



Clout of Africa: Policy empowered by additional volunteers, higher profile

Policy played a prominent role at SCB's 2007 annual meeting. In addition to two workshops, policy was featured during meetings of SCB's membership, Sections, and working groups.

The most important decisions made by SCB's Board of Governors concerning SCB policy process were

1. To reconstitute the Policy Committee by seeking at least two nominations from each Section President by 1 September 2007. One representative will be selected to serve on the committee from each Section. Subsequently, the committee chair will select a comparable number of members at large to complement the skills, gender, and regions already represented on the committee.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

SCB's 21st annual meeting, *One World, One Conservation, One Partnership*, was held 1–5 July at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, South Africa. A total of 1686 individuals from 88 countries registered. The scientific program included 180 symposium presentations, 438 contributed oral presentations, 250 poster presentations, eight workshops, eight short courses, and three organized discussions.

Socioeconomic issues were prominent at the meeting. Most of the products and services were procured from local Eastern Cape organizations, and African culture was showcased through entertainment, meals, and field trips. The Local Organizing Committee, under the expert leadership of Graham Kerley and Margot Collett, was committed to reducing the meeting's environmental impact by ensuring that recyclable products were used to the greatest extent possible. The carbon offset project that was introduced this year demonstrated SCB members' strong commitment to reduce negative impacts of their travel on biological diversity.

The Local Organizing Committee thanks the meeting's sponsors, particularly the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs and the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. Thanks also to the staff of SCB's Executive Office, the local meeting staff, volunteers, and all participants for their role in making the 2007 annual meeting a great success.

2. To adopt a general guideline that we ask five experts to review proposed policy positions before making policy decisions, while allowing the chair to proceed without that review in cases that require more immediate responses.

In two policy workshops held on 2 and 4 July, Section leaders and chapter liaisons summarized their policy activities and plans. Information on these activities may appear on the Sections' Web sites or SCB's policy Web site.

Representatives of the **Africa Section** noted that a critical mass of members is needed to influence policy on the continent. In part because of its size, diversity of languages and cultures, and uneven infrastructure, Africa faces substantial challenges in communications and education. As a result, the Section cannot easily develop unified, top-down position statements. Instead, the Section hopes to work from the bottom up, strengthening grassroots engagement with policy.

The **Austral and Neotropical America Section**, and SCB at the global level, may become involved in a series of workshops that Mexico is hosting in 2008 to develop better guidance for applying the key requirements for trade in Appendix II CITES species. The Section also is compiling lists of endangered species according to the IUCN system and working with the federal government of Mexico to brief policy makers on conservation issues.

Primary policy interests and projects of the **Australasia Section** are global climate change, livestock grazing and other land uses in arid lands, and invasions of non-native species. The Section intended to develop a stronger policy statement at its meeting in Sydney, Australia in mid July 2007. Further, the Section is working to promote education and awareness, and to provide scientific advice to governments. In addition, the Section hopes to work with Pacific Island Nations, which have essentially no legislation on environmental issues.

The **Europe Section** aims to deliver scientific expertise—characterized as information and facts, not value judgments—to inform legislation. The Section currently is focusing on the European Habitats Directive, Natura 2000, Water Framework Directive, and marine and fisheries issues.

see **Policy**, page 14

2008 ANNUAL MEETING • 13–17 July, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA

Call for proposals for symposia, workshops, discussion groups, and short courses

The 22nd annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, *From the Mountains to the Sea*, will be held from 13–17 July 2008 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA. Proposals for symposia, workshops, discussion groups, and short courses will be welcomed beginning 29 August 2007.

All proposals must be submitted by **24 October 2007**. Decisions will be made by 21 November 2007. Please visit www.conbio.org/2008 for complete information and to submit your proposal. Selection is a highly competitive process because time available for presentations at the meeting is limited. Please read and follow this information carefully.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

SCB encourages proposals from individuals or groups involved in cutting edge conservation science or practice who can demonstrate an alignment with the goals of the SCB, which are

Conservation Science. The scientific research and knowledge needed to understand and conserve biological diversity is identified, funded, completed, disseminated and applied to research, management, and policy.

Conservation Management. Conservation practitioners and managers are provided the scientific information and recommendations needed to conserve biological diversity at all scales.

Policy. Policy decisions of major international conventions, governments, organizations, and foundations are effectively informed and improved by the highest quality scientific counsel, analysis, and recommendations so as to advance the conservation of biological diversity.

Education. Education, training, and capacity building programs are identified, strengthened, and developed to inform the public, education leaders, and support current and future generations of conservation scientists and practitioners.

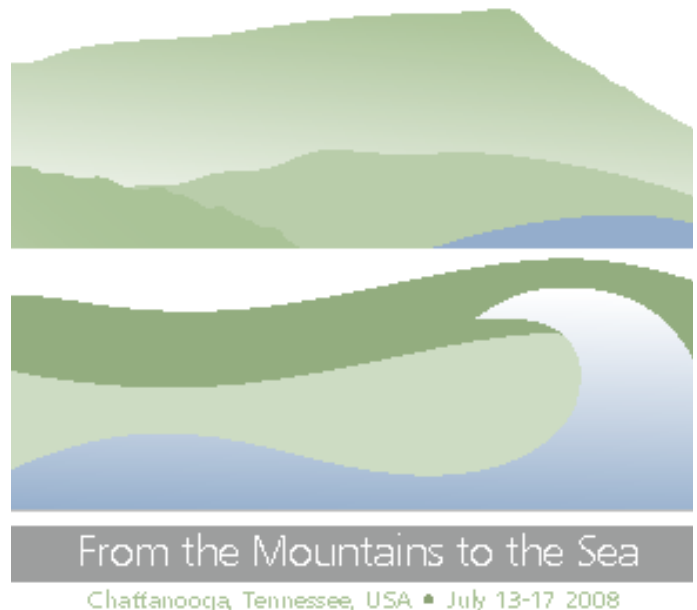
Individuals may not submit more than one proposal, and, as a general rule, no individual may give more than one presentation (symposium, contributed paper, or poster).

Reviewers have access to all information contained in the proposal and proposals are reviewed by at least two individuals. To increase the probability that your proposal will be selected for presentation, please consider the following criteria carefully:

- scientific merit of the proposal
- application to conservation management
- financial support (external support or self-funded participants)
- relevance to the meeting theme
- relevance to the host region
- novelty of the topic (not covered in the past three meetings)

Author registration deadline. All organizers, symposium speakers, and invited participants must register by the early deadline of 19 March 2008.

Financial support. It is the responsibility of organizers of symposia, workshops, and discussion groups to obtain funding for their own expenses and those of their invited speakers or participants. SCB and the Local Organizing Committee are not responsible for obtaining funds to support speaker travel to the meeting and cannot guarantee that any support will be available. Preference may be given to proposals for which organizers can demonstrate that funds are likely to be available.



CHOOSING THE CATEGORY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

Please think carefully about the category that best meets your goals. Your proposal only will be considered for one category.

Symposia tend to present information to an audience, with limited opportunity for interaction. Symposia are generally included in the four primary days of the meeting (main scientific program) and are scheduled concurrent with contributed papers. In recent years, the rejection rate for symposium proposals has been approximately 80%.

Workshops, whether geared toward students or professionals, are more interactive than symposia and often have an educational component. Workshops will be scheduled to have minimal conflict with symposia and contributed paper sessions (usually the day immediately before the meeting or during lunch). In recent years, the rejection rate for workshop proposals has been approximately 30%.

Discussion groups are participatory and may be relatively informal. They will be scheduled to have minimal conflict with symposia and contributed paper sessions (usually the day immediately before the meeting or during lunch). In recent

years, the rejection rate for proposals for discussion groups has been very low.

Short courses offer training in topics of key relevance to the practice of conservation for students or any other professionals. Preference will be given to proposals that address tools or concepts that course participants easily can share with others. Since the implementation of short courses in 2005, rejection rates for these proposals have increased to almost 70% in 2007.

MEETING THEME

In his book *My First Summer in the Sierra*, John Muir wrote, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." As evidenced by several previous meeting themes, there are connections among many aspects of the environment and its conservation, and recognizing those connections is critical for achieving the goals of conservation biology. To that end, the 2008 annual meeting will examine several major ecosystems, both as separate components and as a connected entity.

Land conservation and terrestrial diversity. Many terrestrial regions contain high levels of biodiversity, but also face increasing human population growth. Issues of land conservation have therefore become very important. Such issues include, but are not limited to, forest loss, mineral extraction, urban sprawl, and property rights. These issues not only affect terrestrial ecosystems per se, but also the freshwater and marine systems associated with them.

Freshwater ecosystems. Many parts of the world contain an abundance of freshwater ecosystems, many of which are highly imperiled. Invasive species, overharvesting, pollution, and water stress are all issues that must be resolved to ensure persistence of this link between the land and the sea.

Coastal and marine conservation. Like terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, coastal ecosystems, such as wetlands, cheniers, and seagrass beds, as well as the marine environment, are under considerable stress from human activities, pollution, and overharvesting, as well as natural phenomena, such as hurricanes. Understanding both natural and human-induced changes is vital to the conservation of these ecosystems.

SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS

SCB will accept proposals for two-hour (up to eight presentations) or four-hour (up to 16 presentations) symposia. Presentation length must be in multiples of 15 minutes (e.g., 15 minutes or 30 minutes) so that the timing of symposium presentations can be coordinated with contributed paper sessions. The last 15 minutes of the symposium may be left open for discussion, thereby reducing the number of presentations by one. Proposals must not exceed 1200 words and must include the following information.

1. Symposium title
2. Organizer(s) name, affiliation, and complete contact information, including email address
3. Length (two or four hours)
4. Proposed theme and justification (why the topic is

appropriate and significant for presentation at *From the Mountains to the Sea*)

5. Expected outcomes and, if appropriate, plans for communication of results
6. A tentative list of speakers, presentation titles, and whether each speaker has agreed to participate
7. Whether any necessary funding for organizer and speaker expenses has been secured (for example, are funds available for speaker travel?)

WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

Proposals must not exceed 1200 words and must include the following information.

1. Workshop or discussion title (specify whether workshop or discussion)
2. Organizer(s) name, affiliation, and complete contact information, including email address
3. Length and preferred location in program (pre-meeting or lunch). Pre-meeting workshops and discussions may be proposed for a maximum of eight hours. Lunch sessions may be a proposed for a maximum of 1.5 hours.
4. Proposed theme and justification (why the topic is appropriate and significant for this meeting)
5. Expected outcomes and, if appropriate, plans for communication of results
6. Format of workshop or discussion and any special logistic requirements (e.g., a room with internet access)
7. Maximum number of participants that can be accommodated
8. Method of selecting participants (invited, open registration, or a combination). If any participants will be invited, include a tentative list of individuals and indicate whether each has agreed to participate.

SHORT COURSES

One-day short courses will take place on 13 July, and longer courses from 9 to 13 July. Courses will be scheduled as per logistics and travel constraints, with dates finalized on course acceptance. Proposals must not exceed 1200 words and must include the following information.

1. Short course title
2. Instructor(s) name, affiliation, and complete contact information
3. Number of days of the course, with dates proposed.
4. Description of the course content and explanation of how it relates to one or more of the themes of the meeting and the goals of SCB
5. Minimum and maximum number of students that can be accommodated
6. Whether any special instructional or audiovisual equipment beyond that which the instructor(s) will provide is needed
7. Itemized budget for the course (in dollars) and a description of any funds available. Please describe space requirements and note that internet access may incur additional cost. SCB is unable to provide a stipend for the instructor(s). However, free meeting registration will be provided for a maximum of two instructors per course.

UPDATES FROM REGIONAL SECTIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

EUROPE

In February 2007, the Section Board met in Uppsala, Sweden. Major tasks addressed at this meeting included the preparation of a strategic plan and work plan for 2007–2010, a review of the outcomes of the first European Congress of Conservation Biology (ECCB), and consideration of bids to host the second ECCB in 2009.

The Section's strategic plan for 2006–2010 built on SCB's global strategic plan for the same period of time, identifying key elements of the strategy to be developed and applied on a European scale or in a specific European context. Based on the Section's strategic plan we have developed a work plan to be implemented over the next several years. If you are interested in becoming more involved in Sections activities, read the plans (available at www.conbio.org/Sections/Europe/) and discover the areas in which we best can use your skills.

After the first and successful ECCB we reviewed the impacts the Congress has had on the Section. One immediate impact was a large increase in Section membership. During the registration period for the Congress and during the meeting itself, Section membership increased by 59% to 660 and membership in SCB by Europeans increased by 32% to 780. Almost one year later, we have retained an impressive 97% of Section members. If you joined SCB and the Section during the ECCB please remember to renew your membership and retain the associated benefits. Although no additional cost is associated with Section membership, the proportion of SCB members who also are Section members is notably low in several countries: Norway (50%), France (50%), Switzerland (48%), Portugal (40%), United Kingdom (37%), and the Netherlands (12%). If you are not yet a Section member, please visit SCB's Web site and join; remember that you can be a voting member of two Sections. In addition to boosting membership, the ECCB generated income for the Section that will enable us to support Section development and activities.

During its February meeting, the Board also reviewed proposals to host the second ECCB in 2009. From the strong proposals received a location has been selected. We will announce the venue and dates after a site visit in September 2007.

Our meeting in Uppsala coincided with the release of the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In response, the Board issued a press release, "Nature conservation helps fight climate change," which was featured by several local and national news outlets. The press release is available on the Section's Web site. As many of you know, Uppsala was the home of Carl Linnaeus; we were fortunate to be able to visit Linnaeus' summer house in the year of the 300th anniversary of his birth. Events to mark the anniversary in Uppsala, London, and elsewhere celebrated Linnaeus' impact on the science of biology. This theme was developed by Sjögren-Gulve, Långström, Baldi, Ibisch, Kati, Livoreil and Selva in a letter that appeared in the August 2007 issue of *Conservation Biology*.

The diverse activities of the Section have continued during the last few months. In April, Per Sjögren-Gulve represented the Section at a meeting in Geneva to discuss the need for an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB). This regional consultation was co-hosted by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the secretariat of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Swiss Biodiversity Forum, and the Natural History Museum of Geneva. The meeting was attended by 45 participants from 17 countries. After three regional consultations, there appears to be consensus that an IMoSEB would be valuable, but needs for such a mechanism and its optimal role may differ among continents. The European meeting suggested that a consortium of expertise networks would be useful. A full report from the meeting is available on the Section's Web site.

The Section's education committee currently is developing course materials to be used during a Conservation Summer School in Papigo, Greece in July 2008. This session will offer students the opportunity to spend a week in the field and in lectures with leading conservation educators from across Europe. More details will appear in future newsletters.

The Section meeting at SCB's 2007 annual meeting was well attended with almost 30 participants. However, this represents only a small proportion of the Europeans who attended the annual meeting.

Please remember that the ECCB Abstract Book, a valuable resource to share with our professional community, is still available to download at www.eccb2006.org.

As always, the Board encourages the participation of Section members in our activities. Please contact us (europe@conservationbiology.org) with any questions or comments.

Owen Nevin

MARINE

Board of Directors

The Section is pleased to announce the election of five new Board members: Will Burns, Leslie Cornick, Daniela Maldini, Jennifer Smith, and Michael Webster. These additions will allow us to accomplish a great deal in the coming months and broaden the Board's diversity of expertise and experience. Visit the Section Web site for more information about these officers.

2007 Annual Meeting

Board members Phaedra Doukakis, Ellen Hines, Anne Salomon, and Jennifer Smith attended SCB's 2007 annual meeting, which featured three marine symposia and more than 100 oral and poster presentations with marine content. Members discussed Section activities and plans at a meeting on 5 July.

The Section held a fantastic social on 2 July at the Port Elizabeth Oceanarium Bayworld. More than 120 people

attended the event, which featured presentations by Myra Finkelstein, a Smith Fellow from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Stephanie Ploen from Bayworld. Special thanks to the local organizing committee and Amanda Lombard and to World Wildlife Fund for donating beverages.

During a policy workshop, the Section presented possible areas of focus for SCB policy work in the marine realm, stressing that our Section is not bound by geography and can be cross-cutting. We described how our board and Section has policy expertise as well as scientists interested in influencing policy at local, national, and international levels. The Section further emphasized the need to incorporate peer-reviewed, reputable, objective science into the policy process. We suggested that SCB could help contribute science to policy by obtaining observer status at international meetings of important treaties and conventions. The Board is working to compose a policy statement for the Section and hopes to solicit member input in the near future. We particularly welcome suggestions for SCB policy activities related to climate change and fisheries. If you would like to contribute to policy, please contact Chris Parsons (ecm-parsons@earthlink.net).

International Marine Conservation Congress

We have begun planning for the International Marine Conservation Congress, which will be held in Washington, D.C. during the second quarter of 2009. We hope that the meeting will bring together researchers, practitioners, stakeholders, and organizations interested in marine conservation. This meeting's theme, *Making Marine Science Matter: From Data to Policy and Management*, will concentrate on multidisciplinary issues. Steering and program committees are nearly established. Other committees, including fundraising, venue, and local organizing, also are being formed and need volunteers. If you are able to help, please contact John Cigliano (jaciglia@cedarcrest.edu).

Phaedra Doukakis

NORTH AMERICA

Members of the North America Section met in two major venues in recent months to discuss science, policy, and Section business. In May we met jointly with the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET) in Little Rock, Arkansas. We co-hosted the week-long conference, and on 24 May the Section sponsored a symposium, *Reconciling Conservation Planning and Transportation Planning on a Regional Scale*. This session, which featured speakers Dan Smith, Lenore Fahrig, Tony Clevenger, Seth Riley, Clinton Epps, Paul Beier, and Julia Kintsch, was reportedly the best attended of the conference. The ICOET organizers were pleased that the Section could attend and extended an open invitation for us to host additional symposia in future years. We

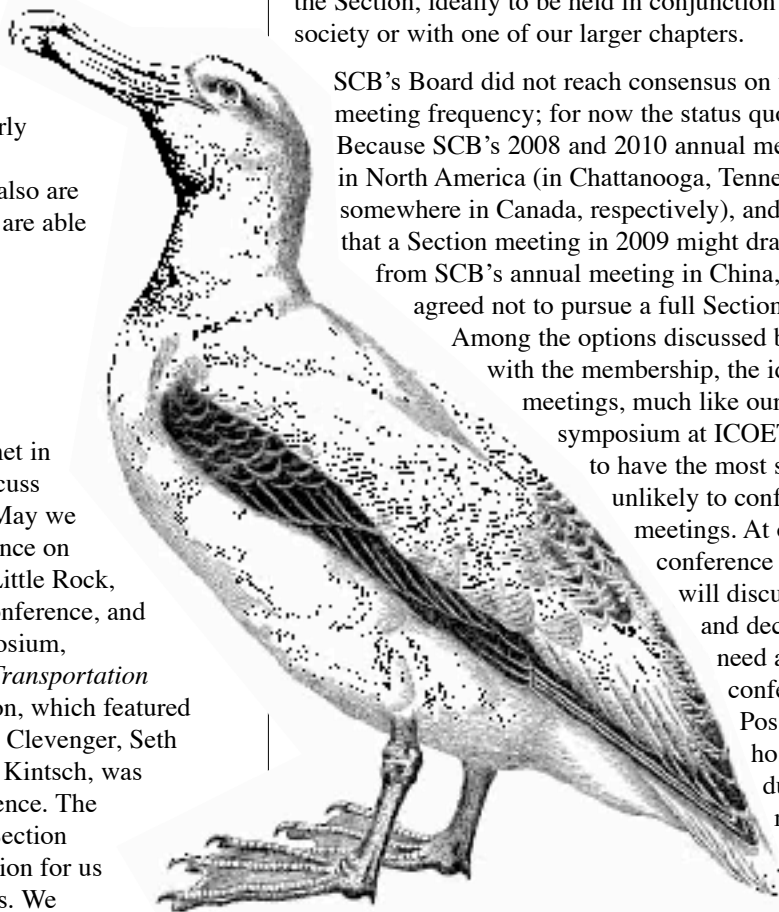
welcomed many new members at the conference. In addition to two brief meetings of the Board, we held a two-hour members' meeting, which included a policy discussion led by John Fitzgerald, SCB's Policy Director, and Dominick DellaSala, chair of the Section's policy committee. Most members of the Section Board attended these meetings, and approximately 30–40 individuals attended the members' meeting, a greater number than typically attend Section meetings at SCB's annual, global meetings.

SCB's 2007 annual meeting had a strong showing of North Americans. After South Africa, the United States contributed the second highest number of delegates to the meeting. Board members Reed Noss, Erica Fleishman, Jon Rosales, and Martin Main (whose term began at the close of the members' meeting) attended the entire meeting. I presented the Section's approach to policy during a policy workshop, gave an overview of Section activities at the SCB members' meeting, and led a discussion of a small (but lively) group of members at our Section meeting.

Several orders of business were conducted and decisions made at the various meetings. First, the Board elected Kathy Granillo as Secretary and Nick Haddad as Treasurer. Remarkably, heretofore these posts have been vacant. Second, the frequency of global and Section meetings, and how these meetings might be coordinated to encourage participation in both, has been much discussed. The Section Board recommended to SCB's Board that global meetings be held biennially, with Section meetings in the odd years. We also voted to pursue a meeting of the Section, ideally to be held in conjunction with another society or with one of our larger chapters.

SCB's Board did not reach consensus on the issue of meeting frequency; for now the status quo will prevail. Because SCB's 2008 and 2010 annual meetings will be held in North America (in Chattanooga, Tennessee and somewhere in Canada, respectively), and there was concern that a Section meeting in 2009 might draw people away from SCB's annual meeting in China, the Section Board agreed not to pursue a full Section meeting in 2009.

Among the options discussed by the Board and with the membership, the idea of "partial" meetings, much like our hosting of a symposium at ICOET in 2007, appears to have the most support and is unlikely to conflict with global meetings. At our next conference call, the Board will discuss meeting options and decide whether we need a Section-level conference committee. Possible venues for hosting a symposium during 2009 include meetings of the American Ornithologists'



Union, American Society of Mammalogists, and Natural Areas Association. Finally, several representatives from SCB chapters in North America attended ICOET and the 2007 annual meeting. I believe we are making great progress toward our new model of governance and political action. In this model, chapters are nested within (and coordinate with) SCB's Sections, which in turn are nested within our global SCB community. I thank Tom Sisk, chapter representative on SCB's Board of Governors, and Fiona Nagle, chair of the Chapters Advisory Committee and ex officio member of the Section board, for their assistance in advancing this approach.

Please join me in extending thanks to the outgoing Board members whose terms ended at the close of the members' meeting in Port Elizabeth: Pam Krannitz, Brian Czech, and Michael Reed. (Michael, who just led a joint SCB / American Ornithologists' Union review of the draft recovery plan for the Northern Spotted Owl, is staying on as a member of the Section's policy committee). And please help me welcome our two new Board members: Marty Main (who already chaired our Section's education committee) and James Gibbs. We pledge to keep you engaged in good work.

Reed F. Noss

FRESHWATER WORKING GROUP

Sponsored Memberships

We have recruited 76 new or renewing members from developing countries thanks to The Nature Conservancy's sponsorship program [see SCB Newsletter 13(3) for more information]. Thanks to The Nature Conservancy and to all those who nominated candidates for sponsorship. We encourage the newly recruited members to become active in the working group.

2007 Annual Meeting

The Freshwater Working Group was well represented at SCB's 2007 annual meeting. Six of ten Board members and many working group members attended and participated actively.

Working group members Pierre de Villiers and Joshua Viers coordinated a pre-meeting workshop on biodiversity conservation in vineyard settings. Held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, this workshop drew more than 50 participants from a variety of sectors worldwide, including researchers, students, growers, and politicians. The workshop used a catchment-to-coast framework to help frame the issues, challenges, and future directions of conservation on working landscapes. A field day included visits to areas being cleared of non-native vegetation and prepared for stream rehabilitation.

Several members gave guest lectures on the freshwater day of Bob Pressey's pre-meeting short course *Systematic Conservation Planning and the Role of Software: from Data to Implementation and Management*. Topics presented on the

freshwater day included differences between terrestrial and freshwater planning, catchment mapping, longitudinal connectivity, application of the complete planning process to freshwater environments, planning for climate change, and case studies from Australia and South Africa.

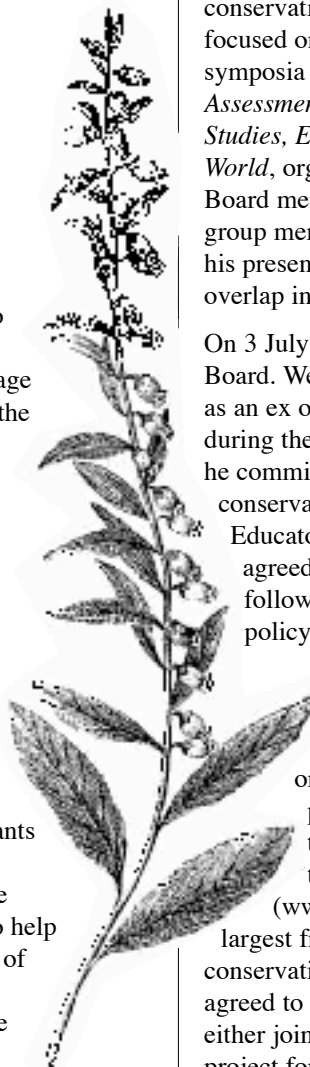
On 1 July a freshwater-oriented field trip initiated by the working group and organized by the Albany Museum visited the Baviaanskloof Wilderness. Issues such as non-native invasive freshwater fishes and the effects of road networks on freshwater ecosystems were discussed during the trip. Many thanks to the organizers and guides from the Albany Museum.

We were excited to add freshwater issues to the SCB policy discussion during the workshop organized by Policy Director John Fitzgerald. Board member Dirk Roux presented five freshwater policy priorities to workshop participants. These are highlighted on page 15.

Thirty-three presentations related to freshwater conservation were offered during three contributed oral sessions: fish conservation, freshwater conservation, and wetland conservation. Almost 20 posters presented at the meeting focused on freshwater-related subjects. Two freshwater-oriented symposia were held, including *Freshwater Conservation Assessment, Planning, Governance and Management: Case Studies, Emerging Issues, and Key Lessons from Around the World*, organized by Jeanne Nel and colleagues. Six of our Board members gave presentations in that symposium. Working group member Mao Angua-Amis received a student award for his presentation, "Do freshwater and terrestrial priorities overlap in conservation assessments?" Congratulations Mao!

On 3 July 2007 we held a meeting of the working group's Board. We agreed to a bylaws change adding the past president as an ex officio Board member. Simon Linke reported that during the previous day's SCB education committee meeting, he committed to developing a college-level freshwater conservation course for the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners (<http://ncep.amnh.org>). We agreed to continue working closely with John Fitzgerald following his positive reception of the working group's policy issues. We also agreed to complete our strategic planning before the end of the year, after thoroughly digesting the results of our members' survey.

Board members also met with David Aborn, organizer of SCB's 2008 annual meeting, to discuss possible freshwater activities next year. We intend to take advantage of the high freshwater biodiversity in the region, and the fact that the Tennessee Aquarium (www.tnaqua.org) in Chattanooga houses the world's largest freshwater aquarium, to ensure that freshwater conservation issues have a high profile at the 2008 meeting. We agreed to begin recruiting people who would be interested in either joining one of our committees or assisting with a specific project for the 2008 meeting, including field trips, symposia, workshops, and, of course, fundraising. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Ken Vance-Borland (ken.vance-borland@oregonstate.edu) or Aventino Kasangaki (aventinok@yahoo.com).



We also enjoyed social events at the meeting. Mordy Ogada produced a series of beautiful Freshwater Working Group t-shirts; many of them sold, and we donated the remainder to the local organizing committee. Dirk Roux and Jeanne Nel organized a well-attended dinner. Mao Amis organized a 5 km fun walk and run that was held on 3 July.

Join the Freshwater Working Group by logging into your SCB member account and going to 'My Section and Working Group Affiliations.' Subscribe to the freshwater listserv at <http://list.conbio.org/mailman/listinfo/freshwater/>.

Aventino Kasangaki and Ken Vance-Borland

SOCIAL SCIENCE WORKING GROUP

Social Science on Display at 2007 Annual Meeting

Conservation social science was prominently featured at SCB's 2007 annual meeting. Eleven symposia, three workshops, two short courses, and dozens of contributed oral presentations and posters focused on the social aspects of biodiversity conservation. Attendance at these sessions was high and presentation quality was excellent, once again illustrating the vibrant social science community within SCB. The working group was particularly pleased to sponsor two short courses that targeted African researchers and practitioners: *Ethnoecology and Community Conservation* (co-sponsored with the Global Diversity Foundation) and *Social Science in Conservation Planning*. The very well attended working group social, jointly sponsored with the Africa Section, was a key step in building a global community of conservation social science practitioners. We look forward to replicating these successes at the 2008 annual meeting.

Resources for Networking

The working group's membership committee has launched two resources to facilitate networking among conservation social scientists. The Conservation Social Science Expert Directory provides easy access to the wealth of professional expertise within the conservation social science community. Anyone with internet access may use the Directory's user-friendly search tool to find a conservation social science expert by name, academic discipline, conservation expertise, or geographic areas of interest. Interested in sharing your knowledge with conservation professionals around the world? Join the Directory! www.conbio.org/workinggroups/sswg/ResDirectory.cfm

Ambassadors Program

In order to facilitate sharing of knowledge about conservation social science in countries underrepresented in the working group's membership, the membership committee has launched the Social Science Working Group Ambassadors program. Ambassadors are volunteers who will represent the working group in these regions by (1) disseminating information about working group activities and resources to researchers, practitioners, and students interested in conservation social science, (2) encouraging working group involvement and feedback, and (3) communicating ideas for working group

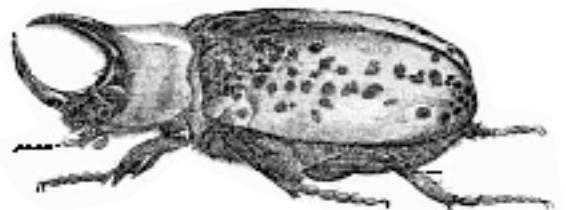
activities and membership involvement to the appropriate Board members. We already have a number of passionate, dedicated conservation social scientists, but we are looking for more! If you are interested or know someone who would be a perfect Ambassador, please contact our Ambassador Coordinator, Annie Claus (annie.claus@wwfus.org).

Conservation Fellowships for Young Africans

The working group is proud to announce the winners of our young African conservation fellowships (below). The call for proposals for this fellowship was distributed in English and in French via the working group's listserv and other venues. We received more than 40 applicants from seven countries and were impressed by the overall quality of the applicants. With help from The Christensen Fund, the winners will receive two years of SCB membership, including print copies of *Conservation Biology* and *Conservation* magazine. In addition, the fellows will serve as a portal between the working group and local research communities.

Martin Adeimile, Savannas Forever Tanzania
William Apollinaire, National University of Rwanda
Folaranmi Babalola, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Wafae Benhardouze, University Abdelmalek Essaadi, Morocco
Charles Efuetakoa, University of Pretoria
Alais Lendii, Savannas Forever Tanzania
Cecillia Lukindo, Savannas Forever Tanzania
Oliver Njounan Tegomo, WWF Cameroon

Mike Mascia, Joshua Drew, and Najem Raheem



Donations to SCB promote the science of conservation biology and protect the diversity of life on Earth

- Donate appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. If you donate equities owned more than a year, you can avoid tax on the capital gains and reduce income tax by deducting the fair market value as a charitable contribution.
- Make a bequest to SCB in your will. A bequest may reduce taxes on your estate.

Please send donations to
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2007 Conservation Biology Editor's Report

Gary K. Meffe, Editor

Overview

In 2006, six issues of *Conservation Biology* were published on time. The number of manuscripts submitted in 2006 (805) increased from the previous year by 3.2%, once again setting a new high for submissions, although the rate of increase slowed. A total of 1850 pages was published, including three special sections: *The Northwest Forest Plan: a Global Model of Forest Management in Contentious Times* (89 pages), *20th Anniversary of Conservation Biology* (82 pages), and *The Ecological Effects of Salvage Logging after Natural Disturbance* (159 pages). The impact factor for 2006 was 3.76, a decrease from the previous year's record high of 4.11.

Submissions

The submission rate for this journal year (805) increased from 2005 (780) but at a slower rate of increase than in previous years (Table 1).

Table 1. Trend in submittal rate, 1993–2006

Year	Number of manuscripts	% change
1993–94	302	
1994–95	378	25.2
1995–96	434	14.8
1996–97	540	24.4
1997–98	579	7.2
1998	614	6.0
1999	581	-5.3
2000	580	-0.2
2001	643	10.9
2002	573	-10.8
2003	613	7.0
2004	707	15.3
2005	780	10.3
2006	805	3.2

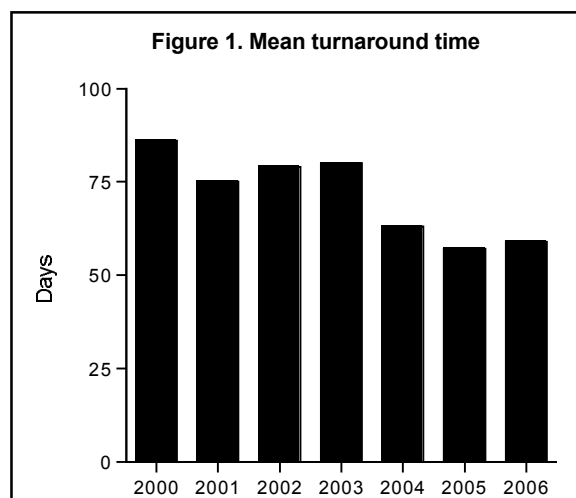
We also received and processed 190 preliminary manuscript inquiries, nearly identical to the previous year's total of 189. These consist of an abstract and an inquiry as to its suitability for the journal. These inquiries typically are responded to within one to three days of receipt.

We used 56 ad hoc assigning editors this year. These are individuals who handle one or more manuscripts but are not on the editorial board. Ad hoc editors were used when a manuscript did not fall within the expertise of existing editors, when the ad hoc editors had special expertise in the area, or if the appropriate assigning editor was particularly busy with other manuscripts. This system has worked very well and will continue to be employed. Ad hoc editors are acknowledged in the December issue of each year and are an integral part of this journal's review process; I thank them for their contributions.

Decisions and Rejection Rates

Of the 805 papers received in 2006 (Table 2), 407 (50.6%) were rejected by the editor without review, usually within three days of submittal and usually due to inappropriateness of subject matter or low quality; 398 (49.4%) were sent for review, most through assigning editors and a few directly by the editor.

Of the 398 manuscripts sent for review, 219 (55.0%) were rejected, 132 (33.2%) were accepted, and no decision had yet been reached as of early May 2007 on 47 (11.8%), which are still in review or in revision with authors. Of the total number of papers submitted, 626 (77.7%) were rejected (slightly more than last year's 75.0%), 132 were accepted (16.4%, down from



20.9% last year), and no decision was yet reached on 47 (or 5.8%, compared with 4.1% last year). Of the 758 papers for which decisions have been made, 626 (82.6%) were rejected, an increase from last year's 78.2%.

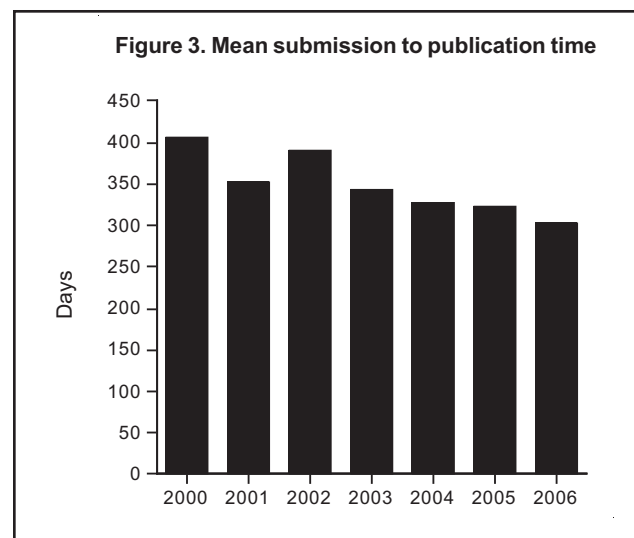
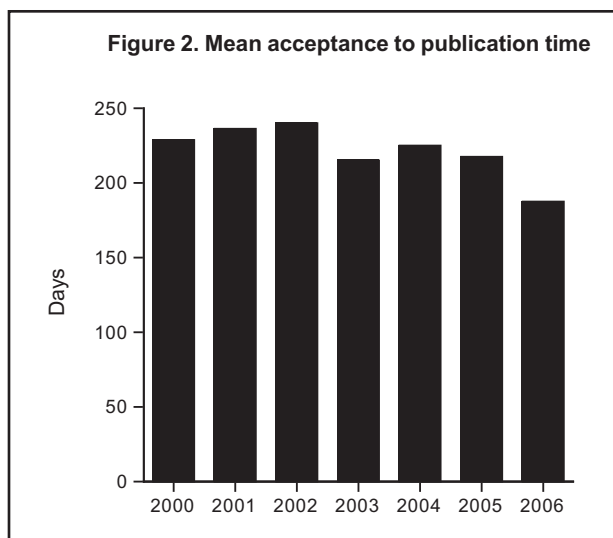
Table 2. Journal-year statistics, 1 January – 31 December 2006

NUMBER OF MANUSCRIPTS						
Month	Submitted	Rejected by editor	Sent for review	Total rejected	Accepted	No decision
January	64	23	41	47	16	1
February	66	34	32	52	14	0
March	80	40	40	60	19	1
April	44	28	16	37	6	1
May	92	46	46	64	26	2
June	63	28	35	50	10	2 + 1 withdrawn
July	77	46	31	65	9	3
August	82	49	33	63	14	5
September	64	33	31	52	8	4
October	69	32	37	55	3	11
November	50	24	26	41	4	5
December	54	24	30	40	3	11
TOTAL	805	407 (50%)	398 (50%)	626 (78%)	132 (16%)	47 (6%)

Turnaround Time

See the 2003 report for a discussion of how turnaround statistics are calculated (i.e., these are relative but not absolute times because they are right-truncated due to manuscripts still in process).

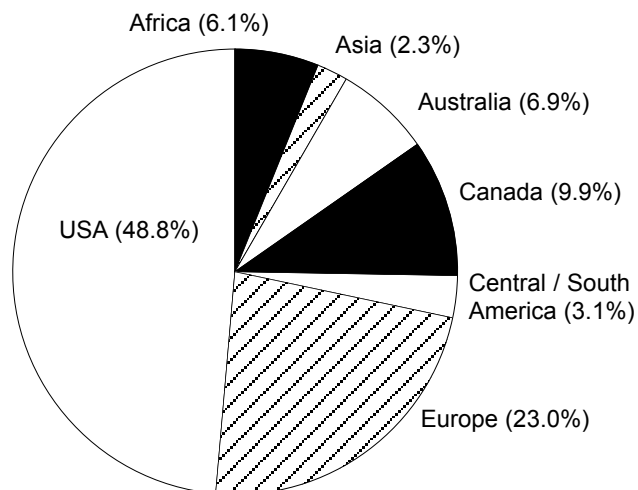
Mean turnaround time for manuscript review increased slightly in 2006, from 57 to 59 days (a 3.5% increase; Figure 1). We continue to work to reduce the review time further. Time from acceptance to publication (Figure 2) dropped significantly in 2006, from 218 to 188 days; this is largely attributable to Online Early being in full effect. Total time from submission to publication (Figure 3) decreased from 323 to 302 days, and again this is largely attributable to Online Early.



Region of Authorship

Region of authorship is determined by the address of the first author at the time the work was done and only partially reflects sovereignty of contributions. International participation in authorship is actually higher than indicated by these statistics due to secondary authorships. Of the 132 papers submitted and accepted in 2006, the proportion of first authors from the United States decreased to 48.8% from 54.0% in 2005 (Figure 4). Other regional changes from 2005 to 2006 include modest increases in accepted papers from Africa (3.1% to 6.1%), Canada (3.7% to 9.9%), and Europe (19.5% to 23.0%) and small decreases in accepted papers from Australia (8.6% to 6.9%), Asia (4.9% to 2.3%), and Central / South America (6.1% to 3.0%).

Figure 4. Acceptance by Region 2006



Introducing conservation research *in the fast lane*

Journal Watch Online

journalwatch.conservationmagazine.org

2007 Student Awards

The Student Awards Program was highly successful this year. Twelve finalists gave presentations at the annual meeting. Special thanks to Blackwell Publishing, Oxford University Press, and Sinauer Associates for their support. Thanks to the Zoological Society of London and to the South Africa Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs for sponsoring the poster award and awards reception, respectively. We also thank the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for supporting the Young Women in Conservation Biology award.

First Place (Tie) • Toby Gardner

The cost-effectiveness of biodiversity research in tropical forests

First Place (Tie) • Sanjay Gubbi

Attitudes to development and conservation in an Indian ICDP

Third Place • Archana Bali and Jignasu Dolia

Private lands around protected areas—the role of coffee plantations in mammal and butterfly conservation in the Western Ghats, India

Fourth Place • Mao Angua Amis

Do freshwater and terrestrial priorities overlap in conservation assessments?

FINALISTS

Kathryn Fiorella—Reserve site selection for Malagasy lemurs: extinction risk and methodological questions

Llewellyn Foxcroft—Risk assessment of riparian alien plant invasion into protected areas

Philipp Henschel—Leopard *Panthera pardus* conservation in Africa's rainforests—their status and threats, and the role of reintroduction

Allison Leidner—Tropical forest fragmentation increases volatility of butterfly communities

Elizabeth Madin—Behavioral effects of fishing on coral reefs

Theron Morgan-Brown—The conservation impact of butterfly farming in the east Usambara Mountains of Tanzania

Matthew Sommerville—An analysis of deforestation trends across Madagascar's protected area system (1980–2000) and implications for future management

Andrea White—Using habitat models to predict the impact of climate change on the distribution of alpine peatlands in Victoria, Australia

see **Awards**, page 15

Call for 2008 Award Nominations

Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award

The Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award is given annually to an individual with a distinguished record of research and outstanding application of science to the conservation of our biological resources. The intention of the award is to recognize the innovative application of science to resource management and policy. Although all scientists are eligible for the award, because of Edward LaRoe's distinguished career as a public servant, preference is given to employees of governmental resource management agencies or science agencies.

Past recipients of the LaRoe Award are

2007	Jeremy Jackson
2006	Stuart Pimm
2005	Daniel Pauly
2004	Jerry Franklin
2003	Stephen Schneider
2002	John Lawton
2001	Robert Pressey
2000	Phil Pister

Please send nominations for the 2008 LaRoe Award to J. Michael Scott, Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 44-1141, Room 103, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1141, USA, mjscott@uidaho.edu (with copies to Sarah Martinez, sarahm@uidaho.edu). Nominations should be in the form of a nominating letter with an accompanying resume of the nominee. Multiple letters of support for nominees are encouraged. Nominations must be received by **1 October 2007**.

Distinguished Service Awards

SCB annually presents awards for distinguished service in the field of conservation biology. For 2008, SCB is soliciting nominations from its members and other conservation professionals. Among the categories eligible for awards are

- Academia
- Government
- Outside academia and government
- Social, economic, and political work
- Education and journalism

Nominations for individuals or institutions, including a nomination form and a minimum of two supporting letters, must be received by **1 October 2007**. The form is available at <http://conbio.org/SCB/Activities/Awards/>. Letters and form must be submitted as a single document in Word. Separate letters will not be accepted. Please send nominations to Saterson.Kathryn@epamail.epa.gov. If the nominator does not have internet access, contact Kathryn Saterson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 109 TW Alexander Drive, MC: B305-02, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, USA, 1 919 541-2535.

Smith Fellows 2008 Call for Proposals Announced

The Society for Conservation Biology is pleased to solicit applications for the David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program. These two year post-doctoral fellowships enable outstanding early-career scientists to improve and expand their research skills while directing their efforts towards problems of pressing conservation concern for the United States.

Each Fellow is mentored by both an academic sponsor who encourages the Fellow's continued development as a conservation scientist, and a conservation practitioner who helps to connect the Fellow and her or his research to practical conservation challenges.

Fellows will spend up to four weeks per year during their fellowship attending orientation and training events. These offerings provide opportunities to cultivate professional networks and to gain better understanding of applied research needs. Fellows will participate as a group in three or more of these Program-sponsored meetings, conferences, or professional development events each year.

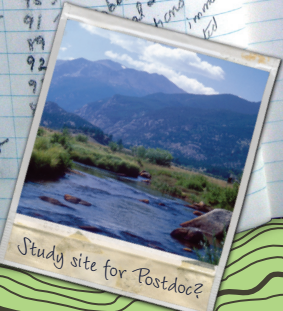
The Program especially encourages individuals who want to better link conservation science and theory with pressing policy and management applications to apply. We envision that the cadre of scientists supported by the Smith Fellows Program eventually will assume leadership positions across the field of conservation science. Fellows are selected on the basis of innovation, potential for leadership, and strength of proposal.

The deadline for receipt of application materials is 28 September 2007. The Program expects to select four Fellows in January 2008 for appointments to start between March and September 2008. Fellowship awards include an annual salary of \$38,768, benefits, and generous travel and research budgets. For detailed proposal guidelines, please visit www.smithfellows.org/proposalguidelines.cfm. Questions may be directed to Shonda Foster, Program Coordinator (sfoster@conbio.org).

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Site C D Path

	Length of Pipe	Length of sediments to top	Depth of water in pipe
1	94	154	4.43
2	86	144	4.26
3	79	139	4.09
4	85	145	3.72
5	70	130	3.80
6	61	121	skipped
7	60	120	3.95
8	50.5	111	2.78
9	46	106	
10	49	109	
11	39	99	
12	42	102	
13	35	95	
14	30.5	91	
15	29	89	
16	32	92	
17	32	9	
18	25		
19	25		
20	28		

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Study site for Postdoc?

33
Apply for Smith Fellowship!
Application Checklist

- Cover letter
- Title Page
- Research Plan
- Curriculum Vitae
- Personal Statement
- Letters:
 - Three letters of recommendation
 - Academic Mentor Support Letter
 - Academic Mentor's Curriculum Vitae
 - Field Mentor Support Letter
- Indirect cost waiver

Smith Fellows

The David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program seeks to develop future world leaders and entrepreneurs who are successful at linking conservation science and application. Fellowships provide two years of post-doctoral support to outstanding early-career scientists affiliated with a United States institution. For more information, email info@smithfellows.org.



www.smithfellows.org

In partnership with the Society for Conservation Biology

Announcements

Erratum

In the book *Conservation Biology in Asia: Current Status and Future Perspectives*, an error was made in the names of the authors in Chapter 1, "The Sacred Himalayan Landscape: Conceptualizing, Visioning and Planning for Conservation Biodiversity, Cultures and Livelihoods in the Eastern Himalayas." Authors' names should read Mohan P. Wagley (1), Narayan Poudel (2), Tirtha Man Maskey (3), Chandra P. Gurung (3), Anil Manandhar (3), Sarala Khaling (3), Yeshi Lama (3), Gokarna Thapa (3), Sabita Thapa (3), Eric Wikramanayake (4), Eklabya Sharma (5), Nakul Chettri (5), and Brian Peniston (6).

1. Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Singha Darbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
2. Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, PO Box 860, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal
3. WWF Nepal Program, PO Box 7660, Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal
4. Conservation Science Program, WWF-US, 1250 Twenty-Fourth St. NW, Washington D.C. 20037, USA
5. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, PO Box 3226, Khumaltar, Kathmandu, Nepal
6. The Mountain Institute, PO Box 2785, Baluwatar, Kathmandu

Sincere apologies to the authors whose names inadvertently were omitted.

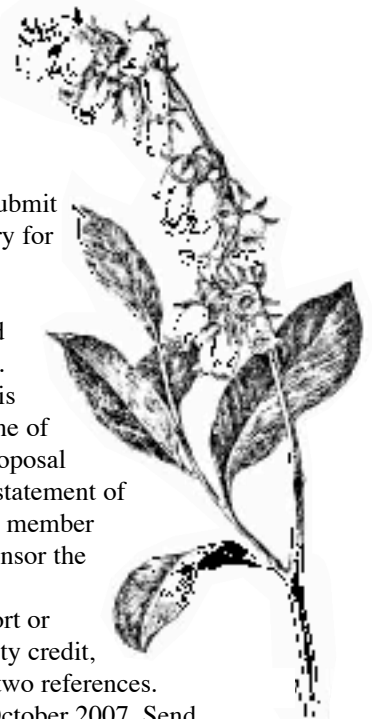
Position Available: Conservation Strategy for Monk Seal

The Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, a Greek nongovernmental organization, seeks to contract an independent conservation specialist to revise the National Strategy for the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal in Greece. With a worldwide population of fewer than 600 individuals, the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) is considered by IUCN to be critically endangered. During the last few decades, numerous conservation activities have concentrated in Greece, which hosts approximately half of the species' population. The conservation specialist's tasks will be (1) to evaluate the existing strategy, originally drafted in 1996, in terms of its effectiveness to address the species' threats (2) to revise the strategy to address all current conservation requirements of the species and its habitat, identify priorities, and suggest cost effective actions for the period until 2015. The project's duration is nine months. The Society will provide the conservation specialist with all background documentation and information required, and will assist in setting up working meetings with key stakeholders, experts, and the relevant national and European Commission authorities. The revised strategy will be distributed widely to scientists, conservationists, stakeholders, and policy makers internationally. Upon its adoption by the national authorities it will constitute a seminal policy tool guiding all activities conducted for the conservation of the species. Applicants should have extended experience in similar projects and

significant knowledge of the conservation requirements of critically endangered species. For a detailed description and the terms of reference of the project, contact Spyros Kotomatas, Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, 18 Solomou Str., GR-10682, Athens, Greece, +30.210.5222888, FAX +30.210.5222450, s.kotomatas@mom.gr, www.mom.gr. Applications must be submitted by 15 September with the indication (IC07-NCS) to info@mom.gr.

Funding Available

The Dennis Raveling Scholarship for Waterfowl Research is awarded annually to a student(s) with a desire to pursue a career in waterfowl or wetlands ecology. Awards are based on the candidate's resolve, academic achievement, and project merit. Candidates must be pursuing an advanced degree in wildlife, zoology, botany, ecology, or another pertinent biological science. Applicants should submit a one-page proposal summary for an original research or management project and be prepared to submit a detailed project proposal if requested. Two awards will be given this year, one of US\$2000 and one of US\$1000. Along with the proposal summary, submit a resume, statement of interest, letter from a faculty member indicating willingness to sponsor the candidate and detailing any requirements (e.g., final report or thesis) for receiving university credit, and contact information for two references. Application deadline is 31 October 2007. Send applications to Nicole Berset, California Waterfowl Association, 4630 Northgate Blvd., Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95834, USA, nicole_berset@calwaterfowl.org.



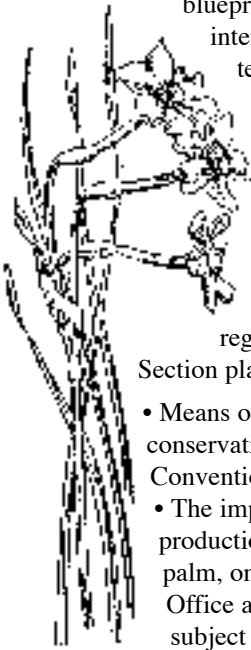
Tools for Marine Conservation Professionals

The Nature Conservancy and partners at the Ecosystem-based Management Network, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Sea Around Us Project, and University of Queensland announce the release of *Advancing Ecosystem-Based Management: A Decision Support Toolkit for Marine Managers* at www.marineebm.org. This Web-based toolkit provides guidance for managers and practitioners in the use of common tools for regional assessments and planning. Case studies advance these approaches and inform marine ecosystem-based management by jointly addressing multiple objectives in conservation of biological diversity, fishery production, and mitigation of coastal hazards. Site content and resources also are available on CD-ROM from marine@tnc.org.

Policy, from page 1

The **Marine Section** is in the process of developing a statement on fisheries policy. The Section expects to focus on international policy issues and to convene an International Marine Conservation Congress in Washington, D.C. in 2009 (see page 4). The Section is building relationships with other societies and the editor of *Marine Wildlife Law Journal* has just joined its board.

The **North America Section** is working to increase involvement of representatives from Canada and Greenland in Section and SCB activities. The Section is making an effort to take a more global perspective on its policy priorities and to become more proactive in informing legislation. The Section has written a number of reviews or critiques, including but not limited to a critique of proposals to remove populations of wolves and grizzly bears from the U.S. Endangered Species list, and a comprehensive review of the management of fire-prone forests of the western United States. The Section is emphasizing development of policy related to climate change, endangered species, invasive species, and a policy blueprint for North America. Also, the Section intends to send expert representatives to testify at government hearings.



Although the **Asia Section** did not brief the policy workshop attendees, it has an ambitious policy agenda that includes issues of international as well as regional significance, many falling within SCB's five global priorities. The Section will consider hosting a technical regional meeting every two years. The Section plans to assess

- Means of providing payments for forest conservation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- The impact of different forms of energy production, such as increased production of oil palm, on biological diversity (SCB's Executive Office also plans to develop short papers on this subject and will be working closely with the Asia Section in the process).
 - Trade in endangered and threatened species
- Improving scientific input to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Enhancing support for the Global Environment Facility
- Zoonotic diseases
- Human-wildlife conflicts

Jon Rosales briefed attendees at the second policy workshop on the long process of developing an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB). This mechanism would complement major wildlife treaties by serving as an active, objective body to deliver scientific information independent of political influence (see SCB Newsletter 14(1): 20 for more information).

The **Freshwater Working Group** presented five priority policy issues or considerations (see box on page 15).

Mike Scott, a member of SCB's Board of Governors, emphasized that our Board and members want SCB to increase its visibility and relevance in the policy arena, becoming a trusted source of unbiased information. To achieve this goal, Scott suggested that we ask more forceful policy questions, be aggressive about the relevance of our scientific work, be careful to articulate uncertainties in our research, and convey information clearly to non-scientists. Scott distinguished between policy prescriptions and policy directions. He suggested that while SCB might endorse policies, draft our own policies, write white papers, and evaluate options, we should articulate clearly the nature of each paper we undertake and the objectives of our activities.

A representative of Flora and Fauna International (FFI), Annalisa Gripp, presented a summary of the United Nations Environment Program's Finance Initiative and its biodiversity workstream. FFI is co-hosting the biodiversity workstream along with U.S.-based World Resources Institute. Gripp noted the large and growing sum of money managed by pension funds and others committed to consideration of social and environmental impacts in investing according to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investing (for more information, see www.unepfi.org/).

Tom Sisk, Chapter Representative on SCB's Board of Governors, reported on efforts to establish new chapters and maintain strong connections with Sections and the global organization. Chapters typically work to inform and influence policy at a local level. The potential is increasing for policy activities by Sections and the society as a whole to strengthen policy work by chapters. Both educational programs and policy initiatives are likely to strengthen the bonds between chapters and SCB as a whole.

Aletris Neils reported that several chapters have been particularly active in informing policy. For example,

- The Montana Chapter developed an initial draft of comments, submitted by the North America Section, on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to remove Rocky Mountain gray wolves from the list of species protected by the Endangered Species Act
- The Minnesota Chapter has developed a set of recommendations on the Farm Bill that also were adopted by the North America Section
- The Florida Chapter has engaged in policy activities related to biological security, particularly invasive species

Note that SCB's Web pages on policy provide chapter representatives with templates or guidelines for policy comments and activities.

News from Washington, D.C.

While SCB was meeting in South Africa, the U.S. Congress was developing its first energy bill, an amalgam of measures produced by several committees in each house. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives prepared, and in late July passed, a farm bill with some increase in conservation assistance but not

Issues of special importance in freshwater conservation and related policy

Strive for maximum hydrologic connectivity.

Maintenance of hydrological connectivity is critical to the conservation of freshwater ecosystems. For rivers, connectivity is a function of water availability, river channels for the transport of this water, and the degree of natural movement of water along longitudinal river gradients and lateral catchment gradients. High water-yield areas, headwater streams that generally compose a large percentage of the river length in a catchment, free-flowing rivers, and whole catchments (or at least the land adjacent to rivers) should be priority acquisitions for protected areas.

Dealing with widespread degradation. All production systems use water and generally high demand has led to widespread degradation. In many places, ideal conservation targets cannot be achieved and a long-term conservation goal has to start with a restoration plan. How do we stop further degradation and enable systematic and strategic restoration (or rehabilitation)? How do we marry efficiency (opportunity cost) and effectiveness (conservation outcomes) under these conditions?

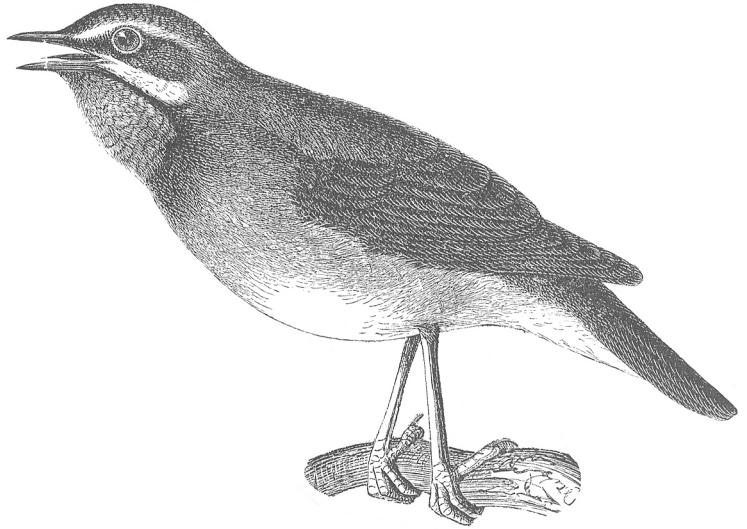
Achieving cooperation across sectors and spheres of government. The function of freshwater management and conservation is typically characterized by overlapping mandates and responsibilities. Coordination and cooperation across planning sectors (e.g. agriculture, water, and environment) is essential. We need to understand the requirements and likely benefits of cooperation in this context, and promote enabling mechanisms. Achieving policy integration is one such mechanism. Vertical policy integration requires that local / sub-national policies are aligned with and support, and do not undermine, national policies; and that national policies support regional or international policies and treaties. Horizontal policy integration requires a complementary policies across related service or planning sectors at any particular level.

Facilitate co-learning in multi-use environments. Social and ecological sustainability depends on our capacity to learn together and respond to changing circumstances. In riverscapes, with a diversity of stakeholders, knowledge forms, and mental models, conservation management cannot be a search for the optimal solution for one problem but should be an ongoing learning and negotiation process with high priority for participative activities and adaptation. Concepts such as social capital and community governance become relevant. How do we design institutions so that formal structures for action and informal communities for co-learning can coexist and complement each other?

Recognizing increasing human consumption of freshwater resources. Human society uses freshwater for drinking water, irrigation, industrial use, and sanitation at an ever increasing rate. Given the critical importance of freshwaters for biodiversity and ecosystem services, future allocation of freshwater resources presents one of the most profound challenges for global conservation. Systematic strategies for freshwater conservation—covering local to global scales—are urgently needed. We believe that SCB should strive to take a lead role in this process by working in collaboration with other global agencies and governments.

the more fundamental changes some hope that the Senate will adopt. The House Natural Resources Committee continued its investigation into political manipulation of science in the natural resource agencies with a hearing on 31 July. The hearing focused on the impact to threatened and other salmon of water diversions from the Klamath River to farms before the 2002 elections.

John Fitzgerald, Policy Director, SCB



Awards, from page 11

Young Women Conservation Biologists' Award

Margaret Aanyu

POSTERS

First Place • Cheryl Chetkevitch

Designing corridors for carnivore conservation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains: marrying pattern and process

Second Place • Lourens Swanepoel

If it pays, it stays: implications for wide-ranging leopards

Third Place • Stephaine Sell

Investigating population structure and philopatry in ringed seals

Fourth Place • Wilfred Odadi

The effects of wildlife on cattle in Laikipia Rangeland, Kenya

Society for Conservation Biology Newsletter is published quarterly. To submit materials or request permission to reprint articles contact the Editor: Erica Fleishman, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, 735 State Street, Suite 300, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, USA, (805) 892-2530, fleishman@nceas.ucsb.edu.

Decisions concerning publication rest with the Editor.

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SCB OFFSETS ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT IN SOUTH AFRICA

At SCB's 2006 annual meeting, the Board of Governors, responding to the overwhelming consensus of meeting attendees, decided to offset the carbon impact of our 2007 meeting. Funds for the offset were generated by a voluntary surcharge of \$20 (registrants from high income countries) or \$5 (registrants from developing countries). More than 98% of registrants added the surcharge to their registration fees. With this money, we invested in restoration of thicket vegetation on the Baviaanskloof MegaReserve in Eastern Cape, the third largest natural area in South Africa. The project will store carbon, benefit biological diversity, and (by employing local people to restore native vegetation) alleviate poverty in the project area, with long term sustainability through ecotourism. Most carbon will be stored in a native succulent evergreen plant that has been demonstrated to store carbon efficiently in a low rainfall system, with high resistance to loss from wildfire and decomposition.

Several members of an ad hoc Carbon Offset Committee have been investigating the possibility that SCB could provide funds for the Baviaanskloof project over multiple years. Our 2007 offset funding will store carbon on fewer than 100 ha, but more than 1000 ha are in need of revegetation. Advantages of a multiyear investment are (a) the project organizers can invest appropriately in nursery operation and other investments that could last more than one year, (b) the project has better chance of attracting other investors, (c) the project can work on certification by a third party certifier, and (d) it gives our committee several years to devise our long term plans for investing in offsets of greenhouse gases.

For a quick and meaningful education on projects that meet the triple goals of carbon storage, biodiversity conservation, and poverty eradication, visit www.climatestandards.org, the Web site

for the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Project. These standards identify land-based projects that simultaneously deliver compelling benefits for climate, biological diversity, and local communities. The standards, which are primarily designed for climate change mitigation projects, were developed by the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance. The alliance is a global partnership of research institutions, corporations, and environmental groups with a mission to develop and promote voluntary standards for land use projects with multiple benefits.

To our knowledge, SCB is the first professional organization in ecology, conservation, or management of natural resources to take responsibility for our carbon footprint.

Paul Beier

New Web site for Students

SCB's student affairs committee has established a new Web site intended primarily for student members. If you are not a student, you are still welcome to participate. The objective of the site is to provide a forum for posting news and images related to SCB activities at the chapter, Section, and global levels. The site also will facilitate initiation or participation in discussions about conservation biology, posting of announcements, and requests for help with coursework and research. Please visit

www.flickr.com/groups/scbstudents/

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