



Application Type B: CITIZEN SCIENCE

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The Trust welcomes applications for projects in this category, but the criteria is often misunderstood. Citizen science, by definition, involves the active participation of the public in scientific research. Typically, volunteers contribute by collecting large amounts of data that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to obtain

Whereas scientists have scientific qualifications, citizen scientists are mostly volunteers without a scientific background. Ideally volunteers collect observations after suitable training and report findings in a consistent and coordinated way.

Therefore, before applying for a grant for your project, we ask that you consider the following:

- Are you able to recruit and retain suitable volunteers.
- Can you develop a robust training and reporting system that ensures the collection of reliable data, without bias or ambiguity. We suggest a document (manual) is produced to illustrate clear step-by-step instructions. Each step must have only one possible interpretation. It can be illustrated with photographs or flow charts to ensure clarity.
- Are you able to devise methods of storing, analysing and reporting the data. The sample storage and transport procedures are validated through controlled testing to demonstrate reproducibility and conservation under realistic field and/or laboratory conditions. This requires careful planning to ensure scientific rigour.
- Do you intend to conduct experiments or analyse data that leads more directly to scientific discovery.
- Are you able to ensure that the project can be concluded within the planned time scales showing clear schedules and milestones.



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- Can you provide financial information including a breakdown. Although the Trust does not usually cover a stipend or salaries, you may wish to include it the breakdown to provide detail about the projects overheads.
- Every citizen science project should start with a pilot study of observations to evaluate the clarity and reproducibility of the protocol and data flow and to avoid any confusion.
- How will the outcomes be disseminated to a wide audience both internationally and locally via appropriate media with a view to ultimately improving beekeeping and environmental practise.

We do not support the following:

- Beekeeping courses do not fit the citizen science criteria
- Obtaining bee related information for entrepreneurial or financial gain
- Rural schemes to increase or develop beekeeping as an economic activity