

# Research with, not for: Participatory paths through wildfires and tourism

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Projeto PYROTuR

Seminário de Kickoff

Incêndios rurais e turismo: coproduzindo  
conhecimento para destinos resilientes ao  
clima

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# Community-engaged research

“...the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people”

Community engagement is grounded in the principles of community organization: fairness, justice, empowerment, participation, and self-determination...



# Community-engaged research can...

1. Democratize knowledge creation by centring local contexts and community expertise.

2. Build the capacity of communities/organizations to do research and grow their influence.

3. Broaden the impact of communities/organizations by using the research process as a way to build diverse coalitions of stakeholders.

4. Influence public policy by creating credible evidence for change.



# Research with, not for

## Benefits for community



Opportunities for  
networking



Access to  
information and  
resources,



Personal  
recognition,  
Learning,



A sense of helping  
to solve  
community  
problems,



Improved  
relationships  
among  
stakeholders,



Increased capacity  
for problem  
solving,



Contact with hard-  
to-reach  
populations



# Participatory methods

- To support and empower local actors
- Find solutions to common problems



Fontes: Duxbury, Bakas and Pato, 2023

# Participatory methods

## Knowledge co-production

- Participatory research methods involve collaboration and active engagement with local communities, acknowledging their perspectives as integral to the research process.
- Roles of academic and non-academic actors are blurred.
- Mixed group discussions and collaborations reduce the power imbalances that may exist outside the project.

Fontes: Duxbury, Bakas and Pato, 2023



# Participatory methods

## Participatory action research (PAR)

Actively **involve affected communities** in the decision-making processes that impact their living environments



Facilitate their participation in co-creating **community-specific initiatives** for sustainable change.

**Be open** to debates and topics that emerge.

Fontes: Goebel, Camargo-Borges, & Eelderink, 2020



# Participatory methods

## Participatory action research (PAR)

Structure meetings to allow for multiple **informal discussions** as well as more **‘formal’ presentation** and group feedback sessions.

Structure other activities to require meaningful discussion such as co-designing or **co-writing**.



Fontes Duxbury, Bakas and Pato, 2023 :



# PYROTuR - Task 5

## Designing solutions for wildfire-resilient tourism destinations: pilot-study

01.01.2026—30.06.2026

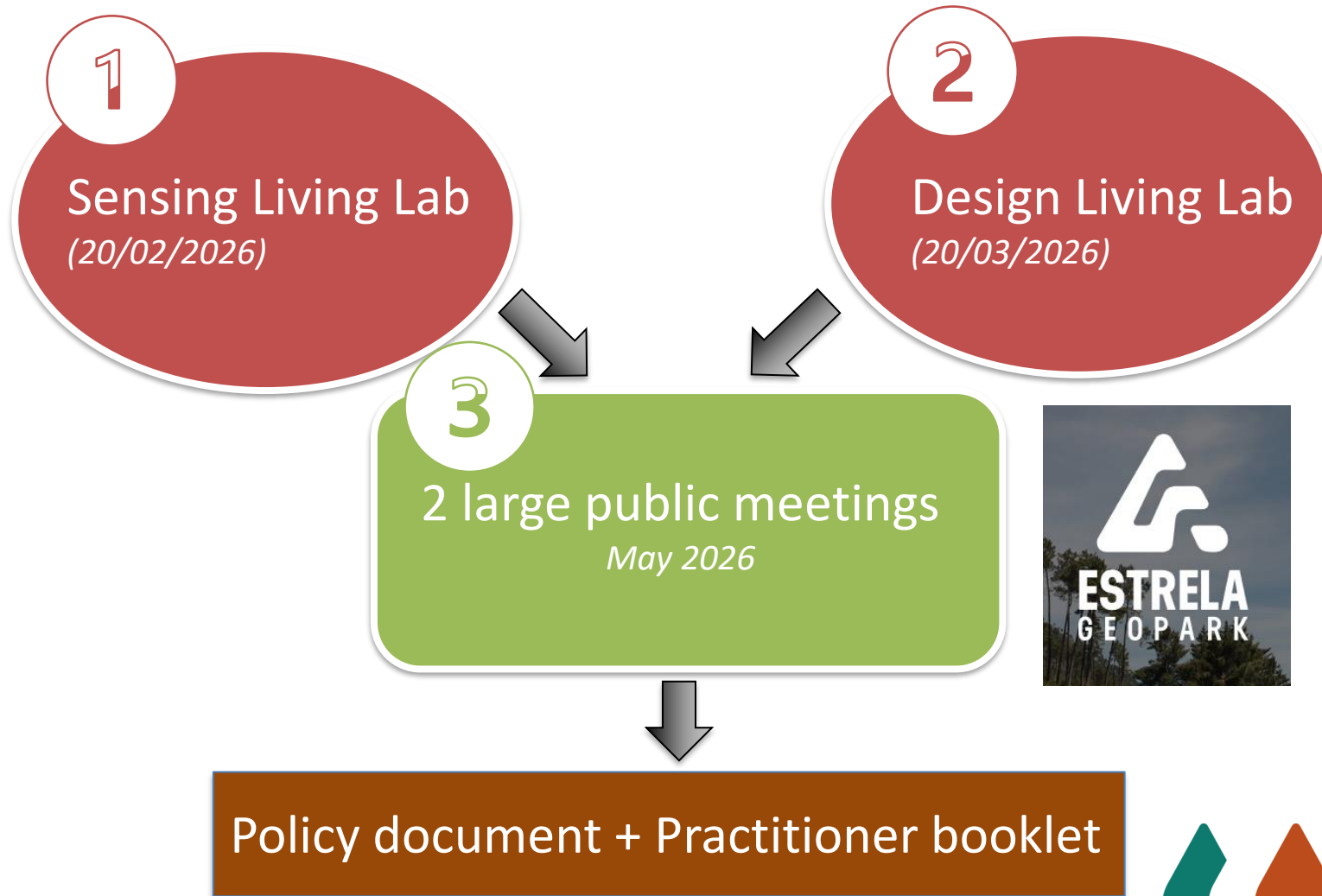
In the post-disaster phase, the priority of academics, industry and governments has been to quickly promote the resumption of operations and the recovery of markets, rather than seeking to reflexively learn from disasters to make structural changes that can lead to more resilient environments .

Lack of:

1. An integrative and relational vision of the industry-host community-landscape assemblage
2. Vision that focuses on the collaborative construction of environments less vulnerable to risk



# Participatory method in action



# Sensing Living Lab

1

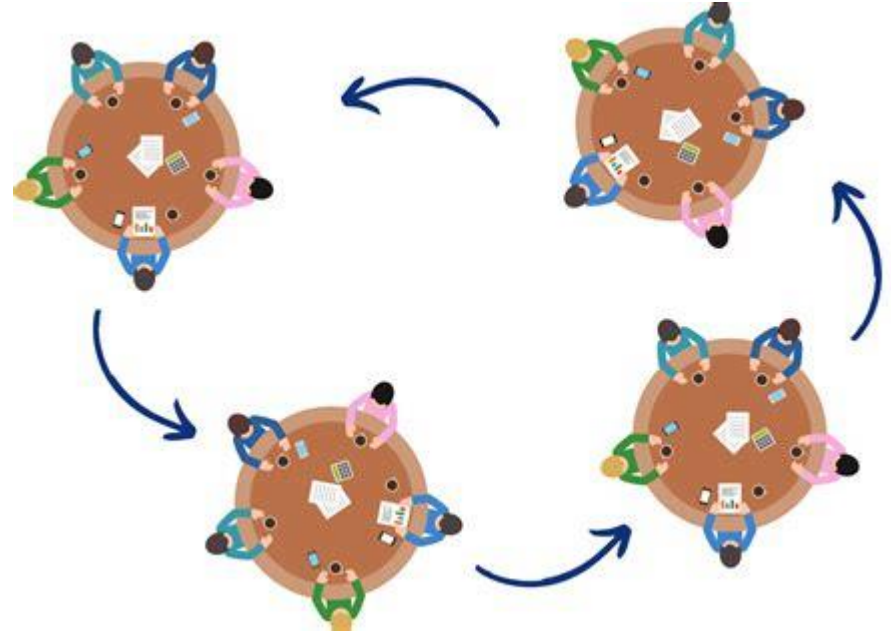
Sensing Living Lab  
(20/02/2026)

1. Identify and select the current and future problems to address
2. Envision possible futures



# Sensing Living Lab

## World Cafe method



- Link ideas within a larger group to access the collective intelligence in the room and propose solutions to a common issue.
- A collaborative strategy that promotes an environment for structured discussions for sharing knowledge and perspectives.



# Sensing Living Lab

## Community mapping

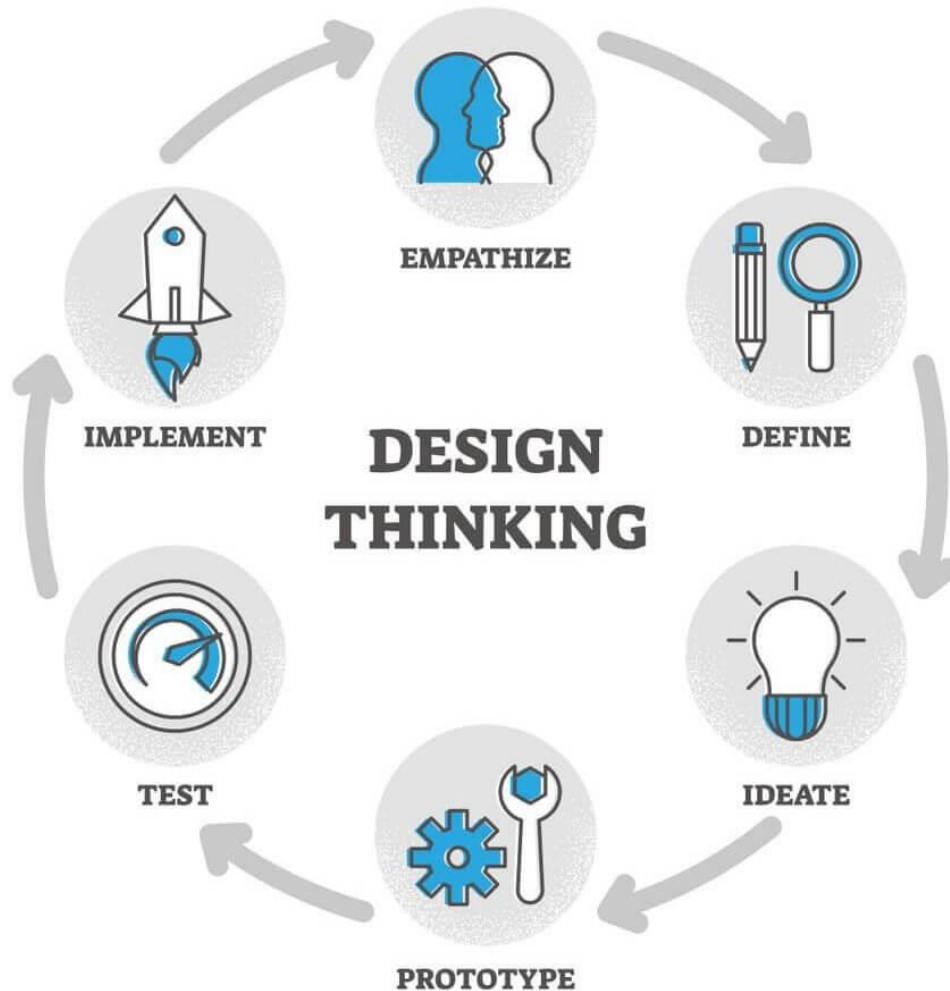


# COMMUNITY MAPPING

Community mapping includes various mapping techniques that identify relationships and sites on a map in order to create a tangible display of the people, places and experiences that make up a community. For instance, asset mapping identifies the status, condition, behavior, knowledge or skills of a person, group or entity, which serves as a resource for oneself and others in the community. This method can support strategic planning efforts by building on existing community strengths and is often used in Asset Based Community Development.<sup>29</sup>



# Design Living Lab



2

## Design Living Lab (20/03/2026)

1. Scenario planning - moving towards the desired alternative future scenarios
2. Designing solutions (design thinking /prototyping technique)

# Participatory method in action

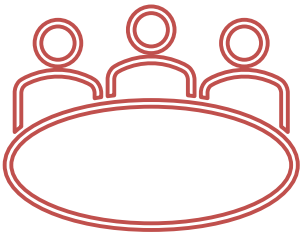
3

2 large public meetings

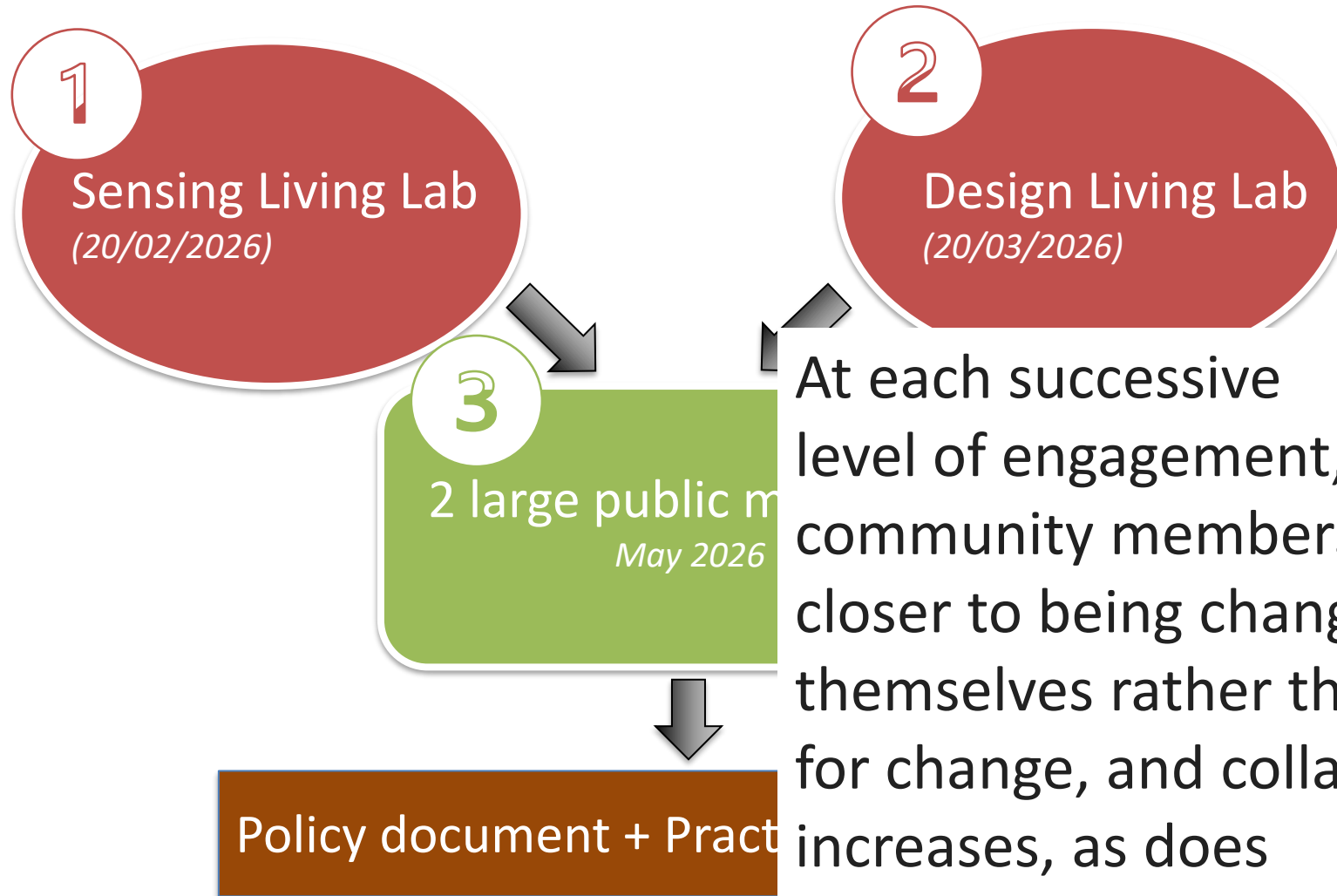
*May 2026*

Testing solutions proposed in Living labs with the community.

Collating data for insertion into policy document/practitioner booklet.



# Participatory method in action



At each successive level of engagement, community members move closer to being change agents themselves rather than targets for change, and collaboration increases, as does community empowerment.



# Knowledge mobilisation

## Policy and Practitioners



Evidence-based policy  
document created



Dissemination document created  
using format that make sense  
for community.



# Comments?

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