



**Climate Adaptation
and Protected Areas
Initiative**



A Day in the Life of a Marine Protected Area Manager

Project partners



Funded by

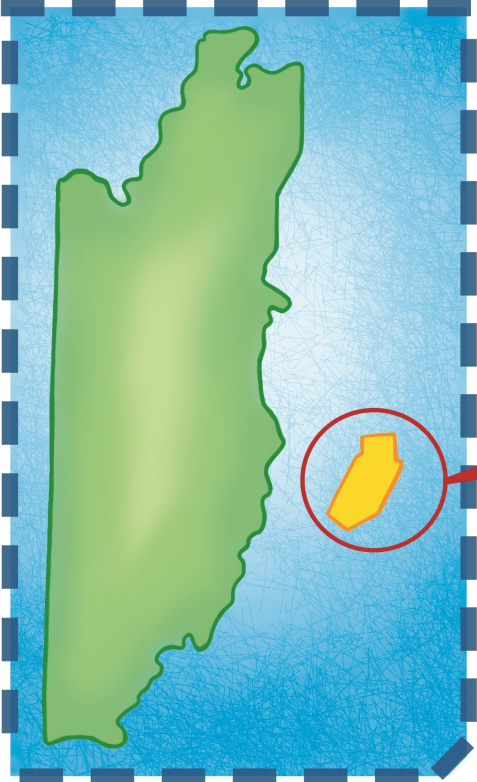




Hello, my name is Kevin,
and I am a protected area manager
working in and around
Glover's Reef Marine Reserve.

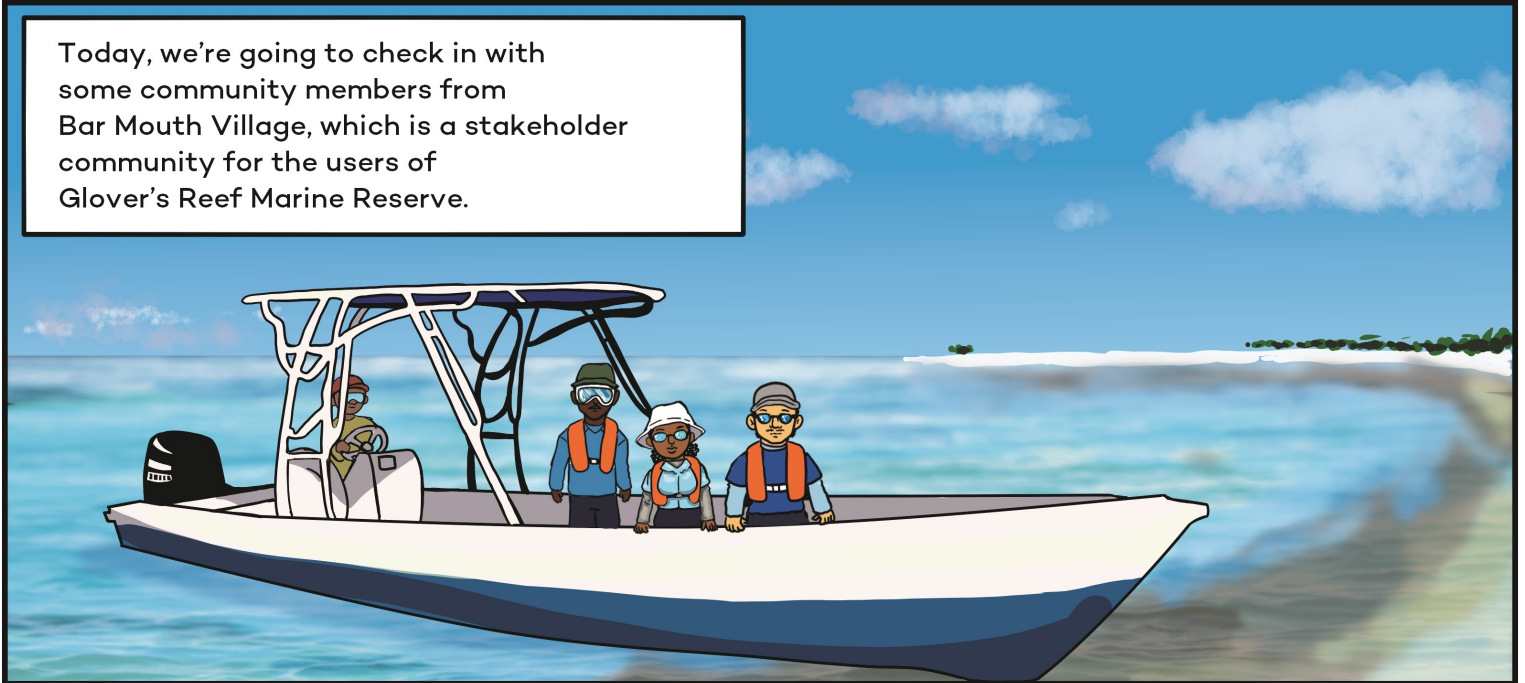
Glover's Reef Marine Reserve is a protected area off the southeastern coast of Belize.

It helps protect corals, mangroves, and animals like sea turtles, sharks, and fish so they can live and thrive in the waters and coasts they call home.





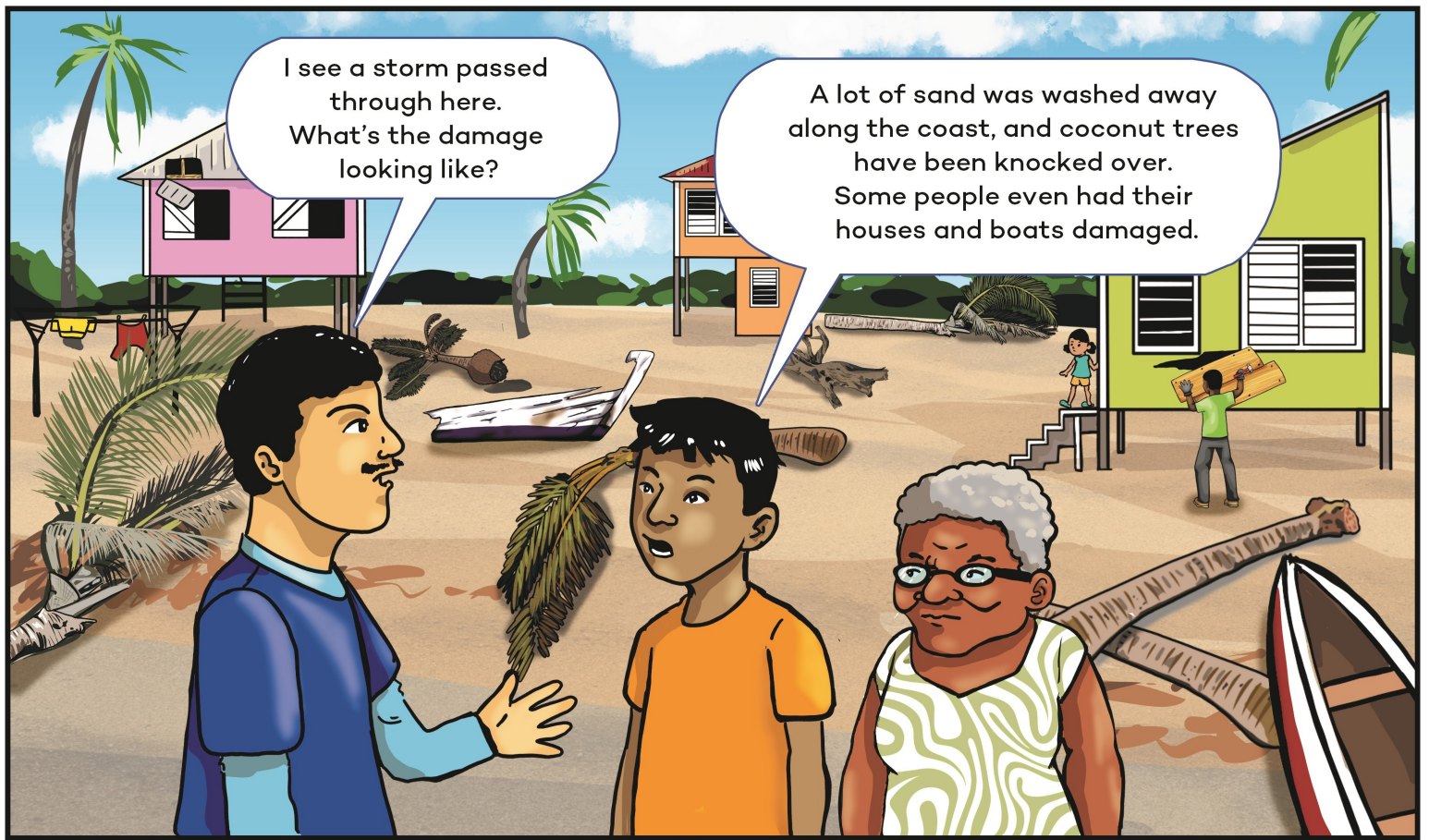
I work with park rangers and a biologist to make sure that the waters and coasts of Glover's Reef Marine Reserve are being used responsibly so they can provide benefits to our communities, like healthy fish stocks and protection from storms.



Today, we're going to check in with some community members from Bar Mouth Village, which is a stakeholder community for the users of Glover's Reef Marine Reserve.



Oh no!
It looks like a storm came through the area. I wonder if someone from the community can give me more details on what happened here...

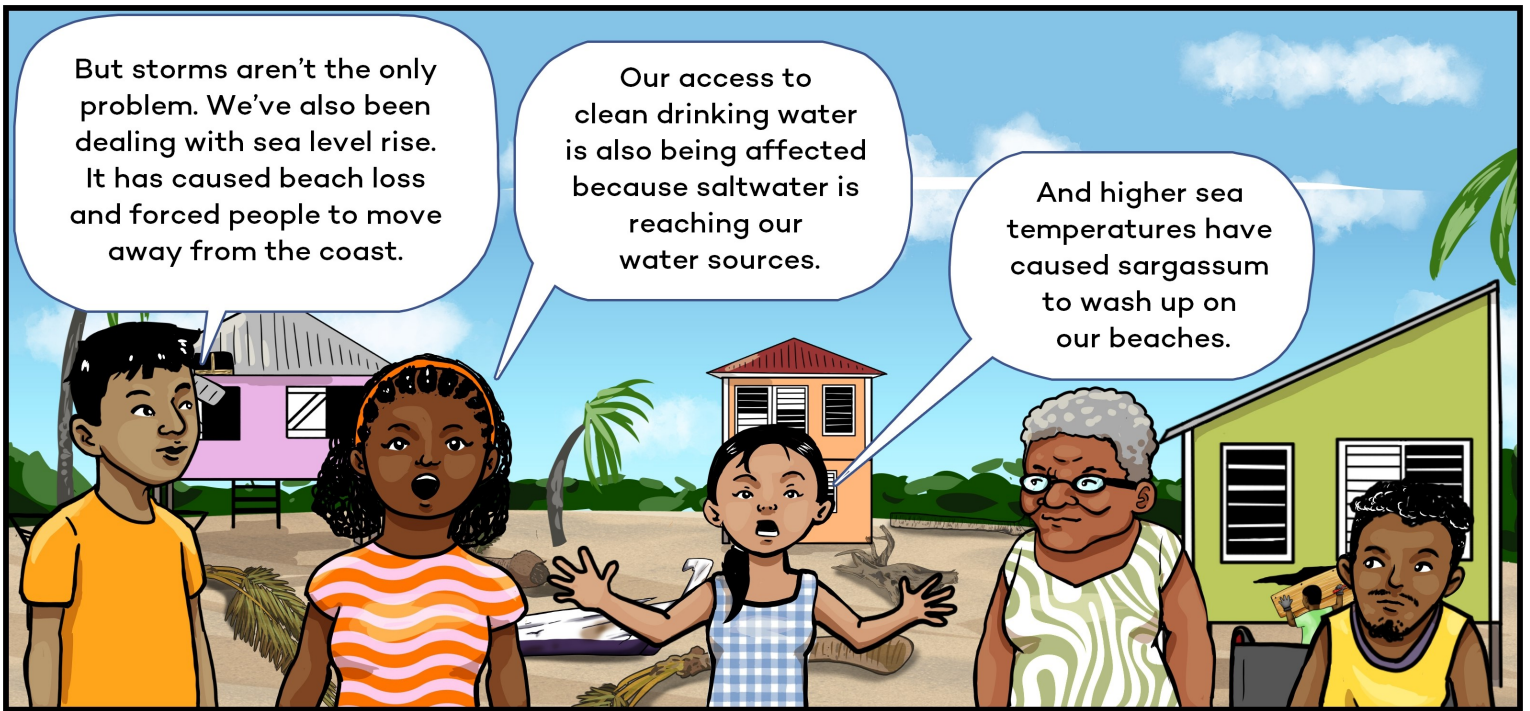


I see a storm passed through here. What's the damage looking like?

A lot of sand was washed away along the coast, and coconut trees have been knocked over. Some people even had their houses and boats damaged.



Thankfully, our community conservation group is already working to clean up the storm debris.



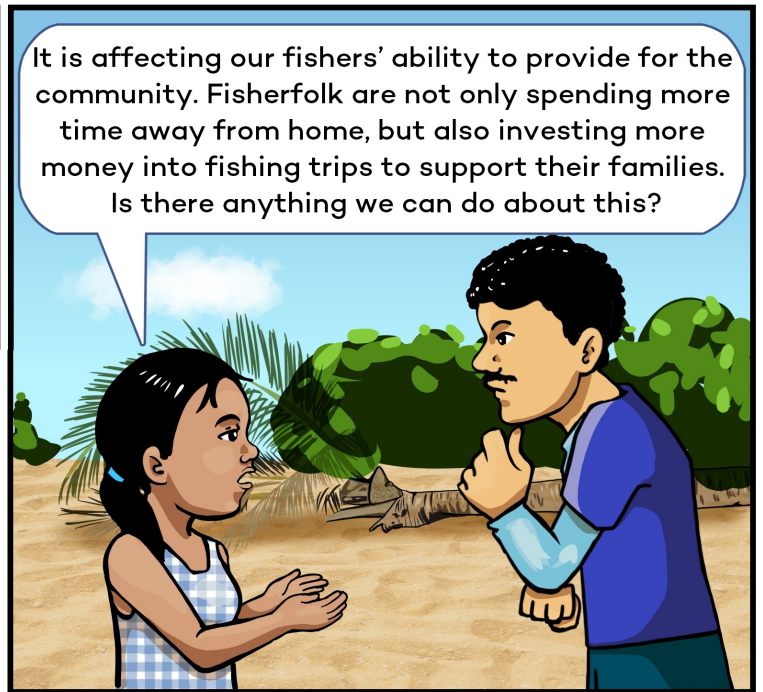
But storms aren't the only problem. We've also been dealing with sea level rise. It has caused beach loss and forced people to move away from the coast.

Our access to clean drinking water is also being affected because saltwater is reaching our water sources.

And higher sea temperatures have caused sargassum to wash up on our beaches.



We believe that it is all related to climate change.

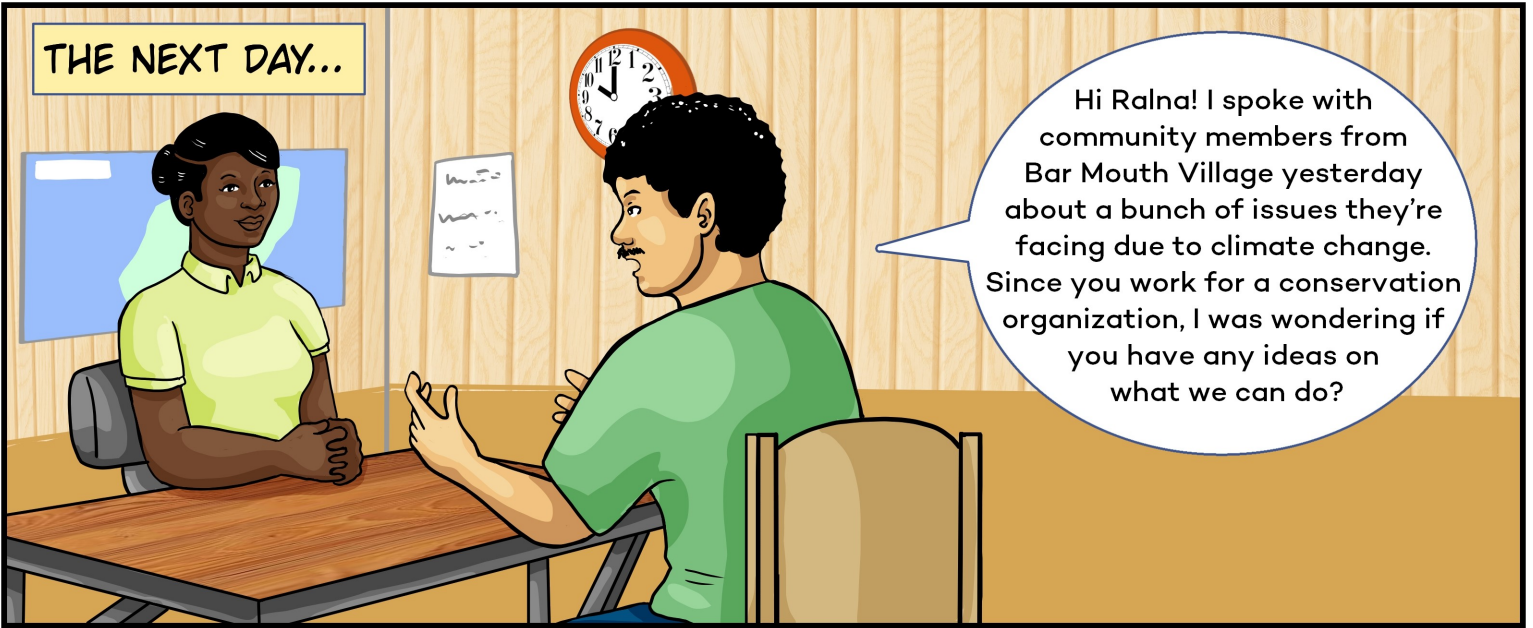


It is affecting our fishers' ability to provide for the community. Fisherfolk are not only spending more time away from home, but also investing more money into fishing trips to support their families. Is there anything we can do about this?



These are really important issues. How about we all take some time to think about solutions and come back in a few days to talk about them?

THE NEXT DAY...



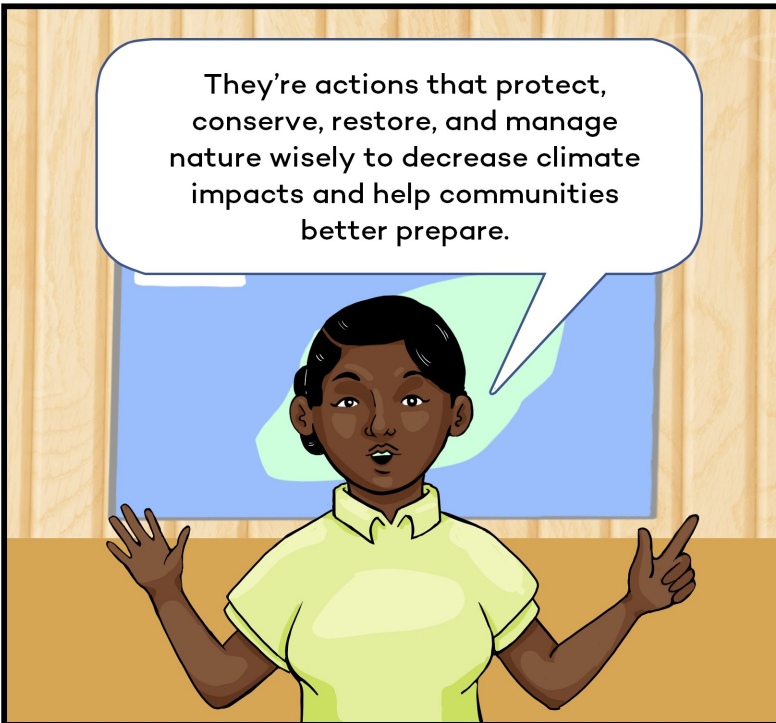
Hi Ralna! I spoke with community members from Bar Mouth Village yesterday about a bunch of issues they're facing due to climate change. Since you work for a conservation organization, I was wondering if you have any ideas on what we can do?

I think nature-based solutions for climate adaptation can definitely help here!



Nature-based solutions for adaptation? What are those?

They're actions that protect, conserve, restore, and manage nature wisely to decrease climate impacts and help communities better prepare.



Those sound interesting! Can you give some examples?



Yes! Mangrove conservation is a great example. The idea is to keep these ecosystems healthy by preventing cutting and clearing, maintaining natural water flows, and keeping the area clean from rubbish.



In places where mangroves have already been cleared, we can restore them by planting new seedlings and helping them grow.

Young mangroves are fragile. They can be easily damaged or may not survive in their early stages. Supporting their growth takes care and patience.

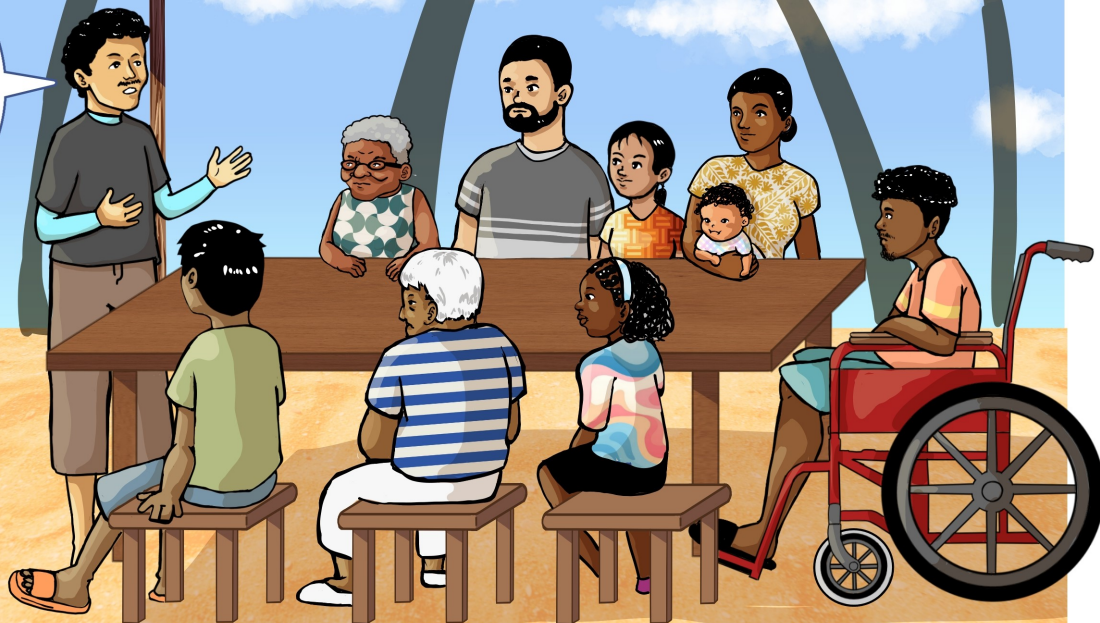


For nature-based solutions to really help, we need to work with communities to better understand how different people are affected by climate change, and what they would prioritize in terms of solutions. We also need to consider how culture and roles can affect someone's ability to take part in these actions. That's why it's important to engage with people who are sometimes left out, like women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.



A FEW DAYS LATER

Thank you all for sharing your ideas! Many of those are actually nature-based solutions for adaptation, which can help to reduce the impacts of climate change. Which ones would you like to prioritize?



I would like to start working on a mangrove restoration project because mangroves can be nurseries for small fish, which will help to increase the number of fish in the sea, supporting fisherfolk livelihoods.

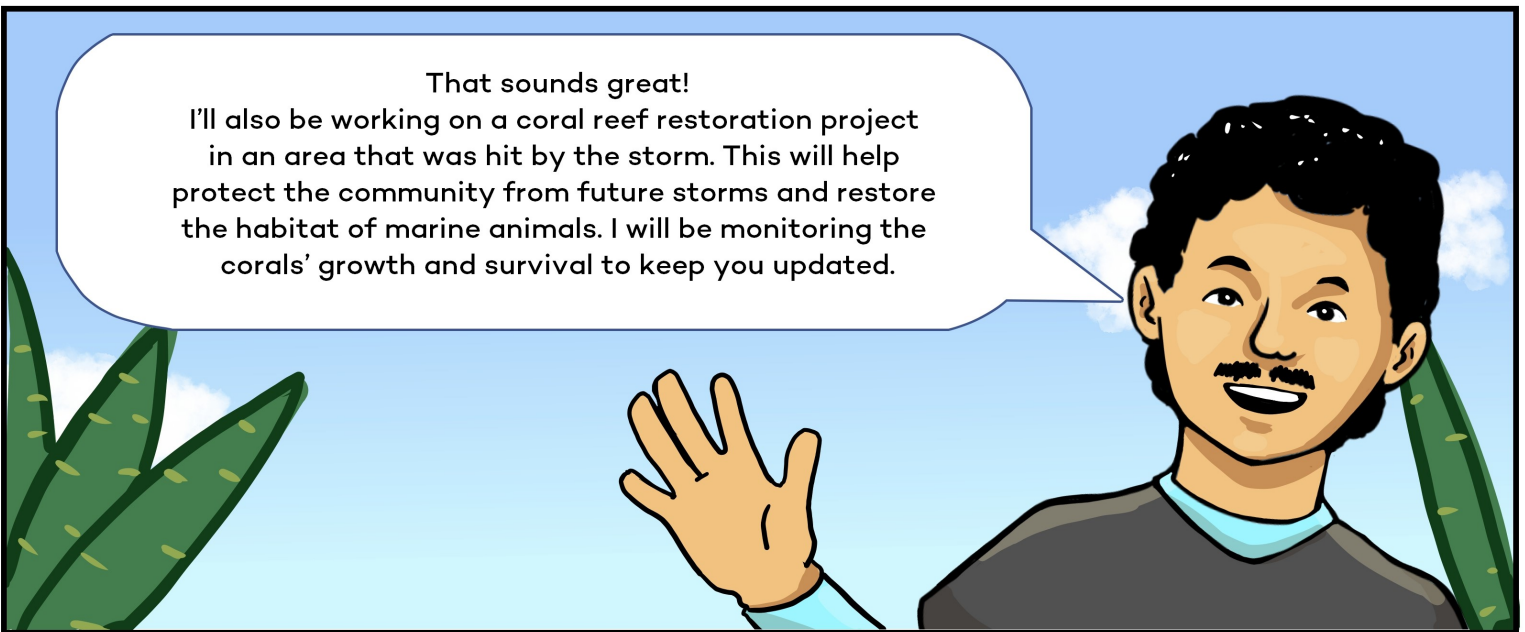
I'd like to prioritize a mixed home garden for my family because we often struggle to afford food when market prices rise due to limited stock. By growing a variety of potted crops in our backyard using sustainable methods that can withstand climate change, we can make sure there's always food on our table.



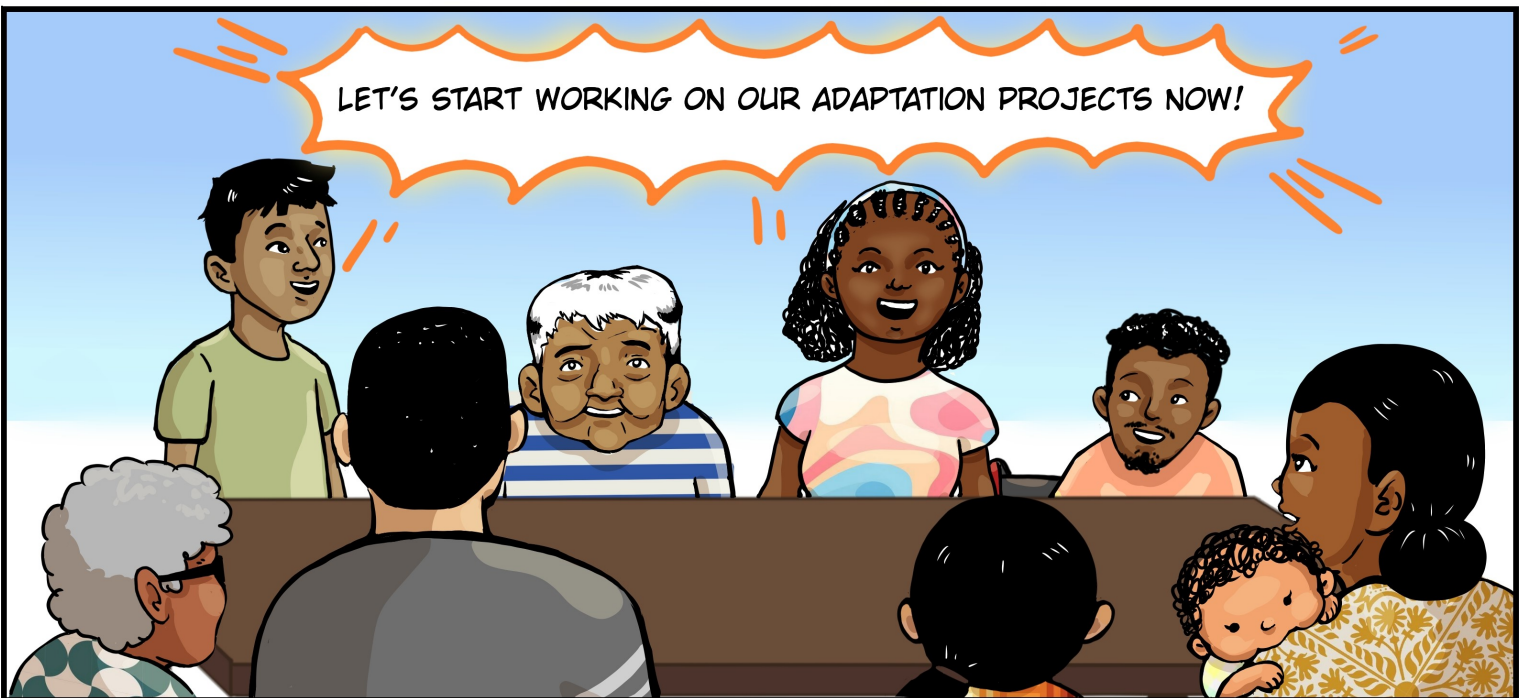
We have a tradition of seaweed farming. Expanding this could be a great option to provide our community with supplementary (additional) income sources that reduce pressure on the protected area.



That sounds great!
I'll also be working on a coral reef restoration project in an area that was hit by the storm. This will help protect the community from future storms and restore the habitat of marine animals. I will be monitoring the corals' growth and survival to keep you updated.

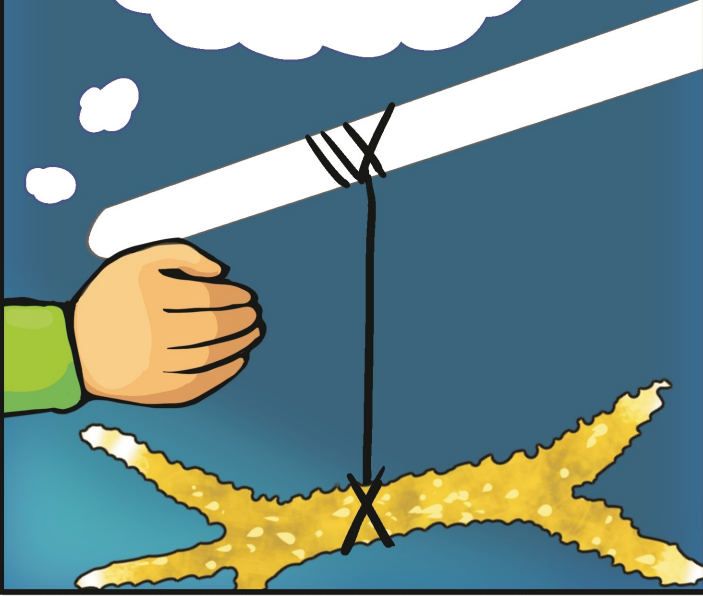


LET'S START WORKING ON OUR ADAPTATION PROJECTS NOW!



A FEW MONTHS LATER...

That's the last one!
I can't wait to see the
corals grow over time.

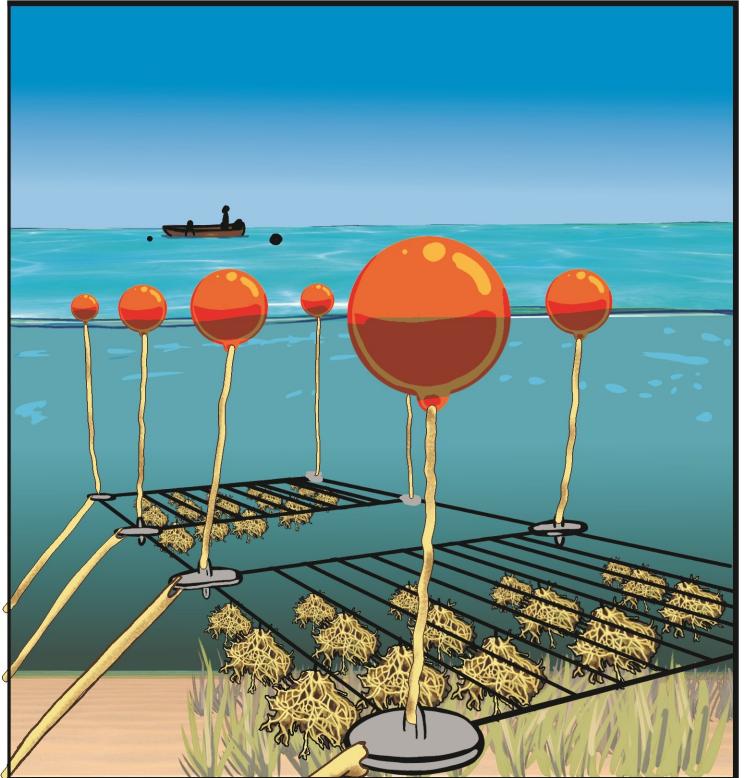


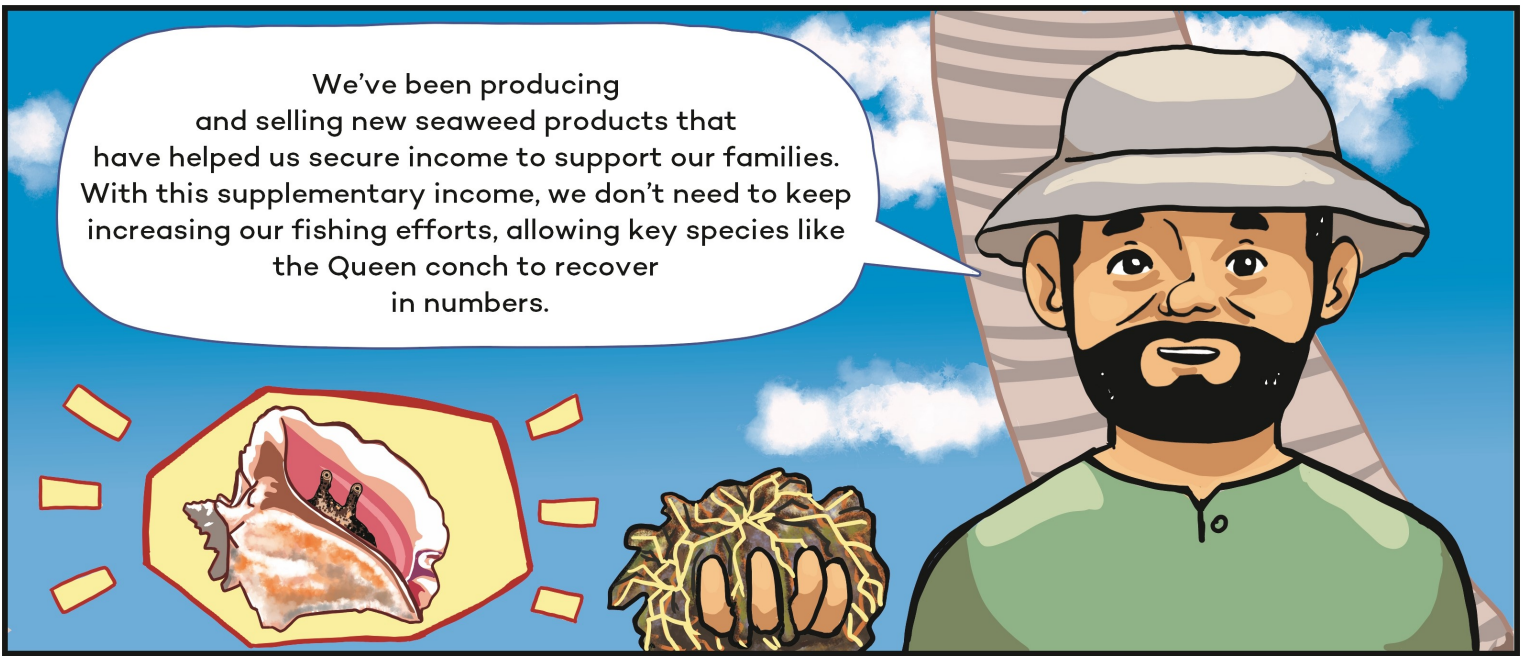
...I should go check in on the
community members.



Come and see how
we've expanded our
seaweed farm.

Wow this
looks great!





We've been producing and selling new seaweed products that have helped us secure income to support our families. With this supplementary income, we don't need to keep increasing our fishing efforts, allowing key species like the Queen conch to recover in numbers.



The farm serves as a nursery for young lobsters and finfish, and we've been producing and selling some new seaweed products that help us secure extra income for our families.



And it is helping to protect our beaches by reducing the impact of waves on the coast.



Working with nature really has its benefits. It is great for us and the environment.



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