

# Citizen Science Initiative: Engaging Communities in Conservation

Date- June 19 to July 10, 2021

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From June 19 to July 10, 2021, Oasis organized a dynamic Citizen Science Initiative aimed at inspiring public participation in conservation efforts. Through a series of talks, discussions, and interactive sessions with experts from various ecological research organizations, Oasis sought to bridge the gap between scientific research and citizen involvement.

The initiative highlighted diverse citizen science projects focusing on species monitoring, seasonal changes, and habitat conservation, encouraging participants to actively contribute to ecological data collection and environmental stewardship.

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## Session Highlights: Expert Talks and Citizen Science Projects

### Butterfly Watch with Dr. Krushnamegha Kunte

**Date:** June 19, 2021 | **Time:** 6:00 PM

**Speaker:** Dr. Krushnamegha Kunte, NCBS, TIFR

**Project:** Butterfly Watch

Dr. Kunte, an expert in butterfly biodiversity, introduced participants to the Butterfly Watch project, a citizen science initiative aimed at documenting butterfly species across regions. The session covered methods for identifying butterfly species and their habitats, providing attendees with the knowledge to contribute to tracking butterfly populations and supporting conservation efforts.

**Seasonal Changes Monitoring with Dr. Geetha Ramaswamy****Date:** June 23, 2021 | **Time:** 6:00 PM**Speaker:** Dr. Geetha Ramaswamy, NCF**Project:** Seasons Watch

Focusing on the Seasons Watch project, Dr. Ramaswamy discussed how participants could monitor seasonal changes in flora across different regions. By observing and recording plant phenology, citizens help scientists understand climate impacts on vegetation patterns, contributing to broader ecological research on climate change effects.

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**Tiger Conservation with Dr. Dharmendra Khandal****Date:** June 27, 2021 | **Time:** 11:00 AM**Speaker:** Dr. Dharmendra Khandal, Conservation India**Project:** Tiger Watch

Dr. Khandal's talk centered on the Tiger Watch initiative, where participants help in tracking and conserving tiger populations. He shared insights on methods for identifying signs of tiger presence and their importance for conservation. The interactive discussion emphasized the role of local communities in tiger habitat preservation.

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**Bird Conservation through E-bird with Dr. Mittal Gala****Date:** July 1, 2021 | **Time:** 6:00 PM**Speaker:** Dr. Mittal Gala, NCF**Project:** BCI - Ebird

Dr. Gala introduced the audience to the Ebird project, an initiative to document bird species and distributions. The session offered training on how participants can observe, document, and submit bird sightings to aid in monitoring avian biodiversity, crucial for understanding changes in bird populations.

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**Community Fishery Conservation with Dr. Naveen Namboothri****Date:** July 3, 2021 | **Time:** 3:00 PM**Speaker:** Dr. Naveen Namboothri, Dakshin Foundation**Project:** Community Fishery

Dr. Namboothri's session on community fisheries highlighted the importance of sustainable fishing practices and community-driven conservation. Participants learned how citizen science could empower local fishing communities to sustainably manage and protect marine resources, fostering resilience and conservation in coastal areas.

### **Indian Bullfrog Monitoring with Dr. Nitya Prakash Mohanty**

**Date:** July 7, 2021 | **Time:** 6:00 PM

**Speaker:** Dr. Nitya Prakash Mohanty, CES, IISC

**Project:** Indian Bullfrog

Dr. Mohanty discussed the Indian Bullfrog project, which aims to monitor the impact of invasive species on local ecosystems. This session educated participants on spotting and recording data about the Indian Bullfrog, an invasive species in certain regions, and encouraged collaboration to control its ecological impact.

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### **Road Ecology and Wildlife Safety with Dr. Milind Pariwakam**

**Date:** July 10, 2021 | **Time:** 6:00 PM

**Speaker:** Dr. Milind Pariwakam, Roadkills

**Project:** Roadkills

Dr. Pariwakam concluded the initiative with a session on the Roadkills project, which focuses on tracking roadkill incidents to improve wildlife safety along roads and highways. He provided guidelines on documenting roadkill data, which helps in identifying high-risk zones for wildlife and informs infrastructure planning for animal corridors.

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### **Encouraging Citizen Participation for Conservation Success**

The Citizen Science Initiative was an empowering experience for all attendees, highlighting how individual efforts can significantly contribute to ecological research and conservation.

Through this program, Oasis strengthened its commitment to community involvement in scientific research and fostered a network of citizen scientists dedicated to preserving India's biodiversity.

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Associated members - Existing members at that time

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