

SESSION 4 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

CITIZEN SCIENCE AND THE SDGS

Monday September 7, 2020

Bridging the Divide : Connecting Earth Observations, Statistical
and Geographic Information for Better Decision Making

#2020AmericasSymposium

IIASA/ Dilek Fraisl

Dilek Fraisl is a research scholar at the Data Ecosystems for Sustainability Program of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis based in Austria. Dilek is also a PhD candidate at the University of Natural Resources and Life Science Vienna (BOKU). She is the chair of the European Commission funded "WeObserve SDGs & Citizen Science Community of Practice" that aims to foster collaboration and consolidate knowledge on the contribution of citizen science to the SDGs across the global citizen science and data and statistics communities. Dilek is also co-chairing the Citizen Science Global Partnership SDGs & Citizen Science Maximization Group, and a member of the Sustainable Solutions Development Network - Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics.



**Dilek Fraisl, Research Scholar,
International Institute for
Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)**

IIASA/ Presentation Agenda

- Background
- Methodology
- Results
- Examples/Success Stories
- Challenges, Gaps and Opportunities
- Summary/Key Takeaways

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-020-00833-7>

Sustainability Science
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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Mapping citizen science contributions to the UN sustainable development goals

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Abstract

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a vision for achieving a sustainable future. Reliable, timely, comprehensive, and consistent data are critical for measuring progress towards, and ultimately achieving, the SDGs. Data from citizen science represent one new source of data that could be used for SDG reporting and monitoring. However, information is still lacking regarding the current and potential contributions of citizen science to the SDG indicator framework. Through a systematic review of the metadata and work plans of the 244 SDG indicators, as well as the identification of past and ongoing citizen science initiatives that could directly or indirectly provide data for these indicators, this paper presents an overview of where citizen science is already contributing and could contribute data to the SDG indicator framework. The results demonstrate that citizen science is “already contributing” to the monitoring of 5 SDG indicators, and that citizen science “could contribute” to 76 indicators, which, together, equates to around 33%. Our analysis also shows that the greatest inputs from citizen science to the SDG framework relate to SDG 15 Life on Land, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, and SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation. Realizing the full potential of citizen science requires demonstrating its value in the global data ecosystem, building partnerships around citizen science data to accelerate SDG progress, and leveraging investments to enhance its use and impact.

Keywords Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) · Citizen science · SDG indicators · Tier classification for SDG indicators · Crowdsourcing · Community-based monitoring

<https://www.weobserve.eu/weobserve-cop4-sdgs/>

The WeObserve SDGs and Citizen Science Community of Practice (SDGs CoP) is an open platform for citizen science/citizen observatories and the SDGs.

Our aim is to connect citizen science practitioners, National Science Centres, National Offices (NSOs) and government officials; UN representatives; and the broader data and stats communities to share and exchange knowledge, ideas and resources on how to demonstrate the value of citizen science data and impact for SDG achievement.

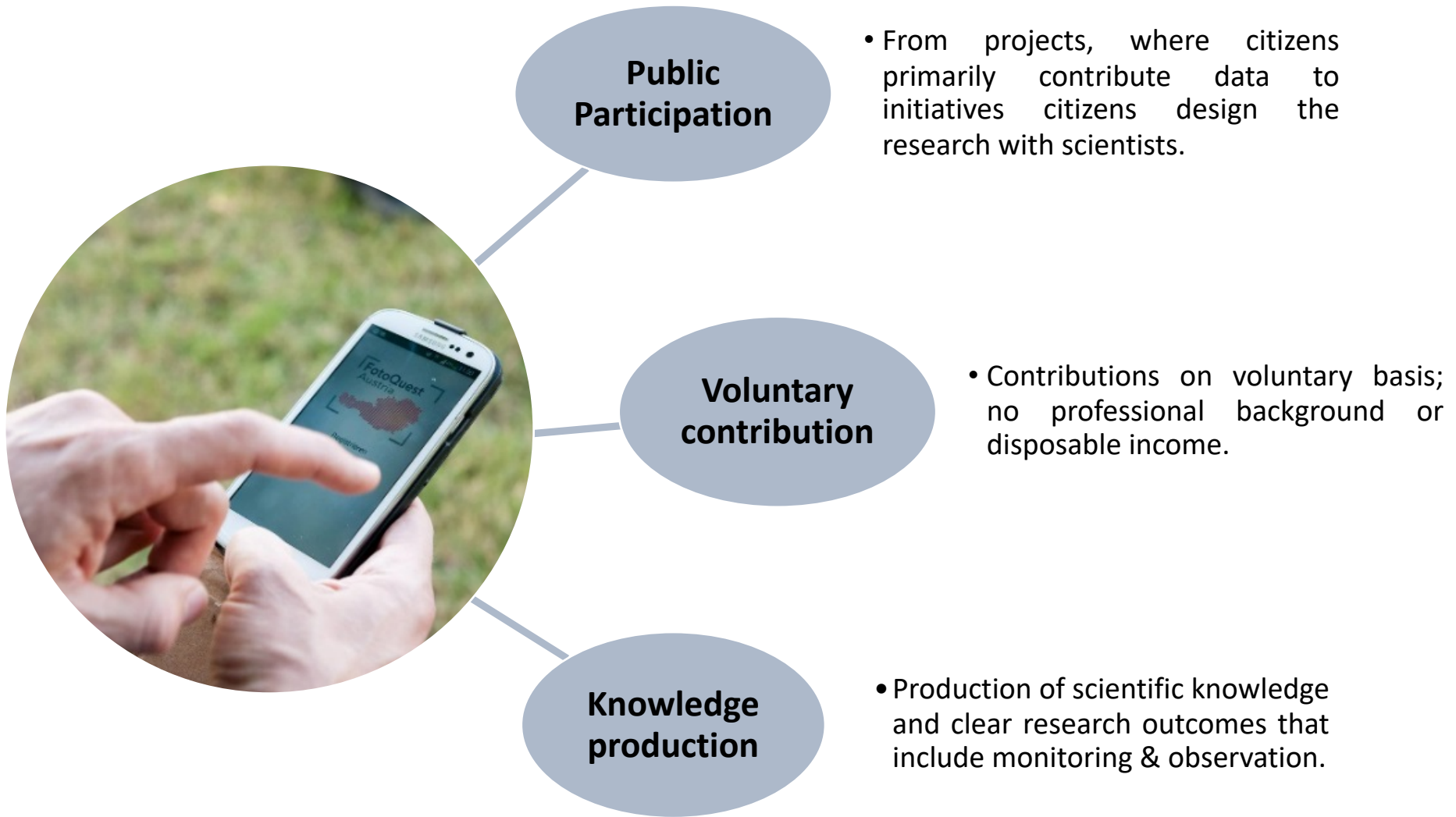
SDGs are a roadmap to achieve a healthy, prosperous and fair future for all. Achieving the SDGs requires informed decisions that are based on accurate, timely and comprehensive data. Even though data availability has improved over the last decade, there are still major gaps in information and knowledge for guiding policy formulation and implementation. New innovative approaches to data collection, such as citizen science/citizen observatories, which is very broadly defined as public participation in scientific research, can contribute to SDG monitoring. In addition, citizen science could also help mobilize citizen action and

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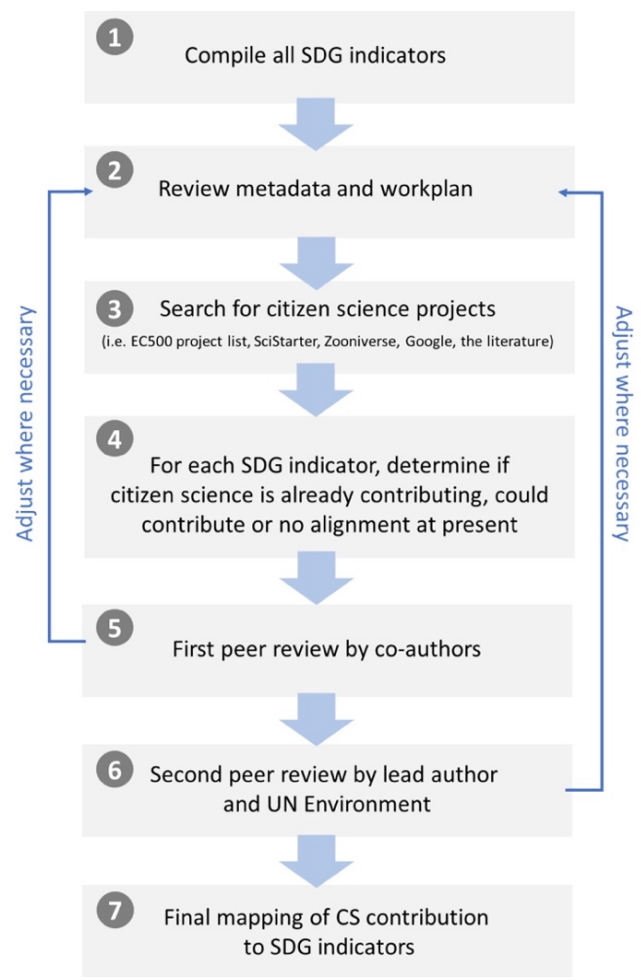
for the WeObserve
Communities of Practice

Recources

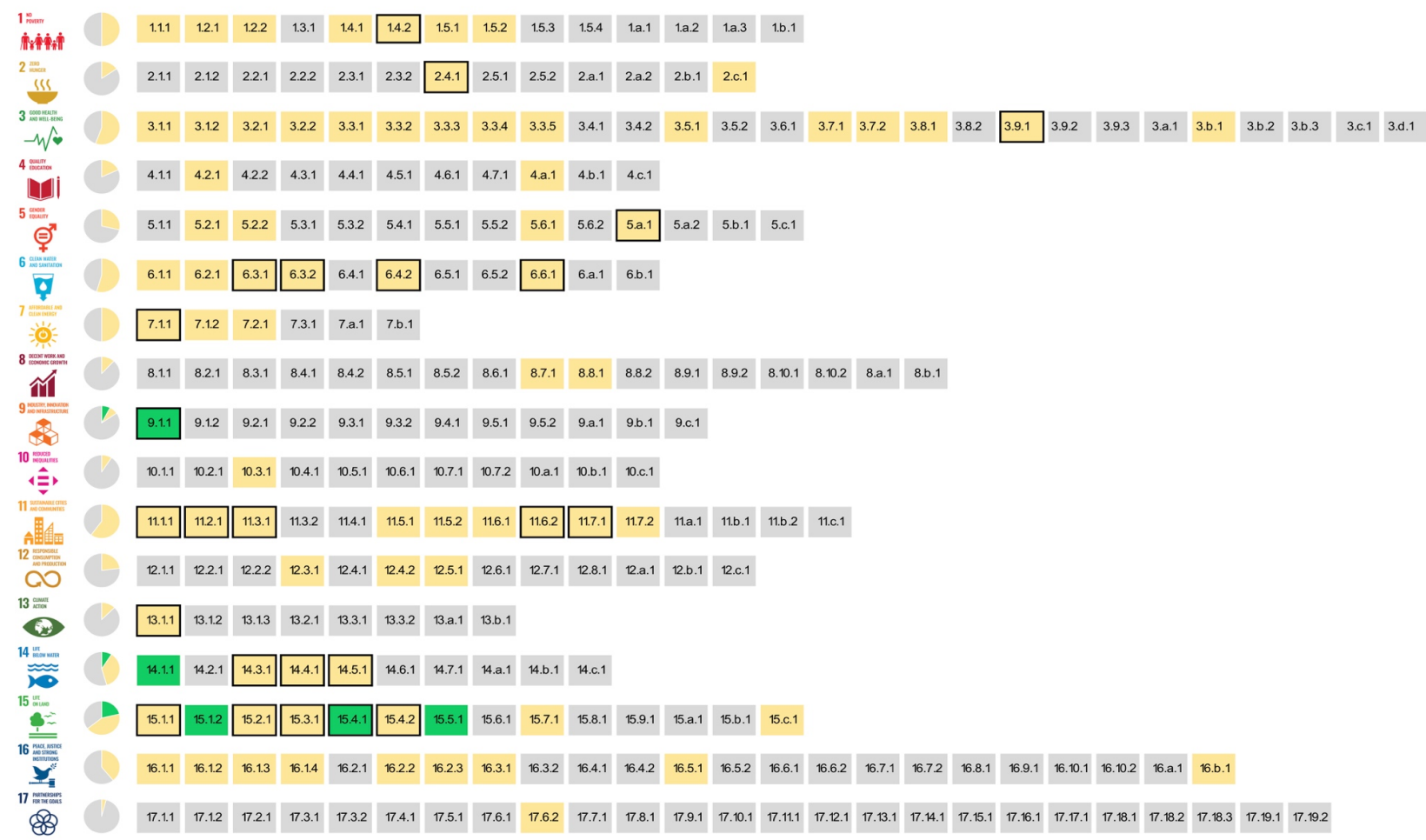
- Glossary
- Inception report
- Citizen science and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Nature Sustainability



Methodology



Results



Litter Intelligence

Sustainable Coastlines



LITTER SURVEY #01 • 25 October 2018 • Waikanae Beach, Gisborne, New Zealand www.sustainablecoastlines.org/litterproject

FreshWaterWatch

Fieldwork conducted by FreshWater Watchers



Source: Earthwatch Institute

6.3.2 - Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

FreshWaterWatch has a global water quality database based on the contributions made by 8,000+ citizen scientists for more than 2,500 water bodies.

Picture Pile

Total Score: 294 Sorted: 0.01768%
Weekly Score: 0

Do you see deforestation over time?

← No Yes →

Report Tanzania

Maybe ↓ Menu

Mapping Info Sheet

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

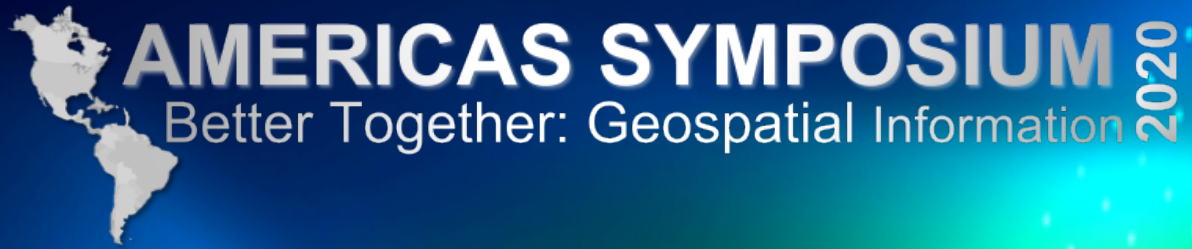
100% \$ % .0 .00 123 Times New... 11 B I S A

Global Forest Watch, LACO-Wiki; Picture Pile: Deforestation, FotoQuestGo

H	J	K	L	M	N
s, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss					
Tier I		Global Forest Watch, LACO-Wiki; Picture Pile: Deforestation, FotoQuestGo		https://www.globalforestwatch.org/ https://laco-wiki.net/en/Welcome https://geo-wiki.org/games/picturepile/ http://fotoquest-go.org/en/	High quality remote sensing imagery of areas with forest cover is widely available, and citizen science approaches, such as participatory crowdsourcing, volunteered geographic information and more are used for identifying and categorising the nature of forest cover, and forest cover change are a large number of existing citizen science initiatives that focus on this topic.
Tier I	eBird, Bird Track, Seabirds, PanEuropean Common Bird Monitoring Scheme, International Water Bird Census, IBA Canada Regional Caretaker Networks, Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas, North American Breeding Bird Survey, INaturalist, Natura Alert, and many more bird monitoring & biodiversity projects...			Call recording with Stuart Butchart - Birdlife International https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/iba-statusreport2015.pdf https://ebird.org/news/birdlife-americas https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/iba-monitoring-factsheet-birdlife-international.pdf https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/iba-monitoring-factsheet-birdlife-international.pdf	Citizen science is already informing this indicator on protected areas, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) schemes (Fritz et al, 2019; SDSN TReNDS, 2019). 44% of each field of each terrestrial KBA is covered by existing protected area boundaries (Fritz et al, 2019). The largest subset of KBAs is identified using data on bird monitoring. Hence, all the projects mentioned here (eBird, Bird Track, PanEuropean Bird Monitoring Scheme, International Waterbird Census, etc.), are already contributing to the monitoring of this indicator.
Tier I		Relasphone, Amazon Aerobotany, Moabi Roads, Logging Roads, FotoQuest Go, Forest Eyes, Forest Watchers, Picture Pile		https://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/8/10/869 http://info.perunature.com/aerobotany http://rdc.moabi.org/en/ https://blog.globalforestwatch.org/people/tracing-the-paths-to-forest-destruction-new-crowdsourcing-initiative-tackles-logging-roads-in-the-congo-basin http://fotoquest-go.org/en/ https://blog.iiasa.ac.at/2016/05/17/picture-pile-gaming-for-science/ https://geo-wiki.org/games/picturepile/	The citizen science initiatives mentioned in the column to the left are providing direct inputs to some of this multi-part indicator. One of the sub-indicators is on both the direction of change (whether there is a loss or gain in forest area) and on how this rate is changing over time; the latter is important in order to track progress among countries that are losing forest area, but have managed to reduce their rate of annual forest area loss.

Way Forward – Some of the Recommendations

- Building awareness and sharing experiences on the use of citizen science for the SDGs;
- Developing case studies or success stories where citizen science data have been used in innovative ways by NSOs;
- Identifying criteria for ensuring data quality or data quality assurance procedures;
- Integrating citizen science into the methodologies of SDG indicators



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Thank You

Questions and answers will
be received after the final
presentation in this session.

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