

Citizen science for transformative biodiversity action: concept and empirical examples (session 18)

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Session format: talks with moderated discussion, **open for abstracts' submission**

Duration: 2 h 40 min

Abstract:

There is already an acknowledgement that citizen science (CS) can have a transformative effect, in terms of e.g., scientific impact, learning effects as well as the impact on the society as a whole (Turrini et al., 2018; von Gönner et al., 2023). Research on the interlinkages between CS and governance within the biodiversity conservation domain has primarily focused on learning and educational outcomes (Bela et al., 2016; Hadjichambi et al., 2023; Peter et al., 2021) and CS' potential to transform science (e.g., (Austen et al., 2024; Vohland et al., 2019)). However, we suspect the full transformative potential of CS has not been achieved, with tokenistic CS producing insights that are not widely used and actors that are not empowered. Although research has been conducted on CS' impact on environmental policies (e.g., (Schade et al., 2021; Turbé et al., 2019)), there are less explicit examples of studies specifically focusing on transformations (conceptual and empirical) from the biodiversity conservation domain (Couvet & Prevot, 2015).

This session aims to explore how citizen science can drive transformative change for biodiversity by fostering public engagement, improving data accessibility, and informing conservation policy.

Potential questions to be addressed in the submissions:

- What does transformation mean in biodiversity-related CS?
- How does transformative biodiversity-related CS look like from a process-perspective? E.g. where does the agency for action concentrate in such examples?
- Does citizen science extend or enrich ideas about how knowledges might be relevant or actionable for transformative change? Conversely, do other bodies of work such as post-normal science offer insights for citizen science?
- How can various participatory approaches help resolve conservation conflicts?
- What are recent empirical examples from biodiversity conservation practices where transformative change (e.g., on local/national/international levels) has occurred from CS?
- What kind of effects does transformative CS have (in terms of both, "+" and "-" effects)? Have there been any negative impacts recorded? If yes, which/for whom (e.g., does the concept of "dark CS" (Riley & Mason-Wilkes, 2024) hold also for biodiversity-related-CS)?

We welcome conceptual, methodological as well as empirical abstract's submissions.

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