

# CA17122 Alien CSI

Chair: Helen Roy Vice-chair: Quentin Groom

### Introduction to the DUNIAS bioblitz



Alien CSI Bioblitz: a citizen science project to engage society in invasive species monitoring.

<u>https://alien-si.net/</u> (website van de AlienCSI bioblitz)
<u>https://alien-csi.net/belgium-westhoek</u> (DUNIAS bioblitz)
<u>https://alien-csi.net/belgium-wallonia</u> (RIPARIAS bioblitz)

#### Website and e-mail





COST is the longest-running European framework supporting trans-national cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe.

It is a unique means for them to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all fields in science and technology, including social sciences and humanities, through pan-European networking of nationally funded research activities. Based on a European intergovernmental framework for cooperation in science and technology, COST has been contributing - since its creation in 1971 - to closing the gap between science, policy makers and society throughout Europe and beyond. As a precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research, COST plays a very important role in building a European Research Area (ERA).



It anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes, constituting a "bridge" towards the scientific communities of COST Inclusiveness Target Countries. It also increases the mobility of researchers across Europe and fosters the establishment of scientific excellence.

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

The former science organisation which was structured into nine science and technology domains has been replaced by a new organisation aiming at guaranteeing a fully open and bottom-up approach through the establishment of a single Scientific Committee. This also includes a repeated evaluation and selection procedure aiming at identifying

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# Working Groups

➤ WG1: Engaging people in citizen science

- Elizabete Marchante & Peter Brown
- ➤ WG2: Approaches to citizen science
  - Tim Adriaens & Elena Tricarico
- ➤ WG3: Data management and standards
  - Lien Reyserhove, Jan Pergl & Toril Loennechen Moen
- ➤ WG4: Analysis and visualisation
  - Michael Pocock, Franz Essl & Sven Jelaska
- > WG5: Cross-cutting citizen science initiatives
  - Bernat Claramunt & Niki Chartosia.



#### Social media @AlienCSI1







## Animations





### BIOBLITZ

A rapid assessment of the biodiversity present in a specific geographic area over a relatively short period of time, in which multiple people engage and participate, either being expert <u>scientists, naturalists or amateurs</u>, often from the local community



Expert bioblitz



Biodiversity festival



#### BIOBLITZ

#### Just a bit of fun OR more...?



Literature review



iNaturalist projects



Alien-CSI Akrotiri bioblitz, Cyprus



#### iNaturalist analysis

- iNaturalist is a citizen science platform often used in bioblitzes to inform participants, collect wildlife records, keep score of the number of species observed, rank the participants
- Extracted data through the iNaturalist API from iNaturalist projects with the word 'bioblitz' in their title between 2013 and 2020.
- Retrieved 1,860 projects strictly fitting into the general definition of a bioblitz: certain location, > 1 observer, min. 1 identifier, less than 10 days.
- Data on recording activity of 3,378 participants from a random sample of 100 iNaturalist bioblitzes a year before and .after the bioblitz.











Data in GBIF has been used in > 2,800 peerreviewed research papers since 2008 with <sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub> of all use cases in 2012 on **invasive alien species** 

https://www.gbif.org/using-gbif-data





# And many more examples of how bioblitzes can contribute to long-term conservation





#### Lowman et al. (2019) Conservation Science and Practice

Pictures: https://habitatfoundation.org.my/our-programmes/conservation/penang-hill-bioblitz-2017/ https://habitatfoundation.org.my/designation-of-the-penang-hill-biosphere-reserve-by-unesco-a-fitting-recognition-of-theunique-natural-and-cultural-heritage-of-penang-island-and-its-people/?fbclid









# Engagement



According to this model, recording activity per participant in the year post-bioblitz increased by a cumulative total of 7.4 days, and on average the increased activity post-bioblitz halved every 12.8 weeks. The cumulative total of 7.4 days additional recording activity could have a huge impact. Even with just one observation per additional day of recording, the 113,076 people who physically engaged in iNaturalist bioblitzes in 2019 would add 180,390 additional observations post-bioblitz, equivalent to 10% of the number of observations made during all the iNaturalist bioblitzes in 2019 (N=1,851,444).



thank you