citizen science

trend

TREND has a strong interest in engaging the community with our science and creating a dialogue between scientists, government and the public around environmental change and adaptation.

We have created a mobile phone app to allow "citizen scientists" to contribute data on sensitive species and ecosystems, while learning more about their local environment.

Features

The TREND app will allow users to:
- See which species are of interest to climate scientists
- Learn more about those species, including access to an ID guide
- Record sightings of species
- Record PhotoPoint images for 3D analysis
- Access past submissions
- Compete with other users and their groups to contribute the most data
- Use the TREND website to see an interactive display of our data and the science that contributions are supporting.

Recording Species Sightings

- The app uses a regularly updated list of the species we are interested in to understand environmental change in SA
- Species include a mix of plants, animals, native, introduced and invasive species.
- Users can add a photograph which we can use to confirm identification and gain other information
- All records will be time-stamped and location-stamped.
- Leader boards for individuals and teams will be established to encourage users.

Recording PhotoPoints

- PhotoPoints will be established at points of interest along the TREND transect
- Each PhotoPoint consists of signage, two reference poles and two marked vantage points.
- The app will guide users through taking two images.

- By combining two images, we can generate a 3D model of the landscape.
- We can produce models of landscape change to derive information on ecological succession, carbon cycling, climate change impacts and weed invasion patterns.

Using intuitive guides, the TREND app will aid the user to take photos that we can analyse to derive valuable ecosystem data.

Data Recovery

- All citizen science data collected by TREND will be stored in a searchable database that can be queried by location, time or species.
- Users can visualise the data we have collected and track their contributions using the interactive tool on the TREND website (www.trend.org.au).
- The TREND database is designed to be compatible with national ecological data repositories including the Atlas of Living Australia and ÆKOS.