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CSISTA[[1]](#footnote-1) Impact Inquiry Instrument

Capturing governance impact stories of your Citizen Science initiative

**Background on WeObserve and capturing impact stories**

WeObserve is a Coordination and Support Action project (2017-2021) to consolidate knowledge and share impact stories of Citizen Observatories. The WeObserve **Impact Community of Practice** (CoP) aims at supporting Citizen Science initiatives and Citizen Observatories capture their success stories.

There are several reasons you may wish to capture your impact stories, including reporting purposes to funders, sharing best practice with your community of practice, and providing visibility to your CS/CO initiative and the efforts from citizens involved in your activities. The WeObserve Impact CoP members have developed an approach called the Citizen Science Impact Story Telling Approach (CSISTA) for this purpose. The current form is the CSISTA Impact Inquiry Instrument that was developed as a part of that approach and as a framework for qualitative data collection to understand impacts of Citizen Science and Citizen Observatories initiatives on policy and decision making. The long term ambition is to capture and make available a selection of impact stories in order to be able to tell a bigger story, helping to mainstream Citizen Science and Citizen Observatories.

In the context of this instrument, governance refers to the definition of goals by a range of actors on the thematic topics that a given observatory focuses on, e.g. water quality, soil, biodiversity, etc. as well as to related decision-making processes, e.g. decisions about the observed resource. Examples of governance impacts include changes to legislation, alterations in physical space, new local communities or groups being set up to manage a shared resource or issues, etc. You can read two examples of governance impact stories [here](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-41015486).

**Why is it worth capturing your governance impact story?**

There are several reasons you may wish to capture your impact stories, including reporting purposes to funders, sharing best practice with your community of practice, and providing visibility to your CS/CO initiative and the efforts from citizens involved in your activities.

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| **DESCRIPTION of your Citizen Science/Citizen Observatory initiative (CS/CO)** | |
| **Name** | *What’s the name of the CS/CO initiative this impact story relates to?* |
| **Start & End Date** | *What’s the start & end date (if applicable) of the CS/CO initiative?* |
| **Aim** | *What’s the aim of this CS/CO initiative?*  *What’s the main activity involving participants (e.g. Image classification, in-situ data collection, etc.)?* |
| **Geographical scale** | *What’s the geographical scale of your CS/CO initiative?*   * *local* * *national* * *international* * *Other - please specify* |
| **Stakeholders** | *Who are the main stakeholders involved?*   * *School(s)* * *Youth association(s)* * *Resident groups* * *Civil society group(s)* * *Scientists* * *Local authorities* * *National policy makers* * *Other - please specify* |
| **Are you…?** | *What is your own role in the CS/CO initiative?*  *Tick as many as applicable:*   * *Citizen scientist involved in the CS/CO initiative* * *Coordinating team member of the CS/CO initiative* * *Policy maker involved in the activities of the CS/CO initiative* * *Scientist involved in the CS/CO initiative* * *Other - please specify:* |
| **Sponsor** | *Have you received any financial support for your CS/CO initiative? If yes, please describe.* |
| **Website** | *Please provide a link to the CS/CO initiative website, as well as links to relevant outputs (e.g., reports, press materials, publications, etc.)* |
| **IMPACT DETAILS** | |
| **The problem** | *Briefly describe the issue your CS/CO has been trying to tackle:*   1. *What issue is the CS/CO trying to solve?* 2. *How long has this issue been a problem?* 3. *Who is affected by this issue?* 4. *What statistics or data (‘official data’, Citizen Science data, etc.) show the scope of the problem?* 5. *Where is the problem taking place? (geographically, demographically, etc.)* 6. *What are you aiming to improve? (what, with whom and by when)* 7. *Why are you tackling it now?* 8. *Why did participants want to take part in the CS/CO activities?* |
| **Your governance impact story** | *Please try to recall a specific moment or event when you felt particularly aware of any governance changes the CS/CO had achieved in relation to the problem it is/was trying to tackle. These changes could relate to e.g., informing public policy or management decisions, triggering changes in regulations, legislation, etc. Please provide some brief details:*   * *What has changed?*    1. *local regulation changes*   2. *national regulation changes*   3. *change to practices (e.g., change to routines, timetables, etc.):*   4. *change to arrangement/set up of physical space*   5. *creation of a new committee to manage a shared resource or issue*   6. *other - please specify* * *Was this change planned or unexpected?* * *Why did these changes come about?* * *Is this change being measured? (e.g., statistics, interviews, specific measurement tools, etc.).* * *How have the changes been perceived by your different stakeholders?* * *Who was involved in making the changes happen?* * *Who was not involved or left the project? Please elaborate.* |
| **Impact story title** | *Imagine your impact case as a short story. What title would you give it?* |
| **Quote** | *Please share a quote from a participant that highlights something important, funny or an emotive aspect of the change process leading to the impact.* |
| **Visual resources** | *Can you share some photos or videos that illustrate your story?*  *What data visualisations relating to the story are available?*  *Please share any links:* |
| **Reflections** | *What was the most memorable part of your CO experience?*  *What are some of the most significant lessons learned so far based on your CO experience?* |
| **3 Keywords** | *What are the three key words that summarise this story from the stakeholders’ perspective?* |

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| **CHALLENGES** | |
| **Challenges** | *What challenges or risks did you face during the design, implementation and evaluation phases that resulted in this impact? Were you able to overcome these challenges? Please provide details.* |
| **Policy-related restrictions** | *Did you encounter any policy, legal and/or regulatory restrictions? Were you able to overcome these restrictions? If so, please provide details* |
| **Further change needed** | *What policy change/s at any level (e.g., organisational, political, etc.) would improve your CS/CO initiative’s ability to achieve other positive governance impacts?* |
| **Next Steps** | *What are the next steps for your CS/CO initiative? Do you foresee a follow-up initiative?* |

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| **WIDER IMPACTS** | |
| **Measuring Impact** | *What internal tracking or monitoring processes does your CS/CO initiative have in place to identify governance/policy outcomes/results of your activities?*  *Has your project done a cost/benefit analysis? If so, would you be able to share the results with the Impact Community of Practice? Please share a link if applicable.* |
| **Policy Recommendations** | *Do your CS/CO initiative outcomes include specific policy recommendations? {Y/N} If yes, what are they?* |
| **Other impact** | *What other impacts do you (fore)see your CS/CO initiative or study having (e.g., economic, educational, social, etc.)?* |
| **UN SDGs Framework** | *Which* [*SDGs*](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) *are most relevant to your CS/CO initiative?*   * *GOAL 1: No Poverty* * *GOAL 2: Zero Hunger* * *GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being* * *GOAL 4: Quality Education* * *GOAL 5: Gender Equality* * *GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation* * *GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy* * *GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth* * *GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure* * *GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality* * *GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities* * *GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production* * *GOAL 13: Climate Action* * *GOAL 14: Life below Water* * *GOAL 15: Life on Land* * *GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions* * *GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal*   *Have you identified an SDG Target or Indicator to align with?* |
| **Other Initiatives** | *Does your CS/CO initiative have a link to any other international initiatives (e.g., Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, etc.)?* |

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1. Citizen Science Impact StoryTelling Approach [↑](#footnote-ref-1)