

Focus group discussions (Oct-Nov 2016) **(project "*Umuen vida no/ Omali vida nón*")**

Thank you for coming and agreeing to be a part of this group discussion. Your participation is very important.

Objectives:

Fishers: In this discussion, we would like to learn with fishers about fishing practices, fisheries catch and challenges and opportunities to improve fishing in Principe. We need your participation and your honest opinions and responses are necessary to understand the situation of artisanal fishing. You are the experts and we want to learn from you!

Fish traders: In this discussion, we would like to learn with fisher traders about your livelihood, fish trade and challenges and opportunities to improve fishing in Principe. We need your participation and your honest opinions and responses are necessary to understand the situation of artisanal fishing. You are the experts and we want to learn from you!

Rules:

- Researcher neutrality.
- Everyone should participate in the discussion by sharing their opinions with the group. Please speak calmly, one person at a time.
- There are no right or wrong answers. All opinions are important.
- Feel free to talk whether you agree or disagree. We want to hear a wide range of opinions.
- Your participation is voluntary and you are not required to answer any questions.
- All information collected today will be treated anonymously and confidentially.
- To assist in recording information, a voice recorder will be used if that's ok with you.

Ask if everyone agrees with rules. If yes, start discussion [See "Discussion Topics"].

To finish:

Once again, thank you very much for your participation. Your opinions and the information recorded today are essential at this stage of the project. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

Required material:

- Voice recorder
- Photo camera
- Maps
- Transparency sheets
- Acetate pens
- Fish Posters
- Post-it notes
- Markers and flip charts
- Ballpoint pens and registration sheets

Discussion topics:

Fishers:

- Fisheries and positive and negative aspects of being a fisher
 - a) *How long have you been fishing? And how old were you when you started fishing?*
 - b) *Why are you fishers?* [Examples: identity; professional satisfaction; way to make money fast; lack of other opportunities; family habit or tradition; income complement of other activity]
 - c) *What do you like most in the fisher's life?*
 - d) *What are the biggest problems of being a fisher?*
 - e) *Besides fishing, do you have other ways to make money? Which ones?*
 - f) *What factors threaten your fishing activity?* [Write each factor in a post-it and ask participants to sort them from most to least severe]

- Fishing practices
 - g) *What kind of fishing gear do you use most often? What other types of fishing gear do you use?*
 - h) *What type of fish do you catch most often? What other types of fish do you catch? What types of fish are more expensive?* [Show fish poster] *Do you also catch sharks? What about rays?*
 - i) *Do you manage to sell all types of fish? Are there any types of fish that you throw away or are used for other things? When you are fishing, do you sometimes catch other fish or animals you do not want?*
 - j) *Where do you usually fish the most? Where is it easier to catch fish in large amounts? Where do you usually fish during the rainy season? And during the dry season? Where can you catch sharks? What about rays?* [Show maps and ask them to draw with different colours]

- Use of terrestrial natural resources
 - k) *Besides fishing, do you use other types of resources from the land? For example, trees and forest animals.*
 - l) *Do you buy or harvest those resources? Do you sell any of those resources or do you keep them for you?*
 - m) *Do you use these resources throughout the year or only during certain times of the year?*

- Observed and/or perceived changes in fishing
 - n) *Compared to your fishing activity 10 years ago, are there any differences?* [Examples: amount of fish; fish size; fish distribution area]
 - o) *In your opinion, what caused those changes?* [Examples: fish distribution area; climatic conditions; number of fishers]

- Scenarios
 - p) *In your opinion, what will happen to fishing in Principe over the next 10 years?* [Consider impacts for fishers, fish traders and marine resources]
 - q) *If fishing conditions worsened, what would you do to support your family?*

- Actions
 - r) *In your opinion, what steps should be taken to improve artisanal fishing in Principe? And who should be responsible for those measures?*
 - s) *Do you think that communities can be involved in monitoring marine resources?*
 - t) *Some people told us that there used to be "resting areas" for fish to recover. Why is this not done nowadays? Do you think it would be possible to recover this fisher behaviour?*
 - u) *Do you think that communities are generally well involved in the management of natural resources? What should be done to improve this?*
 - v) *What are the benefits of having fisher's associations? How can we make them better?*

- *We have come to the end of our questions for today. Does anyone else have anything to say or want to ask a question?*

Discussion topics:

Fish traders:

- Selling fish and positive and negative aspects of being a fish trader
 - a) *How long have you been selling fish? And how old were you when you started?*
 - b) *Why are you fish traders?* [Examples: identity; professional satisfaction; way to make money fast; lack of other opportunities; family habit or tradition; income complement of other activity]
 - c) *What do you like most in the fish trader's life?*
 - d) *What are the biggest problems of being a fish trader?*
 - e) *Besides selling fish, do you have other ways to make money? Which ones?*
 - f) *What factors threaten your fish trading activity?* [Write each factor in a post-it and ask participants to sort them from most to least severe]

- Purchasing and selling fish
 - g) *What type of fish do you sell most often? What other types of fish do you sell? What types of fish are more expensive?* [Show fish poster] *Do you also sell sharks? What about rays?*
 - h) *Do you manage to sell all types of fish? Are there any types of fish that you throw away or are used for other things?*
 - i) *Assuming that a fisher has just arrived with fish, please tell me what usually happens until you sell it.* [Illustrate in diagram]

- Use of terrestrial natural resources
 - j) *Besides fishing, do you use other types of resources from the land? For example, trees and forest animals.*
 - k) *Do you buy or harvest those resources? Do you sell any of those resources or do you keep them for you?*
 - l) *Do you use these resources throughout the year or only during certain times of the year?*

- Observed and/or perceived changes in fishing
 - m) *Compared to your fish trading activity 10 years ago, are there any differences?* [Examples: amount of fish; fish size; fish distribution area]
 - n) *In your opinion, what caused those changes?* [Examples: fish distribution area; climatic conditions; number of fishers]

- Scenarios
 - o) *In your opinion, what will happen to fishing in Principe over the next 10 years?* [Consider impacts for fishers, fish traders and marine resources]
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- Actions
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