

Session 12: Engaging Everyone in the SDGs: citizen science and participatory approaches

Key points from the discussion

1. We cannot achieve what we cannot measure. All data sources have limitations and advantages, but to reach the SDGs we need to harness the potential of new data sources like citizen science
2. When solutions to problems within communities come from outside, the community will struggle to embrace it. For true sustainability, we therefore need inclusive decision making and innovation, with active rather than passive roles for citizens.
3. Data inequality and trust issues mean governments and policy makers do not have the full story for challenges in sustainability. Partnerships with community organisations through citizen science is one way to bridge these gaps.