

Transcript of the Video Salma Talhouk

So how often do you spend time in nature, maybe once or twice a year, or maybe you go regularly? Either way, you go to nature, probably because it makes you feel better. But how do you know if nature is feeling better every time you visit them? How would you know if nature is healthy? This is what Biosphere Reserve managers and scientists do. They are in charge of nature's health. They monitor biodiversity. They monitor organisms on a regular basis because they need to gauge how people impact nature. Biosphere reserves managers, they work with scientists to learn how organisms and ecosystems are changing in response to people's visits and their activities. This monitoring is crucial to help them detect early warning signs of any damage that we may be causing to nature. But to do this, both managers and scientists need to collect a lot of data through our very large fields and many organisms and over very long periods of time. You can hide them and be involved in the scientific research that takes place in biosphere reserves without being a scientist as a citizen. You can actually participate in scientific research that takes place in biosphere reserves. You can, as a non-expert, become a citizen scientists. By doing this, you can help scientists and managers uncover changing partners in nature.

So what do citizen scientists do in biosphere reserves? Citizen scientists, they learn from researchers and managers, they engage in data collection, and they are involved in scientific research only when many citizens work together with scientists and managers. Then it becomes possible to collect big data across time and over large areas. The data collected by citizen scientists will drive change because it is useful and it is impactful. So the citizen scientist who engages with scientists and managers will help them acquire knowledge through research and will help transform this knowledge into action, and it will guide management and planning. When you want to be a citizen scientist, you can choose the research that interests you that you find important. Some people may be curious about scientific research. Others may be interested in a specific organism, even if you don't have specific preferences. The key is that when you are a citizen scientist, you will also advance your scientific literacy and you will contribute to research and have a direct impact on nature. In short, as a citizen scientists, you get to make a difference in nature and the communities living in biosphere reserves, while also you are growing, learning and acquiring knowledge from the scientific perspective. Your contribution as a citizen scientists will help the scientists plan larger projects and more impactful research projects because they know that there are many people working with them, and so they can plan a collection of a large number of samples over a long period of time. If you don't contribute, if you don't have them, they will not be able to do this because large projects are very costly

There are many success stories of citizen science around the world. One of them is citizen engagement in bird watching. On October 9th. Citizen scientists around the world do bird watching. Specifically, they collect, identify, locate and upload as many bird species as possible using the eBird phone application, which has been developed specifically to allow citizen scientists to contribute bird watching data. In 2020, despite the COVID 19 outbreak, more than 32000 participants submitted 18400 checklists, with 7128 species. There are many phone applications that have been developed to engage citizens and citizen scientists in monitoring and data collection of organisms and natural elements. Our team has developed a phone application that allows citizen scientists to participate in research conducted and Mediterranean by



its users. The application , called Edu-BioMed, allows scientists and managers to share projects conducted in biosphere reserves , and it is a useful tool that facilitates the participation of citizens in the search . As a citizen scientist , you can browse and choose a project that interests you and list the skill that you have , or that you would like to learn. The Edu-BioMed phone application will link you with ongoing projects that match your choices . Your contribution can range from uploading your photo or contributing to other data collection apps . Now , as you visit biosphere reserves , you can help scientists and managers conserve nature and promote sustainable development in the biosphere reserves. Sign up on Edu-BioMed phone application, visit the Mediterranean biosphere around you and see how you can make a change . Your contribution is necessary . In summary , the Edu-BioMed phone application targets citizens who are interested in participating in biosphere reserves related research projects . Through this app , you can familiarize yourself with Mediterranean biospheres and encourage friends and families to engage in citizen science , becoming citizen science today and help scientists and managers conserve nature!