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INTRODUCING THE CITIZEN SCIENCE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

by DR ANNE BOWSER AND MARTIN BROCKLEHURST

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ABSTRACT

Professional science alone cannot provide information at the scales and resolutions necessary to understand environmental change. The dominant culture of scientific expertise does not account for different ways of knowing, and often fails to engage the public. Citizen science emphasizes collaborative intelligence and co-creation to facilitate scientific and community-based solutions. To transform science there is a realistic target to engage 1 billion global citizens by 2020.

A new global citizen science secretariat was launched at the Science-Policy-Business Forum of the UN-Environment in December 2017. This network-of-networks will:

- Become a valued partner and coordinated point of entry for NGOs, governments, and businesses seeking to work with the global citizen science community.
- Network, support, and seed citizen science umbrella organizations, including the existing citizen science associations (ECSA, CSA, ACSA) and emerging networks.
- Network, support, and seed consortia of projects conducting similar research.
- Help catalogue, manage, and share open and interoperable data.
- Track the contributions of citizen science towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

These goals should be well underway by the next United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA4) in March of 2019.



DR. ANNE BOWSER

Dr Bowser is the Director of Innovation and an Innovation Specialist at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a quasi-government think tank in Washington, DC. Her work focuses on understanding and mobilizing public participation in science, technology, and policy while helping the Wilson Center leverage technologically innovative programming to reach new audiences. Through 2020, she will chair - a network-of-networks that will promote and advance citizen science for a sustainable world. Anne also partners with The [US] General Service Administration (GSA) and the US Federal Community of Practice for Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science (CCS) to maintain CitizenScience.gov resources including the Federal Catalog of Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science.

MARTIN BROCKLEHURST

Founding instigator of the European Citizen Science Association, the Global Mosquito Alert Consortium and Coordinator of the Global Citizen Science Delegation to the UN Environment Science Policy Business Forum at UNEA 2017. Martin has held environmental advisory roles for a wide range of organisations including NGO's, Public Sector Regulators, Trade Bodies and the UK Parliamentary Audit Committee. He was a senior public sector regulator, developing and delivering UK Environmental Regulations, pioneering new approaches to regulation. He was a senior health safety and environmental manager delivering outstanding performance for multinational oil companies.

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