



Society for Conservation Biology

OCEANIA SECTION

<http://www.conbio.org/Sections/Australasia>

ABOUT THE OCEANIA SECTION

Our region, with its remarkable diversity and endemism, has five sub-regions, reflecting human cultures and colonisation: Australia, Melanesia, Micronesia, New Zealand and Polynesia. As a regional section, we face a great number of conservation challenges including threats from: feral predators, pests and weeds; climate change; degradation of freshwater ecosystems, over-harvesting; and land-clearing. We have a number of objectives this year that aim to significantly contribute to conservation in the region:

- **Developing policy documents.** The SCB Oceania Board is leading a collective effort to develop a series of policy white papers that will identify the chief conservation concerns in the regions. The papers will elaborate on sensible policies that can be enacted by governments and other stakeholders to overcome these conservation concerns. We aim to get as many local conservation scientists and policy-makers as possible involved with this process. Once we organize a process for this – which will be led by Professor Richard Kingsford (rkingsford@science.unsw.edu.au) – please contribute when the opportunity arises.
- **Spreading conservation news.** We have a general listserve for our section for disseminating conservation-oriented information (i.e. conferences, conservation announcements, news, etc). It's free and to join: just go to <http://list.conbio.org/mailman/listinfo/aa> or send an email with the subject 'help' to aa-request@list.conbio.org.
- **Arranging conservation-oriented conferences.** Oceania will be hosting the 2011 SCB International Congress on Conservation Biology (ICCB). Canterbury University in Christchurch, New Zealand will host this meeting, and sessions will be held at the Christchurch Convention Centre. The dates are 29 November to 2 December 2011, corresponding with springtime in New Zealand. The theme is 'Engaging Society in Conservation' and we look forward to introducing you to the broad range of conservation projects in the beautiful country of Aotearoa, Land of the Long White Cloud. Details are available on the SCB website (www.conbio.org/2011).
- **Partnering with other SCB sections and working groups.** We are always looking at ways to collaborate with other SCB bodies to ensure our mission is accomplished effectively. One example of this is co-hosting the 1st International Marine Conservation Think Tank with the SCB's Marine Section, in Christchurch just prior to the ICCB.
- **Supporting peer-reviewed conservation literature.** We support the regional journal *Pacific Conservation Biology*, which continues to grow in popularity and is an important medium for disseminating research throughout our region. Please see <http://pcb.murdoch.edu.au/> for more details on the journal.
- **Building SCB membership and capacity in the region.** We are working to actively expand membership and increase the exchange of knowledge within our section. Another aim for the year is to continue building capacity and involvement in the Micronesian, Polynesian and Melanesian sub-regions. Join us to help us meet the challenges in our region!
- **New SCB Chapter.** We are setting up a chapter in Wellington, New Zealand. It'll be the first chapter in Oceania. Keep an eye out for more information in SCB newsletters as the chapter develops, or come to the meeting of the Oceania section at Edmonton.

HOW TO JOIN SCB REGIONAL SECTIONS

Current members of the Society for Conservation Biology may join up to two Sections. If you are an SCB member, simply log in via www.conbio.org. From your Member Homepage, look to the bottom left-hand side of the web page. Click the link: "My Section and Working Group Affiliations" and select your Section(s) of choice.

If you are not an SCB member, you can join the Society here, www.conbio.org/join. During the application process, be sure to select the Section(s) you wish to join.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Section's Board of Directors currently comprises:

Name	Portfolio	Country and Institution
James Watson	President	University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland, Australia
Jo Hoare	Secretary	Department of Conservation, Christchurch, New Zealand
Liana Joseph	Treasurer	University of Queensland, St Lucia, Queensland, Australia
Wendy Jackson	Student Representative	Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand
Richard Kingsford	Policy Committee	University of New South Wales, Australia
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James Atherton	Nominations and Audit Committee	Conservation International Pacific Islands Program, Apia, Samoa
Miriam Supuma	Member At Large	Wildlife Conservation Society PNG Country Programme, Papua New Guinea
Carolyn Lundquist	President Elect	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Hamilton, New Zealand
Craig Morley	Conference Officer	Department of Conservation, Dargaville, New Zealand
Edward Narayan	Member At Large	Griffith University, Australia

COUNTRIES IN THE OCEANIA REGION

The Oceania Section strives to promote conservation science and the goals of the Society for Conservation Biology in the following countries:

American Samoa	Nauru	Saipan
Australia	New Caledonia	Samoa
Cook Islands	New Zealand	Solomon Islands
Fiji	Niue	Tokelau
French Polynesia	Norfolk Island	Tonga
Guam	Northern Mariana Islands	Tuvalu
Kiribati	Palau	Vanuatu
Marshall Islands	Papua New Guinea	Wallis and Futuna
Micronesia	Pitcairn Islands	

