

University of Dundee

Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 1.8

Woods, Mel; Coulson, Saskia; Ajates, Raquel; Amditis, Angelos ; Cobley, Andy; Domian, Dahlia

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Video type: Talking head

Speaker: Uta Wehn

Filming location: X

Producer: X

Run time: X

Filming date: X

Script	Visuals
[Music]	FutureLearn opening animation
[Music]	WeObserve logo University of Dundee logo
<p>UTA WEHN: Understanding the issue is one of our main priorities at Ground Truth 2.0. When we start any citizen observatory project, to fully understand an issue, we could use a co-design approach, this means we bring together people from different backgrounds to discuss and share the problems they face and to plan the project so they can address the issue they can jointly agree on. We used our seven citizen observatories to test and develop the way that we do this. When we begin, the purpose of the future observatory isn't yet defined. We work through some steps to identify the issue we will address together and the challenges, objectives, and requirements involved. Community building as a core part of the process.</p>	
<p>It means that the citizens, scientists, and policymakers that we bring together to codesign the observatory actually form a group that they feel they belong to in terms of issue and purpose. During the various co-design sessions that we hold, they develop or strengthen relationships and trust. For Ground Truth the individual and collective needs of stakeholders, like citizens, scientists, and policymakers, are the starting point. We guide them through a process of codesigning, implementing, and evolving a citizen observatory based on a shared purpose. For example, in Kenya, the scientists and conservancies wanted to monitor biodiversity such as wildlife in and around the Mara Reserve.</p>	

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<p>But the local communities, including the Maasai, insisted on the impacts of biodiversity management for their livelihoods in terms of fenced areas, access to water, and grazing. With the help of the Ground Truth co-design methodology, we realised that the real issue is the human-wildlife conflict, namely how to balance biodiversity management and sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>In the development of the observatory in Belgium, the codesign group identified two key aspects affecting the quality of life in the city, air quality and noise. Both aspects are addressed but one at a time. Air quality campaigns were planned and undertaken first, and now the observatory will move on to monitoring noise.</p>	
<p>The most important part of this process is to start with a blank page as far as understanding the issues concerned. No single stakeholder pre-defined the problem. The point is to jointly analyse, define, and agree on the issue that drives the observatory. This ensures purpose and buy-in from citizens, policymakers, scientists, and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	
<p>[Music]</p>	<p>Partner logos</p>