Citizen Science for the SDGs (CS4SDGs)

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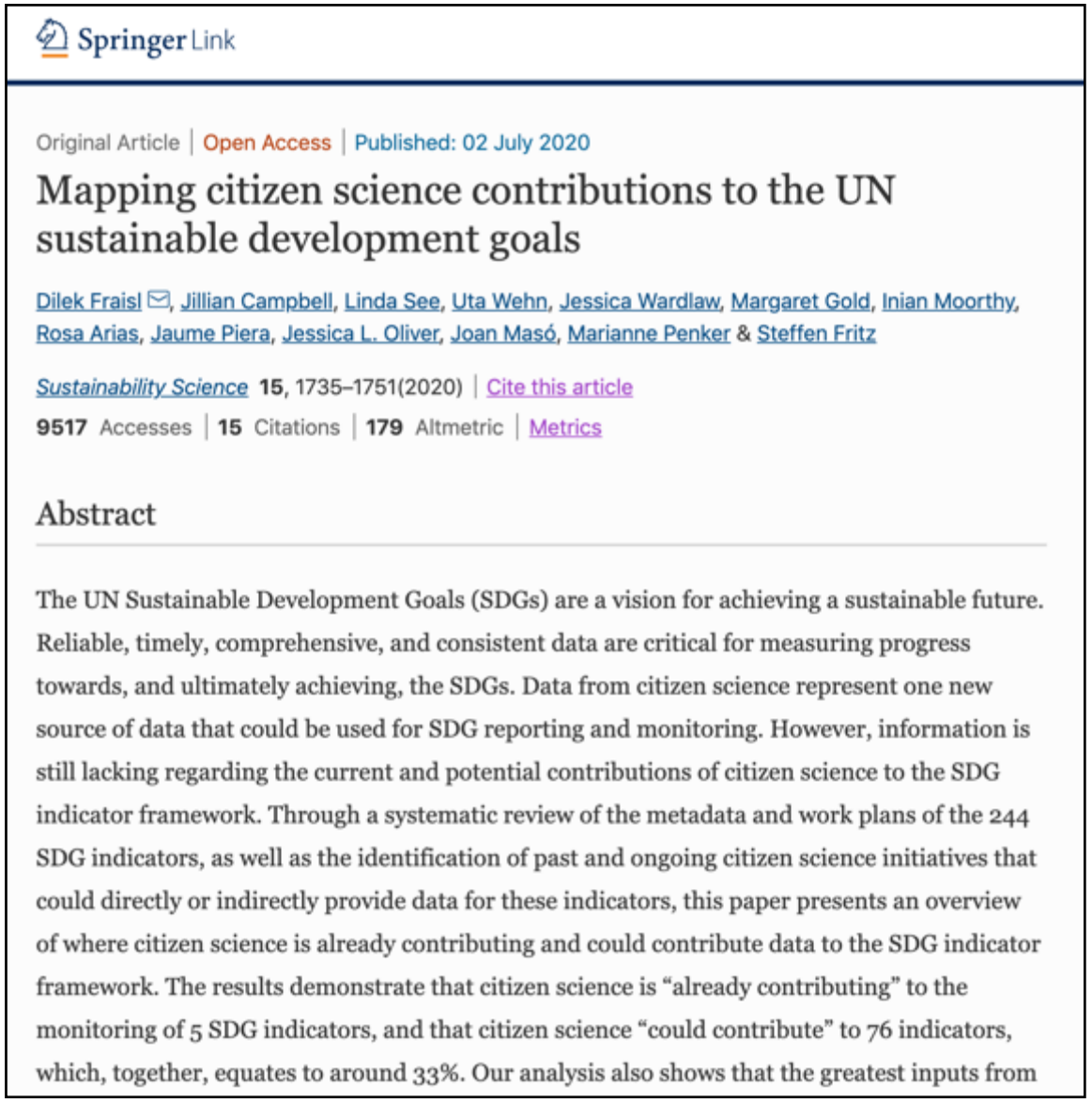
TRENDS
Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics
UN environment programme
Wilson Center
Ocean Conservancy

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

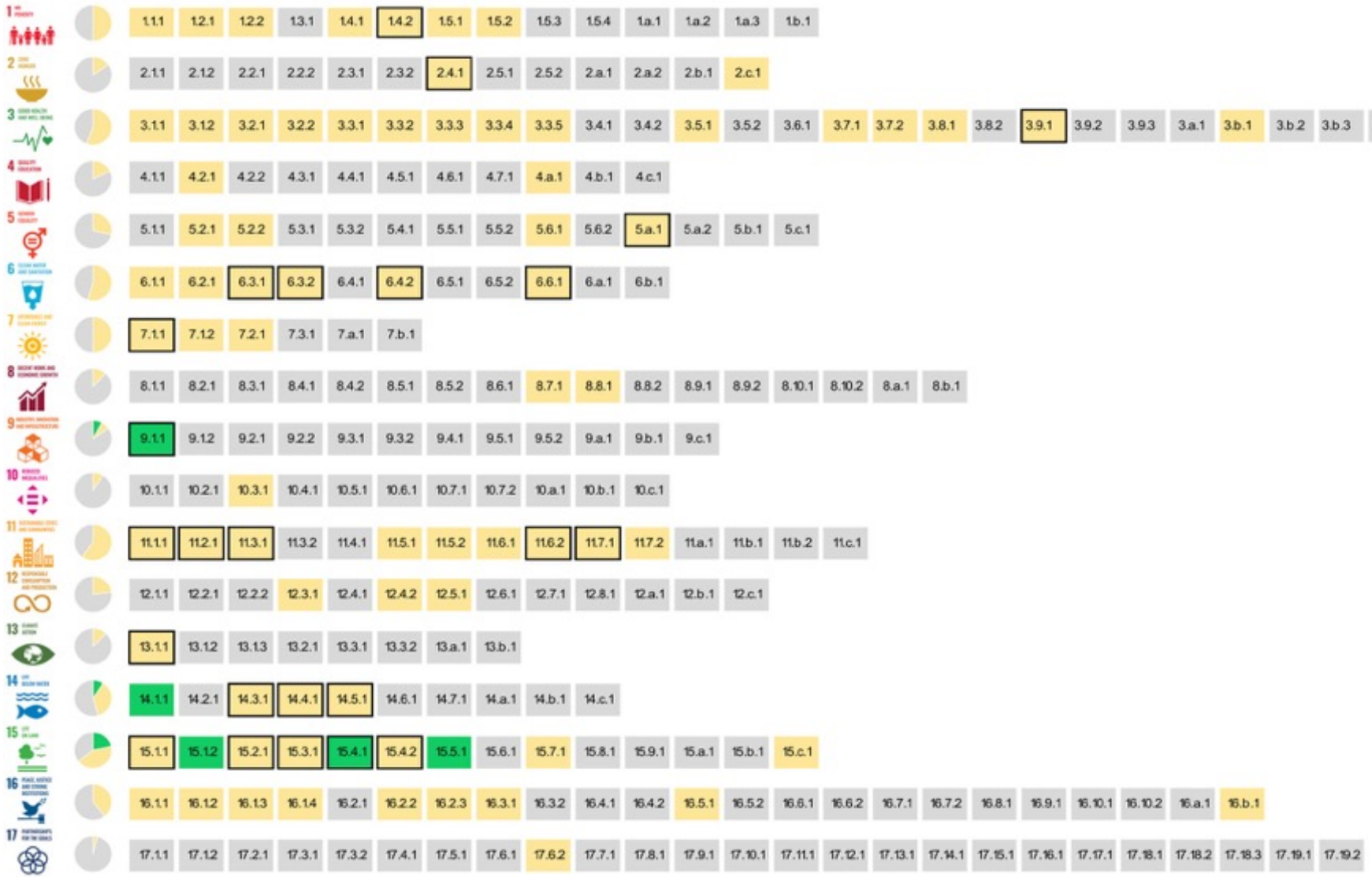
9517 Accesses | **15** Citations | **179** Altmetric | Metrics

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

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



CS4SDGs

- Piloting the use of Citizen Science methodologies in areas of Ghana's needs and interest to report on the SDGs and to produce step by step guidelines to demonstrate how other data communities can replicate the approach.

- Partnership between the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Ghana Statistical Service, UNEP, SDSN TReNDS, Wilson Centre and with key roles played by Ghana Environmental Protection Agency, Smart Nature Freaks Youth Volunteers Foundations and the Ocean Conservancy.

CS4SDGs

Process

- Mapping of priorities in Ghana and the results of the systematic review
- Coordination around citizen science data
- Workshops by UNEP and the GSS
- Data validation by the line ministry in Ghana/EPA

Results

- Leveraging citizen science data that already exists
- Embedding citizen science data into wider strategies and policies in Ghana

Lessons

- Utilizing existing tools, data and network
- Building trust, common goals and ownership through partnerships

CS4SDGs Impact

- This will be the first time in Ghana that Citizen Science data will contribute to reporting a national statistic and also the first time Ghana has reported on 14.1.1b
- The information collected had been previously disseminated by the Ocean Conservancy citizen science initiative, but there wasn't previously an awareness of how it could be reported officially. This has generated interest from other CSOs in the reuse of their data for SDG monitoring.
- The Environmental Protection Agency indicated that once validated, the data and results collected leveraged through this project could be integrated into Ghana's Oceans Plan currently in development, thus embedding the citizen science data in national strategy.

CS4SDGs Storymap: https://arcg.is/1GbP5n0

Thank you

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