



From knowledge to practice: How is Marine Science transformed through Co-Design?

Organisers

MeerWissen, IOC-UNESCO & WIOMSA

Background

In recent years Co-design has been widely accepted as key element for transdisciplinary and transformative research. Effective science-policy transfer and knowledge-based decision-making benefit from solution-oriented research objectives, tailor-made approaches, and the shared ownership of research findings by a range of stakeholders, including scientists, decision makers and local communities. Co-design therefore involves iterative stakeholder engagement with the aim of co-creating, co-producing, and co-disseminating research. This participatory process promises great opportunities for managing environmental and social challenges, it does however bear its own challenges. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 – 2030) integrates co-design as a central pillar of its approach to transformative ocean science to support sustainable development. Through dedicated funding programmes (e.g. the MeerWissen Initiative), focused training programmes (e.g. through the UN Ocean Decade), and dedicated studies on science-policy transfer (e.g. through WIOMSA), marine researchers in the WIO region have embraced the co-design approach in form of partnership projects that facilitate extensive stakeholder engagement with the aim to bridge the science-policy gap.

This special session promotes the need for a transformation of ocean science. Scientists, policymakers, and local community members who have pioneered Co-design in the WIO region, will share their insights and experiences and highlight lessons learned, thus answering the question: *How is marine research transformed through Co-design?*

In the information session (part A), the MeerWissen Initiative (GIZ), the UN Ocean Decade (IOC-UNESCO) and WIOMSA will share guidance, practice tools, and trainings on how to integrate Co-design in marine research. In the subsequent workshop (part B), participants will identify needs and make recommendations to improve science-policy transfer through Co-design. Join this interactive and lively session and shape a future of marine science that matters!

Target audience

The session is aimed at marine researchers from a range of disciplines, policy makers and anyone active or interested in sharing experiences to improve effective science-policy transfer.

Preliminary programme

SPECIAL SESSION: HOW TO CO-DESIGN MARINE SCIENCE THAT MATTERS (3 HOURS?) FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 14:00-17:15		
14:00 – 15:30	Part A: Information sharing session Moderator: Maya Pfaff (MeerWissen / GIZ)	<i>What is Co-Design?</i>
14:00-14:05	Welcome & session goals	<i>What do we want to achieve?</i>
14:05-14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Alison Clausen (IOC-UNESCO / Ocean Decade) ➤ Arthur Tuda (WIOMSA) ➤ Alexandra Gerritsen (MeerWissen) 	<i>What is Co-design? What tools and guidance exist to assist the Co-design journey?</i>
14:30-14:55	Case studies & lessons learned by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scientists ➤ Policy makers ➤ Fishing community members 	<i>What have we learned so far? How can we improve our Co-design approaches?</i>
14:55-15:20	Fishbowl ('open mic' for everyone to contribute)	<i>What experience can <u>YOU</u> share regarding Co-design?</i>
15:20-15:30	Reflection / conclusions	<i>What have we learned so far?</i>
15:30 – 15:45 - COFFEE BREAK		
15:45 – 17:15	Part B: Workshop session Moderator: Alison Clausen (IOC-UNESCO)	<i>What do we need to practice co-design?</i>
15:45-15:55	Welcome & session goals	<i>What do we want to achieve?</i>
15:55-16:25	Break-out groups: Formulating the needs of (1) scientists, (2) policy makers (3) local communities with respect to Co-design	<i>What capacities / structures are lacking? How can we build them?</i>
16:25-17:05	Report back & discussion	<i>What concrete needs exist for different groups?</i>
17:05-17:15	Wrap-up	<i>What have we learned? Where to from here?</i>