



TRAINING WORKSHOP

“Transdisciplinarity in Fisheries & Ocean Sustainability”

Cape Town, January 21-24th, 2019

Why transdisciplinary approach?

The transdisciplinary approach argues that the problems and priorities in fisheries and ocean governance, especially when concerning small-scale fisheries, require a broadening of perspectives that cut across academic disciplines, bridge division between scientific and local knowledge, and bring about innovation in teaching and learning. The transdisciplinary perspective is particularly important when dealing with the ‘wicked problems’ in small-scale fisheries governance, due mostly to insecure tenure rights, lack of livelihood options, poor access to markets, and marginalization of small-scale fishers in decision-making. In effect, building transdisciplinarity capacity at local, national and international levels is imperative in order to overcome these challenges, as well as to help promote the viability of small-scale fisheries, and the overall sustainability of fisheries and the oceans. The transdisciplinary approach is also required to facilitate the implementation of the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication \(SSF Guidelines\)](#) and to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

About the TD training programme

The transdisciplinary (TD) training programme is developed by the ‘*Too Big To Ignore*’ Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research (TBTI; toobigtoignore@net). The objective of the training is to expose participants to a range of issues, challenges and concerns related to fisheries and ocean sustainability, especially those affecting small-scale fisheries, as well as to deepen the understanding about their causes and effects, and to broaden the perspective about how to address them. Since transdisciplinarity is mostly about process, participants will learn leadership, problem-solving, facilitation and conflict resolution skills, learn to lead discussion and recognize group dynamics, as well as any power imbalance, and learn to communicate effectively with different stakeholders from various backgrounds. Some of the personal traits that the training will promote among participants are respect, empathy, fairness and open-mindedness.

The TD training workshop will begin with a series of lectures on theories and main concepts, such as transdisciplinarity, wicked problems, stakeholders, governance, governability, and sustainability, accompanied by exercises and practical activities to facilitate learning. Participants will be working in small groups to analyse the case studies using the frameworks learned, including stakeholder analysis, institutional analysis, and governability assessment.

Target group: the target group for the TD training workshop in Cape Town are young professionals and early career scientists from Africa with background and knowledge about fisheries and oceans, and with a keen interest in contributing to sustainability.