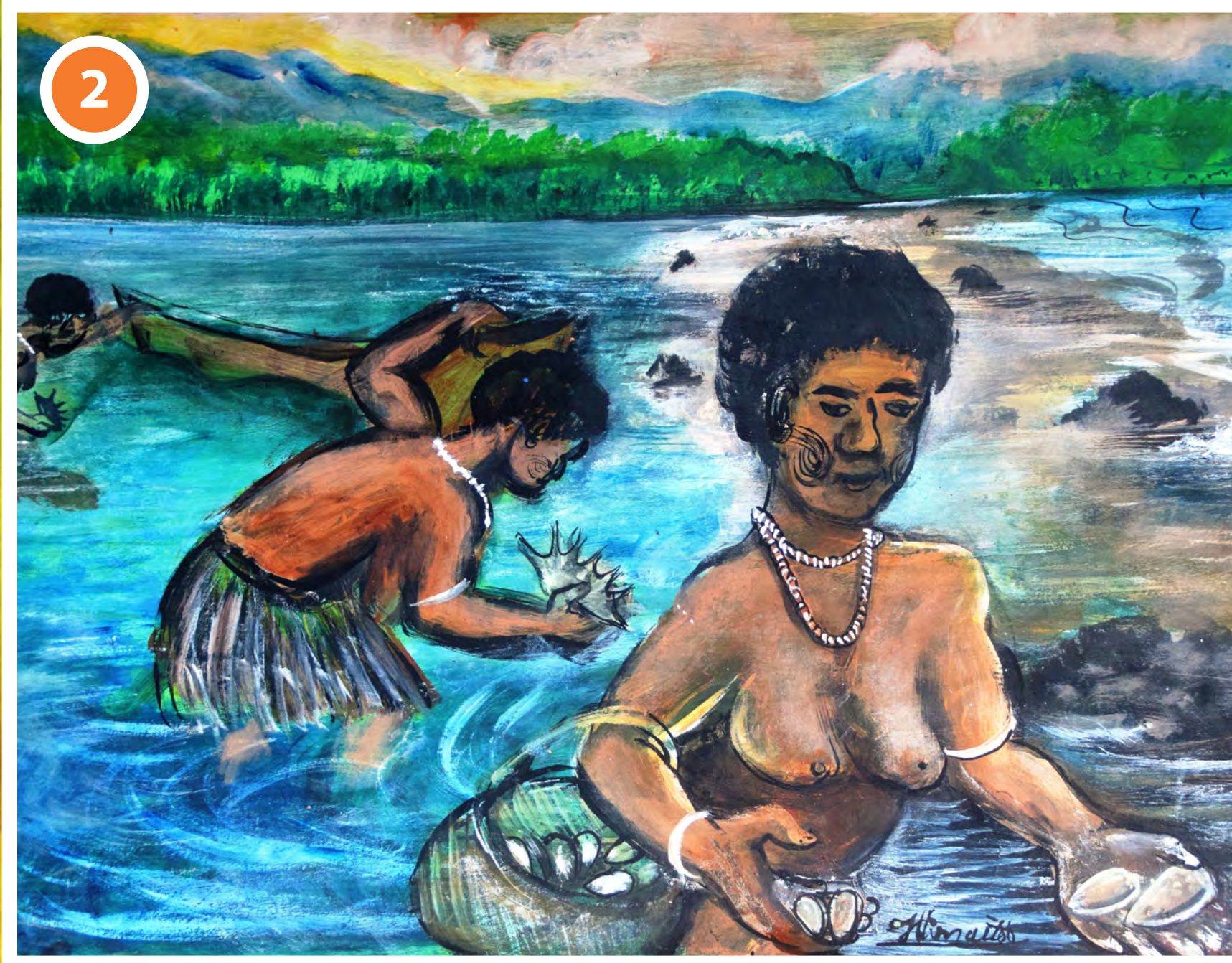


CONSERVING CORAL REEFS

Coral reefs are a vital source of food and income for coastal communities and protect the coast from storms. But coral reefs are dying. The Langalanga Lagoon on Malaita is a good example. Here people have lived for generations on and from the coral reefs, but overharvesting, destructive fishing methods and pollution are now threatening this natural wealth. You can conserve your reef by banning destructive fishing methods, establishing no-take areas, minimizing the extraction of corals and properly disposing plastic rubbish.



1 Corals are actually not stones but animals. A coral reef is made up of the skeletons of millions of tiny animals, and together they sustain coastal fisheries and shelter an amazing variety of marine life. There are more than 500 different kinds of corals in Solomon Islands alone.



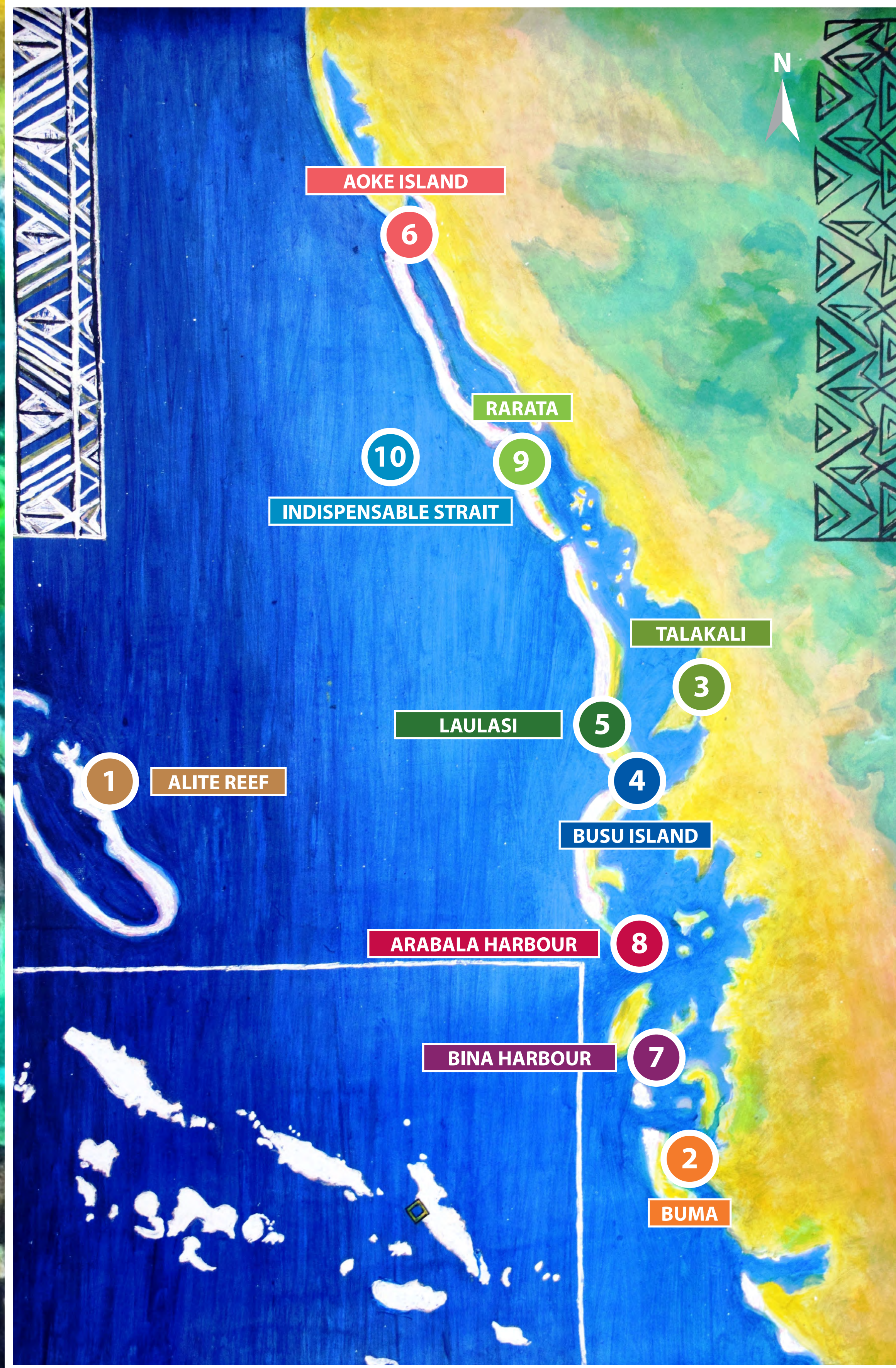
2 People in Langalanga Lagoon depend on the coral reefs for their daily needs. Eating fresh fish is nutritious and healthy, and especially important for mothers and young children. The destruction and degradation of coral reefs has profound impacts on people's lives.



3 Coral reefs form the backbone of the Langalanga economy. Reef fish, crabs and shells are sold or bartered on local markets, while other valuable products from the reef, such as bêche-de-mer and trochus, are harvested for export.



10 One way to reduce fishing pressure on the coral reefs is by increasing fish catches from the deep sea. Rafts attract large fish such as skipjack tuna, yellowfin tuna and rainbow runner.



4 Shell money plays a central role in the livelihoods and culture of the Langalanga people. Women crush, burn and polish the shells to produce the valuable red, white and black beads used for bride price, currency and compensation payments.



9 Several communities in Langalanga are trying to protect their coral reefs. People in Oibola and Radevasu, for example, have established a no-take area on their reef. Such temporary fishing closures are an effective way to restore the marine resources on which people depend.



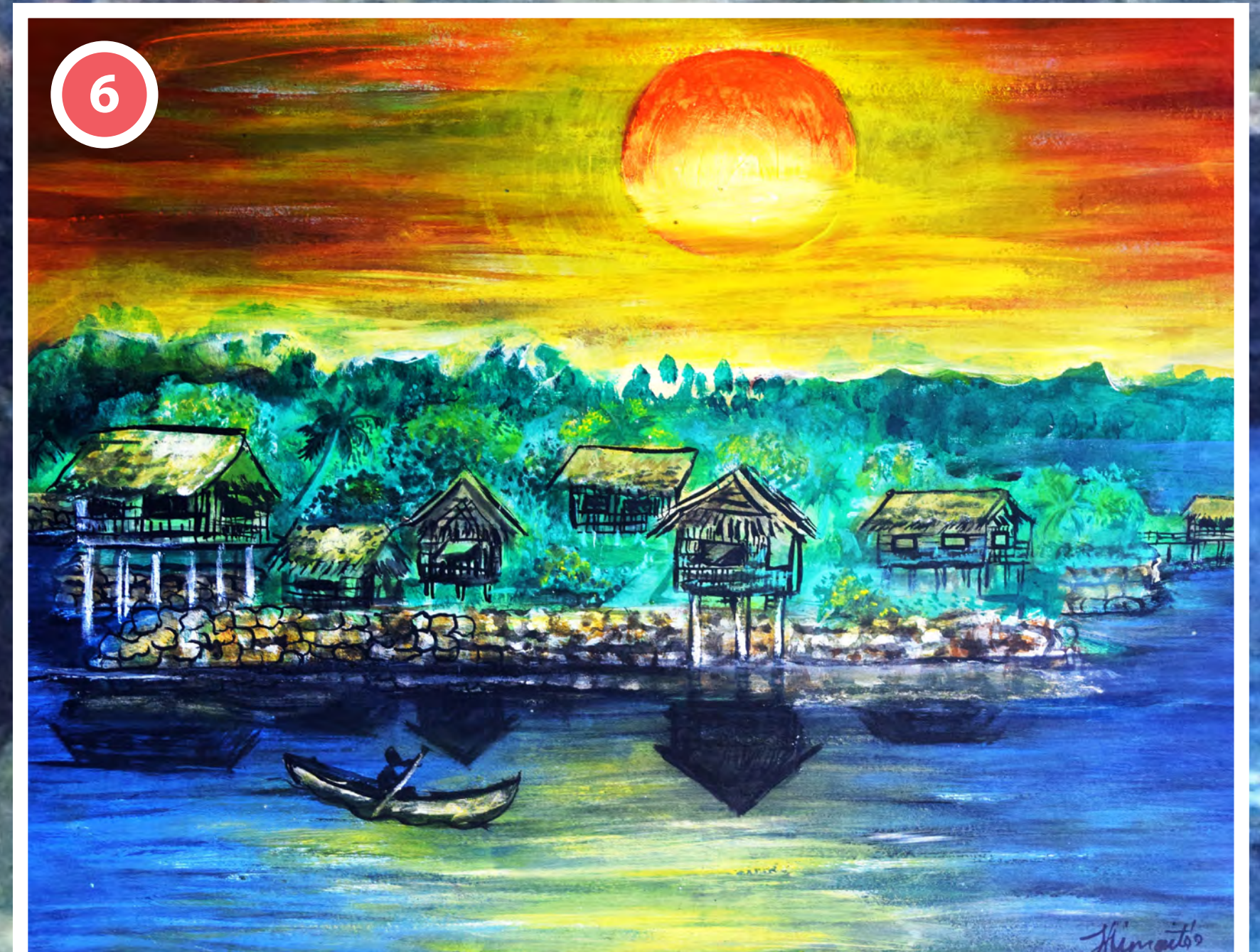
5 The people of the lagoon are known as the saltwater people. Their history and culture have been shaped by the reefs. In the past, people revered sharks and prohibited the catching and eating of sea cucumbers, clamshells and octopus.



8 Customary rules that regulated the fishery in the past are no longer respected. Overharvesting has led to the decline and disappearance of several species, such as the Bumphead parrotfish, Humphead wrasse and Green snail.



7 The coral reefs in Langalanga Lagoon have been severely damaged by dynamite fishing—a dangerous and destructive fishing method. Nowadays, fishing with explosives is strictly prohibited by the Fisheries Management Act of 2015.



6 The saltwater people build their homes on artificial islands on the reefs and in the mangroves by piling up coral rocks, often more than 3 m high. The Langalanga Lagoon is now one of the most densely populated areas in Solomon Islands.

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