

A composite image of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the glowing horizon. The Earth's surface is covered with a network of white lines and dots, resembling a global data network or satellite constellation. The background is a deep blue space filled with stars.

Earth Challenge 2020

Understanding and Designing for Data Quality at Scale

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Woodrow Wilson
International Center for
Scholars

8 January 2020

A dark blue world map with glowing yellow city lights. Three semi-transparent grey boxes are overlaid on the map, each containing text. The first box is over North America, the second over Europe and Africa, and the third over Asia and Australia.

People
1,543,554
World Water Monitoring Day
Volunteers

Diversity
1,000+ Projects
7 continents

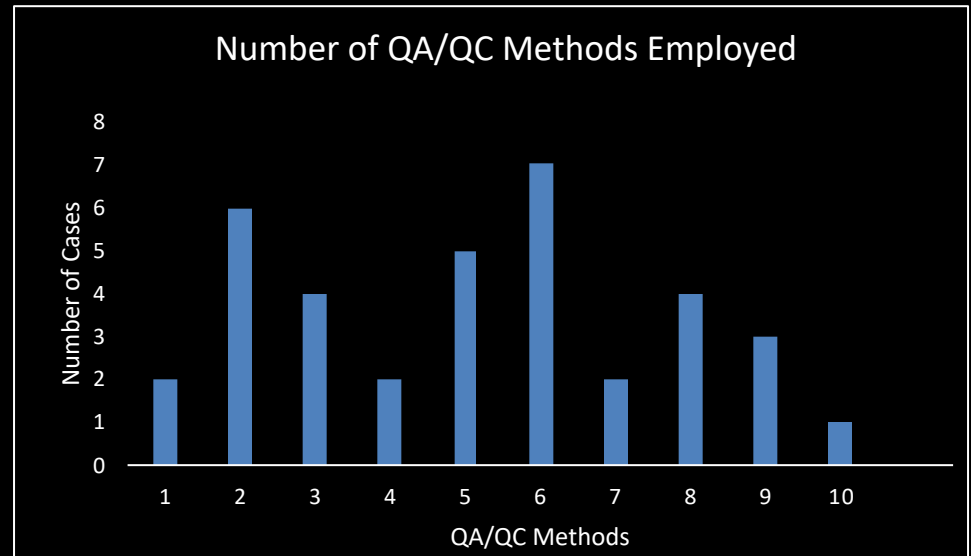
Value
\$2.5 billion
Biodiversity monitoring
alone

2019

Still in need of norms

Bowser, A., Cooper, C., de Sherbin, A., et al. (2020, submitted). Still in need of norms: The state of the data in citizen science. *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*.

- Interviews with 36 projects
- *“Projects were generally implementing best practices in regard to data quality, but not implementing, and generally not aware of, best practices with regard to aspects of data management”*



All projects used at least one QA/QC method, while 34 (92%) used more than one method, and 22 (61%) utilized five methods or more

Still in need of norms

Bowser, A., Cooper, C., de Sherbin, A., et al. (2020, submitted). Still in need of norms: The state of the data in citizen science. *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*.

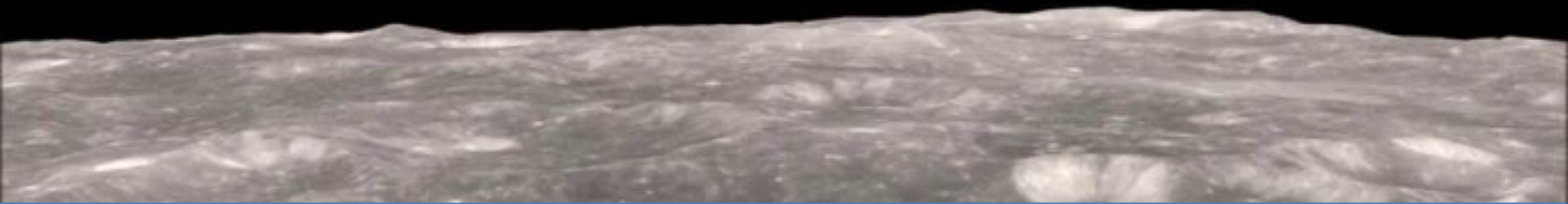
- Human Aspects
 - Targeted recruitment, volunteer training, volunteer testing
- Instrument control
 - Standardized instrument, calibration
- Data collection
 - Standardized protocol, disciplinary standard, cross-domain standard
- Data verification
 - Voucher collection, expert review, automated review, contacting volunteers, removing bad data, replication or calibration
- Documentation
 - QA/QC plan, other

Practical Application

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Earth Challenge 2020



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Goal 1

Equip and empower people
around the world to understand
and act on data to build safer,
healthier communities



Goal 2

Increase the amount of open,
interoperable citizen science
data to help answer more
complex, global questions

6 Research Areas

From a crowdsourcing call

1 What is in my drinking water?

2 How does air quality vary locally?

3 Is my food supply sustainable?

4 How are insect populations changing?

5 What is the extent of plastics pollution?

6 What are the local impacts of climate change?

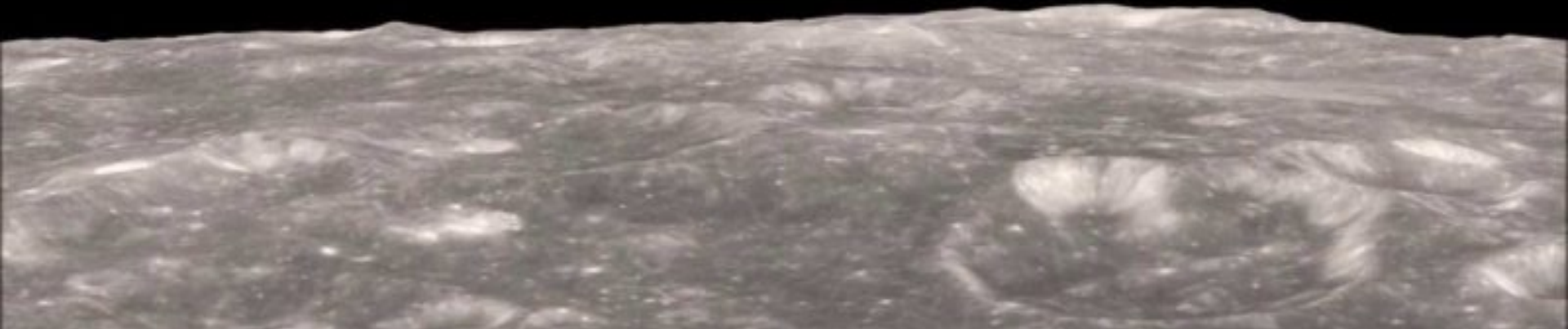


For April 2020

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Goal 1

Equip and empower people
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App

Equip and empower people
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App



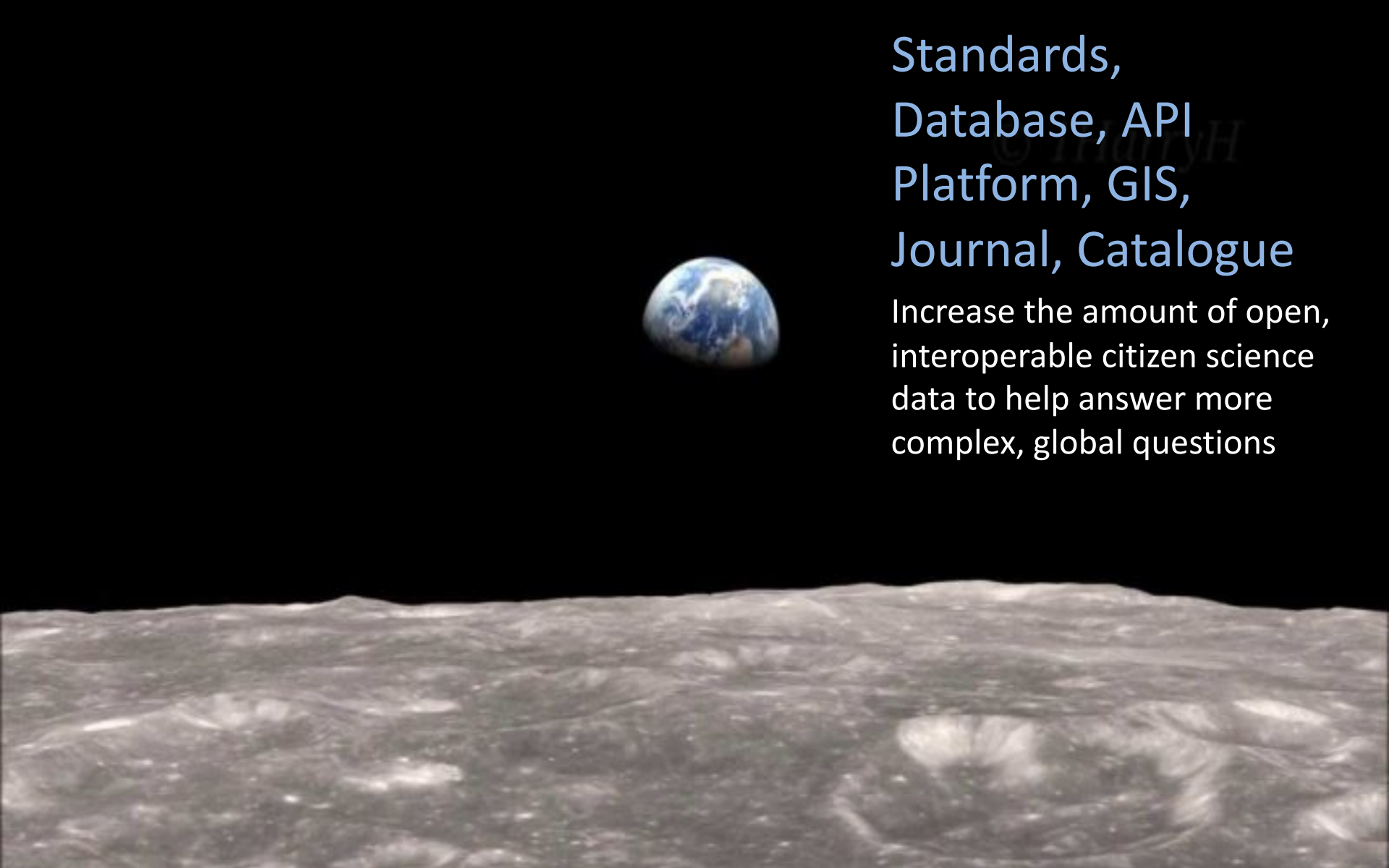
- Human Aspects
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Goal 2

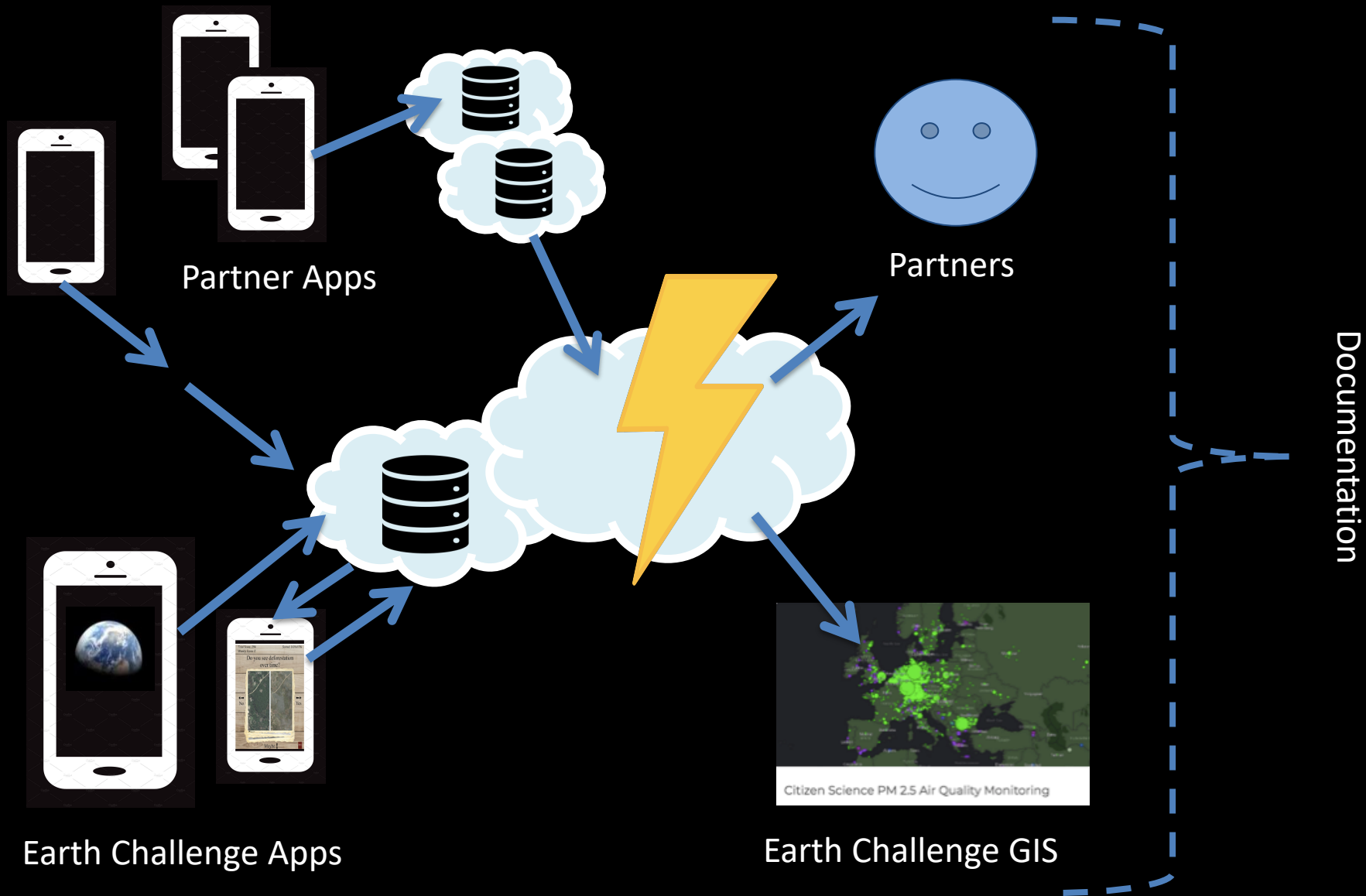
Increase the amount of open, interoperable citizen science data to help answer more complex, global questions

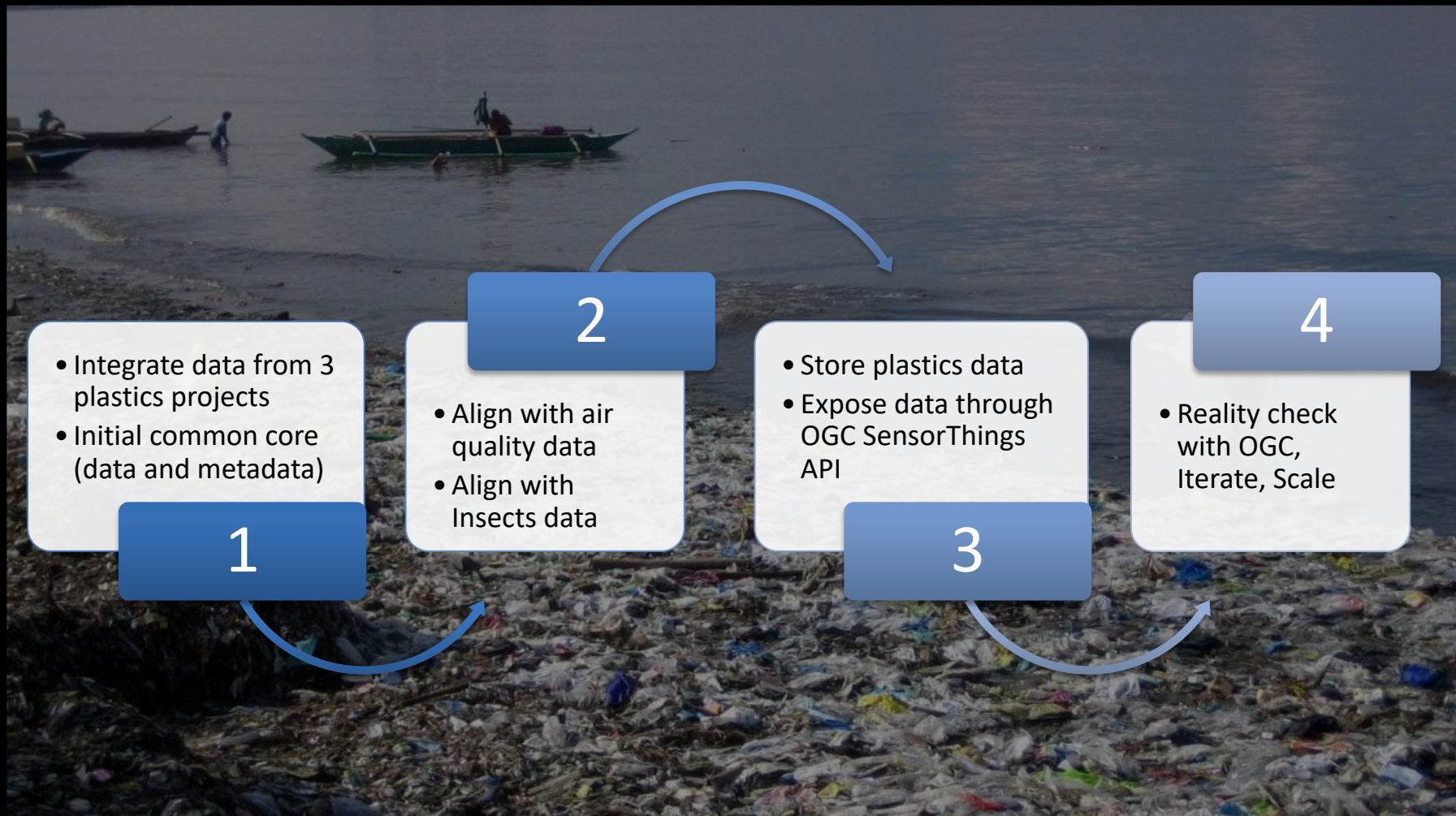




Standards,
Database, API
Platform, GIS,
Journal, Catalogue

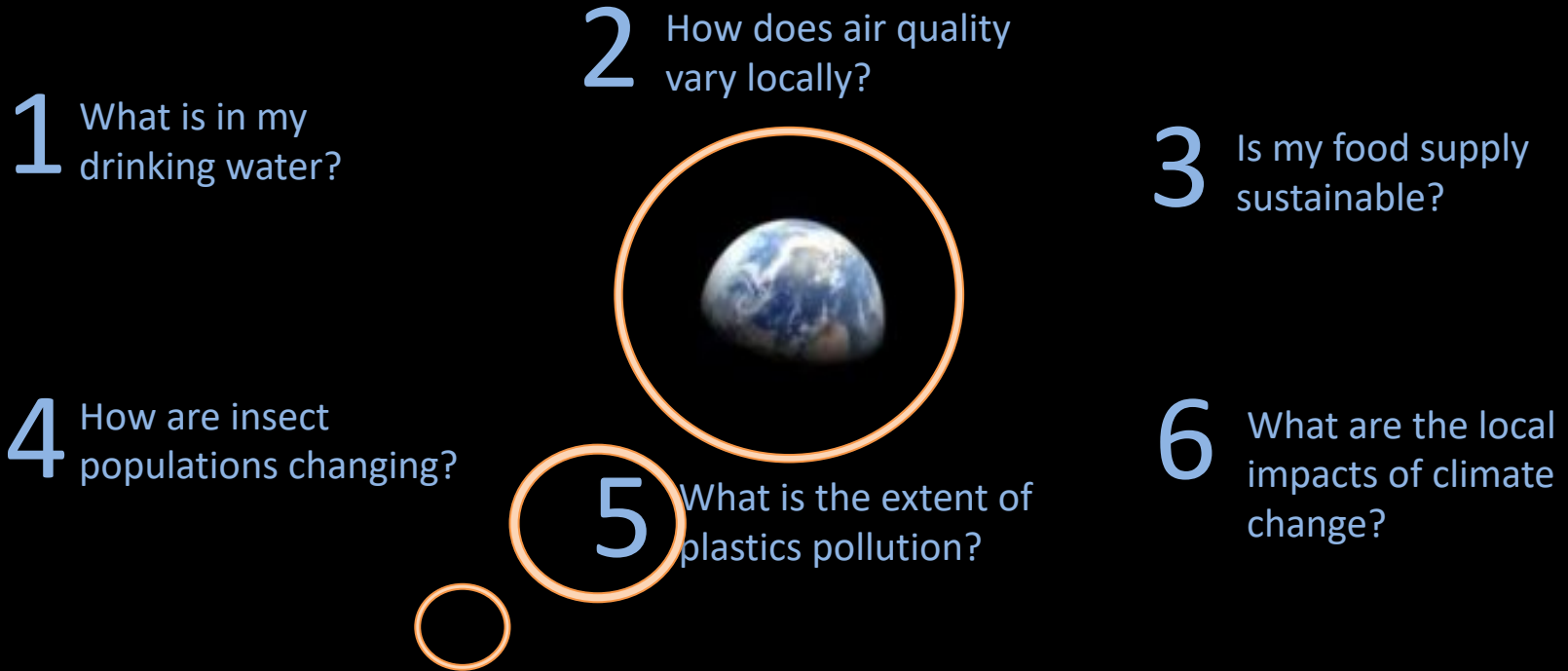
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Building Blocks: Standards

Building Blocks: Standards



EarthChallenge2020.Plastics.EC2020App



“generally not aware of, best practices with regard to aspects of data management”

Data Journal

Frontiers in Citizen Science publishes comprehensive information on citizen science methods and data sets.



Data Catalogue

Leverages data journal to share standardized information; also facilitates discovery and access of citizen science data



Designed to enable sophisticated documentation of DQ, now and over time

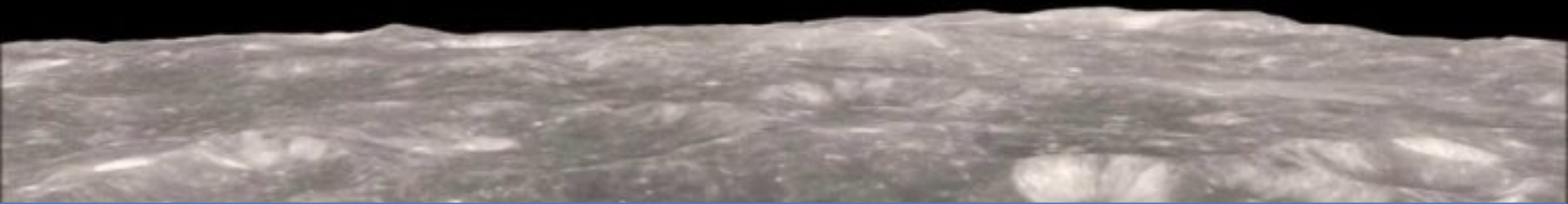
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Join Us



- Support work on data standards
- Help enable data openness and access
- ???

- Support the catalogue
- Support the journal— edit or peer review
- Help understand and articulate data and information quality





Thank You!

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8 January 2020