

# Including fishermen's knowledge in management



Barbara Rodenburg-Geertsema 8 jan 2014

# The fisher and the biologist

But first some raisins from Herat



Fishermen know where the fishes  
want to be



But will they tell it?

# Condition 1: find common ground

- Can we agree on:
- Conservation for nature and people?
- Fish production as management target?
- Fishery as part of the heritage?

An inclusive conservation strategy that takes coastal communities into account?

We don't manage fish stocks  
We don't manage nature



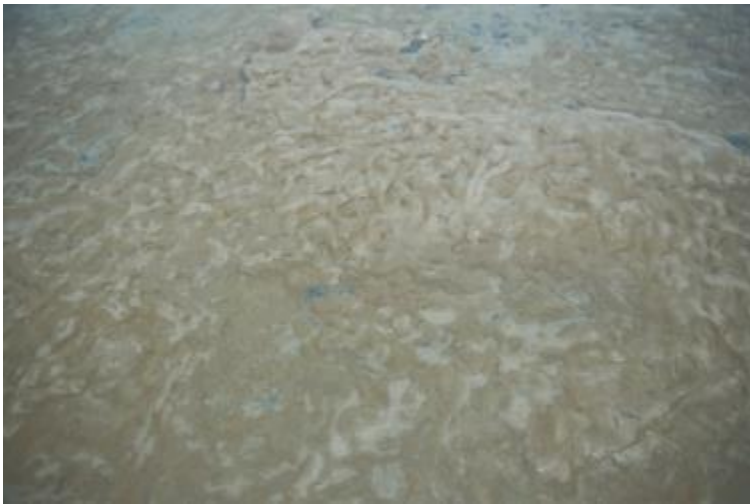
We can change conditions

We can manage human activities

# Condition 2: create a safe space

- Acknowledge the vulnerable position of fishers
- Start with (small) group of dedicated people
- Include interpreter(s) Swahili ↔ Chinese
- No pressure to share all information
- Share the results!

# Fishers knowledge and insights



# John Wedgewood Clarke:

1. Savour and sustain: each mouthful of story and flavour, tasted to its source, helps the life of the harbour continue.
3. The technical experts don't work in the labs; they haul knowledge in with their hands.
11. Questions equal quality – the more we ask, the more value grows in the hold of the boat and the mouth.