

# Failed SNAPSHOTS

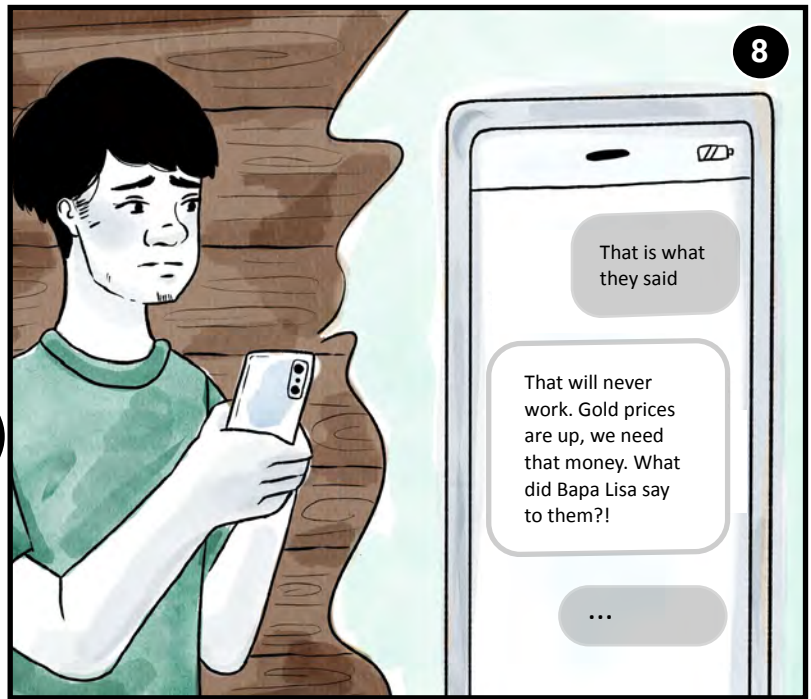
## Adapting to an ever-shifting landscape





Two months later in the same village... 7

We present to you the "Dammar Initiative", a sustainable livelihood business plan that'll bring money to your village and protect the National Park.



8

That is what they said

That will never work. Gold prices are up, we need that money. What did Bapa Lisa say to them?!



Three months later...

9

It will be great to see the progress on the dammar initiative.

Yes, this visit is just in time for our report deadline



10

But where is the dammar?

Right... your initiative hasn't had the support we hoped.



11

It was a great opportunity. But the dammar price dropped and the river rose. Now we can fish and mine the river. The village head's mining rafts are making good money.



12

What went wrong here?

Balancing conservation priorities with shifting livelihoods can be complicated.



## Takeaways

1. Understanding the dynamic interplay between conservation efforts and local livelihoods is crucial for effective community development.
2. Surveys and short visits offer snapshots but can't capture the evolving dynamics of a community. Indigenous and other rural communities are often highly flexible, regularly adapting their livelihood strategies to shifting environments and economic factors.
3. Understanding and working with these processes requires regular and long-term engagement with various community members. This will enable conservationists to build up a fuller picture of different interests within the community and respond effectively to changing realities.



## Questions for conservation practitioners

1. How can you learn about people's lives over a long period and in a holistic way?
2. What can you use to confirm and verify the information you gather?
3. How can you become a consistent and trusted presence in the communities you work with?
4. What social, religious, environmental, economic, and political factors should you think about when planning a community project?
5. How can you make sure that what you do benefits the whole community, not just a few?
6. How do you balance conservation priorities with local priorities and concerns?

© [The Global Lives of the Orangutan](#) (GLO) and [POKOK](#) research projects, 2023. GLO received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant agreement No. 758494). POKOK was funded by the Arcus Foundation's Great Apes Program and Brunel University London.

Cite as: [The Global Lives of the Orangutan](#) (GLO) and [POKOK](#) (2023). Failed snapshots: Adapting to an ever-shifting landscape. University of Cambridge and Brunel University London.

Edit and design: [Research Retold](#) (2023)