

Bylaws of the European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology

Article 1

Mission

The mission of the European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology is to promote conservation biology and its application to conserve biological diversity in Europe.

The principal goals of the Section are

- to increase awareness and understanding of European conservation issues.
- to strengthen conservation biology research and its application in Europe.
- to advocate for biological diversity and willingly offer and promote the role of scientific review in assessment of conservation strategies.
- to develop, promote and facilitate networks of communication and collaboration among Society members, and other researchers, managers, government agencies and non-governmental organizations in Europe and throughout the world.

Article 2

Membership

Section 1. Voting Members. Any member of the Society for Conservation Biology who has an interest in the objectives and the activities of the Section may join the Section as a voting member. Only voting members may be elected to Section offices and vote on official matters affecting the Section. If the Section assesses dues, all voting members shall be responsible for payment.

Section 2. Expulsion. Membership in the Section shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following events: (1) member's notice of such termination delivered to the President or Secretary of the Section, personally or by mail, (2) a determination by two-thirds of the Section Board that the member has engaged in conduct materially and/or seriously prejudicial to the interests or purposes of the Section.

Article 3

Governance

Section 1. Section Board. Twelve members shall constitute the Board of the Section. No more than two positions shall be held by members from any one country. All Board members shall be

voting members of the Section. The term of office shall be three years with the option of a further period of three years through re-election. ~~Four members shall be elected each year.~~

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*Section 2. **Officers.*** There shall be four officers: President, President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President Elect shall be elected by Section members every three years at a scheduled Members' Meeting or by mail or email. Term of office for the President Elect is three years, followed by three years as President. The Secretary and Treasurer are Board members selected by the Board for terms of three years. All officers must be voting members of the Section for their entire term of office.

Article 4

Nominations and Elections

*Section 1. **Nominations.*** Nominations for Board members and President Elect shall be solicited by the ~~Nominations Committee or the Section Board.~~ All nominees must be voting members of the Section. The list of nominations shall be submitted by the Secretary to the membership at least one month prior to the deadline for receipt of ballots by mail or email.

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*Section 2. **Balloting.*** Written or electronic ballots shall be received from the members by a duly announced deadline and shall be counted by one or more members of the Section Board or agent(s) authorized by the Society's Board of Governors. The President shall appoint a replacement to count ballots for any member of the Section Board who has been nominated. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes on the ballots shall be declared elected.

*Section 3. **Vacancies.*** If the office of President is vacated for any reason, the President Elect shall assume the duties of the President for the balance of the President's term. All other vacancies occurring during an officer's term shall be filled by appointment by the Section Board.

*Section 4. **Special Elections.*** A special election may be held at any time during a period of dormancy (see Article 11) to reactivate the Section.

Article 5

Duties of Officers

*Section 1. **President.*** The President shall organize and preside over meetings and mailings (including electronic mailings) intended to substitute for meetings. The President, or another Board member designated by the President, shall serve as the Section's voting representative on the Society's Board of Governors in accordance with Section 5.

*Section 2. **President Elect.*** The President Elect shall assist the President and perform his/her duties when he/she is absent.

*Section 3. **Secretary.*** The Secretary shall record minutes, administer correspondence between the Section and the Society, and maintain historical records and a list of members.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain accounts, and collect and distribute funds for Section activities. The Treasurer shall coordinate fund raising activities, if any.

Section 5. Representative on the Society's Board of Governors. The representative (the President or his/her designee, see Section 1) serves as a Member at Large on the Society's Board of Governors in accordance with the Society's Bylaws. Only the representative may officially represent the Section on business of the Society.

Article 6

Ad hoc Committees

The Section Board, either by its own initiative or at the solicitation of the membership, may at any time decide to form an ad hoc committee with specific terms of reference. Committees shall be chaired by a voting member of the Section. Chairs shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Section Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Section Board. Committees shall be composed of interested members of the Section. The Chair shall be responsible for appointing the other members of the committee, and these members shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair. All committees shall, at any time, be accountable to the Section Board. ~~Ad hoc committees with a continuing mission may, after two years of activity, petition the Section Board to be established as a standing committee.~~

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Article 7

Standing Committees

Section 1. Chairs and Membership. Standing committees shall be chaired by a member of the Section Board. Chairs shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Section Board. Committees shall be composed of interested members of the Section. The Chair shall be responsible for appointing the other members of the standing committee, and these members shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair. All standing committees shall, at any time, be accountable to the Section Board. Standing committees include Membership, ~~Nominations, Communications, and Policy.~~

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Section 2. Charge of the Membership Committee. This committee shall be responsible for encouraging membership in both the Section and the Society. The committee shall assist the Secretary in maintaining the list of the Section's membership and shall help facilitate any mailings to the membership.

~~*Section 3. Charge of the Nominations Committee.* This committee shall organize all nominations for elected offices and present to the Section Board a complete slate of nominees.~~

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~~*Section 3. Charge of the Communications Committee.* This committee shall provide advice on development of printed and electronic publications of the Section such as newsletters and web sites. This committee also shall work with the Membership Committee and other committees of both the Section and the Society to achieve outreach and marketing goals.~~

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Section 4. Charge of the Policy Committee. Should the membership decide to deliver Resolutions and Public Advocacy explaining the Section's view on a particular issue or controversy, such statements shall be prepared by this committee for review and action. This committee shall develop policy and strategy for relationships with political, scientific, and other organizations that further the mission of the Section.

Article 8

Finances

The Section shall be supported by grants, contributions, and fund-raising activities. Funds of the Section shall be supervised by the officers (Article 3, Section 2), and shall be administered by the Treasurer. Audited financial records shall be reported to the membership.

Article 9

Policy. The Section may make Resolutions and engage in Public Advocacy subject to the conditions described below.

Section 1. Definitions. A "Resolution" is any public statement that reflects the position or view of the Section. "Public Advocacy" is any public activity by the Section in support of a Section Resolution.

Section 2. Conditions for Declaration of Resolutions and Public Advocacy. Proposed Resolutions shall be presented to the membership of the Section and approved by a majority of the voting members present and voting. Presentations and voting shall take place at a scheduled meeting, by mail, or by email. A voting member who is absent may file an absentee ballot. Proposed Resolutions shall include the following: (i) a statement of relationship of the Resolution to the objectives of the Society, (ii) a statement of the need for the Resolution, (iii) scientific documentation concerning the circumstances of the Resolution, and (iv) a list of the proposed recipients of the Resolution.

Any Public Advocacy shall be based on an approved Resolution. Proposed acts of advocacy shall be presented to the membership of the Section at a scheduled meeting or by mail or email, and shall be approved by a majority of voting members. A voting member who is absent may file an absentee ballot.

Section 3. Disclaimer of Responsibility by Society for Section Activities. The European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology shall claim responsibility for all Resolutions and Public Advocacy enacted by its membership. All public documents or actions shall include the statement: Resolutions (or Advocacy) of the European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society for Conservation Biology as a whole.

Section 4. Reporting. All Resolutions and supporting materials and descriptions of acts of Public Advocacy by the Section shall be forwarded to the President of the Society with the Annual Report.

Article 10

Meetings

*Section 1. **Members' Meeting.*** A Members' Meeting shall be held, or an alternative mechanism for conducting Section business and facilitating communication among members arranged, -at least once every year.

*Section 2. **Procedure and Order of Business.*** Meetings and voting deadlines shall be announced at least one month in advance. At the beginning of each meeting any Section or Society business shall be discussed prior to other scheduled agenda items. The business portion of each meeting shall be run by the President. The Section's Bylaws shall be available at each meeting.

*Section 3. **Votes.*** All votes of the Section on matters not specified in the Bylaws shall be decided by a simple majority of those voting. Tie votes in Members' Meetings or in meetings of the Section Board shall be broken by the presiding officer. Tie votes in committee meetings shall be broken by the Chair.

*Section 4. **Quorum.*** 10% of the Section's members (if the membership exceeds 150 individuals) or 15 members of the Section, including members represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum of the Section, and 50% of Section Board members a quorum of the Board.

Article 11

Annual Report. The Secretary shall file an annual report on the Section's activities with the President of the Society. The report shall be distributed to members.

Article 12

Continuation/Dissolution

*Section 1. **Section Board Requirement.*** If the membership fails to elect a Section Board, the Section shall be considered dormant. At that time the outgoing Section Board shall forward the Section's charter, bylaws, and remaining funds to the President of the Society. The Section may be reactivated at any time within a period of two years by holding a Special Election. The purpose of the Special Election is to vote for a Section Board.

*Section 2. **Membership Requirement.*** If the membership falls below 100 for longer than two years, the Section shall be considered dormant. At that time the outgoing Section Board shall forward the Section's charter, bylaws, and remaining funds to the President of the Society. The Section may be reactivated when membership rises above 100.

Article 13

Amendment to Bylaws

Section 1. Procedure. Proposals to modify the Section Bylaws must be approved by a majority of the voting members present and voting at any scheduled meeting (or alternative voting mechanism) of the Section. A voting member who is absent may file an absentee ballot.

Section 2. Conformance. No amendment to these Bylaws shall be enacted that results in a conflict with the Bylaws of the Society. Proposed amendments to the Section Bylaws must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Society's Board of Governors before becoming effective.

Ratified for the Board of Governors by

President, Society for Conservation Biology

Date