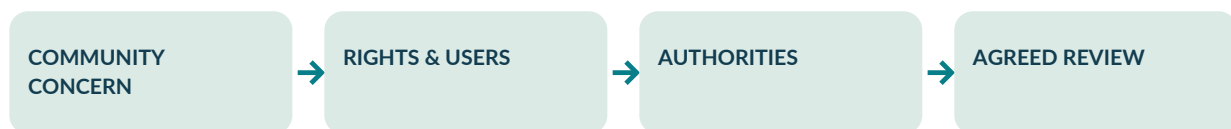
Record who will follow up, with whom, and when the group meets again.

FACILITATOR CHECK

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

Rights, voices and permissions map

The most useful output is a list of decisions that belong to people or institutions other than the facilitator.



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

GROUP ACTIVITY

- 1 Identify rights holders and existing management practices.
- 2 Include women, fishers, young people and other affected groups.
- 3 List permits or technical reviews needed for any proposed field activity.
- 4 Record whose approval is still outstanding.

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 THE ISSUE DESCRIBED IN LOCAL WORDS

02 RECOGNISED LOCAL LEADERS AND RIGHTS HOLDERS

03 AFFECTED GROUPS NOT YET CONSULTED

04 WHAT EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE OR MISSING

05 NEXT DISCUSSION, RESPONSIBLE PERSON AND DATE

Review, do not rush

Keep the value in informed discussions and locally accountable decisions.

WHAT A USEFUL FIRST REVIEW LOOKS LIKE

- ☐ No decision has been misrepresented as a formal reserve or customary closure.
- ☐ Relevant voices and existing stewardship efforts are identified.
- ☐ Sensitive community knowledge has not been published without consent.
- ☐ A review discussion is scheduled before action is proposed.

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

Facilitation aid only. It does not authorise protected areas, marine restrictions, monitoring, restoration or work in sensitive places.