Academia experience in collaborating with the National Statistics Offices for the SDGs: The case of citizen science data

Dr. Dilek Fraisl

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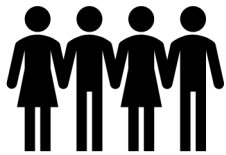Managing Director | Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP)

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Citizen science

Gill Conquest, EXCITES, University College London
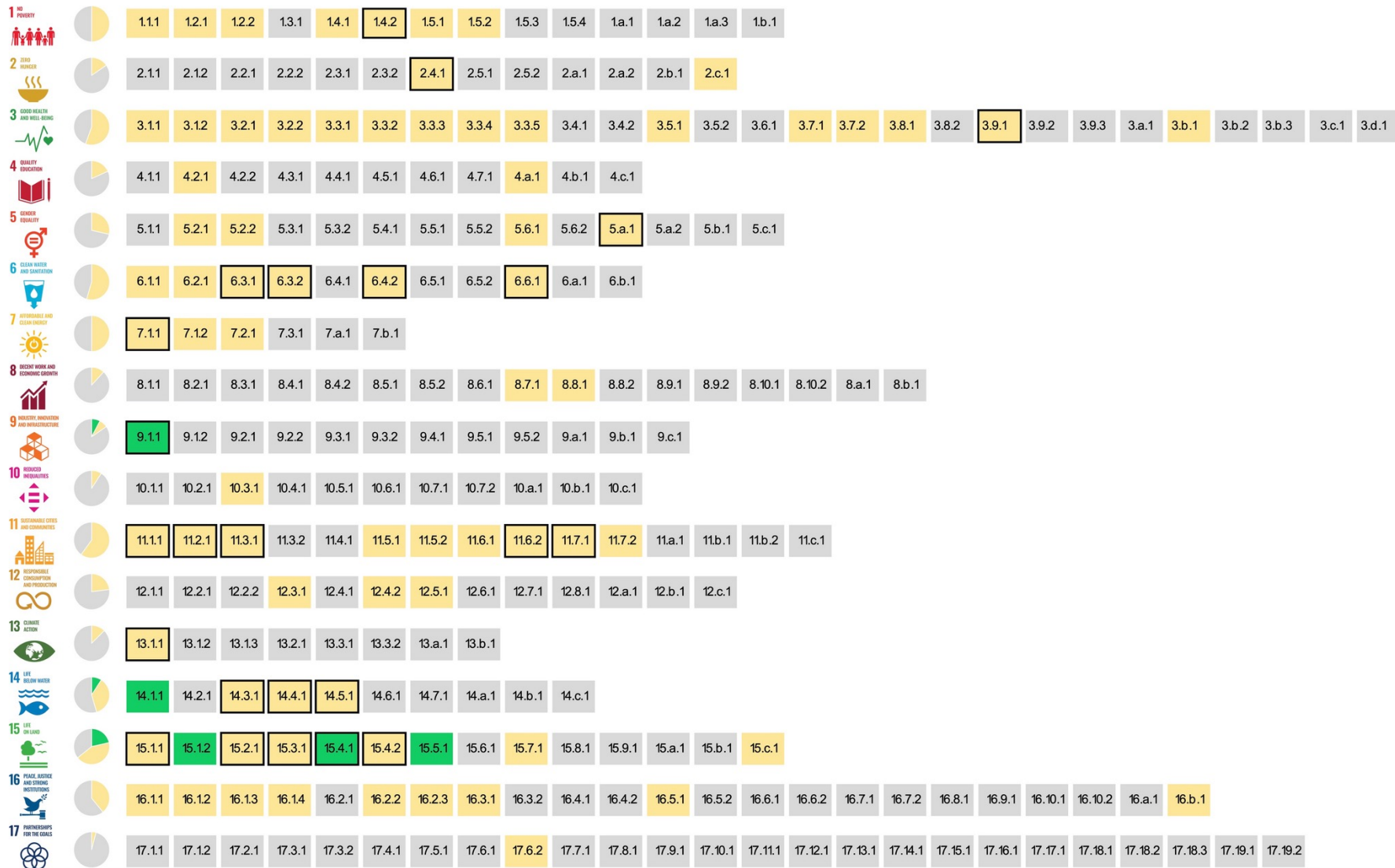
Public Participation   Knowledge production   Voluntary contributions

The SDG indicators where citizen science projects are "already contributing" (in green), "could contribute" (in yellow) or where there is "no alignment" (in grey). The overall citizen science contributions to each SDG are summarized as pie charts.

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

Q&A | Published: 17 October 2022

Citizen science tackles plastics in Ghana

Stephanie M. Olen ✉

Nature Sustainability **5**, 814–815 (2022) | Cite this article

763 Accesses | 15 Altmetric | Metrics

Citizen science efforts are instrumental in monitoring our progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Dilek Fraisl, Research Scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, and Omar Seidu, Director of Social and Demographic Statistics and the SDGs Coordinator at the Ghana Statistical Service, discuss how Ghana successfully integrated citizen science data into its official monitoring of marine plastic debris.

Your team has been working on incorporating citizen science data into the official monitoring of plastic debris density, in accordance with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Can you briefly describe the state of marine plastic pollution in Ghana? How much do we know based on official monitoring of SDG indicators? How has citizen science helped paint a clearer, more accurate picture of the current situation?

Strengthening Measurement of Marine Litter in Ghana

How Citizen Science is Helping to Measure Progress on SDG 14.1.1b

SDSN TReNDS | 9 April 2021

Olen, S.M. Citizen science tackles plastics in Ghana. *Nat Sustain* **5**, 814–815 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-022-00980-y

Bridging local data collection efforts with global monitoring processes by leveraging the SDG framework.

@Smart Nature Freaks Youth Volunteers Foundation

The key to success:

Create time and space for the government, international organisation and CSOs to meet, in order to **build trust**, **common goals** *and* **ownership** *over the result.*
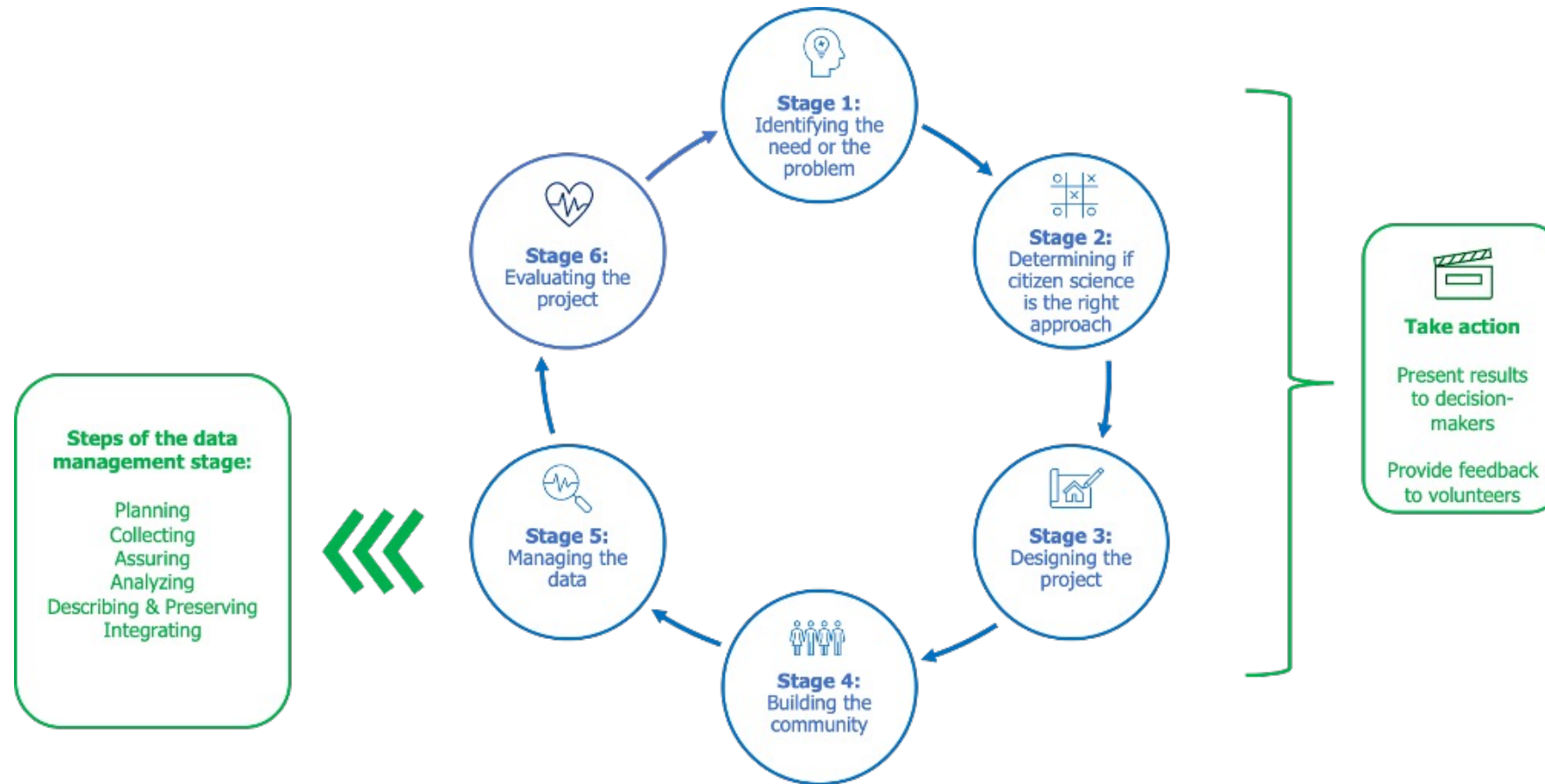
16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

16.6.2 measures the levels of public satisfaction with people's last experience with public services, which covers healthcare, education, and government services.

The recommended source for the indicator are household survey, which aim to identify citizen satisfaction based on experiences over general experience and perceptions on specific attributes: Accessibility, affordability, quality of services, equal treatment for everyone, courtesy of treatment, effective service delivery, among others.

Stages of designing and implementing citizen science projects

Fraisl, D., Hager, G., Bedessem, B. *et al.* Citizen science in environmental and ecological sciences. *Nat Rev Methods Primers* **2**, 64 (2022).
https://doi.org/10.1038/s43586-022-00144-4

Investing in a data ecosystem that supports citizen science data can empower hard-to-reach individuals and communities and support more inclusive decision-making, complementing traditional ways of data collection.

Citizen science can help design effective policies and reveal gaps in the data to support unheard voices and marginalized groups, disclose misconceptions in existing data and provide a more complete overview of the real situation, especially for those who are left behind.

Thank you!

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