

## Assessing options to mitigate the impacts of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing on Príncipe

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### Context

FFI requested an assessment of options regarding how they might assist with sustainable fisheries management in São Tomé e Príncipe. FFI is particularly interested in the management of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing around Príncipe, and how they might help reduce this threat to fishing communities and coastal marine ecosystems. A site visit was carried out in June 2017, involving interviews with government officials and meetings with artisanal fishers.

### Findings: Key opportunities for IUU interventions by FFI

- The national and provincial government are both willing to collaborate with external partners on potential solutions for IUU fishing.
- The Príncipe Trust is well-positioned to lead on local monitoring of fishing activity.
- There is potential for integrated local-national monitoring of IUU fishing, with some precedence for this elsewhere in West Africa.
- There is ongoing development of regional West African networks for monitoring, control and surveillance of IUU fishing, with opportunity for FFI to support these.

### Findings: Key challenges for IUU interventions by FFI

- **Scalar issues:** The major drivers of IUU fishing operate at a larger scale than FFI currently has expertise or resources to address in their West African programmes.
- **Capacity constraints:** The São Tomé e Príncipe fisheries department currently lacks resources for effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of IUU fishing.
- **Information gaps:** There is a lack of information about the relative importance of local vs. remote threats to marine ecosystems and livelihoods on Príncipe.
- **Domestic semi-industrial fishery:** There are likely to be significant impacts on Príncipe as the (legal) domestic fishery develops; these cannot be managed through IUU-focused interventions.

### Potential conservation interventions by FFI: Options at different scales

- Community-based MCS:** This would be a helpful addition to a functioning national MCS system. However, without integrated monitoring and enforcement capacity, community-based reporting alone will not reduce IUU activity.
- Supporting national MCS development:** FFI may be able to act as a broker or intermediary organisation: linking Santomean government agencies with appropriate expertise, capacity and resources to fill critical gaps in the national MCS infrastructure.
- Building regional MCS capacity:** FFI could choose to engage neighbouring West African governments in cooperative development of regional anti-IUU initiatives.