



2026

Bringing the world together for biodiversity

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an annual four-day nature census in which participants around the world use biodiversity recording platforms like iNaturalist to document nature in their neighborhoods. These contributions become data to understand and protect nature worldwide. Started in 2016 as a friendly competition between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the CNC has grown into an international event where cities collaborate to find species, collect observations, and connect communities to nature. The Community Science teams at the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM) make up the Global Organizing Team.

24 April - 27 April
make observations

28 April - 10 May
upload and identify

13 May
results announced

City Nature Challenge Goals

- **Connect people to nature where they live**
- **Build community through collective action for local nature**
- **Make and share nature observations to help fight biodiversity loss**
- **Grow and support nature documentation globally**
- **Have fun doing science while collaborating with people around the world**

More Information:

CityNatureChallenge.org

To organize your city for the CNC:

CityNatureChallenge.org/organizers



@CitNatChallenge



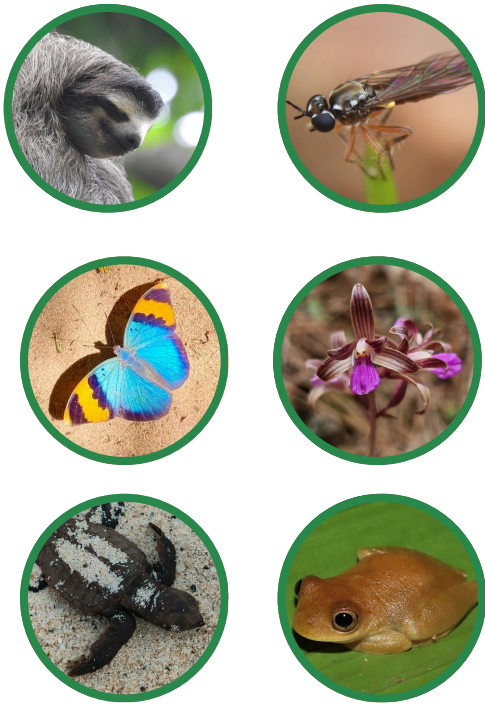
How is the City Nature Challenge Organized?

Every official CNC city or metro area has one or more individuals from that region who serve as local organizers. Local organizers come from all backgrounds and range from high school students to environmental professionals and beyond. All organizers meet online regularly with the Global Organizing team for six months before the CNC. Support from the Global Organizing Team includes trainings, tools, and resources that organizers use to promote and implement the CNC in the ways that work best in their communities. Local organizers create partnerships with local organizations, schools, city/regional governments, and community-based organizations.



Impact

The CNC is the largest annual recording event on iNaturalist and the largest annual biodiversity census in the world. To date, the CNC has engaged more than 363,000 people in collecting more than 12.9 million biodiversity observations, often bringing new species occurrences and range expansions to the attention of land managers and policy-makers. Researchers have used CNC data in their publications, demonstrating the effectiveness of large-scale community science projects like the CNC. Not only does the CNC engage new people in observing nature during the event itself, but it also highlights the value of this work and inspires some participants to become biodiversity observers year-round.



Founded in Los Angeles and San Francisco in 2016

10 years of bringing the world together for biodiversity

12,948,135
Observations

113,320
Species

363,723
People

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Cities	2	16	68	159	244	419	445	482	690	669
Countries	1	1	17	28	40	44	47	46	51	62
Observations	19.8K	125K	441K	963K	815K	1.27M	1.7M	1.9M	2.4M	3.3M
Species	2.5K	8.6K	18K	31K	32.6K	45.3K	50.1K	57.2K	65.7K	73.7K
Observers	1K	4K	17K	32K	41K	52K	67.2K	66.4K	83.5K	103K

K = thousand M = million

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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