



# Engaging communities in marine conservation: examples from “Sea, our life”

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Príncipe  
Trust



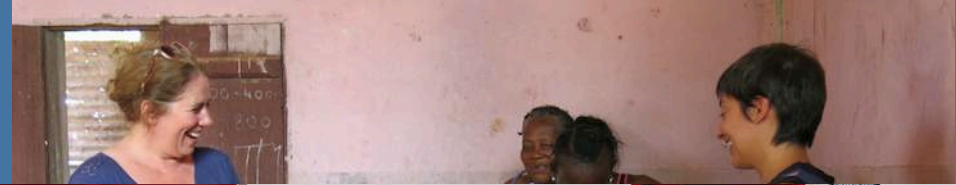
RESERVA DA  
biosfera  
ilha do príncipe  
SÃO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE

UNIVERSITY OF  
EXETER





# IT'S TEAMWORK!



Príncipe  
Trust



RESERVA DA  
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# WORLDWIDE ISSUES

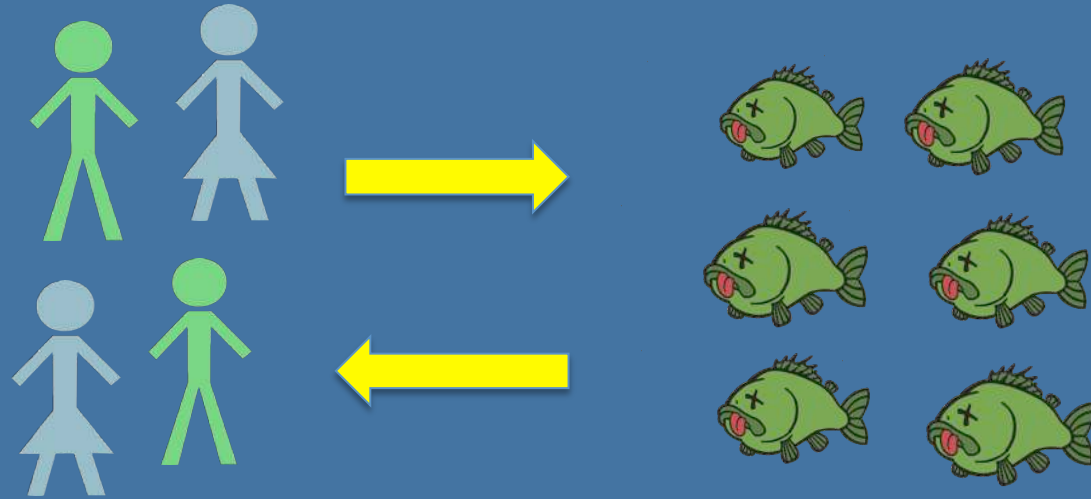
- Catch decline
- Ineffective centralized top-down approaches
- Lack of government resources



- Community participation
- Co-management



# OMALI VIDA NÓN (SEA, OUR LIFE)



Project aims to promote **better management** of marine resources through the **participation** of those who are mainly affected - **fishers and fish traders.**





# STUDY AREA



- Around 8,000 ppl
- Area of 136 km<sup>2</sup>
- Declared a Biosphere Reserve in 2012
- Nationally, 62% below poverty line
- Reliance on subsistence farming and fisheries

# IMPORTANCE OF SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN PRINCIPLE



- **Income:** artisanal fishing is the main source of income for a large part of population



- **Food:** fish is an essential part of local diet.



# OMALI VIDA NÓN: PROJECT PHASES

July 2016-December 2018

A. Social-ecological assessment

B. Community proposals and interventions

C. Promoting co-management



# OMALI VIDA NÓN: PROGRESS SO FAR

- I. Community workshops
- II. Fisheries landing surveys
- III. Social surveys
- IV. Mapping fishing areas





# 1. COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS





# 1. COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS: SOME RESULTS

14 workshops

Participants:  
142 people  
(73 men and  
69 women)

## DISCUSSÃO EM GRUPO COM PALAIÊS DA CAMPANHA

Em Outubro/Novembro 2016, a equipa do projecto “Omali vida nón” visitou a comunidade da Campanha e convidou todas as palaiês para uma discussão em grupo.

Nesta discussão, aprendemos sobre a vida de palaiê na Campanha, as suas dificuldades e ideias sobre como melhorar a pesca artesanal no Príncipe de modo a melhorar a vida das comunidades piscatórias.

7 palaiês estiveram presentes e partilharam as suas opiniões.

## O QUE DISSERAM AS PALAIÊS DA CAMPANHA?

### SER PALAIÊ É BOM PORQUE...

As palaiês mencionaram alguns aspectos positivos da sua vida de palaiê:

- Fonte de rendimento
- Alternativa estável quando há falta de outras oportunidades de emprego
- Satisfação profissional e pessoal

### MAIORES PROBLEMAS SÃO...

Na opinião das palaiês, os problemas que afectam mais a sua ocupação são:

1º: Falta de material e energia para conservação de pescado

2º: Dificuldade no transporte para a cidade

### PASSADO E FUTURO...

Segundo as palaiês, no passado:

- havia mais peixe;
- peixe era maior;
- havia menos pesca submarina.

### PARA MELHORAR A PESCA...

Na opinião das palaiês, para melhorar a situação da pesca artesanal no Príncipe é



## 2. LANDING SURVEYS



Data collection done twice a week:

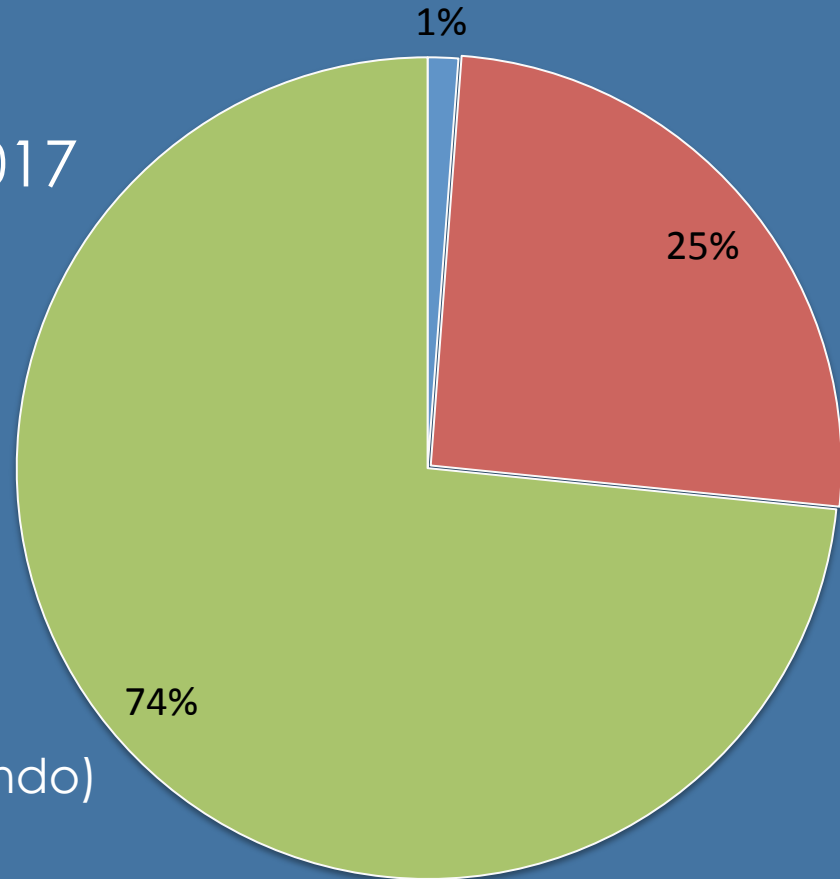
- Fishing effort
- Total catch
- Individual weights and measures (for indicator species)



## 2. LANDING SURVEYS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

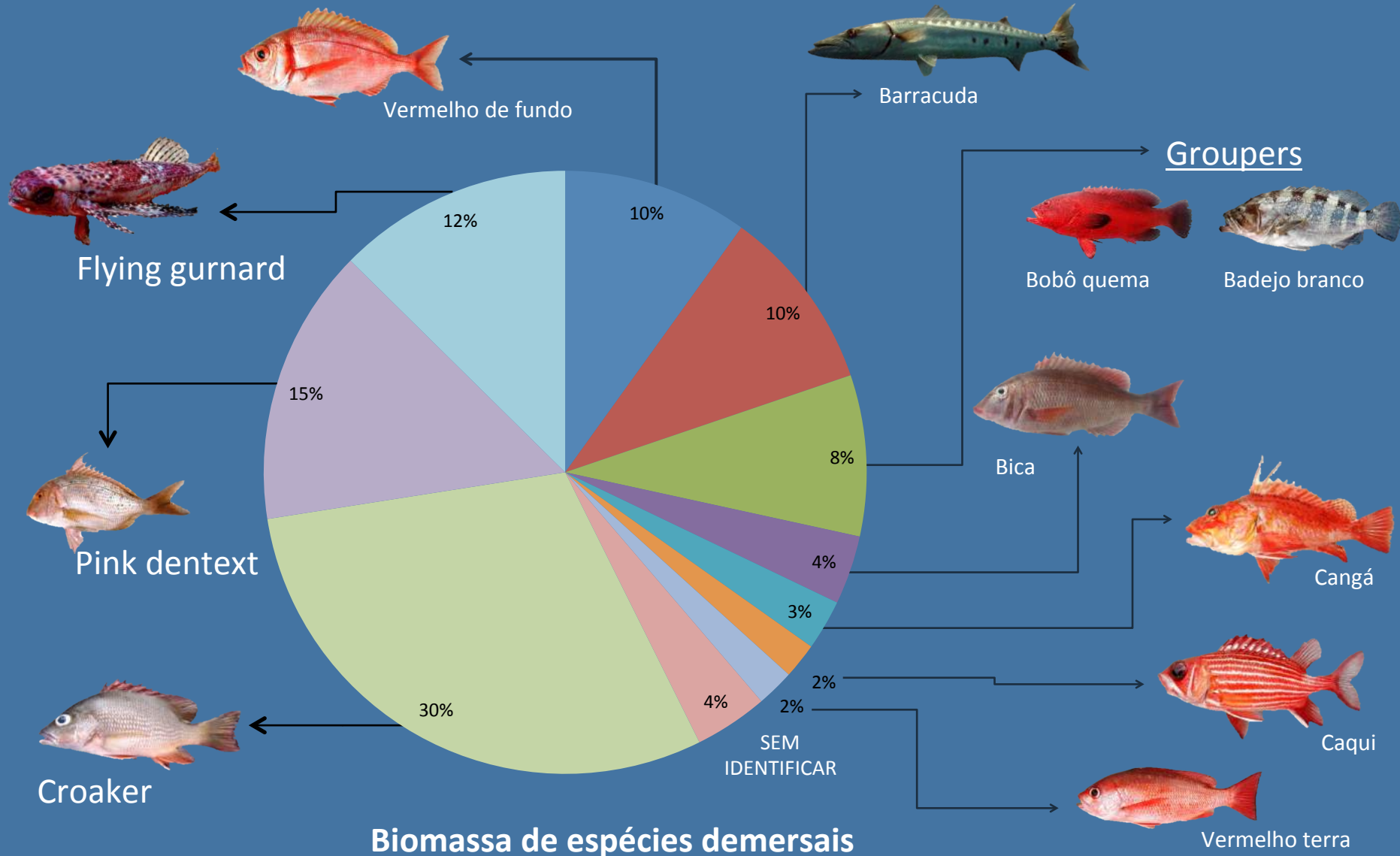
- December 2016 – May 2017
- 642 fishing trips

- Cefalópodos (ex. polvo)
- Demersais (espécies de fundo)
- Pelágicos





# 2. LANDING SURVEYS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS





# 3. SOCIAL SURVEYS

Questionnaires in Feb-Mar 2017



6 coastal fishing communities and  
5 randomly selected non-coastal  
rural communities

Questions about  
sociodemographics, economics,  
use and management of natural  
resources

**869 people** interviewed  
• including **155 fish traders** e **200  
fishers**



# 3. SOCIAL SURVEYS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Perceived changes during last 10 years according to surveyed fishers and fish traders (N=355)

	Increased	Decreased	Same	Don't know/ No answer
<b>Catch</b>	10% (36)	67% (239)	11% (39)	12% (41)
<b>Available fish at sea</b>	8% (29)	48% (172)	14% (51)	29% (103)
<b>Fish size</b>	5% (16)	29% (104)	43% (151)	24% (84)
<b>Fish diversity</b>	4% (14)	27% (96)	45% (158)	25% (87)



# 3. SOCIAL SURVEYS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

According to fishers and fish traders (N=355):

## What affects fish abundance at sea?

1: Small mesh size nets (37%)

2: Industrial fisheries (29%)

3: Fishing in the bays (23%)

## What should be done so that there is more fish available at sea?

1: Stop use of small mesh size  
nets (42%)

2: Stop fishing in the bays  
(32%)

3: Control industrial fisheries  
(24%)





# 4. MAPPING FISHING AREAS



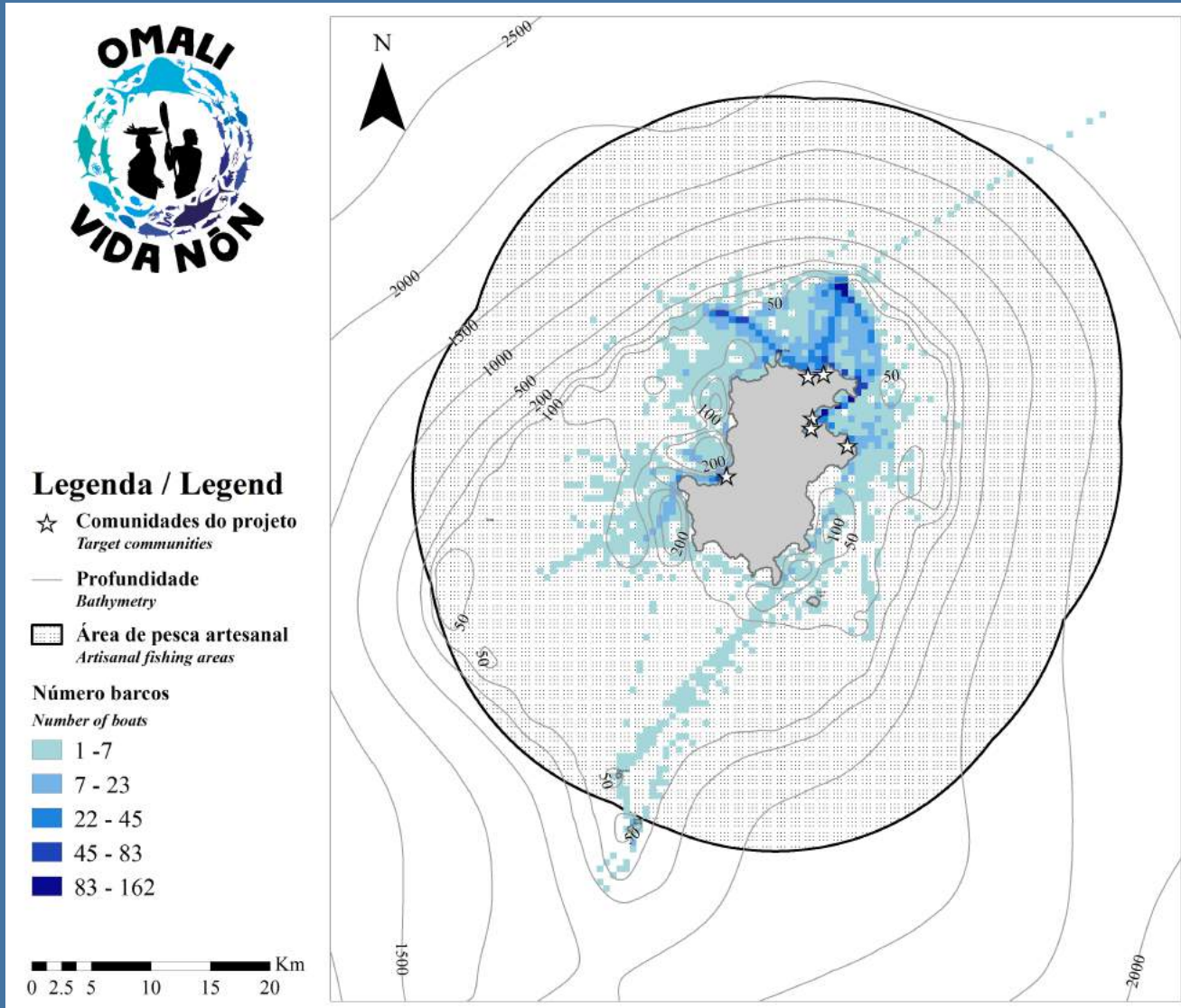
GPS trackers distributed in 6 target communities in Feb 2017

32 fishers (5-6 per community)

Ongoing until Feb 2018



# 4. MAPPING FISHING AREAS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS





# NEXT STEPS

Fund for activities related to marine conservation and sustainable fisheries



Proposals by communities (informal groups or associations)

4 proposals will be funded

2 should directly benefit women (fish traders)



# EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTIONS



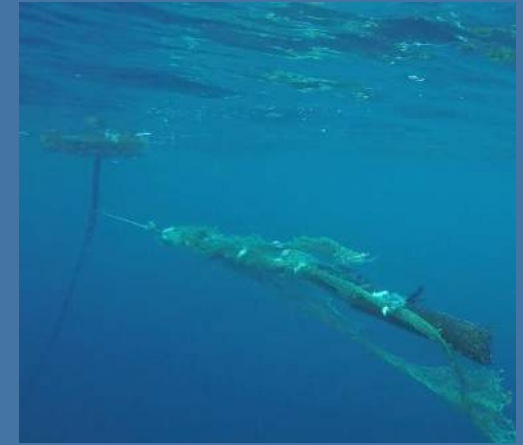
**DYNAMIC FISHING**



**MARINE RESERVES**



**BETTER PRESERVATION**



**NEW FISHING ZONES**

**INCOME DIVERSIFICATION**



**COMMUNITY RESOURCE MONITORING**





# TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT:

A. Use focal points from target communities





# TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT:

B. Hire locally and build capacity





# TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT:

C. Identify and meet key actors early on. Be neutral / act as facilitator

**Table 1.** Key actors playing a role in the use, management and conservation of coastal and marine natural resources in the Príncipe Island, and their main roles.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Main roles</b>
Fish consumers	Independent	Demand for fish and seafood at multiple scales (local, regional, national and international). Average annual fish consumption in the country is one of the highest in Africa (27.2 kg per person; FUS 2013).
“Artisanal” fishermen	Independent though some part of associations	Mainly responsible for catching fish and other seafood.
Palaiês (Fish traders)	Independent though some part of associations	Mainly responsible for preparing, transporting and selling fish and other seafood within their local communities and at market.
Artisans	Independent though some part of cooperatives	Typically involved in the arts and craft trade, including turtle shell products.
Turtle Poachers	Independent	Involved in the illegal take of adult female marine turtles and eggs from nesting



# TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT:

## D. Give back

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#### PASSADO E FUTURO...

Segundo as palaiês, no passado:

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- peixe era maior;
- havia menos pesca submarina.

As palaiês acham que no futuro:

- a vida de palaiê vai piorar;
- suportar famílias vai ser mais difícil.

#### PARA MELHORAR A PESCA...

Na opinião das palaiês, para melhorar a situação da pesca artesanal no Príncipe é necessário:

- Sensibilizar pescadores para reduzir práticas de pesca não sustentáveis
- Parar pesca de rede nas baías
- Fortalecer a associação de palaiês.





# TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT:

E. Assess and be clear about expectations





# TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT:

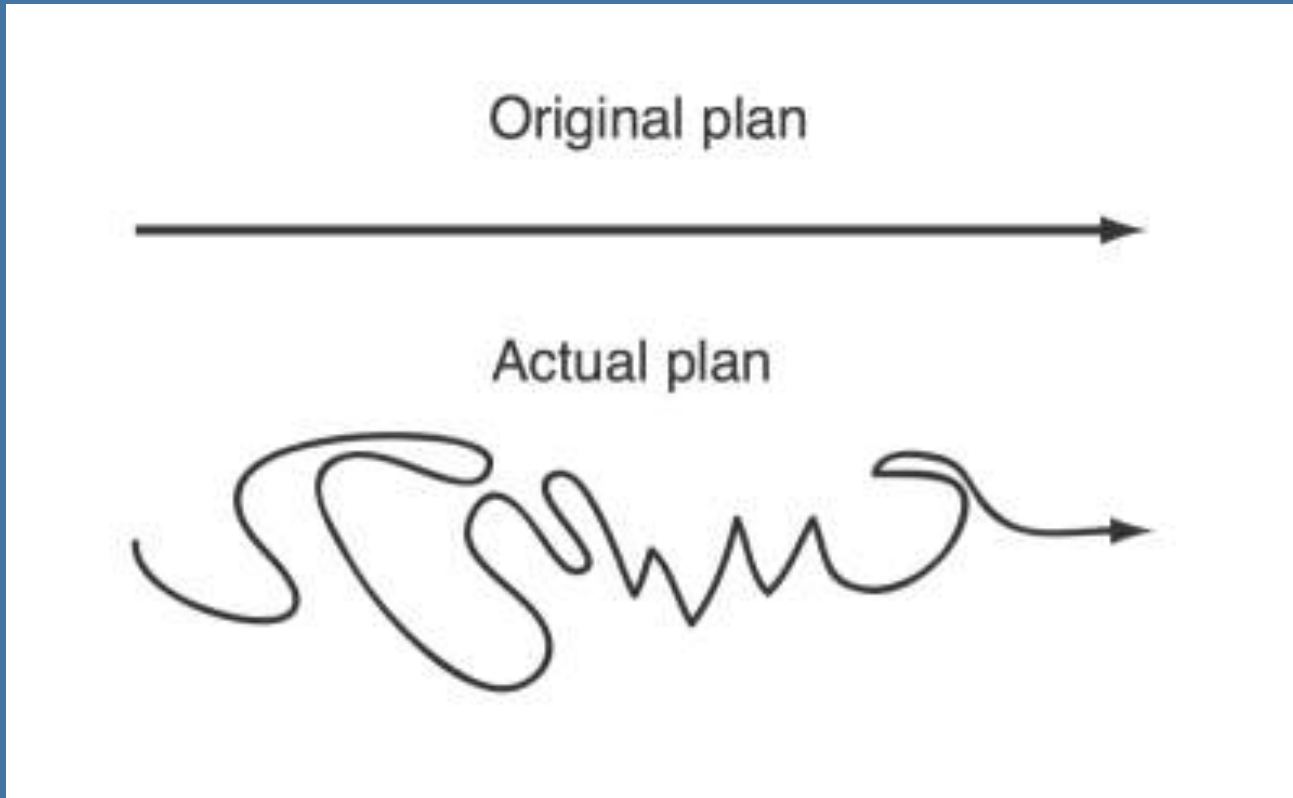
F. Illustrate with other successful examples





# TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT:

G. Be flexible and resilient





# TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT:

H. It's not all about work



**James Tremlett**

27 June at 21:46 · 



Best community meeting ever: a local forum for learning exchange between the female fish vendors of São Tomé & Príncipe. We brought pens and notebooks, they brought the sound system and palm wine.



# EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved life conditions of fishing communities
- Better management and conservation of marine resources
- Implementation of tested and successful solutions

## Participation + Co-management





## Get in touch!

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