

# Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP)

First Call for Participation and Support, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*“Professional science alone cannot provide information at the scales and resolutions necessary to understand environmental change. The dominant culture of science rarely accounts for different ways of knowing, and often fails to engage the public. Citizen science (CS) emphasizes collaborative intelligence and co-creation to facilitate scientific and community-based solutions. But fully realizing the transformative potential of CS requires coordination, partnership, and mobilization across geographies, sectors, and research domains.”*

These words preceded the announcement of a new Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP, or “Global Partnership”) launched in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN-Environment Assembly. This new organization will become a network-of-networks that seeks to promote and advance citizen science for a sustainable world. While organizations including the citizen science associations based in the United States, Europe, and Australia have offered early support, there is a need to expand the call for **expressions of interest** from citizen science networks that are interested in co-designing and eventually working with the Global Partnership. Further, we are looking for volunteers to support the emerging organization through **projects** in areas including governance; communications and outreach; proof-of-concept proposals; and, coordination.

## *I. About the Global Partnership*

In December 2017, representatives from the global citizen science community came together at the Science-Policy-Business Forum preceding the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN-Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. With encouragement from the UN-Environment Programme (UNEP), community members outlined the parameters of a new network-of-networks with five initial goals:

1. Become a **valued partner and common point of entry** for NGOs, governments, businesses, and scientific organizations seeking to understand and work with the global citizen science community.
2. **Network with and help support** citizen science umbrella organizations, including the Citizen Science Association (CSA), the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA), the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA), emerging associations in other geographic regions, and related networks or communities.
3. **Network with and help support or manage** consortia of citizen science projects conducting research around a specific topic of interest, such as the Global Mosquito Alert Consortium (GMAC) which was created to advance citizen science for mosquito-vector monitoring.
4. Help **catalogue, manage and share open and interoperable data** for use in local-to-global research and decision-making.

**5. Understand and track** the contributions of citizen science towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Citizen Science Global Partnership is managed by a steering committee with representatives from CSA, ECSA, and ACSA, working closely with advisory boards chaired by the Participatory Monitoring and Management Partnership (PMMP) and Global CEO Alliance (GCOA). The secretariat will be hosted by the Wilson Center through 2020, when a permanent home will be found. All support for CSGP is currently offered on a voluntary basis.

We are looking for your help and initiative to co-design and grow this network of networks. On March 7, 2018, we are requesting: (1) **expressions of interest** from networks that would like to help co-design and eventually work with the Global Partnership; and, (2) support from individual volunteers who can help lead and implement **projects** that plant the seeds for this organization to grow.

*II. First Call for Participation and Support*

*II.i. Request for Expressions of Interest from Citizen Science Networks*

As a network-of-networks, the Citizen Science Global Partnership seeks to identify different types of established and emerging networks of organizations that are committed to supporting and advancing citizen science. A primary goal of the Global Partnership is to help ensure that these networks can find, connect, and remain connected to one another. These networks may include, but are not limited to:

- established and emerging citizen science associations, which are often networks of citizen science researchers and practitioners;
- established and emerging networks that seek to connect researchers and practitioners working in “sister communities,” including participatory monitoring and management; open hardware; environmental justice; and, others; and
- established and emerging networks of stakeholders conducting or supporting work relevant to citizen science, ranging from networks such as data platforms, repositories, and infrastructure; to associations supporting scientific research in disciplines like ecology; to networks supporting formal and informal learning; and, others.

Interested individuals are invited to share up to one page of information including:

- the name of your network;
- the website of your network;
- network mission, vision, goals, and link to the global citizen science community;
- The geographical coverage of your network; and
- the name and contact information of 1-2 point people within your network who agree to serve as liaisons.

The call for network participation is open to individuals who participate in **any** existing and emerging network committed to supporting and advancing citizen science, or working with the global citizen science community. Please work with your network to coordinate a submission, for example by identifying a point person or small group to lead your participation. These expressions of interest do not need to be formal commitments to partnership, but should indicate a willingness to consider different types of partnerships in the future.

### *II.i. Projects*

The Citizen Science Global Partnership is unable to offer any type of support, including funding, for any networks or projects at this time. Nonetheless, we hope to leverage the passion of the global citizen science community to implement a handful of small, pilot-scale projects that help demonstrate the value of the partnership within a short time frame (e.g., four months). While interested individuals are encouraged to submit their ideas, we will help coordinate similar submissions to encourage teamwork, and are open to the possibility that short-term projects may evolve into longer-term working groups.

We seek support for developing projects, including:

1. *Advancing a detailed proposal for CSGP's governance and organizational structure.* An initial, high-level governance structure was agreed upon at the Global Partnership's inaugural meeting in December 2017. This structure requires clarification on aspects including (1) decision-making processes including voting rights; (2) the structure, composition, and duties of the steering committee; (3) the structure, duties, and composition of advisory boards; and, (4) advice on how partnerships with interested networks could be structured. Outcomes of a successful project on governance and organization could include a document exploring a range of viable options for governance structures, and making concrete recommendations on which to pursue. Work on governance and organizational structure could also consider how the global citizen science community can be invited to refine the initial list of goals and collaboratively design new goals.
2. *Developing a communications and outreach strategy.* The Citizen Science Global Partnership is in need of an overarching strategy for communicating relevant information about the organization to a range of stakeholders within and beyond the citizen science community. Outcomes of a successful project on communications and outreach could include a document describing and prioritizing communications and outreach needs. Outcomes may also include initial communications materials to be built upon through longer-term resource development.
3. *Developing a directory of the networks contributing to the Citizen Science Global Partnership.* As a network-of-networks, it is critical for the Global Partnership to be able to effectively communicate which organizations are interested in becoming involved. Based on the outcomes of the first call for network participation, a searchable, online directory could be designed and developed to make relevant information on each

organization that works with the Citizen Science Global Partnership easy to find and understand.

4. *A detailed proposal on how to measure the potential impact of citizen science at the global level, taking into account countries where citizen science is a new or emerging phenomenon. Outcomes of this project could include a document exploring concrete metrics or indicators that could be used to measure impact on a range of domains, including but not limited to the environment, using the SDGs as reference.*
5. *Leveraging the network-of-networks to help coordinate the global citizen science community for a shared event or endeavor held in conjunction with Citizen Science Day, April 14, 2018. This project should be global in scale, and should be designed to leverage CSGP partner networks. Outcomes of this project could include a report that highlights the impacts of the event or endeavor, towards meeting global SDG data gaps.*
6. *Leveraging the network-of-networks to help coordinate the global citizen science community's contributions to the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) International Conference, June 3-5, 2018. Meetings and conferences of the citizen science associations are important opportunities for people to get together and discuss critical aspects of the Global Citizen Science Partnership. We are seeking support from an individual or a small team willing to coordinate our formal and informal activities related to the Global Partnership at the ECSA 2018 Conference. Outcomes of this project could include a short report published four weeks after the conference that describes relevant activities and suggests next steps for mutual engagement.*
7. *Leveraging the network-of-networks to help coordinate the global citizen science community's contributions to the United Nations World Data Forum, October 22-24, 2018. The Global Partnership has been encouraged by UN-Environment employees and alumni to participate in the United Nations World Data Forum. The Global Partnership is seeking support from an individual or a small team willing to coordinate our formal and informal activities and convenings related to the UN World Data Forum. Outcomes of this project could include a short report published four weeks after the conference that describes relevant activities and suggests next steps for mutual engagement.*
8. *Leveraging the network-of-networks to help coordinate the global citizen science community's contributions to the Citizen Science Association (CSA) International Conference, March 13-16, 2019. Meetings and conferences of the citizen science associations are important opportunities for people to get together and discuss critical aspects of the Global Citizen Science Partnership. We are seeking support from an individual or a small team willing to coordinate our formal and informal activities related to the Global Partnership at the CSA 2019 Conference. Outcomes of this project could include a short report published four weeks after the conference that describes relevant activities and suggests next steps for mutual engagement.*

9. *Other projects that align with our foundational goals.* We are interested in proposals for other proof-of-concept initiatives that demonstrate the value of working together to advance the partnership's goals. Proposals should be for time-bounded (e.g., four month) projects that produce a concrete deliverable, align with at least one of CSGP's foundational goals, will be open to contributions from network participants, and do not require additional funding to complete. Deliverables will vary by proposal.

The call for projects is open to individuals who:

- Are members of an existing citizen science association (ACSA, CSA, ECSA).
- Are members of a network supporting the Global Partnership through an advisory role (PMMP, GCEOA).
- Are members of a network that has responded to the request for expressions of interest from citizen science networks, as described above.

Interested individuals are invited to submit up to one page of information including:

- your name and contact information;
- the name and contact information of the citizen science network to which you belong;
- name and description of the project to which you would like to contribute;
- your desired role supporting the project. We anticipate that some people will want to lead projects, while others may prefer to offer specific kinds of support, and that some volunteers will have more time than others to contribute; and
- your suggested approach to implementation, delivery, and project communications.

### 3. *Timeline*

- **March 7, 2018:** Call for participation and support through expressions of interest from citizen science networks and proposals for projects opens.
- **April 7, 2018:** Call for participation and support closes.
- **May 7, 2018:** Initial list of interested networks and projects announced to the global citizen science community.
- **September 7, 2018 (tentative):** Deliverables from projects 1-5 submitted to the Citizen Science Global Partnership.
- **September 7, 2018:** Second call for participation and support through expressions of interest from citizen science networks and proposals for projects opens.

**Note:** Projects leveraging the network-of-networks to help coordinate the global citizen science community's contributions to events should submit outcomes four weeks after the event.

All submissions for expressions of interest from citizen science networks and project proposals will be reviewed by a small team with members from the secretariat, steering committee, and advisory boards. The primary goal of reviewing submissions is to help coordinate between

interested networks and individuals. A secondary goal is ensuring alignment with key organizational objectives and foundational goals.

#### *4. Contact Information*

Please submit materials to Anne Bowser, [anne.bowser@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:anne.bowser@wilsoncenter.org).