



WETLAND WORLDS

(2025 AND ONGOING)

WORKSHOPS

Discover Wetland Worlds – a series of dynamic workshops uniting artists, biotechnologists and hydrologists to explore biodiversity through innovation..citizen science..creative collaboration.

WHAT IS WETLAND WORLDS?

WETLAND WORLDS is a ground-breaking collaboration for biodiversity between artists, biotechnologists and hydrologists. The project is driven by new monitoring or communication developments in technology, biology and media art and it explores how innovative technology can foster unique transdisciplinary environmental exchange and develop art education within the “citizen science” experience.

Wetland Stories is divided into two parts: ① **Workshops** and ② **Interactive Exhibitions with Art-Science Talks**. The information from the workshops feeds directly into the exhibition format. They learn to use and share methods and technologies to not only understand biodiversity but also to collect actual scientific data. We hope to empower citizens to contribute to scientific knowledge and brainstorm about possible ways to help wetland ecosystems survive. Currently, scientific researchers need this data about wetlands collected by citizen scientists to assess the loss of biodiversity on a world-wide level. Artistic interpretation and communication skills add a novel approach with the aim to raise the participants’ awareness of our human impact and meet like-minded people for further collaborations on sustainability. The Laser talks are for artists and scientists to meet and compare research with the aim to work with communities for protection and rewilding.

Wetland Stories in 2025 was a volunteer project, and we aim to use the experiences to create a structure that can be repeated as workshops in other wetland environments and with a related exhibition in museums or art centers.

ABOUT WETLAND BIODIVERSITY

Wetlands are currently one of the most fragile environments on the planet today. Here the dialogues between the species in both the water and the soil creates a precious and vulnerable source for interdependent life. When we ask a wetland pond and its banks, ‘Who lives here?’ a dense chorus responds – from dragonflies, fish, worms’ frogs, microbes and many other species. Over the last 10 years, one in eight of these species has already vanished! Saving wetland biodiversity is crucial. Wetlands not only support 40% of all plant and animal species, but they also act as natural, high-efficiency carbon sinks to hold 30% of land-based carbon. They purify water, protect against floods/storms and act as shock absorbers against floods. Even though, they only cover 4-6% of Earth’s land, they are vital, high-nutrient breeding, nesting, and feeding grounds for thousands of freshwater and soil species. But wetlands matter to people, too. They filter and purify polluted water, and they provide food and livelihoods. They can also help us to mitigate climate change and adapt and build resilience to extreme weather events. The decline of biodiversity in wetlands is a critical indicator of the broader destruction of fresh aquatic ecosystems, which are disappearing three times faster than forests.



ZUGERBERG, ZUG



AURIED NATIONAL PARK, FRIBOURG



HIKING PARTICIPANTS

WETLANDS WORKSHOPS: BIODIVERSITY LIVES HERE

In 2025, **WETLANDS WORKSHOPS** took place at two wetland sites in Switzerland: Mount Zugerberg (Canton of Zug) and the Auried Nature Reserve (Canton of Fribourg). Using a guided hiking format, the workshops brought together artists, scientists, and citizen scientists to explore wetland biodiversity through immersive, interdisciplinary methods.

WETLAND WORLDS Ins avolunteer Project led by media artists and performers.

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

1. **SciArt and ec(h)o/art associations**
(Jill Scott/Dorothea Rust)
2. **Simplex eDNA Winterthur**
(Kristy Deiner)
3. **Crowdwater App: Hydrology, University of Zurich**
(Vanja Maksimovic)
4. **The Swiss Alpine Club**
(Arnold Häni)
5. **Outreach GmbH**
(Arnold Häni/Lucie Bader)



WETLANDS WORKSHOP: CITIZEN – SCIENCE ACTIVITIES



SENSORY IMMERSION WORKSHOPS

SciArt and ec(h)o/art associations

Jill Scott/Dorothea Rust (Leaders of the Project)

Media artist Jill Scott and performance artist Dorothea Rust led the workshops, incorporating sensorial and performative sensory exercises partially informed by neuropsychology. Participants listened to how the hidden life under water and soil can be heard. The aim is to experience how many speics live in these delicate environments.

New recording technologies included the Ambient Soundfish Hydrophones ASF-1 MKII produced by Ambient Electronics (Munich) and the Sounding Soil Microphone by Biovision (Zurich).



LIVE RECORDING:OF SOIL SPECIES



CUSTOM MICROPHONE BY SOUNDING SOILBIOVISION ZURICH

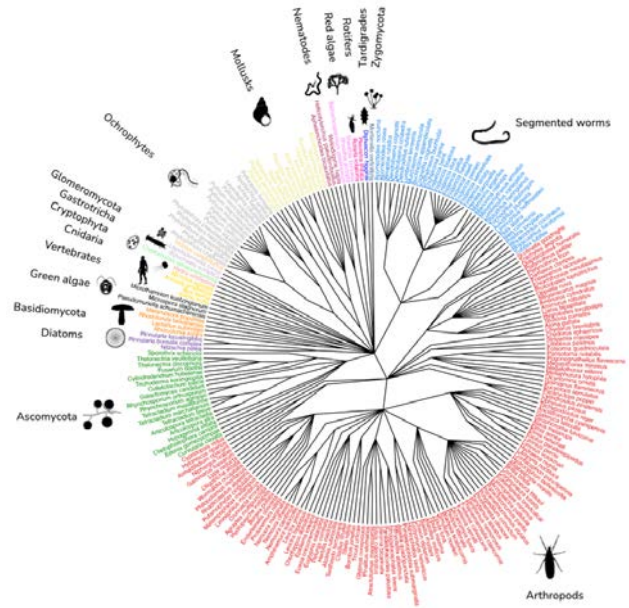


LIVE RECORDIGS OF WATER SPECIES IN PONDS



CUSTOM HYDROPHONE BY AMBEINT RECORDING GMBH MUNICH

WETLANDS WORKSHOP: CITIZEN – SCIENCE ACTIVITIES



Simplex eDNA Winterthur Kristy Deiner

Simplex eDNA develops and make analysis using innovative biotechnological methods for biodiversity mapping by monitoring environmental DNA (eDNA) collected from soil and water. This method is used to identify species living in specific environments to contribute to a worldwide mapping of biodiversity loss- that can be displayed in an exhibition.



COLLECTING EDNA IN WETLAND WATER
COLLECTIONS BY WORKSHOP
PARTICIAPNTS BECOME PART OF
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON BIODIVERSITY

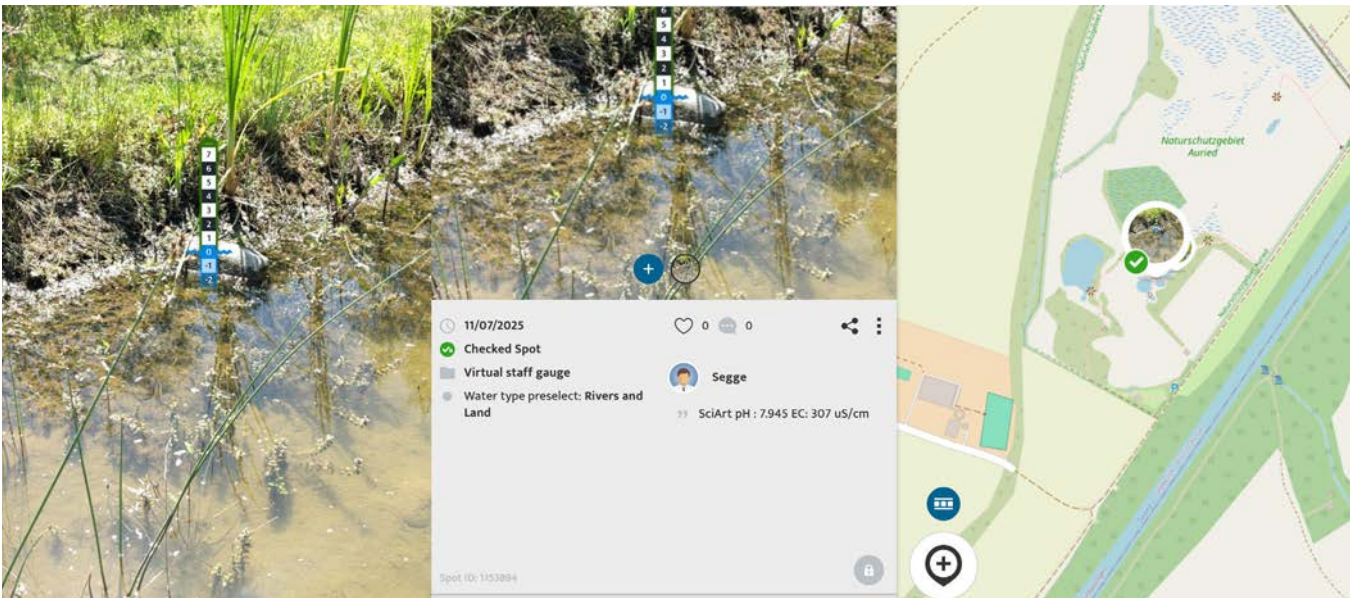
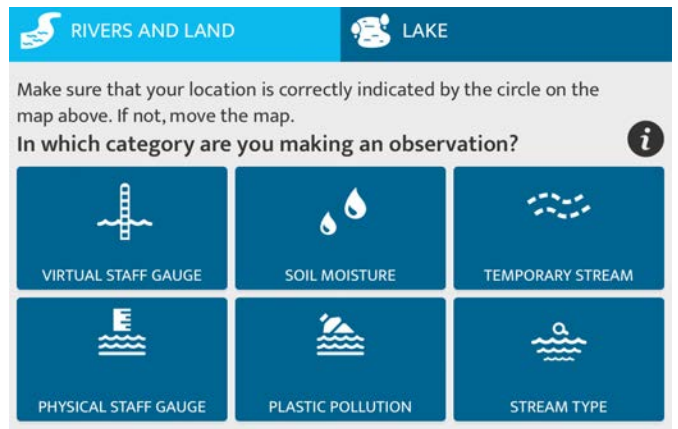
WETLANDS WORKSHOP: CITIZEN – SCIENCE ACTIVITIES



CROWDWATER APP

Crowdwater App: Hydrology, University of Zurich Vanja Maksimovic

This hydrology team developed the CrowdWater App, an online hydrological monitoring tool designed specifically for citizen scientists to collect data on water quality and quantity. The app was developed jointly by the University of Zurich (Prof. Jan Seibert) and the University of Vienna.



HIKERS USING CROWDWATER

PARTICIPANTS

Each workshop involved 18 participants. Although interest exceeded capacity, participation was limited due to the experimental design, which required three groups of six people working simultaneously within the landscape and swapping the groups around to learn and compare methodologies.

AIMS

By bringing together scientists, artists, and their respective technologies, the workshops aimed to:

- Familiarize participants with new monitoring tools from environmental science and biology, and contribute the collected data to scientific research on biodiversity and wetland dynamics
- Help participants understand that ecosystem soundscapes are shaped by species diversity, body structures, and behaviour; richer sound diversity indicates a healthier ecosystem
- Reveal hidden biodiversity beneath the surface through eDNA analysis
- Foster future interdisciplinary collaborations that combine technology, science, and art to raise public awareness of wetland biodiversity



SOIL RECORDING

FUTURE POTENTIALS OF WETLAND WORLDS

Jill Scott and Dorothea Rust seek to further develop Wetland Worlds through collaborations with scientific teams working in diverse wetland regions. They are currently looking for institutional hosts interested in co-producing workshops and exhibitions based on locally situated wetland research.

This initiative is grounded in the following convictions:

- Citizen science is an essential cultural practice. It provides meaningful pathways for public engagement, fosters environmental responsibility, and supports informed activism in response to accelerating species extinction.
- Local wetland climate challenges are largely anthropogenic. Their regeneration therefore requires collective human intervention, interdisciplinary working groups, and long-term commitment to ecological recovery and climate justice.
- Wetland biodiversity demands transdisciplinary expertise. Productive responses emerge when artistic and scientific knowledge systems work together, pooling resources to address complexity and counter misinformation.
- Wetland Worlds offers an accessible platform for public participation. The project appeals to a broad audience motivated to contribute to scientific data collection while deepening their understanding of wetland ecosystems.

DOCUMENTARY FILM (25 MIN)

“Wetland Worlds: Workshops – Biodiversity Lives Here” directed by Jill Scott and Jasmine Chastonay.

The Swiss Alpine Club & Outreach GmbH Arnold Häni/Lucie Bader

Arnold Häni (Swiss Alpine Club) planned and guided the hikes, and Lucie Bader (Outreach GmbH) supported the logistical coordination and communication for all participants.

THIS PROJECT IS FULLY ORGANIZED BY VOLENTEERS:



WORKSHOP CREDITS

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Jill Scott, Dorothea Rust

CONTRIBUTORS

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Christoph Kueffer – Biologist, Ostschweizer FH
Arnold Häni – Swiss Alpine Club (SAC)
Lucie Bader – Outreach GmbH, Bern
Sybilla Giger/Daniel Eaton – Sound Design
Jasmine Chastonay / Marille Hahne – Filmmakers

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ec(h)o/art

