

Transcending the Disciplines: Narrowing the Science-Action Gap

- Transdisciplinary research is issue focused. Players leave their roles to focus on issues rather than deriving solutions based on disciplinary constraints
- Transdisciplinary research need to comply with the following requirements (Lang et al. 2012):
 1. Focusing on **societally relevant** problems
 2. Enabling **mutual learning** processes among **scientists and non scientists**
 3. Aiming at creating knowledge that is **solution-oriented, socially robust** and **transferable** to both scientific and societal practice



Transdisciplinary approach and thinking

- **Challenges and considerations**

- Different perspective “lenses”
- Terminologies and jargon
- Tracking scientific and societal impacts – long process
- Publishing: few reviewers that can assess inter/transdisciplinary studies
 - Few incentives and rewards for doing TR (less bang for your buck!)
- **BUT, will help translate research into action**
- Can't dismiss disciplinary work



Tackling Science-Action Gap

1. Build a collaborative research team
 - OTN great place to start
2. Abandon the Pipeline Model
 - Need to engage with the policy stream from the beginning, and throughout the research
3. Train interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary thinkers
 - Encourage students to go beyond limits of their discipline
 - Need for more knowledge brokers (mediators) between science and policy streams

