

# CITIZEN SCIENCE

## Assessing Its Potential and Capacity Building for environment



An online questionnaire survey open to all (target audience being citizens in India) was run for a duration of 6 weeks to collect data regarding citizen's awareness about citizen science and citizen science for the environment and their willingness to participate

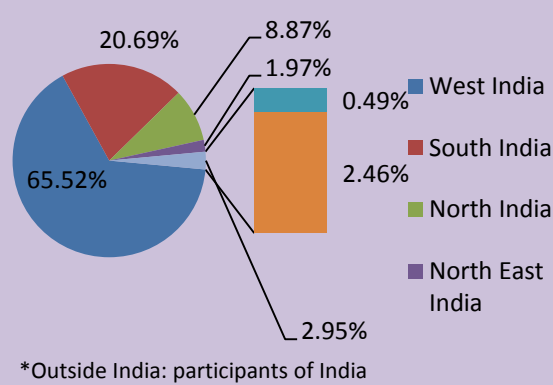
**203**  
Responses

**54**  
Cities

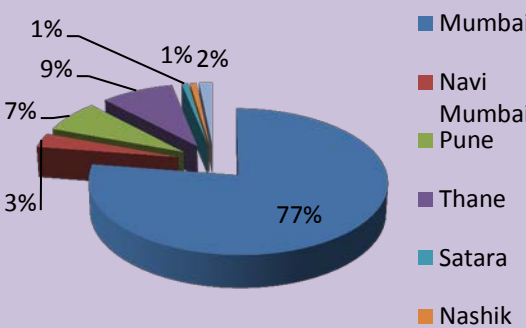
**19**  
States

33% were environmental professionals/ students/ teachers/ researchers while 67% did not belong to any of these categories and classified as others e.g. engineers, accountants, etc.

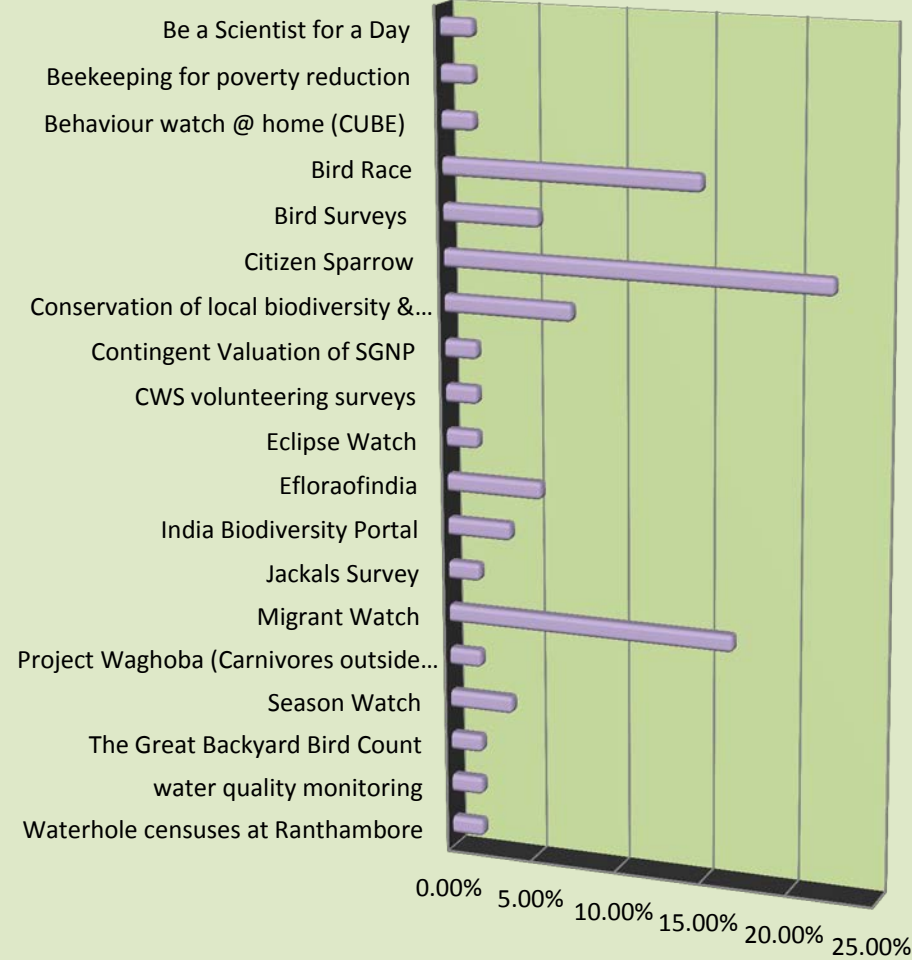
### Diversity in location of survey participants



### Public participation from Maharashtra

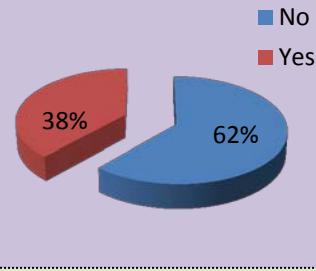


### Citizen Science projects that participants have participated in

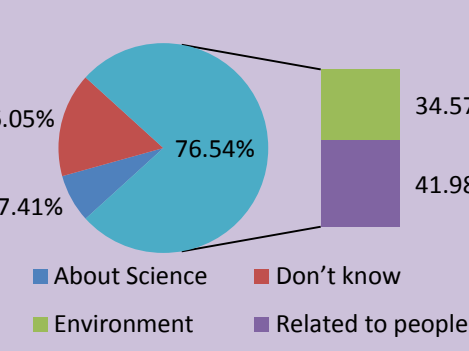


### Citizen Science Awareness

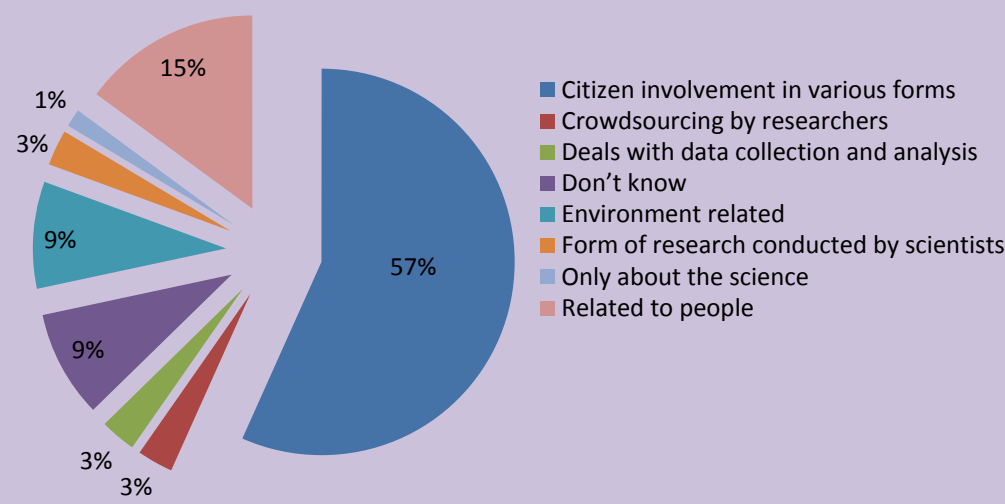
Have you heard of citizen science?



What Participants who haven't heard about citizen science think about it?



What Participants who have heard about citizen science think about it?

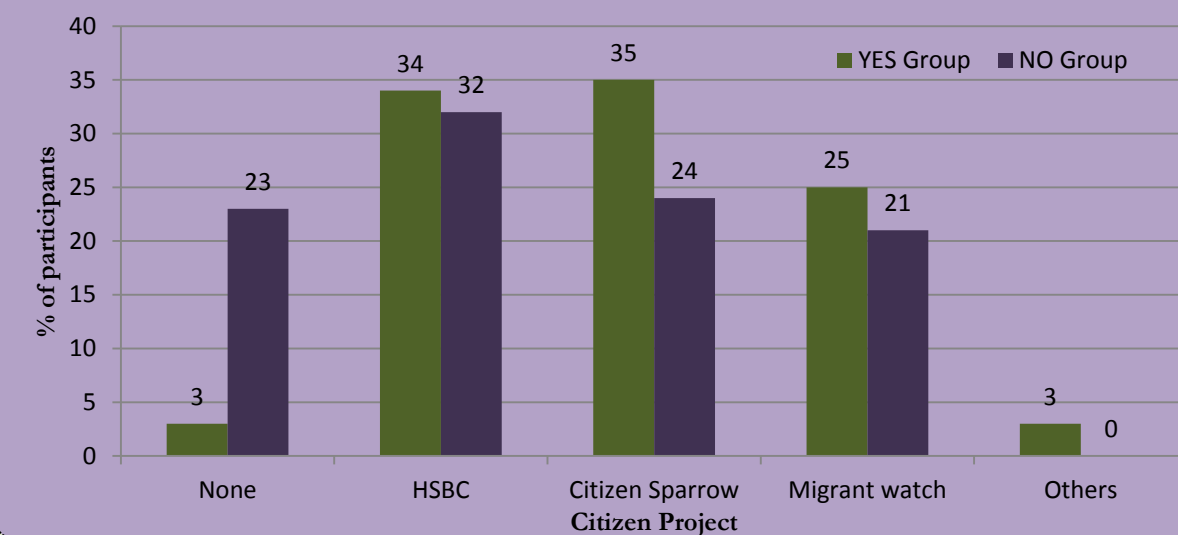


## Public participation from Maharashtra: A preliminary analysis

• 66% of the participants from Maharashtra had not heard about Citizen Science while 34% had heard about it.

Participants were asked to state if they had heard of any of the citizen science projects that were mentioned in our form

### Awareness about ongoing Citizen Science Project

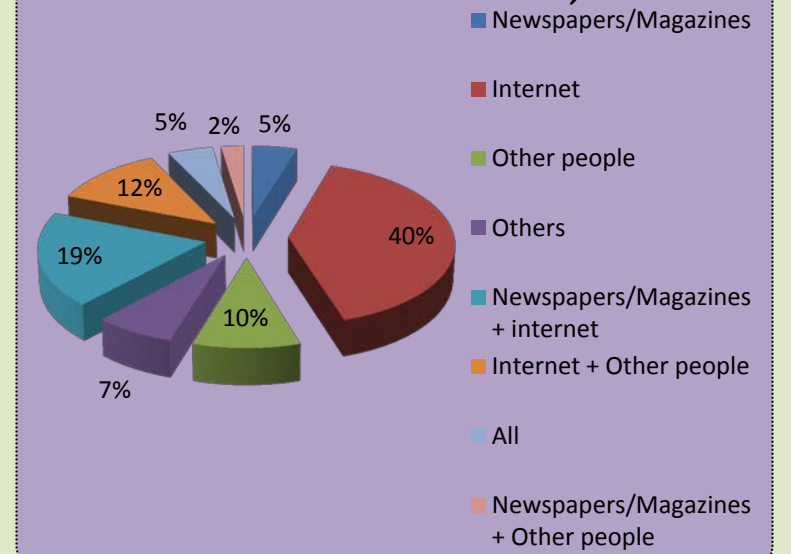


Majority of the participants who had heard about citizen science also knew about the mentioned projects. A higher proportion of people in the NO group had not heard about the projects in comparison to YES but many had heard of the projects mentioned.

The participants who had heard about citizen science were also asked if they had participated in any citizen science project. 62% participants had participated in a citizen science project before while 38% had not. All the 62% participants who had participated in citizen science projects had done so in projects related to environment.

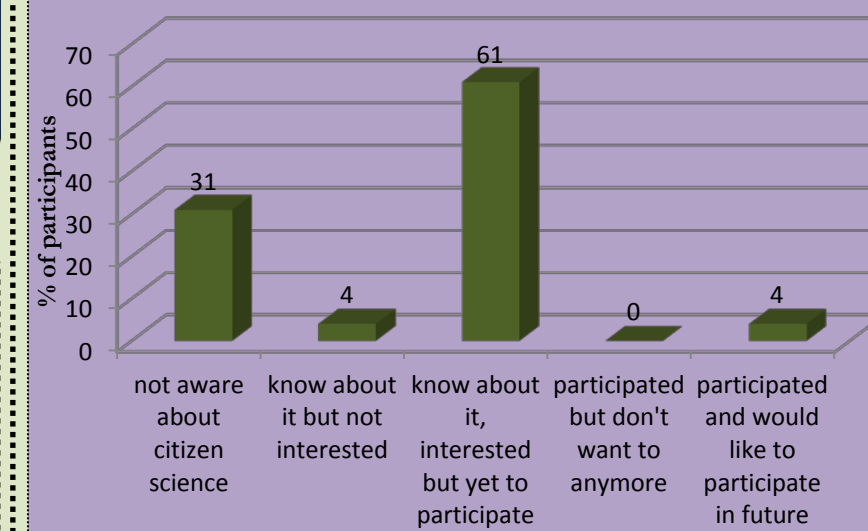
### Sources of Information

#### Source of information about Citizen Science Project



### View of participants who had not participated in Citizen Science Projects

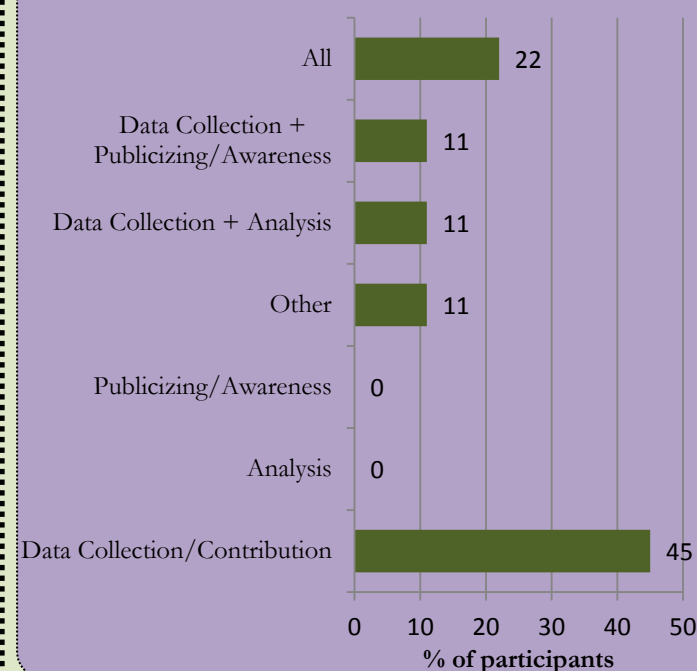
#### Reasons of no participation in Citizen Science project



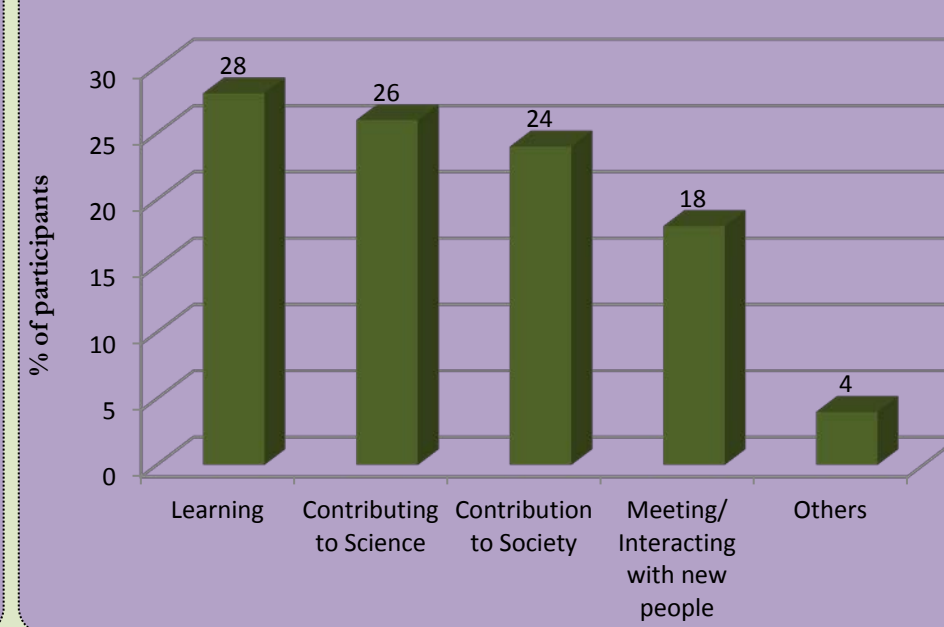
A major proportion of the participants stated that they know about citizen science are interested but are yet to participate while 31% state lack of awareness about Citizen Science to be reasons for not participating yet.

### View of participants who had participated in Citizen Science Projects

#### Manner of Contribution



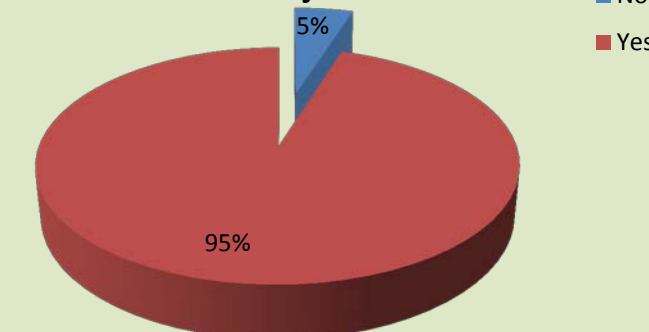
#### Reasons likely to encourage participation in a citizen science project again?



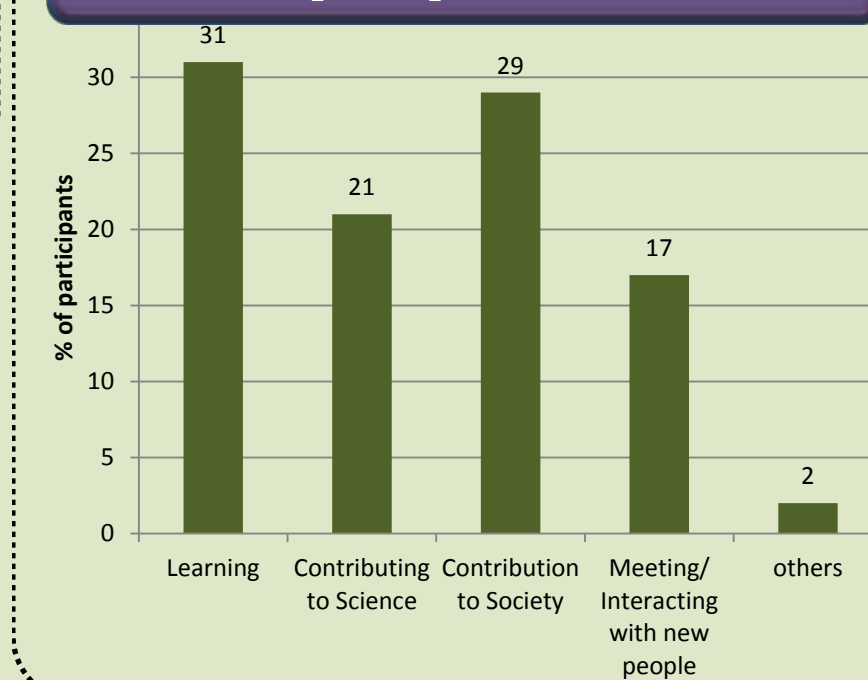
Only 5% of the participants from Maharashtra stated that they were not interested in participating in Citizen Science Projects, 95% responded that they are willing to do so.

Also, participants in YES and NO group were asked if they would like updates regarding same and 90% in both categories stated their interest in being updated and 10% not interested.

#### In future would you like to participate in Citizen Science Project?



### Reasons that can encourage participation for who haven't participated in Citizen Science



Please find attached a copy of what you all helped us understand about citizen science with respect to assessing its potential and capacity building for the environment.

Also, for all those who would like to continue being updated about citizen science based programmes going on in the India; you may join the following page on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/csciindia>. Additionally, please find below a list of projects that we came across during our study. May be you would love to join some of these initiatives. Do take a moment and check them out. Our lists are not exhaustive but are a good start. –Nita Shashidharan and Parveen Sheikh

Sr.No.	Citizen Science Project (Environment)	Project Objective	Mode of participation	CSP website if available/News Link
1	Common bird monitoring of India programme (CBMI)	to monitor and conserve India's Common Birds.	Observation and internet	<a href="http://www.cbmi.in/index.html">http://www.cbmi.in/index.html</a>
2	Eflora egroup	to help in documenting flora of India	Observation and internet	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/efloraofindia/">https://sites.google.com/site/efloraofindia/</a>
3	Project Pterocount	to monitor the population of a bat species in South Asia.	Observation and internet	<a href="http://pterocount.org/">http://pterocount.org/</a>
4	Hornbill Watch	to monitor and conserve 9 species of Hornbills found in India	Observation and internet	<a href="http://www.hornbills.in/">http://www.hornbills.in/</a>
5	Migrant Watch	identify migrant birds and note down the first sighting and feed it into the online database	Observation and internet	<a href="http://www.migrantwatch.in/join.php">http://www.migrantwatch.in/join.php</a>

6	Seasonwatch	to monitor plant phenology i.e.the participant identifies a tree and observes it every week to note down when the flowers, fruits and leaves come out.	Observation and internet	<a href="http://www.seasonwatch.in/">http://www.seasonwatch.in/</a>
7	EclipseWatch	to observe and document the behaviour of birds and animals before, during and after the solar eclipse	Observation and internet	<a href="http://www.eclipsewatch.in/">http://www.eclipsewatch.in/</a>
8	India Biodiversity Portal	in contributing and accessing information on Indian biodiversity	Observation and internet	<a href="http://indiabiodiversity.org/">http://indiabiodiversity.org/</a>
9	"Lost! Amphibians of India"	to search for lost amphibians.	Observation	<a href="http://www.lostspeciesindia.org/LAI2/">http://www.lostspeciesindia.org/LAI2/</a>
10	Behaviourwatch@home	characterising particular birds behaviour	Observation and internet	<a href="http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/research/not-just-for-the-scientists/article4674416.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/research/not-just-for-the-scientists/article4674416.ece</a>
11	Golden Jackals in India	was a two month survey to find out about the numbers and location of Golden Jackals in India	Observation and internet	<a href="http://bangalore.citizenmatters.in/articles/3075-ncf-golden-jackal-survey">http://bangalore.citizenmatters.in/articles/3075-ncf-golden-jackal-survey</a>
12	Marine Mammal Conservation Network of India	to help strengthen the available information.	Observation &/internet	<a href="http://www.marinemammals.in/">http://www.marinemammals.in/</a>
13	Asian Water Fowl Census	to count water birds	Observation	<a href="http://south-asia.wetlands.org/WhatWeDo/AsianWaterbirdCensus/tabid/2892/Default.aspx">http://south-asia.wetlands.org/WhatWeDo/AsianWaterbirdCensus/tabid/2892/Default.aspx</a>
14	The People's Biodiversity Register	to add people's traditional knowledge systems to mainstream science	contact programme	<a href="http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/research/not-just-for-the-scientists/article4674416.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/research/not-just-for-the-scientists/article4674416.ece</a>
15	"Be a scientist for a day."	The participants built up a checklist of species of plants,	contact programme	<a href="http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/research/not-just-for-the-scientists/article4674416.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/research/not-just-for-the-scientists/article4674416.ece</a>

		insects (especially moths), birds, reptiles and amphibians from BNHS' 33-acre nature reserve		
16	WCS India : Volunteering for wildlife surveys	To gather data on various aspects of wildlife in selected protective areas in Karnataka	contact programme	<a href="http://www.sciencecodex.com/study_volunteering_can_help_save_wildlife-146099">http://www.sciencecodex.com/study_volunteering_can_help_save_wildlife-146099</a>
17	Citizen Sparrow	Citizen Sparrow was a public participatory project to which all members of the public were invited to contribute regarding observations on sparrows.	Observations and internet	<a href="http://www.citizensparrow.in/">http://www.citizensparrow.in/</a>
18	HSBC Bird race	The participants will try and record as many species of birds as possible, learn about the finer points of bird-watching from the experts & the experienced	Observation and contact	<a href="http://www.indiabirdraces.in/">http://www.indiabirdraces.in/</a>
19	Western Ghats Portal	to create an online open collaborative system for sharing biodiversity information w.r.t Western Ghats	Observation and internet	<a href="http://thewesternghats.indiabiodiversity.org/">http://thewesternghats.indiabiodiversity.org/</a>
20	Himalayan Bird Count	To document Himalayan birds	Observation and contact	<a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/registration-for-himalayan-bird-count-to-end-on-may-10/">http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/registration-for-himalayan-bird-count-to-end-on-may-10/</a>
21	The Role of Natural History e-groups Linking Scientist and Citizens	Various e-groups in yahoo, facebook etc with respect to natural history contribution by participants	Observation and internet	<a href="http://vimeo.com/53329840">http://vimeo.com/53329840</a>
22	South Asia Birds, of	allows users from	Observation and	<a href="http://www.worldbirds.org/v3/india.php">http://www.worldbirds.org/v3/india.php</a>

	worldbirds initiative	anywhere in the world to input and query bird data. Section (India)	internet	
23	Landmark Trees of India	Landmark Trees an outreach ecology and geography project documenting famous, notable, remarkable, interesting, and heritage trees of India.	Observation and internet	<a href="http://www.outreachecology.com/landmark/contribute/">http://www.outreachecology.com/landmark/contribute/</a>
24	Project Meghdoot	The aim is to gather, collate and analyze the traditional knowledge about the monsoon from peoples across India and connect that with available scientific know-how.	Observations and contact	<a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/news-archive/web/drops-of-science/">http://indianexpress.com/article/news-archive/web/drops-of-science/</a>