Message box (target academia)

Issue: lack of formal structure to facilitate transactions between coastal stakeholders

Problems:

* Economic incentives in coastal communities are arranged such that investment in valuable environmental information gathering systems (as well as the information itself) does not occur because the ROI is too low (too complex, time-consuming, expensive)
* Economic incentives in coastal communities are not arranged such that it makes sense for any one already-established entity to finance the creation of this network (too complex, time-consuming, expensive)
* Existing institutions that attempt to address this are too limited in their scope, and even act as obstacles to addressing this concern

So What?

* Adverse selection and moral hazard problems combine with economies of scale and transaction costs to result in:
  + inefficient, short-sighted, misinformed decision-making occurring at government, private business, and citizen levels
  + limiting the scaling-up of eco-friendly and community-friendly activities
  + decoupling the economy from the environment upon which it ultimately depends
  + huge waste of funding and lost potential profits

Benefits?

* Properly-designed incentive structures that allow
  + achieving (instantaneous) economies of scale per use-case with minimal transaction costs that can also be readily reformed, modified, and dissolved
  + centralized contracting and monitoring without requiring traditional centralization approaches (not relying on governments, NGOs, mediators etc.).
* Increased truly sustainable coastal economic activity
* Decisions made by entities reliant on the environment (the inputs they need, or the location where they reside) are environmentally-informed
* Transactions are traceable, transparent, trustworthy, contract-mediated, fair, automatic, and inclusive.
* A lasting alternative to the endless funding cycle of grant applications and reporting requirements.
* A lasting alternative to the open-source model that enables data access, sharing, and record-keeping; while also ensuring fair compensation and attribution of the work put in
* Increased data (quantity and quality)
* Overcomes bureaucratic slowdowns due to personalities, excessive negotiations, etc.

Solutions?

* Create a digital platform to maintain a network between coastal stakeholders that allows the aggregation of dilute supply and demand for environmental information so that transactions can occur with minimal transaction costs in a reliable, trustworthy, and automated fashion.
* Test this solution via:
  + A lab-based simulation, and
  + An empirical pilot project in a coastal community in collaboration with several stakeholders.
* Analyze the results of the simulation and pilot project.