



ECOPOTENTIAL Workshop Citizen Science in Protected Areas “How can citizen science enhance environmental monitoring in protected areas in Europe?”

DATES

Warm Up Monday, 20th of November 2017 (start at 7 pm)
Workshop Tuesday, 21th of November (9 am – 6 pm)

Partners

ECOPOTENTIAL - Improving future ecosystem benefits through Earth Observations

Lifewatch, Europarc Federation, European Citizen Science Association (ECSA), Joint Research Centre (JRC) European Commission, Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze, Helmholtz-Center for Environmental Research – UFZ & German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig

LOCATION

Academy Library in Villa Torlonia, Roma (Italy)

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ECOPOTENTIAL - Improving future ecosystem benefits through Earth Observations

ECOPOTENTIAL is a large European-funded H2020 project that focuses its activities on a targeted set of internationally recognised Protected Areas, blending Earth Observations from remote sensing and field measurements, data analysis and modelling of current and future ecosystem conditions and services. ECOPOTENTIAL considers cross-scale geosphere-biosphere interactions at regional to continental scales, addressing long-term and large-scale environmental and ecological challenges.



This project is funded by
the European Union

Find more at <http://ecopotential-project.eu/>

This **ECOPOTENTIAL** workshop aims to develop a guide on how to establish citizen science projects in protected areas (PA) in Europe. The guide will be developed in collaboration with managers from protected areas and with the support of the EUROPARC Federation, JRC European Commission, the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA), Life Watch and the Italian Academy of Sciences. The workshop provides opportunities to establish networks between PA managers, environmental NGO's representatives and researchers throughout European protected areas. The central questions of the workshop have been previously identified via questionnaires and in consultation with the **ECOPOTENTIAL** partners.



Background and aims of the workshop

Citizen Science, the volunteer engagement of citizens in scientific research and environmental monitoring, is already successfully practiced in many protected areas in Europe. Many observations of plants and animals by volunteers are already used to inform protected area managers for enhancing sustainable management to better protect, conserve and manage species and their communities within protected areas. These contributions by citizens are vital for inventories and the evaluation of conservation outcomes and management measures. Thus, managers in protected areas share much experience in the organization and support of honorary scientists. This knowledge can be used to expand the engagement of citizens in applied research in protected areas as a mean of generating new knowledge in nature conservation with the assistance of citizens.

The workshop addresses the potentials and challenges of citizen science projects in protected areas in Europe and will 1) map and collate information on existing structures of citizen science in protected areas and 2) evaluate the benefits and challenges associated with integrating citizen science in protected areas.

The main questions for discussion at the workshop are:

- How can Citizen Science contribute to environmental monitoring of protected areas to help conserve biological diversity and maintain ecosystem services?
- How can Citizen Science foster the exchange of knowledge and contribute to conservation research in protected areas?
- What are the motivations of the participants to take part of a program in a protected area and what incentives or volunteering management structures must be in place to ensure long term engagement of citizens?
- What scientific criteria must be followed to ensure that participation of citizens in protected areas hold scientific standards and pressures?
- How can the administration in protected areas integrate processes associated with citizen science (data collection, data analysis, data communication, evaluation)?
- What capacities are needed to successfully establish citizen science as a contribution to gain scientific knowledge, raise awareness and better understand and appreciate nature conservation and ecosystem research in protected areas?

Based on these questions, PA managers, scientists and members from NGO's will jointly develop the guide "Citizens scientists in Protected Areas in Europe" that will contain practical assistance on the establishment of citizen science in PA.

Participants of the workshop

The following representatives are intended to participate in the workshop:

- Representatives from protected areas, ideally with experience in volunteer monitoring / citizen science
- ECOPOTENTIAL partners
- Representatives of European Networks of protected areas
- Representatives from NGO's interested in environmental protection

A total number of 20-25 participants is expected.

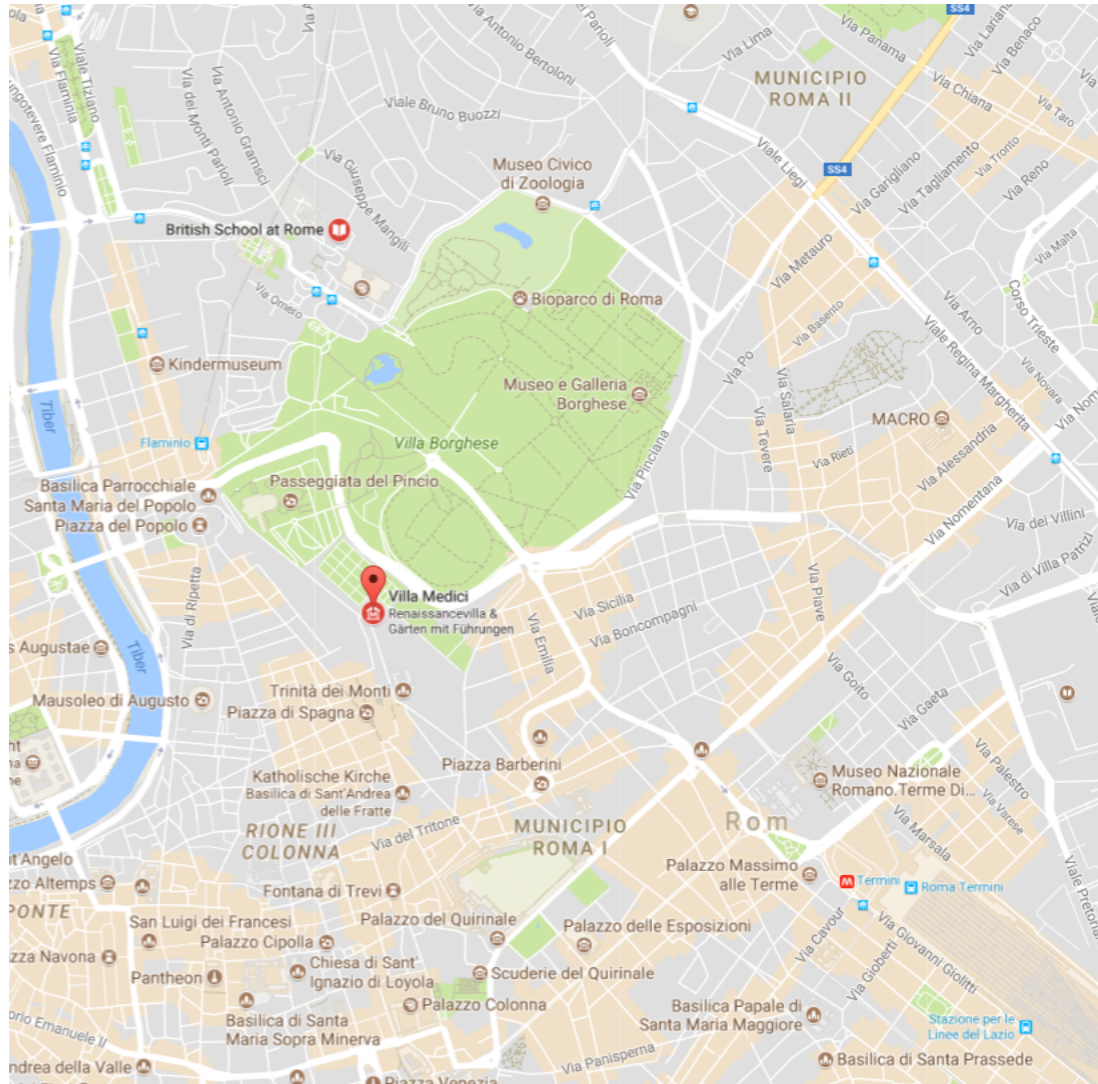
Output of Workshop

- Mapping existing citizen science activities/programs and project structures in protected areas in Europe
- Networking and exchange of experiences on how to get citizen science in PA between managers and scientists who share an interest in citizen science
- Printed and online guide on how to establish citizen science in PA
- Draft scientific paper on the typology of citizen science in protected areas



Location of the Workshop

Academy Library in Villa Torlonia, Roma



Practical aspects

Costs: no registration fee, lunch included

Travel costs and accommodations: Costs for participants from protected areas and possibly others **can be covered by ECOPOTENTIAL / iDiv funds, please ask**. Please organise your travel and accommodation yourself.

Language: the workshop will be held in English. No translation will be provided.

Program

Monday, 20th of November 2017

7 pm Get together Dinner, location to be announced, self-paid basis

Tuesday, 21th of November

9:00 Welcome to the Workshop
Valerio Sbordon - *Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze*
Antonello Provenzale - *Director ECOPOTENTIAL (tbc)*
Gaia Agnello - *European Citizen Science Association*

9:30 Setting the Scene: "Citizen Science in Protected Areas and assessing Ecosystem Services in ECOPOTENTIAL"
Anett Richter & Emilie Crouzat
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany

Workshop Sessions

10:00-11:00 **Understanding matters**
What is the current state of environmental citizen science programs in PA?

- Mapping CS activities in PA (topics, forms, regions)
- Collection of tools for (citizen) science in PA
- Indicators of Success

Moderated brainstorming session in the plenary

11:00-12:00 Who are the actors involved in CS and what are their roles throughout the CS process?

- Mapping stakeholders
- Assignment of responsibilities in these processes

Moderated brainstorming session in the plenary

12:00-13:00 LUNCH

13:00-15:00 **Getting operational** – Step by Step towards the development of a guide

- How do we plan and conduct citizen science in PA?
- Which steps are required for the implementation of citizen science in PA?
- Who and what is required to succeed with the implementation?
- What are the requirements for environmental monitoring (data standards, interoperability with other systems, agencies)? How to communicate results? How to get training and for whom?
- What are costs and benefits of CS in PA?
- How can we translate the guide into different languages?

Working group session

15:00-15:30 COFFE BREAK

15:30-16.30 continued

16:30-17:30 **Sharing results**
Feedbacks from the working group session (*working group representatives*)
Discussion of the results (*plenary*)

- 17:30-18:00 Wrap up and next steps towards the guide
- 19:30 Get together Dinner, location to be announced, self-paid basis