

# Citizen Science Board Application

**Name:**

Mark Chandler

**Organization Affiliation (if applicable):**

Earthwatch Institute

**Role (if applicable):**

Director of research Initiatives

**One paragraph background on relevant experience and skills:**

I am a collaborative leader who works closely with local partners and scientists to identify innovative approaches to address community interests. I have over 25 years experience as a research scientist and 17 of those have been dedicated to developing citizen science programs. Working directly with researchers and key stakeholders, I have helped develop participatory research projects in over 35 countries that deliver scientific outcomes and local solutions. These field-based programs engage a diversity of audiences including youth, community members as well as corporate employees. For the past 5 years I have directed an Urban Resiliency initiative aimed at more inclusive urban community science programming around nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation. As a senior director at Earthwatch, I have helped develop business plans, led programmatic fundraising and developed organizational systems to manage the complete cycle of creating, supporting and evaluating the over 80 citizen science programs we support. The program assessment tool evaluates the impact of projects in achieving scientific publications, contributing to management plans and policies, and their effect on participants. These tools have contributed to improving how Earthwatch manages programs, our external reporting of outcomes to participants and sharing lessons learned with the community of citizen science practitioners. I am active in the broader citizen science community, through publications and presentations but also the support of global efforts such as the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON), as well as chair of the Professional Development Working Group for the Citizen Science Association.

**The CSA would like to build a board that represents a range of backgrounds. Please note your affiliation or experience with the following (Check all that apply.):**

- Citizen science project leader
- Citizen science participant
- Citizen science researcher
- Non-profit

**The following lists experience or expertise that are particularly desirable for new board members to have. Please indicate if you have experience with the following (Check all that apply.):**

- Development/fundraising
- Financial management

- Organizational governance

**The CSA board would like to build capacity in the following areas: Development/fundraising, financial management, and organizational governance. With these in mind, what skills and what types of experience would you bring to the CSA board? (500 words or less):**

I have worked for over 25 years in community development and applied research programs - working internationally in Africa, the Americas as well as nationally including more recently in cities. Through these efforts, I am exposed to the many different ways that citizen/community science can be practiced, and how to think broadly about opportunities and strategies that advance the field as a whole. I have over 12 years working on the senior management team to create organizational strategic plans, budgets and management structures. In this capacity, I have experience setting goals, implementing organizational structures that foster success, managing budgets through good times and difficult financial situations and guiding staff through change to meet goals and objectives. I have extensive fundraising experience and am currently part of the Development Department at Earthwatch where I am responsible for stewarding ongoing grants and securing new funding. I have successfully raised funds and managed relationships with individuals, foundations and corporations. I work alongside people responsible for planned giving and memberships at Earthwatch so am familiar with these approaches, as well. I am contributing to the broader field of citizen/community science by chairing the Professional Development Working Group of the CSA, participating in the CSA strategic planning effort, as well as the working groups for the GEOBON.

**What is your vision for how CSA should serve the citizen science community? (500 words or less):**

The CSA encourages rich dialogue, ideas-sharing and the necessary support for practitioners of all interests and backgrounds to flourish as well as the promotion of the field more broadly within society. The emerging field of citizen science is diverse, complex and increasingly plays an important societal role in addressing global and local challenges. As such, there are an increasing number of tools, practices and associations that support practitioners - locally, topically, and regionally. While other associations serve important topical or professional functions, my conversations with our members has revealed that the CSA plays a different but essential role in providing practitioners with a network, tools and opportunities unavailable otherwise.

A vision and set of goals for the CSA is laid out in its newly adopted strategic plan - the drafting of which I helped as a core member of the drafting group. I would serve the CSA to help create a solid foundation - including sound practices, financial solvency and transparency - to achieve the newly adopted vision and strategic plan. The new plan has many important elements. A cornerstone of the new vision that is especially important to me is the equitable engagement of the full diversity of potential practitioners and the need to address institutional practices that currently exclude or marginalize some people from full participation. As a member of the core group that drafted the new strategic plan, I know the potential it could bring if successfully implemented and I commit to helping the CSA achieve these goals.

If elected, I look forward to assisting the Board and broader membership in fulfilling this exciting new strategic plan - with sound governance and finances.