

Early impacts of COVID-19 in the coastal communities of Príncipe island



© Lodney Nazaré

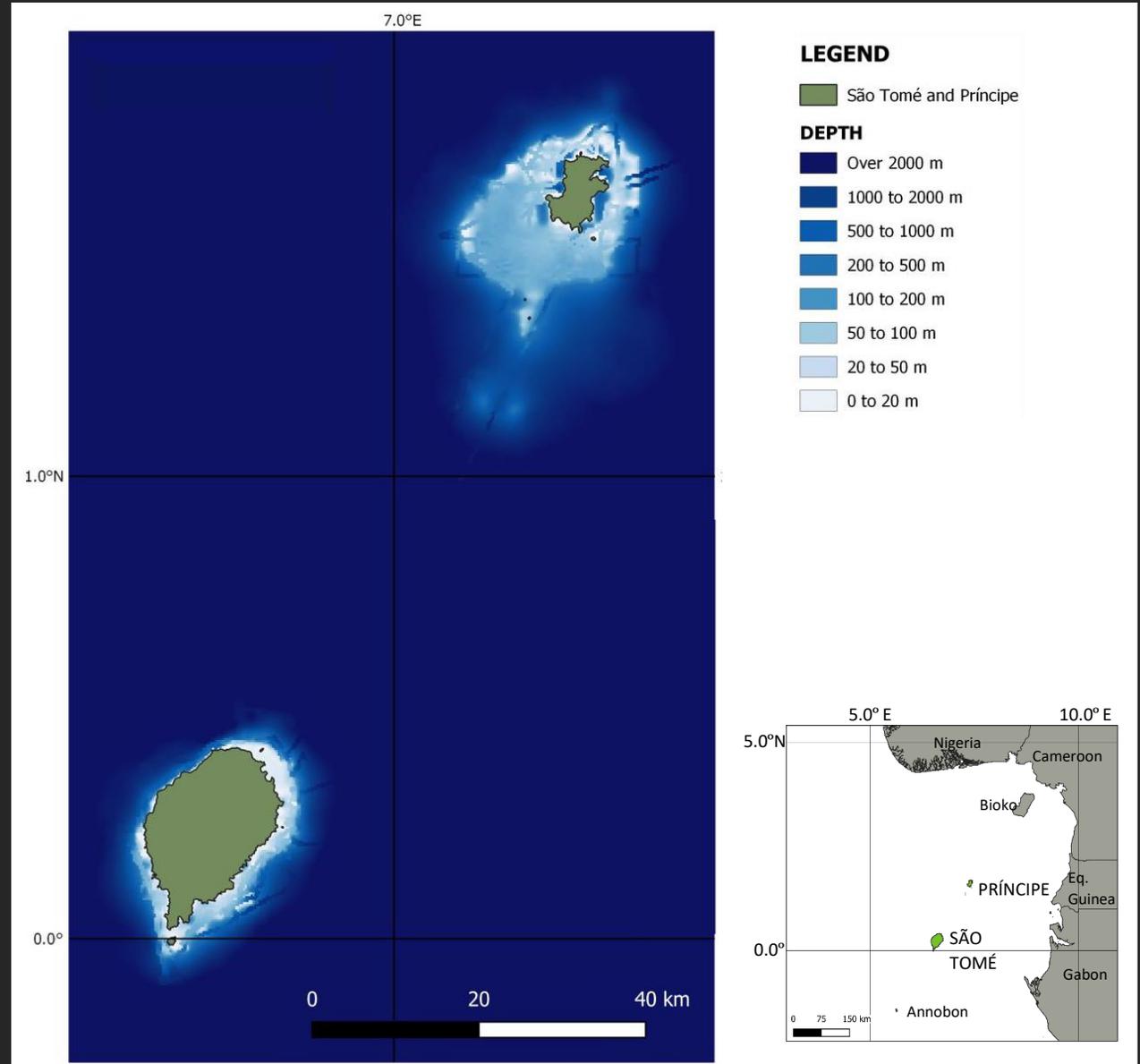
Guillermo Prieto Porriños – *Universidade de Lisboa*

Laura Benitez Bosco – *Fauna & Flora International*

- INTRODUCTION -

Príncipe island

- São Tomé and Príncipe
 - Small Island Developing State located in the Gulf of Guinea (~250 km off the coast of mainland Africa).
 - National population ~300,000, of which 8,000 in Príncipe.
- Almost 20% of STP population is involved in the artisanal fishing sector, and fish is one of the main sources of animal protein of the archipelago.
- Príncipe's main livelihoods are **small-scale fishing**, **farming**, and raising **livestock**. In the last decade, there was a major development of **high-end tourism**, mostly from foreign investors.



- INTRODUCTION -

On Príncipe, fish is traded fresh or processed (salted and dried). FRESH FISH TRADE: Sold in the same day, most of it at the main market. SALT-DRIED FISH EXPORTATIONS: Most of the salt-dried fish is exported to São Tomé. These exportations are practised by palaiês (women) and fishers (men) and are one of the few injections of external funds into the communities.

Fishers (typically men)



Palaiês (traders, typically women)

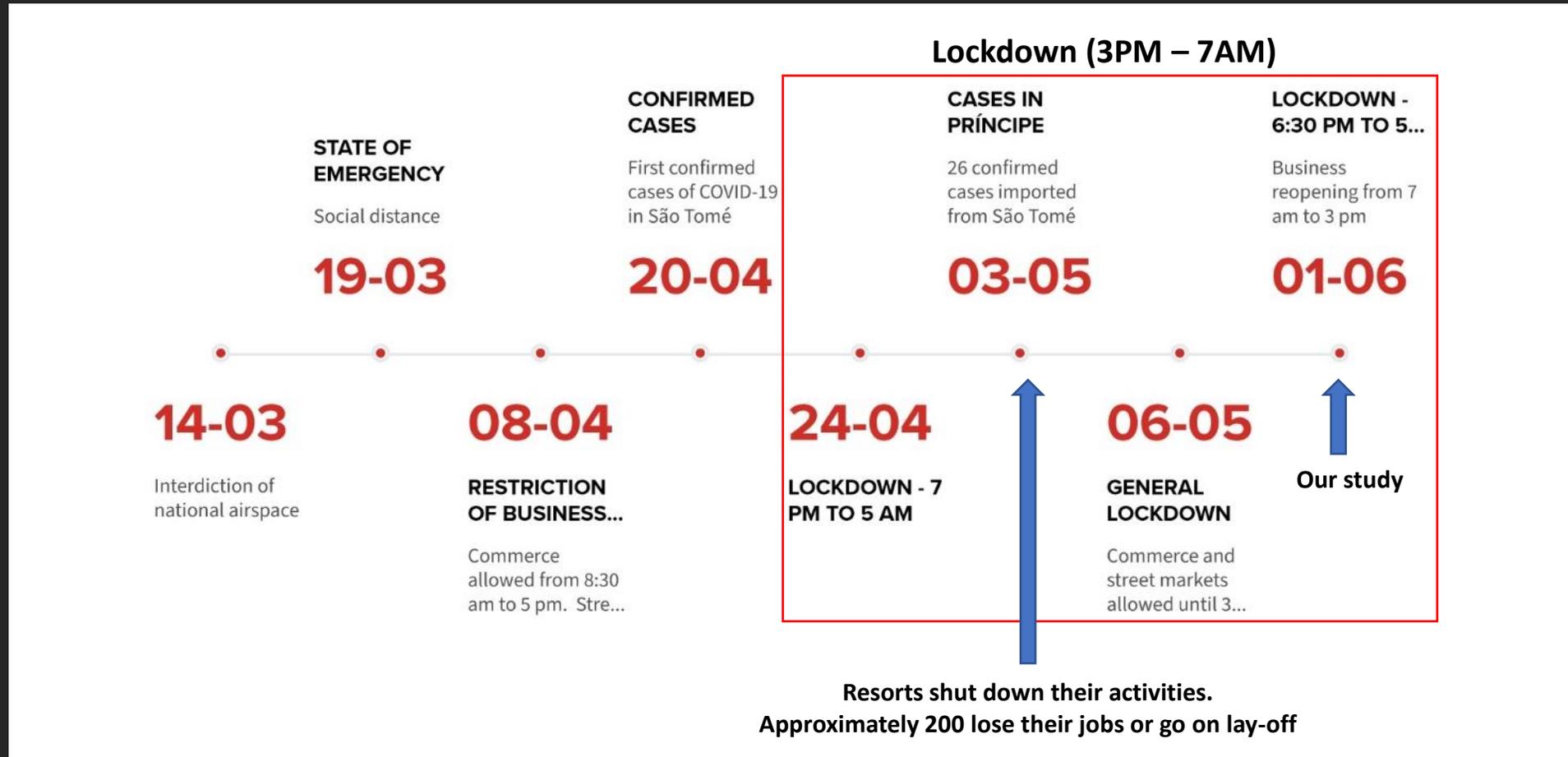


Processing and exporting fish to São Tomé



- INTRODUCTION -

Timeline



Data collection

- Telephonic survey, conducted in June 2020 by Fundação Príncipe.
- Snowball sampling
 - 10 coastal communities
 - 12 inland communities
 - 132 respondents of different age groups (65 women)
- Open- and closed-ended questions. Responses recorded using ODK and paper forms.



- RESULTS -

Short-term impacts

- Mostly related to **lockdown measures** (time restrictions) and **disruptions on the boat transport**.
- Fishers' and traders' developed a range of adaptation responses to the impacts, but these were heterogeneous and non linear.
- Adaptation responses were likely to revert after restrictions were lifted.

Long-term impacts

- Mostly related to the **collapse of the tourism industry** and **unemployment**.
- Disruption of value chains (fish and agriculture).
- A shift towards subsistence livelihoods was observed to cope with unemployment.

Impacts on fish value chain I - FISHING EFFORT

LEGEND

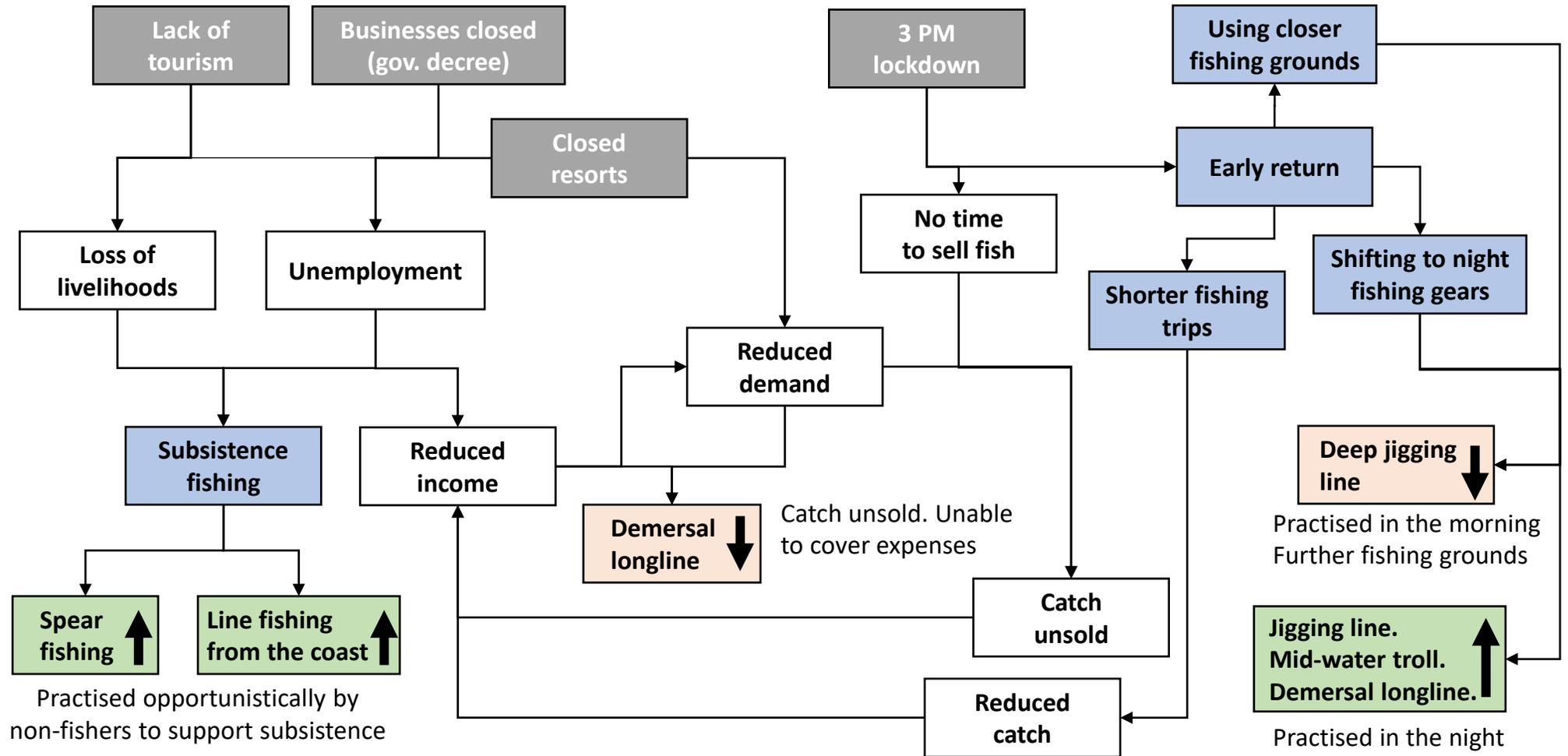
CAUSES

IMPACTS

ADAPTATION MEASURES

HIGHER F. EFFORT

LOWER F. EFFORT



Impacts on agriculture

- **Closure of hotels & reduced income of the population** → lack of demand → excess of production (smallholders) → **food wastage, economic losses.**
- Short-term changes in the Value Chain in response to the 3PM lockdown.
- Loss of livelihoods → Opening new fields and spending more time in the fields.

CONCLUSIONS

- COVID-19 impacts have been heterogeneous and cross-cutting.
- Complex synergies between “marine” and “terrestrial” impacts and adaptation responses → need for integrated approaches to conservation and natural resource management.
- Major and long-term disruption in Value Chains → need to strength and develop value chains (VC analysis was commissioned in 2020 → Porriños, 2021).
- Need to support monitoring and surveillance to better understand potential threats (i.e. deforestation, increased spear fishing)

Thanks!
Muito obrigado!

Questions?

