



Grupo CoSensores – Sensores Comunitarios (CoSensores Group - Community Sensors)

Development and application of accessible tools for social and environmental assessments to be made by the community



Objectives

Develop technologies that allow organized community groups to perform social and environmental assessments in a simple and affordable way, and therefore contribute to the implementation of restoration procedures or actions leading to material improvements in their quality of life.

Description of citizen participation

CoSensores is an interdisciplinary group which works horizontally with community groups organized around social and environmental issues, by jointly posing and answering questions that will contribute to their resolution. Collaboration results from the specific knowledge and possibilities of academia and territory, by making consensual decisions and undertaking tasks and responsibilities collectively. The intervention strategy chosen is based on the concept of Participatory Action Research for knowledge co-production. The work methodology used consists in holding two workshops. In the first workshop, the issue is collectively identified, and the relevant trials are conducted. In the second one, the results, advantages and limitations of the methods used are shared, as well as any potential strategies for solving the specific issues detected.

Type of citizen science project

Co-created project: Citizens participate in all stages of the scientific process.

Participating parties.

- Grupo CoSensores.
- Community-based organizations (comprising students, teaching staff, researchers and holders of fellowships at national universities).

Status. In progress.

Time frame. 01/02/2013 – N/A

Frequency of project execution. Based on demand or community outreach.

Participation period. It may take days or months, depending on the project.

Scope of the initiative. Argentina (two or more provinces).

Geographic scope. Argentina.

Project development members. It has been developed with the collaboration of both scientists and participants without formal training.

Number of participants.
Over 1001.

Action/s involving citizen participation

- Problem identification.
 - Data collection.
 - Data analysis.
 - Phenomenon monitoring.
 - Solution design.
 - Solution implementation.
- Citizens are involved in the entire process.

Technological device/tool required.

- Different tools are required for each project:
- Cell phones
 - Lab and mapping techniques
 - Measurement devices using Arduino sensors, among others

Recruitment methods. Through social media and at gatherings organized with the communities involved.

Replicability. It has been replicated with different organizations and in different locations and settings, e.g., in Santiago del Estero, from 2013 to 2016, and in Delta del Tigre (Buenos Aires) from 2016 to date.

Scalability. It has been upscaled in a diverse and non-centralized way.

Open access to data. The means to access information was decided collectively with the community involved in collecting data. In some cases, such data was made available to the public through social networks, community media and/or academic presentations.

Feedback. Each activity includes a stage where information is shared.

Linkage with state agency/government. Actions are coordinated with public educational institutions at different levels.

Institutional funds. Funding for university research, development and extension.

Awards/distinctions. –

Classification of knowledge areas (OECD).

NATURAL SCIENCES / Computer and information sciences
NATURAL SCIENCES / Earth and related Environmental sciences
SOCIAL SCIENCES / Educational sciences

Project leaders.

No project leaders, horizontal research group.

Contact information.

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