

“My friends and family asked me why I want a marine reserve near my island. Let me tell you what I said...”

“People in my atoll get more jobs in tourism and as rangers for the marine reserve.”

“Fishermen get a steady supply of fish as they move outside of the boundaries of the marine reserve.”

“Protected seagrasses and mangroves protect young fish so they can grow to become adults.”

“People on my island benefit from improved tourism because diving and snorkelling better in protected areas.”

More coral, fish and invertebrate larvae are transported to other reefs, repopulating neighbouring reefs.

“Different types of fish and lots of them means that my island’s reefs can better adapt to rising sea level and recover faster from disturbances such as coral bleaching.”

Marine reserves are areas of the ocean where human activities are carefully managed so that biodiversity can recover and provide services to humans. The stricter the protection, the better returns for the local communities.

