



Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals

Europe Section



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

The **Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)** is an international professional organization dedicated to promoting the scientific study of the phenomena that affect the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity. The **Europe Section** was founded in 2002 and its members are present in 27 countries.

The mission of the Europe Section is to promote conservation biology and its application to conserve Europe's biological diversity.



SCB-ES Board of Directors meeting, Montpellier, France, 2014.

The Section has an international 13 member Board of Directors with President (András Báldi) and task oriented committees including Policy, Education, Communication, Membership and Chapters and Student Affairs Committee.

Would you like to help the Section's work in your country as a National Contact Person?

Join our National Contact Network! Send your application to europe@conbio.org.

SCB-ES TAKES PART ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)



*IPBES is an intergovernmental body making effort for **better linkage between science and policy**. Meetings offer a platform for plenty of scientists, stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental organizations from all over the world, to improve the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services.*

IPBES-1

The first meeting was held in January 2013 in Bonn with an entry of *SCB Message For Better Integration of Important Knowledge Holders*. Delegates from over a 100 countries achieved the election of the IPBES Chair, Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), the adoption of an initial budget, and agreement on steps toward the development of an initial IPBES work programme.



IPBES-2

The second meeting of the Platform's Plenary was held in Antalya, Turkey, in December 2013. Approved work programme, the outline for assessments and their timeline clarified, all helped IPBES to moving forward and executing assessments. SCB-ES members were also elected to take part in the process: András Báldi became a member of the MEP, Bengt-Gunnar Jonsson and Guy Pe'er are involved as observer with other stakeholders from 78 organizations, achieving good representation at the outset.

Board meetings

Two Board meetings were organised in 2013: Rome and Riga. As is now usual, a symposium preceding the Board meetings was organised at the University of Rome and the Faculty of Biology, University of Latvia. The sessions aimed to promote the Section and facilitate networking within the conservation professionals.

Some highlights from the SCB-ES symposia included Bengt-Gunnar Jonsson discussing forest conservation issues in Sweden, while Maria Trivinio de la Cal introduced an ongoing project in Finland connecting ecosystem services, habitat conservation and forest management. Wood pastures, IPBES progress and other hot European conservation issues were also presented with discussions afterwards.

The first board meeting took place in Rome in February 2013.

Current progress and the potential for promoting IPBES and ensuring scientific input were discussed following a report by Bengt-Gunnar Jonsson and Guy Peer (involved in IPBES from SCB-ES).



The second Europe Section Board meeting was held in Riga, Latvia, in October 2013. One of the most important issues was the upcoming joint European and International Congress for Conservation Biology, which will be held in Montpellier in 2015.

ICCB 2013

The 26th International Congress for Conservation Biology in Baltimore (21-25 July 2013) was the second largest global meeting of the SCB with more than 1500 participants. Europe Section presented activities and section issues throughout the Congress, including a members' meeting and chapter introduction.



SCB-ES poster at ICCB, Barbara Mihók SCB-ES coordinator

"Connecting systems, disciplines and stakeholders" was the focal topic of the 26th ICCB with the aim of providing insights to numerous integrating and multi-disciplinary conservation research projects. Symposiums addressed hot topics in conservation such as the potential application of social network analyses in conservation biology, conservation planning, and ecosystem services along with many more subjects covered throughout the congress.



During the meeting Bill Sutherland was awarded the **SCB's Distinguished Service Award**.



Roadfree project (www.roadfree.org)

“It takes just one road to destroy a forest”

The European Parliament has backed two proposals by MEP Kriton Arsenis to take action against the construction of new roads in intact forests.

Nuria Selva and Pierre Ibisch, both members of the Policy Committee of the Europe Section, delivered papers on the European perspective on roadless areas and biodiversity and in a first assessment of the global roadless areas. The presentations were a result of an ongoing cooperation with Google and Kriton Arsenis, Member of the European Parliament.



First results were presented at a transsectional symposium at ICCB 2013 in Baltimore.

East European Regional Consultation on IPBES



Hungary hosted the IPBES East European Official Stakeholder Meeting where two members of the MEP (including SCB-ES president, András Báldi) and two members of the IPBES Bureau were present. Experts and stakeholders from Eastern-European countries compiled a list of comments, suggestions and additional contributions to be channelled into the draft Work Programme 2014-2018 and the stakeholder engagement strategy.

Highlights from the European Section blog entries



Assessing the Natura 2000 network with a common breeding bird survey

Common pastures in Transylvania (Romania)



New means to communicate population risk assessments among scientists and decision-makers

Rewilding abandoned landscapes in Europe

Achieving the convention on biological diversity's goals for plant conservation

Evidence on grassland mappings to support protection of high nature value grasslands in the EU

The **Greek Summer School in Conservation Biology** is organised annually by the University of Ioannina alongside with SCB Europe in Zagori. The Vikos-Aoos National Park is a perfect location to offer the post graduates interesting theoretical presentations, discussions interspersed with practical fieldwork seminars and memorable hiking tours. To be informed of the next Summer School follow our blog or join the student listserv (below).

For Students

Would you like to join the **student listserv**? For joining, visit:

<http://groups.google.com/a/conbio.org/group/SCB-Students/topics>

Student wiki-page – current news and information

<http://scb-students.wikispaces.com>

To be informed of European Conservation activities, news and actual publications visit: **euroconbio.blogspot.com**



Join us on Facebook to be a member of our group with dedicated conservation biologists, post or comment hot conservation publications and discover announcements of postgraduate positions.



27th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) and the 4th European Congress for Conservation Biology (ECCB)

August 2-6 2015, Montpellier - France

Mission Biodiversity: Choosing new paths for conservation



SCB's International and European Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB & ECCB) are the most important international meetings for conservation professionals and students. They are a forum for addressing conservation challenges and for presenting new research and developments in conservation science and practice.



The congress is a collaboration between SCB, Agropolis International and the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB).

The wonderful City of Montpellier is located in south of France between the Mediterranean Sea and several national parks, and is a hotspot of European biodiversity.

**MEET YOU IN
MONTPELLIER!**

For more information visit the
website:

<http://www.iccb-eccb2015.org/>



View of the old city from the top of the venue.

Email: europe@conbio.org

<http://euroconbio.blogspot.com>