



Conservation using Citizen Science

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The current environmental crisis poses a considerable challenge to conservationists around the world. The effective conservation strategies rely on extensive knowledge of the natural world, yet in a time of limited resources, time and funding. Citizen scientists has been proven to be a powerful tool. Citizen science is the term used to describe the open access, citizen participation, and multi-disciplinary approach to scientific research that focuses on engaging citizens in the scientific process. At its heart, citizen science is about strengthening the scientific knowledge base through public participation.

Citizen science is an umbrella term for all fields of science devoted to the public. Citizen science has been around for quite some time, though not as long as the sciences themselves.

In an age of “big data”, where the gathering of information from a large number of sources is being explored to more quickly and efficiently solve many types of problems, citizen science is a growing field where scientists and citizens work together to actively study Earth’s ecosystems and habitats. Citizens can be instrumental in conservation. The ability to mobilize their communities in doing positive works in the conservation field. We may not realize, but it’s not just the populations of endangered species that need to be protected. Local communities are valuable in conserving nature, and the environmental groups that are supporting conservation efforts are also very valuable.

Citizens are making a great contribution to the world’s conservation today. Over the past decade, citizen science has become an important method for scientists to collect data about biodiversity, climate change, etc and contribute towards conservation efforts,

natural resources management and environmental protection via two primary pathways. First is understanding the challenges in conservation and effective designing of strategies requires longitudinal data collected over a large geographical scale. Citizen scientist play a critical role in building these datasets. To predict national-scale population trends for a range taxa including birds, butterflies, assess the effectiveness of conservation management strategies. And monitor the spread of invasive species. Second is for conservation, public engagement can indirectly contribute to environment protection. For example, citizen scientists can motivate new individuals to participate in conservation actions within their communities. Citizen science managers have to understand what motivate their contributor, so that project can be designed adequately fulfil these motivation, satisfaction, ensuring retention and high levels of involvement from the participants. Thus, the approach like this will ultimately result in more sustainable projects creating a win-win scenario for the contributors and for biodiversity conservation.

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