



# Citizen Science & SDG Data

## Dilek Fraisl

**Novel Data Ecosystems for Sustainability Research (NODES)  
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)**

**Email:** [fraisl@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:fraisl@iiasa.ac.at)

**Twitter:** [@dilekfraisl1](https://twitter.com/dilekfraisl1)

**Web:** [www.iiasa.ac.at](http://www.iiasa.ac.at)  
[www.geo-wiki.org](http://www.geo-wiki.org)

# What is citizen science?

Public participation

Voluntary contributions

Scientific research and knowledge production

Springer Link

Original Article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 02 July 2020

## Mapping citizen science contributions to the UN sustainable development goals

[Dilek Fraisl](#) , [Jillian Campbell](#), [Linda See](#), [Uta Wehn](#), [Jessica Wardlaw](#), [Margaret Gold](#), [Inian Moorthy](#), [Rosa Arias](#), [Jaume Piera](#), [Jessica L. Oliver](#), [Joan Masó](#), [Marianne Penker](#) & [Steffen Fritz](#)

*Sustainability Science* **15**, 1735–1751(2020) | [Cite this article](#)

9517 Accesses | 15 Citations | 179 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

### Abstract

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a vision for achieving a sustainable future. Reliable, timely, comprehensive, and consistent data are critical for measuring progress towards, and ultimately achieving, the SDGs. Data from citizen science represent one new source of data that could be used for SDG reporting and monitoring. However, information is still lacking regarding the current and potential contributions of citizen science to the SDG indicator framework. Through a systematic review of the metadata and work plans of the 244 SDG indicators, as well as the identification of past and ongoing citizen science initiatives that could directly or indirectly provide data for these indicators, this paper presents an overview of where citizen science is already contributing and could contribute data to the SDG indicator framework. The results demonstrate that citizen science is “already contributing” to the monitoring of 5 SDG indicators, and that citizen science “could contribute” to 76 indicators, which, together, equates to around 33%. Our analysis also shows that the greatest inputs from

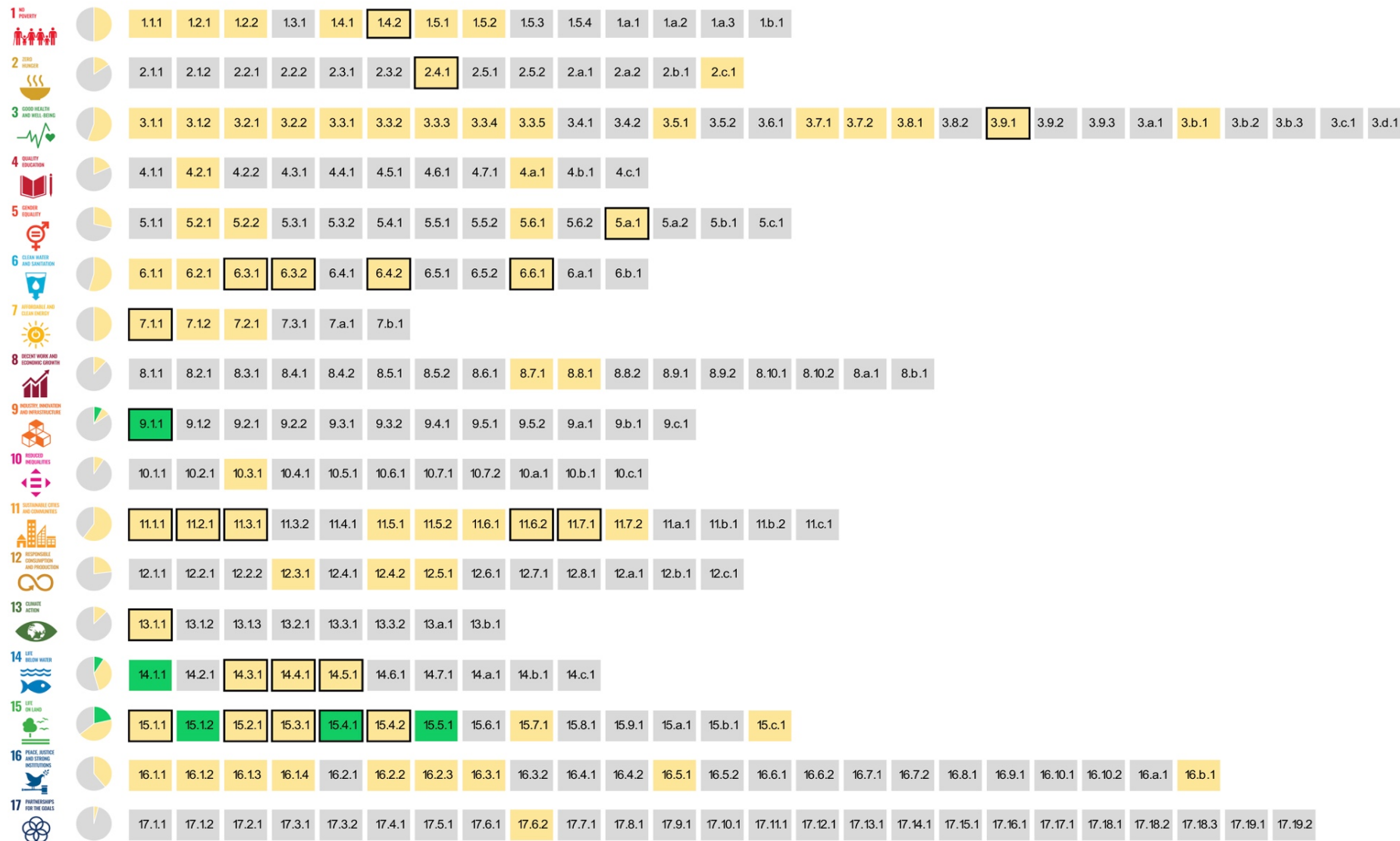
Fraisl, D., Campbell, J., See, L. *et al.* Mapping citizen science contributions to the UN sustainable development goals. *Sustain Sci* **15**, 1735–1751 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-020-00833-7>



LITTER SURVEY #01 • 25 October 2018 • Waikanae Beach, Gisborne, New Zealand [www.sustainablecoastlines.org/litterproject](http://www.sustainablecoastlines.org/litterproject)

SDG Indicator 14.1.1b on marine litter

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



**Dilek Fraisl**

**Email:** [fraisl@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:fraisl@iiasa.ac.at)

**Twitter:** [@dilekfraisl1](https://twitter.com/dilekfraisl1)

**Web:** [www.iiasa.ac.at](http://www.iiasa.ac.at)

[www.geo-wiki.org](http://www.geo-wiki.org)



International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis