CIENCIA CIUDADANA
PARA LA AMAZONÍA

Manifesto

Citizen Science for the Amazon Network

Citizen Science for the Amazon is a citizen science and knowledge network that takes action for the conservation and management of the Amazon Basin. Together, citizens and scientists generate knowledge about aquatic ecosystems with a holistic basin approach, relying on technology and innovation to generate accessible, reliable, and timely data and information for decision-making.

We build on solid foundations by aligning ourselves with declarations such as the Open & Collaborative Science Manifesto[1]. We recognize that citizen science is one of the pillars of the development of open science[2]. We seek the development of "an inclusive science that not only meets the material and intellectual needs of society but that improves our well-being, achieves social justice and empowers every individual to use knowledge as a pathway to the sustainable development of their communities."[3]

We adopt the Open & Collaborative Science Manifesto principles: Open Science 1) enables a knowledge commons; 2) integrates diverse scientific traditions and ways of knowing; 3) addresses the role of power and inequality in knowledge production and sharing; 4) creates opportunities for participation at all stages of the research process; 5) foster equitable collaboration between scientists and social actors; 6) incentivizes the design of inclusive infrastructures; and 7) improves the social and environmental well-being of our society and planet.

We are part of the Amazon Waters Initiative, contributing towards generating scientific evidence to inform decisions in a cost-effective manner, raising awareness among people in support of conservation, and empowering citizens to protect the Amazon basin. This is how we maintain connectivity across this large interconnected and dynamic freshwater system, while supporting the well-being of people, wildlife and environments on which they depend.[4]

Our guiding principles are:

Unifying vision at the scale of the Amazon Basin: We focus our work in the Amazon basin from a multiscale and unifying vision, with a basin approach, recognizing that the Amazon ecosystem is

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[1] Open & Collaborative Science Manifesto: towards an inclusive open science for social and environmental well-being. Open and Collaborative Science in Development Network (OCSD Net). Available at: https://ocsdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Manifesto-Infographic-Spanish-1.pdf

[2] "Ciencia abierta es el movimiento para hacer que la investigación científica, los datos y la difusión sean accesibles a todos los niveles de una sociedad interesada". Open Science Handbook (2018). Más información en: https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/taxonomy/term/7

[3] Open & Collaborative Science Manifesto: towards an inclusive open science for social and environmental well-being. Open and Collaborative Science in Development Network (OCSD Net). Available at: https://ocsdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Manifesto-Infographic-Spanish-1.pdf.

[4] Amazon Waters Initiative. http://cienciaciudadanaparalaamazonia.org/index.php/awi/?lang=es

interconnected and requires a local, regional, and global vision to address its conservation and development. We also recognize the need for data to be aggregated and accessible at different scales, in order to effectively inform conservation decisions or management actions where they take place – e.g. communities, social organizations, sub-basins, political jurisdictions, or the Amazon Basin itself. The Network's priorities focus on freshwater ecosystems (fish and waters) and its relationship with people.

Diversity of knowledge: We build knowledge based on the foundations of citizen science and open science. We recognize the value of diverse knowledge systems, and the need to dialogue with- and integrate both local and indigenous knowledge. Furthermore, we foster interdisciplinarity, interculturality, and diversity of visions and types of knowledge as cornerstones to meet our objectives.

Innovation, experimentation and learning: We are a space for innovation and thus learning itself is a major achievement that will help us be more effective in our work. We are a space for experimenting, where we can build new things based on everybody's experiences. As part of this, we explore new questions and promote innovation to solve specific problems. We seek to develop technology solutions, functional to specific contexts, that are also low-cost and easy to use, especially by local communities.

Collaboration: We facilitate connections between scientists and civil society, each of them with their own objectives but working together in participatory collaboration spaces. We believe in building equitable relations that benefit both when it comes to generating knowledge. We foster a fair collaboration based on transparency and ethics.

Situated openness: We promote an open culture. We want the network to contribute to society through open information and data for decision-making. However, we are aware that knowledge generation should be based on specific contexts and be accountable for its potential impacts. Therefore, we believe the network should be aware of what, when, and how data and information are shared.

Respect: We respect human rights and sovereignty of the countries, its territories, knowledge, and culture.

We share knowledge and connect people to discover and conserve Amazon freshwater ecosystems!

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