

# Session 11



## Contribution of Citizen Science Data to Monitoring the SDGs

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# Contribution of Citizen Science Data to Monitoring the SDGs

## Moderator:

**Dilek Fraisl** International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Research Scholar ([fraisl@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:fraisl@iiasa.ac.at))

## Speakers:

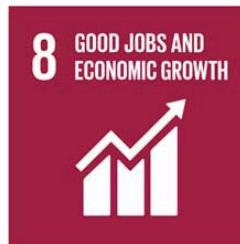
**Steffen Fritz** International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Head of the Center for Earth Observation and Citizen Science ([fritz@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:fritz@iiasa.ac.at))

**Jillian Campbell** UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Head of Monitoring, Review and Reporting ([campbell7@un.org](mailto:campbell7@un.org))

**Camden Howitt** Sustainable Coastlines, Co-Founder and Coastlines Lead ([camden@sustainablecoastlines.org](mailto:camden@sustainablecoastlines.org))

**Anne Bowser** Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Director of Innovation ([Anne.Bowser@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:Anne.Bowser@wilsoncenter.org))

**Omar Seidu** Ghana Statistical Service, Head of Demographic Statistics & SDGs Coordinator ([omar.seidu@statsghana.gov.gh](mailto:omar.seidu@statsghana.gov.gh))



## ***Citizen science to complement official statistics and mobilize action***

**Steffen Fritz**

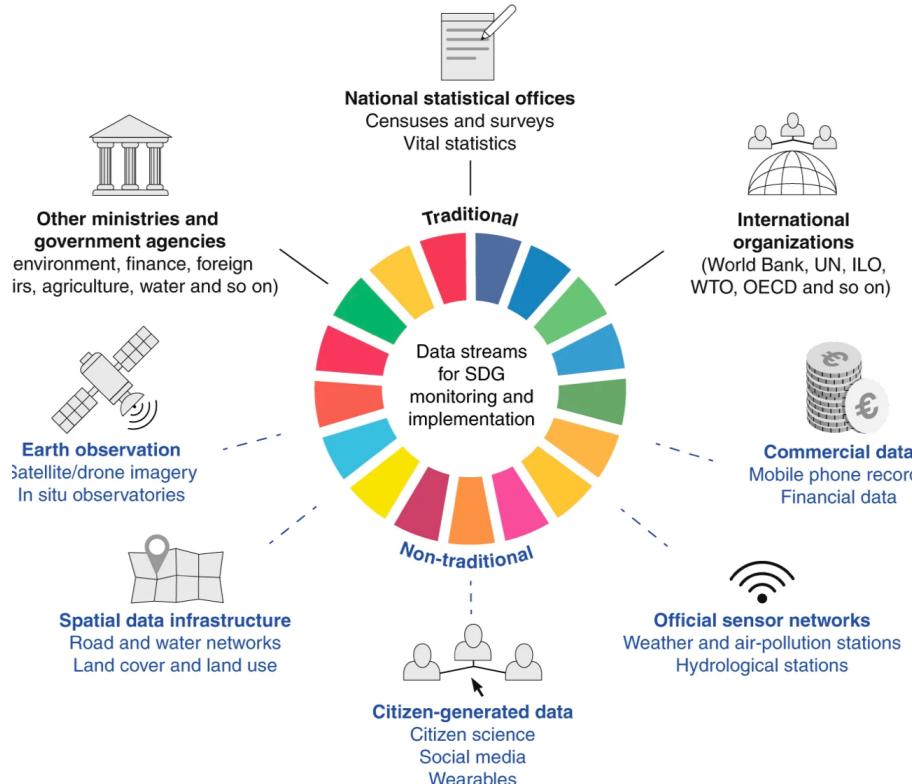
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Head of the Center for Earth Observation and Citizen Science

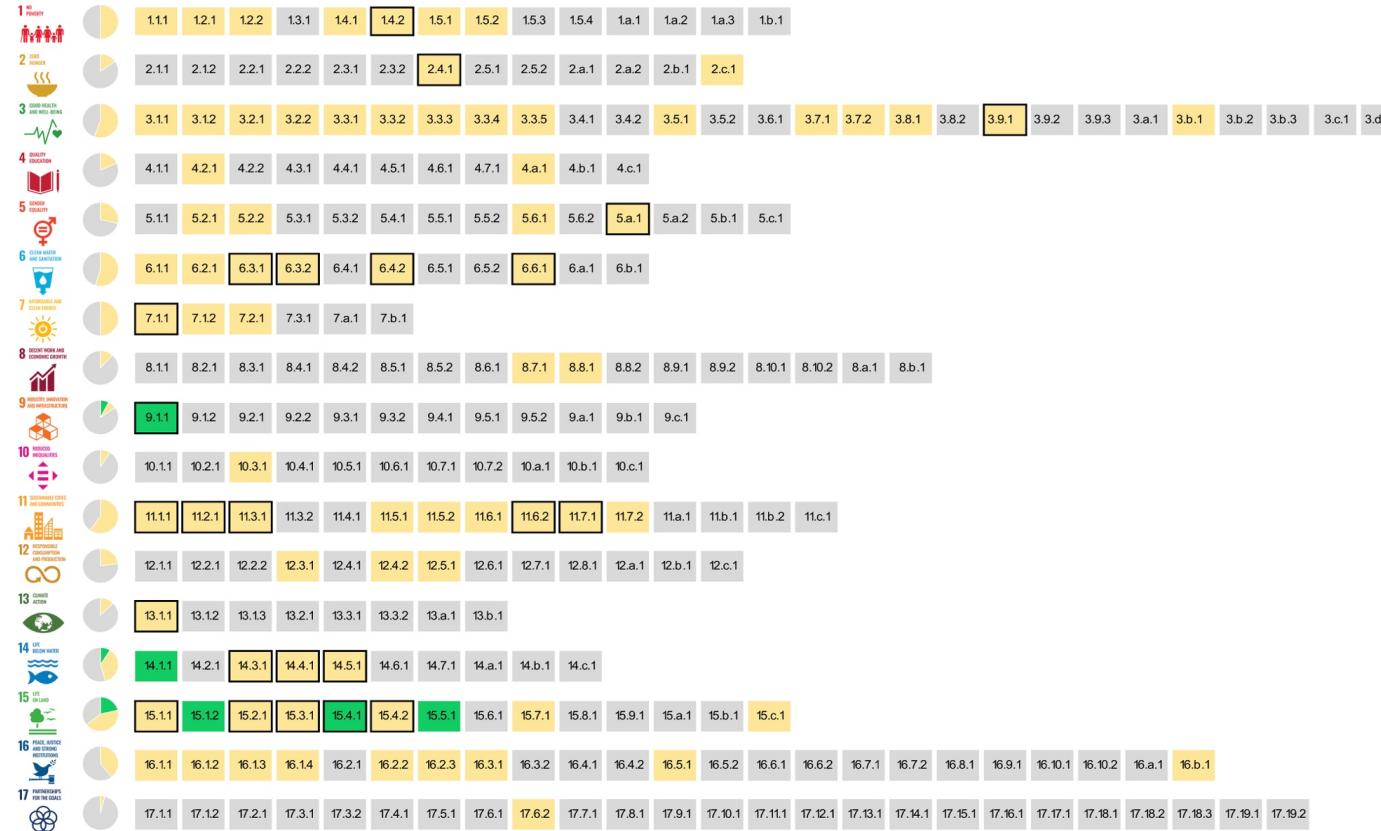
[fritz@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:fritz@iiasa.ac.at)

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# *Citizen science to complement official statistics & mobilize action*



# The SDG indicators where citizen science *projects* are ‘already contributing’, ‘could contribute’ or where there is ‘no alignment’



**Citizen science to complement official statistics & mobilize action**

Steffen Fritz, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Fraisl D, Campbell J, See L, Wehn U, Wardlaw J, Gold M, Moorthy I, Arias R, et al. (2020). Mapping citizen science contributions to the UN sustainable development goals. *Sustainability Science* DOI:10.1007/s11625-020-00833-7.

# *Citizen science for official monitoring*

Jillian Campbell

UN Convention on Biological Diversity

Head of Monitoring, Review and Reporting

[campbell7@un.org](mailto:campbell7@un.org)

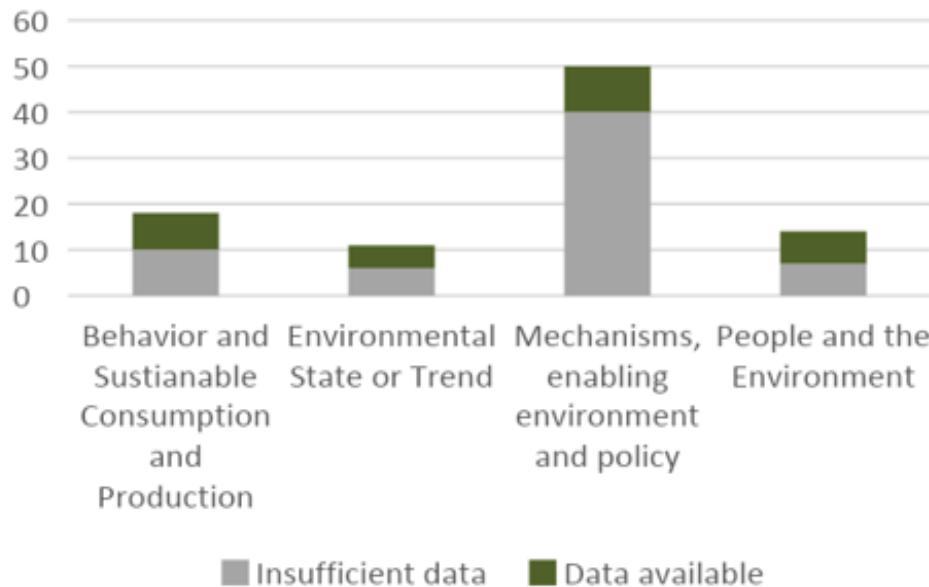


Convention on  
Biological Diversity



# SDG data gaps

- › 93 environment-related SDG indicators.
- › Most relate to mechanisms and policy instruments.
- › 68% do not have enough data to assess global progress.
- › There is a need to not only fill SDG data gaps but improve monitoring of environmental state, trends and impacts.



# Citizen science for science and for official statistics

- › How do we merge citizen science data collection with Government data collection?
- › How do we build monitoring systems that allow us to measure what matters at all levels?
- › How do we best connect with Governments, companies and people to change their behaviors and hold people accountable?



## ***Litter Intelligence: Citizen Scientists delivering on SDG 14.1.1.***

Camden Howitt

Sustainable Coastlines

Co-Founder and Coastlines Lead

[camden@sustainablecoastlines.org](mailto:camden@sustainablecoastlines.org)

[litterintelligence.org](http://litterintelligence.org)

## COLLABORATORS



Camden Howitt  
[camden@sustainablecoastlines.org](mailto:camden@sustainablecoastlines.org)  
[litterintelligence.org](http://litterintelligence.org)

## PROGRAMME ELEMENTS



Data.



Insights.



Action.

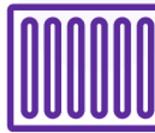
## LITTER MONITORING PROGRAMMES



Beach.



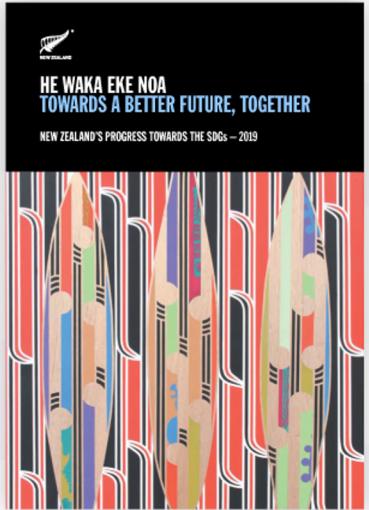
Freshwater.



Stormwater.



## SUCCESS STORIES



**Camden Howitt**

camden@sustainablecoastlines.org  
litterintelligence.org



Litter  
Intelligence.

# *Organizing to Support Citizen Science for the SDGs*

Anne Bowser

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Director of Innovation

[Anne.Bowser@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:Anne.Bowser@wilsoncenter.org)

# Organizing Projects (+): Global Mosquito Alert



Protocol 1



Protocol 2



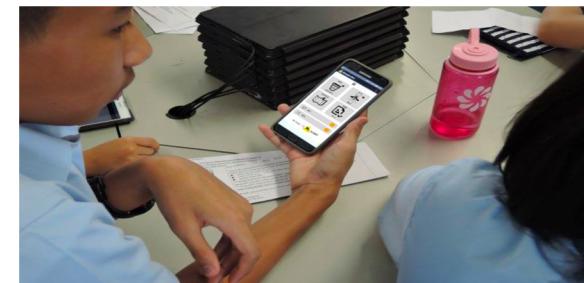
Protocol 3



Protocol 4



Mosquito Alert V1 (Barcelona)

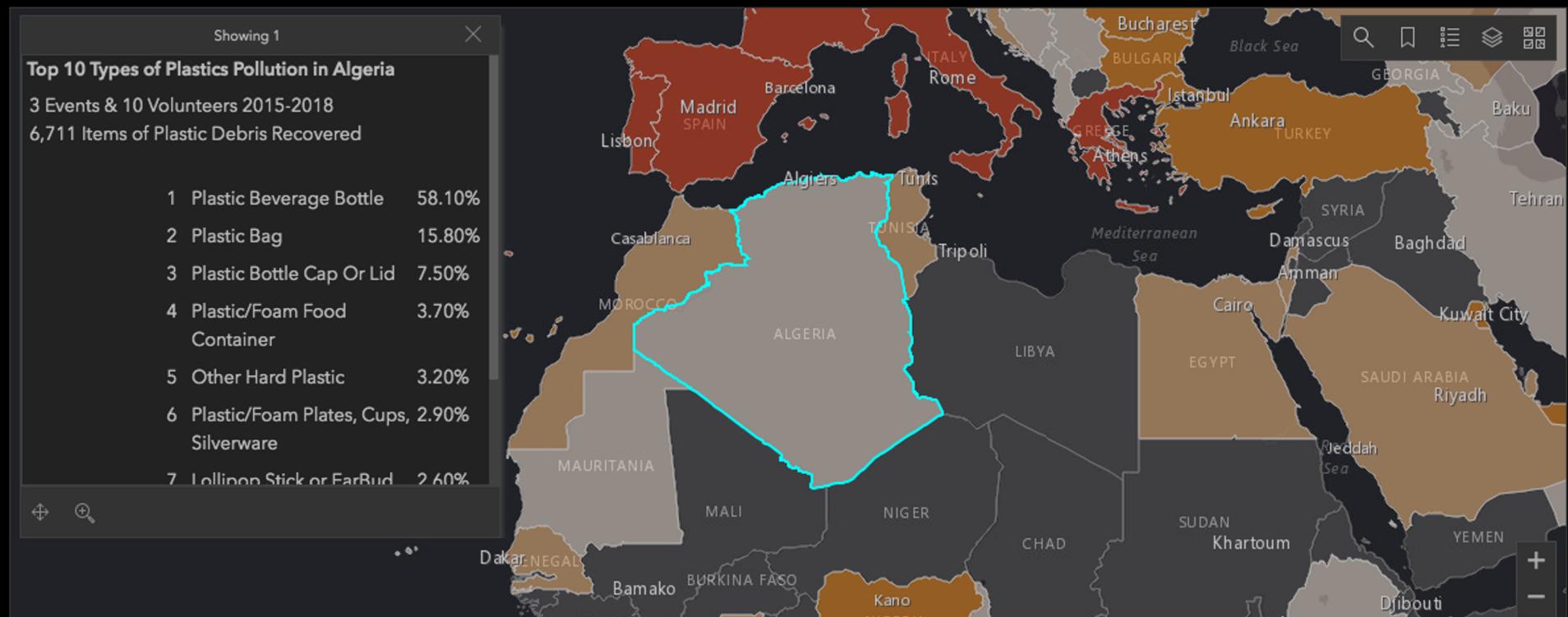


Mosquito Alert V2 (Hong Kong)

# Organizing Data (+): Earth Challenge 2020

## Marine Debris Top 10

Algeria



Organizing to Support Citizen Science for the SDGs

Anne Bowser | Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

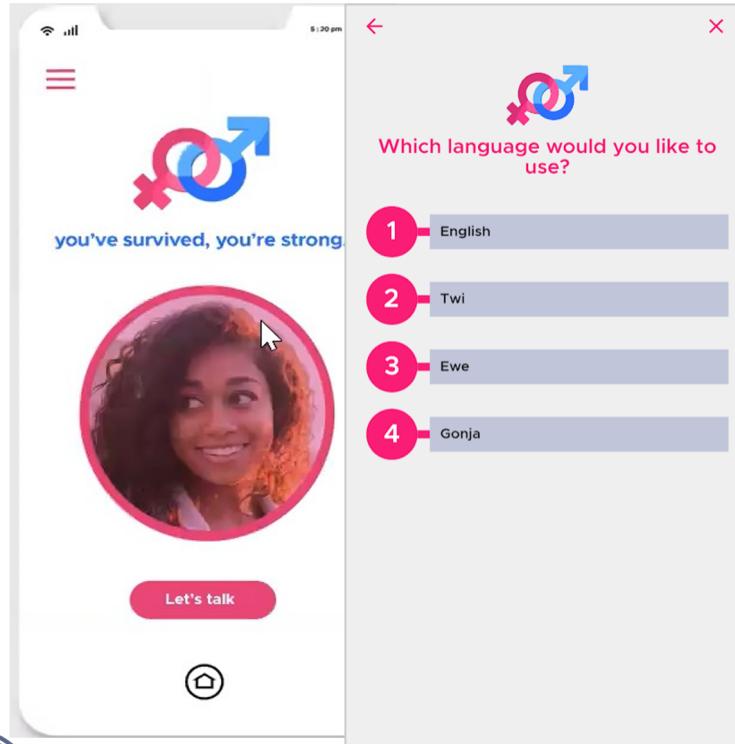
# **Citizen Science to strengthen the National Statistical System**

Omar Seidu

Ghana Statistical Service

Head of Demographic Statistics & SDGs Coordinator

[omar.seidu@statsghana.gov.gh](mailto:omar.seidu@statsghana.gov.gh)



REPORT A CASE      VIEW REPORTS

Detecting Location  
GPS Accuracy : 4.13m

Add a picture:

Select Size of Waste:

Quantity  
Specify quantity

Comments:  
Enter comments here

SUBMIT

## CleanApp Ghana

Welcome Service Provider!

You can register as an individual or your company as a service provider.

REGISTER

SIGN IN



Piloting established Citizen Science methodologies for

- > **14.1.1b** - Plastic debris density
- > **15.4.2** - Mountain Green Cover Index
- > **6.6.1** - Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time

**Steps:** Establishing need; identifying tools; convening a local data ecosystem and training in methodology



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

The screenshot shows the WeObserve website with a green header bar containing social media icons and links to subscribe to the newsletter and get in touch. The main navigation menu includes links to Home, About, Newsroom, Events, Conference, Communities (selected), Knowledge Base, and Marketplace. A large red arrow points from the left side of the page towards a red-bordered call-to-action box.

**SDG CoP: UN Sustainable Development Goals and Citizen Observatories**

Home » SDG CoP: UN Sustainable Development Goals and Citizen Observatories

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, NGOs, UN agencies, government officials, and other stakeholders; 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

**REGISTER HERE**

for the WeObserve  
Communities of Practice

### Resources

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

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