

Project Update: October 2021

The past months have been dedicated to field sampling of arthropods and vegetation attributes by citizen scientists. Furthermore, campaigns to raise awareness for biodiversity and ecosystem services have also been completed. In addition, a socio-ecological survey to find out about the perceived ecosystem services derived from urban green spaces by citizen scientists as well as how children perceived the environment (children environmental perception assessment) and their willingness to care for nature (love and care for nature) have also been completed. Furthermore, citizen scientists are currently sorting the arthropod samples into taxonomic groups, which will then be analysed by our trained technical team (mostly undergraduate students whom we have trained in ecological data analysis). Finally, we also took advantage of the rainy season to plant multi-purpose tree species on various school compounds.

Table 1: Summary of activities and their status

Phases	Activities	Remarks
Phase 1		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconnaissance survey and selection of urban green spaces 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit acquisition to work in urban green spaces 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder consultation 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of project facilitators 	Completed
Phase 2		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign in schools and communities to select citizen scientists 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of staff, volunteers and relevant partners 	Completed
Phase 3		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fieldwork 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arthropod sorting 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data management 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results compilation 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaigns to raise awareness for biodiversity and ecosystem services 	Completed
Phase 4		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting of multi-purpose tree seedlings in school compounds 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicising results 	Not started
Phase 5		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific paper and report writing 	Not started



Figure 1: Citizen scientist ready for field sampling



Figure 2: Children learning how to sample with the beating tray



Figure 3: Instructure and pupil working on the children environmental perception scale assessment.



Figure 4: School children were given their views (through questionnaires) on how they love and want to care for nature



Figure 5: Children planting multi-purpose trees on their school compound



Figure 6: Children sorting arthropods into taxonomic groups



Figure 7: Children sorting arthropods