

Title: The role of citizen sciences and collaborative research in conserving bio cultural diversity

Goal, purpose and justification

This session aims at gathering projects addressing the role of Citizen Sciences and participatory action research in the conservation of bio cultural diversity. It explores the different ways in which citizens are involved in collecting, analyzing the data, interpreting and disseminating the results and how these data inform decision making and raise public awareness.

Several web based sites will be presented such as Observatoire des Saisons (<http://www.obs-saisons.fr>), Tela Botanica (<http://www.tela-botanica.org>), Aborinet (www.aboriginal-ecotourism.org), Orchidée sauvages de France (<http://www.orchisauvage.fr>), Cybelle Planète (www.cybelle-planete.org)... We will explore under which conditions these initiatives participate into the study, the preservation of biodiversity and how citizens can be part of the whole research projects in co constructing the research questions with the academics from the very beginning. We will look at how the researchers can report back to the citizens, give them access to the final processed data on line. We will look at the different functionalities integrated in CMS and WIKI such as web based surveys, google maps, data geolocalisation and forum of discussions which enable collaborative research on line.

In this session we aim at exploring, sharing and developing new research models, and interdisciplinary projects, linking civil society, (local NGOs, community-based experts), academics and policy makers. We aim at strengthening the research capacity built within the general public through participatory workshops and comparative studies conducted in collaboration between academics and their association partners.

This session will feature only two short opening presentations made by 2 academics in collaboration with their association representatives. Following the presentations, we plan to create space for a citizen-researcher dialogue. We will give each participant several minutes to comment on the presentations in light of their personal experience. We will exchange and share lessons learned using a participatory workshop format (with visual graphs, dialoguing tools, etc.). Notes will be taken and posted online for future dialogues.

Organizational structure

Coordinators: The workshop will be organized by the GDR PARCS: a Research Group on Participatory Action Research and Citizen Sciences gathering 40 members, 20 labs and 5 associations from all over France and coordinated by Blangy, Reynaud, Carré, Scotto funded by the CNRS (INEE) and hosted at the CEFE in Montpellier. One of the working group is dedicated to developing a collaborative web research model devoted to biodiversity.

Chairs: Sylvie Blangy (CEFE, CNRS), Christian Reynaud (UM2 Montpellier), Lionel Scotto (College), Jennifer Carré (Tela Botanica)

Affiliation: CNRS, INEE

Format: participatory workshop and round table discussion

Duration: 2 hours

Number of participants: 20-30

Preferred dates and time: no preference as long as we have enough participants

Technical requirements: Internet, projector, flip chart; wall hanging, space and possibility to move the chairs around and secure a place in the center to stand up and move around.

Contact information for the organizers: sylvie.blangy@cefe.cnrs.fr