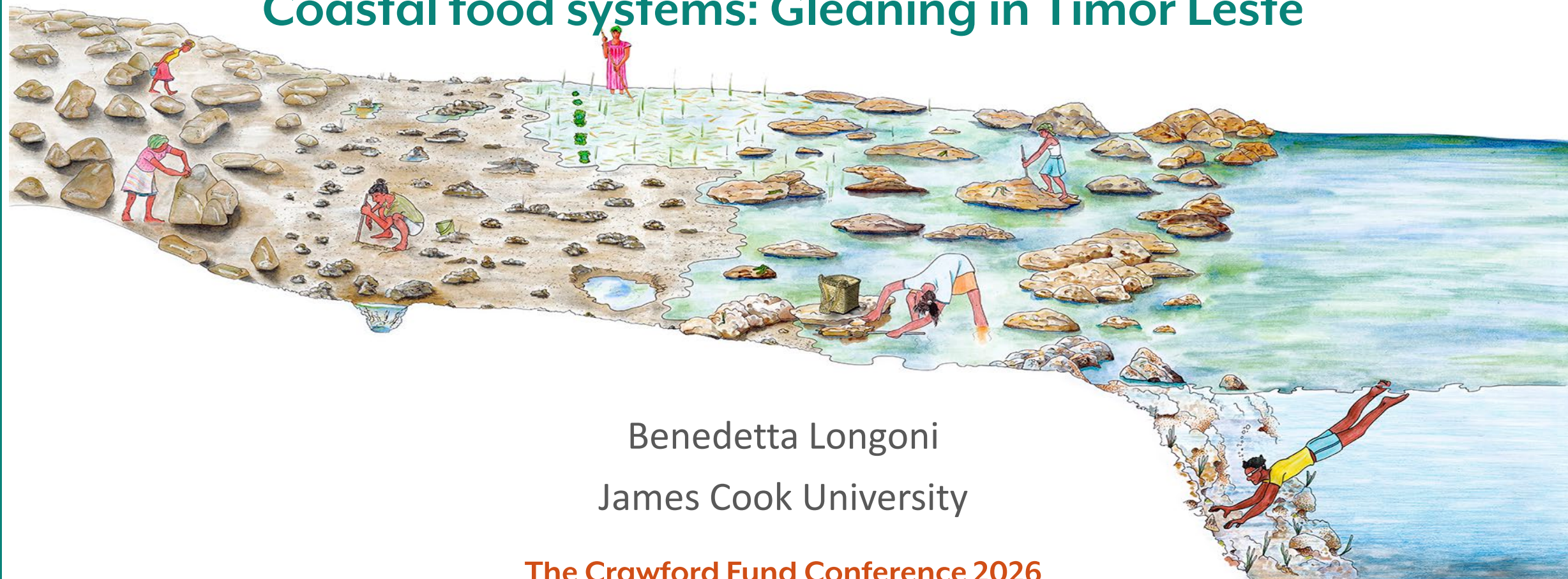


Emerging Voices Shaping Regional Integration for a Food Secure World

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Coastal food systems: Gleaning in Timor Leste

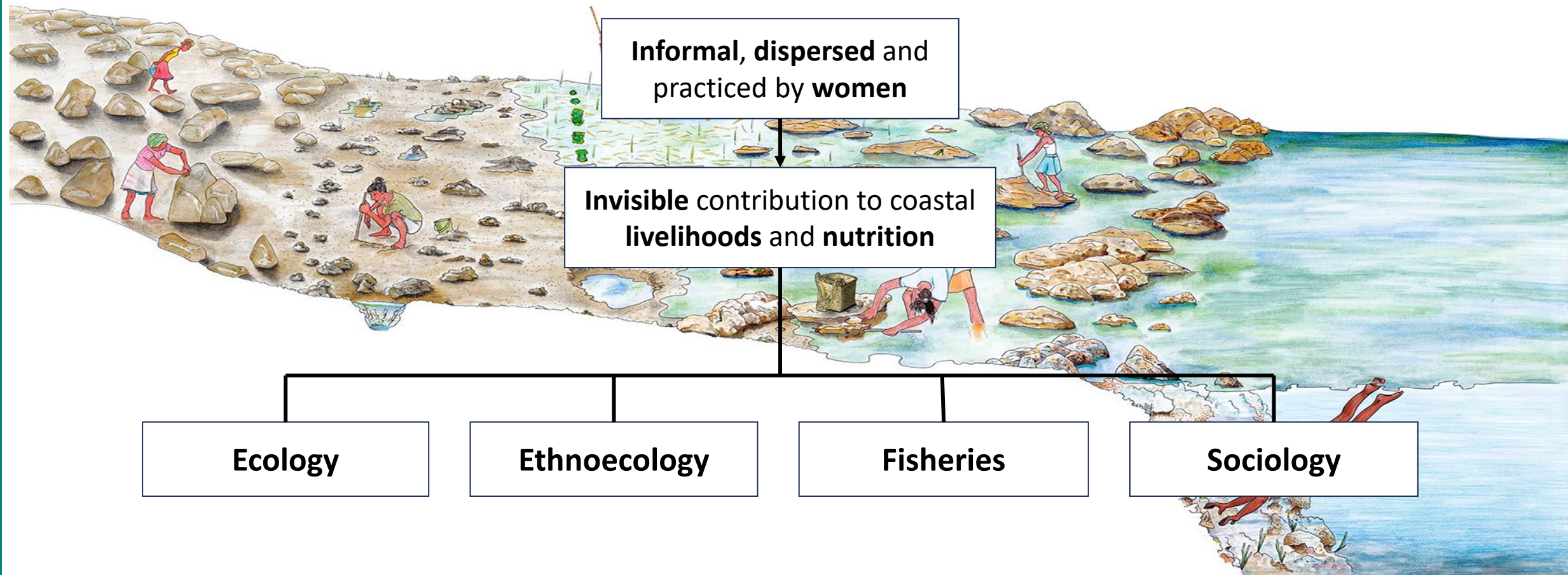


Benedetta Longoni
James Cook University

The Crawford Fund Conference 2026

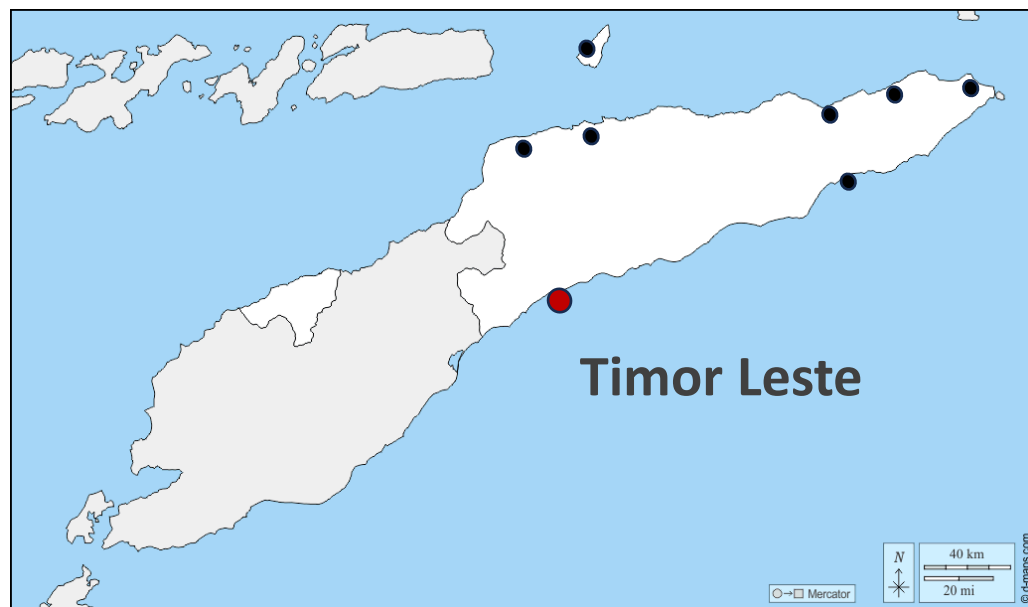
Understanding gleaning through interdisciplinary research

Gleaning is a traditional form of **small-scale fishing** that implies the collection of **marine invertebrates** and **small fish** by hand or with simple traditional tools in intertidal coastal habitats **during low tide**.

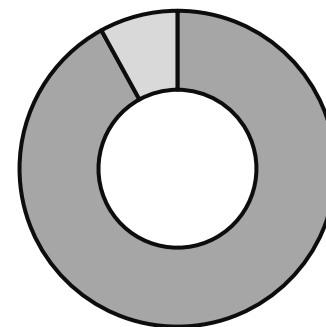


Gleaning is a widespread coastal food system

In **Timor Leste**, gleaning is practised **across genders and generations**, although **women** make up the majority of participants.

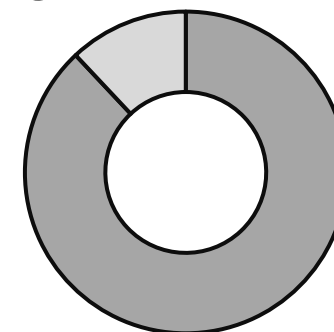


92% of households glean



■ Gleaning
■ Not gleaning

88% of the catch is brought home to eat



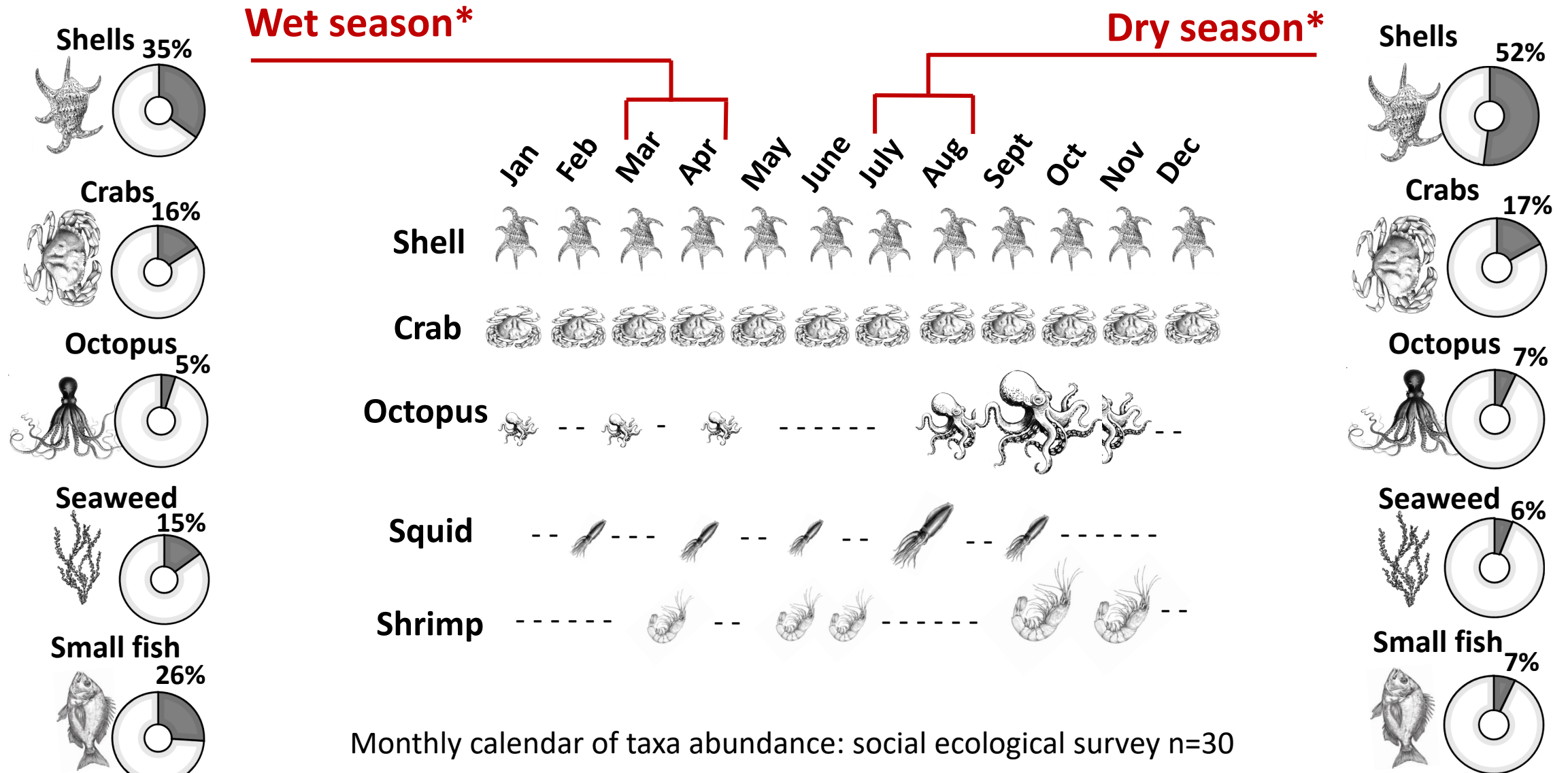
■ Household consumption
■ Not household consumption

*Shellfish Project: Data collected across 7 (●) coastal communities, March-April 2022-2024

*Suai Lo'o (●) : The Crawford Fund supported field work, July-Sep 2025



A diverse food system throughout the year



Monthly calendar of taxa abundance: social ecological survey n=30

*Catch composition: CPUE dry season (n=42), wet season (n=64)

Why recognizing gleaning matters



Mrs Anita Baros shows her catch (octopus) in Suai Lo'o, Timor Leste (© B. Longoni).



Women hidden contributions and local knowledge



Adaptive coastal food system



Nutrition and food security



Sustainable management



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