



## What is the City Nature Challenge?

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an international initiative for people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe.

The first CNC in 2016 was an eight-day competition between Los Angeles and San Francisco, engaging residents and visitors in documenting nature to better understand urban biodiversity. Over 20,000 observations were made by more than 1,000 people in a one-week period, cataloguing approximately 1,600 species in each location. In 2017 the CNC went national across the United States. In 2018, the CNC will be an international event across 60 cities. *The Klang Valley is the first Malaysian (and Southeast Asian) urban metro area to participate in the 2018 CNC!* Klang Valley won 4th place in 2018 and 6th place in 2019 for the most observation category. Four Malaysian made it to the list of Top 5 observers at City Nature Challenge 2018.

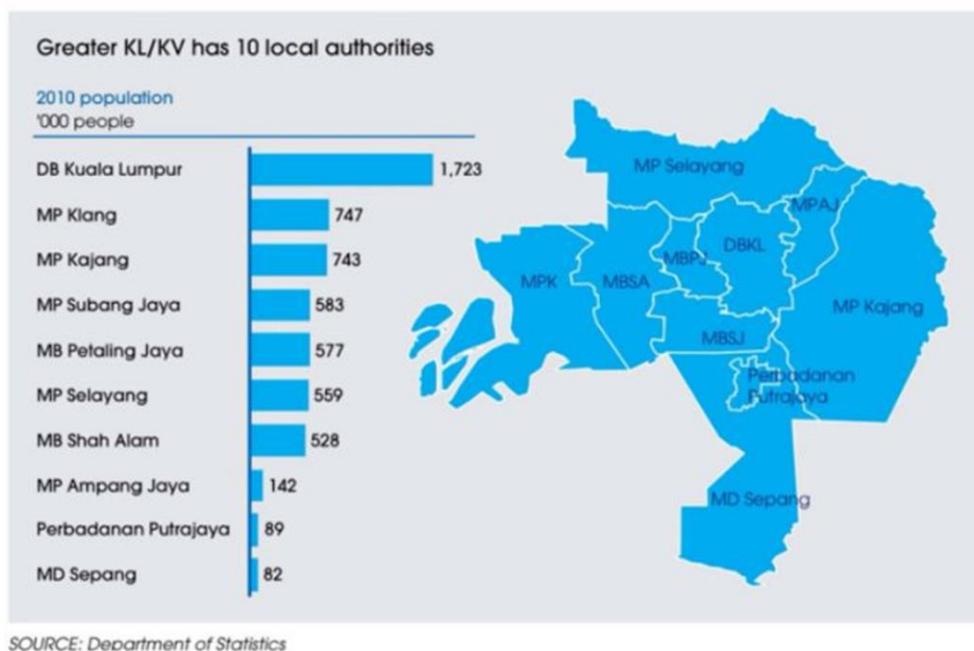
In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2021 the CNC will no longer be a competition between all the cities across the globe. Instead, cities are celebrating nature in any way they can right now and the collaborative spirit of people all around the world connecting to their local nature, in whatever way they can. At the end of the CNC, only the collective results will be announced, not “winners”. However, cities who are interested in having smaller competitions that could spur participation without pushing people to break COVID-safe guidelines are welcomed to do so. This year, through collaboration with other organizers in the cities of Malaysia, *the first Malaysia City Nature Challenge 2021 (MyCNC)* will be organized.



**Figure 1.** Important dates for the City Nature Challenge

## City Nature Challenge 2021: Klang Valley (KV CNC)

Co-organised by Sekitar Kita with Water Warriors, Universiti Malaya the KV CNC aims to reconnect urban communities to nature, and to advocate for urban wildlife and biodiversity conservation. Join us in this fun, international challenge to document wildlife and plant species during 30<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.



**Figure 2.** The KV CNC is not site-specific: any observation made in the Klang Valley's 10 local authority areas (above) during the four-day challenge may be included in this project.

## Why participate?

### **1. The KV CNC will help establish a publically-accessible biodiversity baseline.**

Biodiversity loss is one of the most urgent environmental issues today. Nations and communities worldwide face the challenge of keeping accurate and consistently up-to-date records of wildlife. Meanwhile, there is nature and wildlife (both plants and animals) all around us, even in our cities! Knowing what species exist in our cities and where they are helps us conserve and protect them.

However, there are two problems:

- Documentation efforts are few and far between. We lack baseline data for urban biodiversity: it is not something that is regularly documented unless as part of commissioned environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for development projects, or as scientific studies undertaken on a case-by-case basis.
- These studies are seldom, if ever, made available to the public.

## 2. The KV CNC will involve the public in this very act of collecting data.

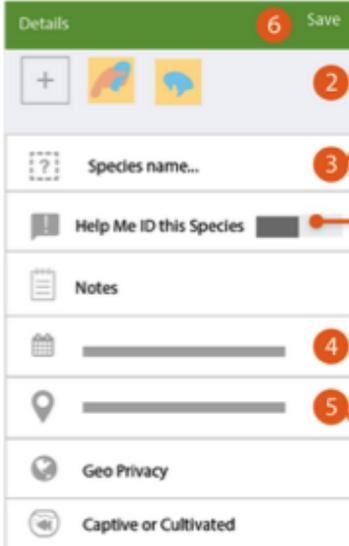
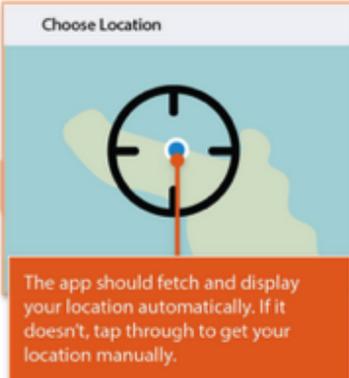
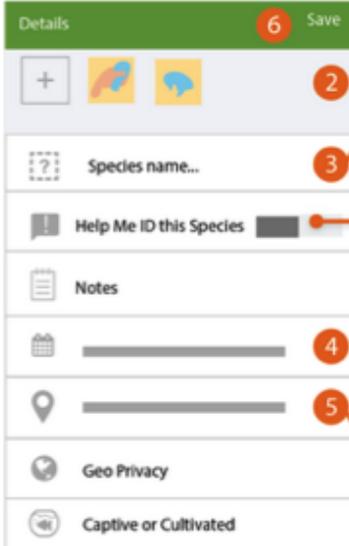
The KV CNC will mobilize not only scientific communities and enthusiasts, but also community groups and the general public, working together to discover and document the city's wildlife. We will use a citizen science approach to increase awareness and participation across all levels of expertise and experience. The more frequently you do it, the better you will become as an urban nature scientist: in short, practice makes perfect! Through this event, you will not only learn more about your local nature, but also make the city a better place for yourself and other species!

### How it works

You can participate in your own backyard, in your local park, on a school—as long as it is within the Klang Valley! This year we will be promoting a more place-based citizen science as a safe, family-friendly activity and encouraging more citizen scientists to make observations at their own backyard and places near their homes. We urged all participants to carefully follow public health guidelines provided by their local governments, as they are changed in real-time. Individual safety and public health were and will be our utmost priority.



**Figure 3.** The straightforward process of making an observation in iNaturalist: take a picture of a plant or animal (or record a sound), and identify the species and location.

- 1 Tap the **observe** button from the My Observations tab 
- 2 Add one or more photos as **evidence**
- 3 Enter **what** you saw or leave this blank 
- 4 **When** you saw it should be added automatically
- 5 **Where** you saw it should be added automatically, if not check Privacy in the Settings app 
- 6 **Save** your observation 
- 7 **Sync** to share with the community. This should happen automatically, if not tap the button. You can turn off autoupload from the Settings tab. 
- 8 Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community 

*Note: A callout box for step 3 says: 'Search for your organism or leave it blank and ask the community for help'. A callout box for step 5 says: 'The app should fetch and display your location automatically. If it doesn't, tap through to get your location manually.'*

**Figure 4.** iNaturalist’s user-friendly interface (Android app view). Remember *Pokémon Go*? Similar concept, except here you actually make a difference in the real world!

## Join us!

We invite you and your organization to partner with us in one of the following ways:

**1. Participate** as an individual or as part of a group, community or organization to make observation (30 April – 3 May). Join us, whether only for 15 minutes in your garden, or for a full day (or two!) at a designated site. Plan an event or incorporate the CNC into your existing events (we also encourage involvement virtually). If required, we are happy to provide the necessary training and capacity building. Let us know if you are interested in principle; we will then work out finer details.

**2. Help** become an identifier during the observation (30 April – 3 May) and the identification periods (4 May – 9 May).

**3. Advise.** If you have some expertise in botany or zoology, or if you have experience with bioblitz, iNaturalist, citizen science and/or environmental education, we invite you to join us as an adviser. Help us build capacity and verify data.

**4. Publicize.** We need writers, photographers, illustrators and designers to help us create media and content to spread the word and raise awareness. Do also extend this invitation to colleagues, associates, friends and family!

**5. Use** any past and current data collected by the CNC to help your conservation, management or research efforts.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sekitar Kita at [sekitar.my@gmail.com](mailto:sekitar.my@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

For more information:

- City Nature Challenge Official Website: <https://citynaturechallenge.org/>
- Sekitar Kita's Facebook Page (for updates on Klang Valley City Nature Challenge 2021): <https://www.facebook.com/sekitarkitaMY>
- iNaturalist page: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-klang-valley>
- Malaysia City Nature Challenge 2021 (MyCNC) – page will be updated: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-malaysia-mycnc>