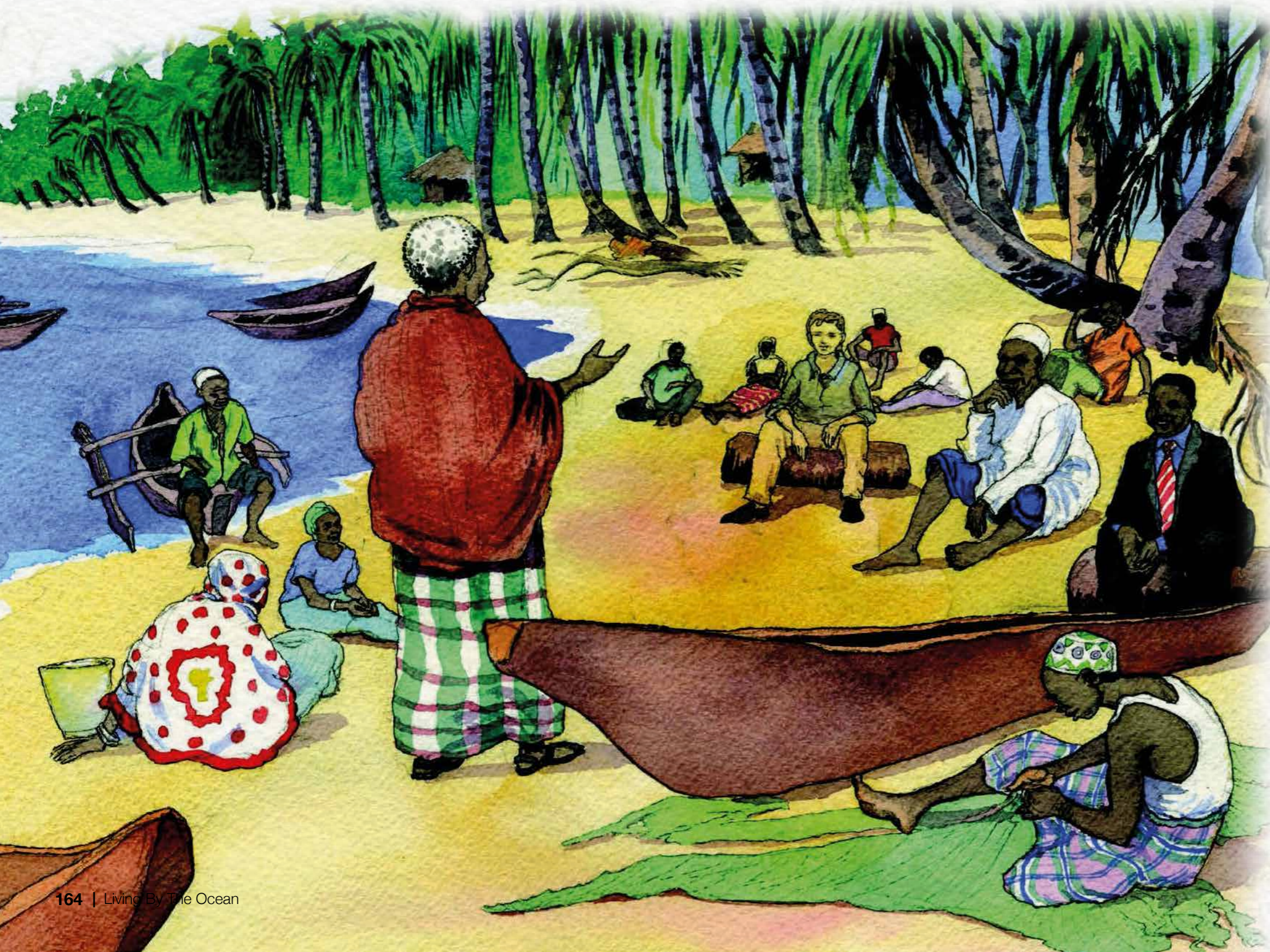


## COMMON RESOURCES NEED COOPERATION TO CARE FOR THEM



The only way the sea can be protected is through cooperation. Here a group of people are gathered together talking about how to manage their coastline. Fishermen, tour operators, councillors, and conservationists are all involved. In Mafia island, Tanzania, the resources which all of these diverse people want to preserve were being destroyed.

Dynamite fishing, uncontrolled harvesting of mangroves, and too many beach seine nets were ruining the sea's riches. After many meetings, the government and the villagers signed a resolution to create a marine park. At the heart of the park, absolutely no fishing and tourist diving are allowed. In other areas, fishing is allowed but beach seine nets are totally banned. Most fishermen have now swapped their beach seine nets for more sustainable fishing gear.

Fishermen were worried about catching enough fish and making enough money when the new resource use rules took effect. To help them, the marine park committee organised interest-free loans for new businesses, like seaweed farming and eco-tourism. It takes time for changes to take effect, but there are already good signs: fish are getting bigger – blackspot snapper are more than a third longer than those outside the park. On one reef in the park, diving surveys now find three times as many butterfly fish, which shows that the coral is recovering.