SCALING UP OCEAN ACTION BASED ON SCIENCE AND INNOVATION AT THE TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Marjo Vierros

Coastal Policy and Humanities Research

SCIENCE-BASED ACTION

- Urgency to implementation in the face of environmental degradation and climate change
- Need science-based solutions
- Examine successes and scale up where possible
- Understand why some attempts have not worked as well
  - Financing, lack of stakeholder engagement, lack of political support, lack of scientific information?
- **Build a science-based path towards broader implementation of SDG 14, and through co-benefits, other SDGs**

SCIENCE-BASED AREAS OF INNOVATIVE ACTION

Some areas of innovative action:

- **Blue economy, focusing on sustainable ocean-based industries**
  - Many good VCs
  - Broader range of sustainable technologies, e.g. marine biotechnology, sustainable aquaculture renewable energy?
- **Local innovative action, including traditional knowledge**
  - Many good local VCs
  - Harness long history of cultural innovation and knowledge
  - Empowering communities to take charge of their own future
- **Understanding and building climate resilience**
  - Understanding and dealing with multiple impacts
  - How do we manage for resilience? MPAs?
  - Involving and increasing capacity of young scientists

HOW TO STIMULATE SCIENCE-BASED AND INNOVATIVE OCEAN ACTION

Partnerships

- **Scientific community/academia is still not a major partner in VCs**
  - How do we better involve the scientific community? Removing obstacles - incentives
- **Capacity building**
  - Capacity of scientists to participate in policy
  - Better science capacity in developing countries - Institutional strengthening
  - Better societal capacity to understand importance of science - education
- **Involving the private sector in innovative, science-based solutions**
  - Technologies
  - Ocean observation, data collection
  - New economic opportunities and capacity as part of a blue economy (e.g. biotech)

COA AND VC HOLDERS ROLE

- **Actively sharing and promoting solutions, experiences, lessons learned**
  - What has worked?
- **Some solutions may be scalable, others more specific to unique circumstances**
  - What common elements have made some solutions successful?
  - Can these be more broadly applied?
  - **COAs as hubs of implementation ideas that have worked**
  - **Used to build pathways for SDG 14 implementation**

MAXIMIZING CO-BENEFITS AND MINIMIZING NEGATIVE TRADEOFFS

- **Co-benefits**: Linkages with all SDGs important, including reducing poverty and hunger, climate action…
- **Relatively under-represented in SDG 14 VCs**:
  - Inequality
  - Education
  - Gender
  - Health
  - Peace, justice and strong institutions
  - Industry and innovation
  - **Can science-based solutions further advance equity, for example by promoting gender equality and social inclusion?**
- **Avoiding negative tradeoffs**:
  - Blue economy - ensuring that environmental and equity concerns do not take a back seat to economic development
- **Marine spatial planning as an integrating solution?**