



Society for Conservation Biology

Social Science Working Group

ANNUAL REPORT

2006

...strengthening conservation social science and its application to conservation practice...

www.conbio.org/SSWG

Welcome to the first annual report of the Society for Conservation Biology's Social Science Working Group (SCB SSWG)!

The SSWG is a global community of conservation professionals interested in the social dimensions of biodiversity conservation. With 600 members in more than 60 countries, the SSWG is home to a diverse array of social scientists, natural scientists, and conservation practitioners.

Our mission is to strengthen conservation social science and its application to conservation practice. We strive to achieve this mission by advancing the development and dissemination of social scientific knowledge relevant to the conservation of biological diversity, and by fostering the use of social scientific information to resolve conservation problems. Ultimately, we hope to see conservation social science fully integrated within the structure, activities, and membership of SCB; increased social science awareness and capacity among conservation scientists and practitioners; and recognition of the SSWG as the leading organization for integration of social science into the science and practice of biodiversity conservation.



Widespread interest and support for this mission have fueled rapid development of the SSWG. Our origins can be traced to the 2002 SCB meeting in Canterbury, England, where the "People and Conservation" conference theme highlighted the potential and the challenges associated with integrating the social sciences into biodiversity conservation. With encouragement from the SCB Board of Governors and Executive Office, a small group of us began to lay the foundation for an organizational home for social science within SCB. Our goal was to build a community of practice within SCB where (1) social scientists interested in biodiversity conservation could learn from each other; and (2) social scientists, natural scientists, and conservation practitioners could explore key questions and potential solutions.

In 2003, two critical activities led to formal establishment of the SSWG. First, a subset of the Canterbury contingent published an editorial in *Conservation Biology* (17[3]: 649-650), in which we articulated the role of the social sciences in biodiversity conservation and highlighted key actions that SCB, NGOs, and universities could take to mainstream social science into biodiversity conservation. Second, we organized a workshop for the 2003 SCB meeting in Duluth, in which speakers from across the social sciences highlighted the potential for social science to inform conservation practice. Based on positive responses to these two activities, SCB formally established the SSWG in October, 2003.

The SSWG has built upon these early successes to make a significant contribution to conservation social science, SCB, and the broader conservation community. We have facilitated information exchange and learning; developed resources for students, professors, and conservation practitioners; and built capacity through support to developing country professionals and students. Dozens of SSWG members have worked tirelessly to carry out these activities, in collaboration with the SCB leadership, conference organizing committees, other professional societies, and public and private sector partners. Further information can be found throughout this report and on the SSWG website: www.conbio.org/SSWG.

With your help, the SSWG will continue to accomplish great things. Please join us!

Michael B. Mascia, Ph.D.
President
SCB Social Science Working Group

Mission

The mission of the Social Science Working Group (SSWG) is to strengthen conservation social science and its application to conservation practice.

Vision

In five years, we envision:

- conservation social science fully integrated within the structure, activities, and membership of the Society for Conservation Biology;
- increased social science awareness and capacity among conservation scientists and practitioners;
- widespread recognition of the SSWG as the leading organization for integration of social science into the science and practice of biodiversity conservation.

Goals

The SSWG has three principle goals:

1. Advance the development and dissemination of social scientific knowledge relevant to the conservation of biological diversity.
2. Foster the use of social scientific knowledge to resolve conservation problems.
3. Develop and carry out organizational core functions efficiently and effectively.

Advancing knowledge & solving problems

SSWG activities focus on two strategic goals: advancing conservation social science knowledge and using this knowledge to solve conservation problems. In both of these areas, as well as in a variety of core functions, the SSWG Board and its Committees provide direction and leadership. The Program and Education Committees primarily coordinate SSWG efforts to advance scientific knowledge, while the Policy and Conservation Committees primarily focus on solving conservation problems.

To advance conservation social science knowledge, SSWG...

- Organizes symposia, workshops, and short courses at SCB conferences and other professional society meetings (Program Committee).
- Develops resources for conservation social science educators and researchers, including course syllabi and working papers (Education Committee).

To help solve conservation problems, SSWG...

- Develops resource materials and organizes activities to build social science capacity among conservation practitioners and decision-makers (Conservation Committee).
- Aids decision-makers inside and outside of government by providing social science-based briefs, position statements, and other informational materials (Policy Committee).

Committees

The SSWG accomplishes its work through Committees. All Committees grew in 2006, and include members from various countries.

Advancing Knowledge

Program Committee

Richard L. Wallace, Ursinus College, USA (Chair)
Murray Rudd, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada (Vice Chair)
David Cherney, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA
Andrew Millington, Texas A&M University, USA
Angelika Reichmann, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa
Christopher Vaughan, University of Reading, UK

Education Committee

William Forbes, Stephen F. Austin State University USA (Chair)
Stephen A. Williams, Earthwatch Institute, USA (Vice-Chair; Working Paper Series Managing Editor)
Rinku Roy Chowdhury, University of Miami, USA
David Hoffman, University for Peace, Costa Rica (Working Paper Series Associate Editor)
Itaf Hussain, IUCN, Pakistan
Jane Packard, Texas A&M University, USA
Dyana LaRosa, Smithsonian Institute, Panama

Solving Problems

Policy Committee

Jennifer Jones, Boston University, USA (Chair)
Kristen Carden, Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Barend Erasmus, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Conservation Committee

Diane Russell, US Agency for International Development, USA (Chair)
Rodolfo Tello, University of Maryland, USA
Nora Haenn, Arizona State, USA

Core Functions

Communication Committee

Peter Wilshusen, Bucknell University, USA (Chair)
Nejem Raheem, University of New Mexico, USA (Vice Chair)
Sheri Stephanson, Grameen Foundation, USA (website manager)
Nathalie Walker, Greenpeace International, UK (discussion list moderator)
Rodolfo Tello, University of Maryland, USA

Membership Committee

Brian Czech, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USA (Chair)
David Bray, USA
Annie Claus, WWF, USA
Jan van der Ploeg, Philippines
Mark Zegler, U. California-Santa Barbara, USA

Student Affairs Committee

Joshua Drew, Boston University, USA (Chair)
L. Jennifer Shaffer, University of Georgia, USA (Vice Chair)
Kate Bigney, Dalhousie University, Canada
Adam Henne, University of Georgia, USA
Valerie Hickey, Duke University, USA
Shawn W. Margles, Antioch University New England & Antioch New England Institute, USA
David Meek, Antioch University New England, USA
Nejem Raheem, University of New Mexico, USA
Sandra Znajda, Dalhousie University, Canada

Nominations Committee

Katrina Brandon, Conservation International, USA (Chair)

Audit Committee

Carol D. Saunders, Chicago Zoological Society, USA (Chair)
Amara Brook, Santa Clara University, USA
John Fraser, Wildlife Conservation Society, USA

Accomplishments 2003 - 2005

Fully integrate conservation social science within the structure, activities and membership of SCB.

- Adopted formal bylaws to govern SSWG activities (2004, revised 2005).
- Organized 1st annual SSWG business meeting and SSWG social (2004)
- Established interim Board of Directors to govern SSWG affairs (2004)
- Elected SSWG Board and established 9 Committees to coordinate SSWG activities (2005).
- Sponsored SCB membership awards for 12 developing country students (2005)

Increase awareness and capacity among conservation scientists and practitioners.

- Published “Conservation and the Social Sciences” (*Conservation Biology* 17:649-650)
- Organized workshop “Conservation Biology and the Social Sciences: New Possibilities for Collaboration” (2003 SCB Annual Meeting)
- Organized workshop “Challenges and Opportunities for Social Science in Conservation Action” (2004 SCB annual meeting)
- Sponsored 4 developing country participants and 1 graduate student with travel grants to attend the 2005 SCB annual meeting.
- Organized the symposium *Conservation and the Social Sciences: Lessons from the Field*, which featured presentations by the 5 travel grant recipients and others (2005 SCB annual meeting). (see photo to the right)
- Sponsored the workshop *Social Science Tools for Conservation Practitioners: Current Opportunities and Future Directions* (2005 SCB annual meeting).
- Developed Conservation social science “jobs” page on the SSWG website (2005).



Participants in the 2005 SSWG symposium, left to right: **Biatus Bito, PNG**; **Silas Siakor, Liberia**; Adam Tomasek, USA; **Joseph Tanui, Uganda**; Ann Muscat, USA; Mike Mascia, USA; Nick Salafsky, USA; **Nejem Raheem, USA**; AVECITA Chiccon, USA; **Alfonso Gonzalez, Mexico**. (Participants in **bold** received Christensen-supported SSWG travel grants.)

Establish the Social Science Working Group as a primary leader in the advancement of conservation social science knowledge and use of this knowledge to conserve biodiversity.

- Initiated outreach campaign among social scientists.
 - Raised awareness and encouraged involvement in the SSWG at the 2005 annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, American Political Science Association, American Psychological Association, American Sociological Association, and Society for Human Ecology.
 - Raised awareness and encouraged involvement in the SSWG at the European Centre for Nature Conservation workshop “Mobilising the European Social Research Potential in Support of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management” (2005).

2006 Accomplishments

OBJECTIVE 1. Fully integrate conservation social science in the structure, activities and membership of SCB

SCB structure

- Relevant SSWG Committee Chairs became formal liaisons to SCB Conference, Education, and Policy Committees.
- SSWG Board assisted SCB Nominations Committee with efforts to identify potential candidates for SCB leadership positions.
- Developed first annual SSWG work plan to guide SSWG activities.
- Developed first SSWG annual report.

SCB activities

- Developed framework and protocol for conservation social science submissions to SCB conferences (Program Committee).
- Through outreach to conservation social scientists and collaboration with conference organizers, fostered a record level of social science content at 2006 SCB Annual Meeting: four symposia, five workshops, two short courses, and several dozen contributed paper presentations (Program Committee & Board):
- Co-organized a Conservation Psychology Workshop and Conservation Psychology paper session (Psychology representative).
- Established foundation for extensive, high quality conservation social science at SCB 2007 Annual Meeting through outreach to social scientists and collaboration with conference organizers (Program Committee, Board).



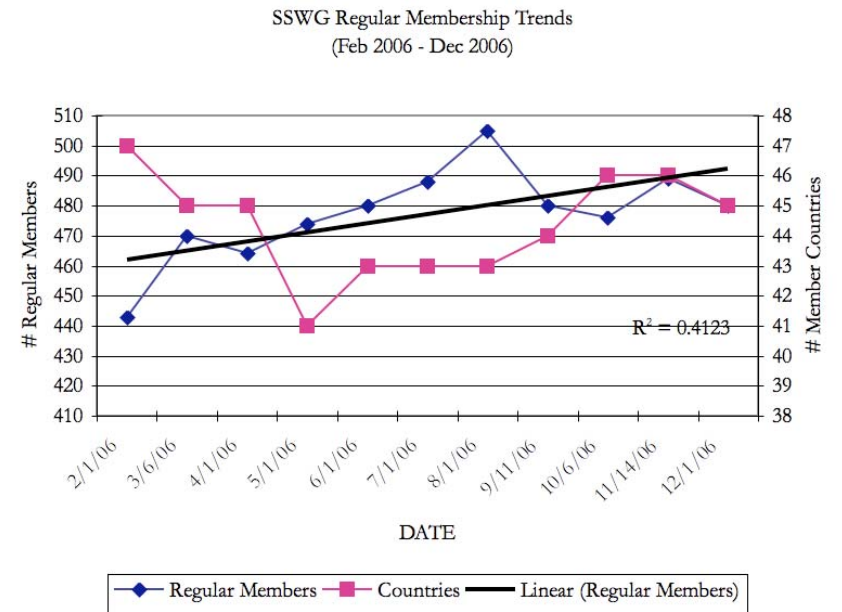
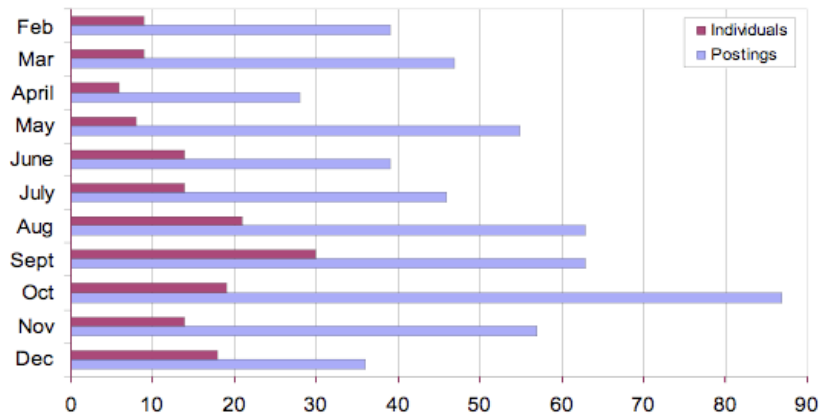
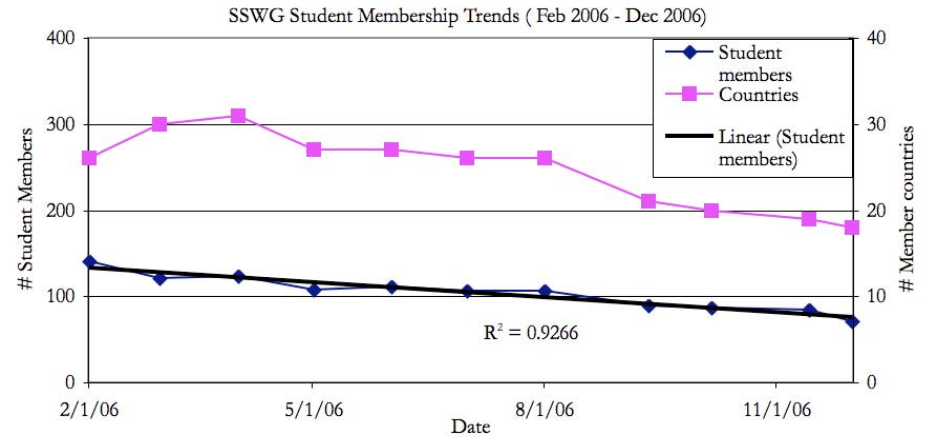
SCB Policy Scientists Symposium Participants (from left to right): David Mattson, SSWG VP and Program Committee Chair Rich Wallace, SSWG member Kate Semmens, SSWG member Murray Rutherford, SSWG Board Member and Communication Committee Chair Peter Wilshusen, and SSWG Program Committee member David Cherney. Rutherford, Wallace, and Wilshusen also sit on the board of the Society of Policy Scientists.

SCB Annual Meeting 2006

For conference participants, conservation social science was one of the highlights of the 2006 SCB meeting. In response to the open-ended question, "What did you like best about the 2006 meeting?", social science was one of three most common responses (8%; 26 of 330).

SCB Membership

- SSWG membership levels grew and stabilized at 550-620 members.
- The SSWG email discussion list grew by 70%, to nearly 540 members.
- Based on discussions with SSWG Board, SCB Africa Section established Social Science and Gender Committee as locus for social scientists in the Section.



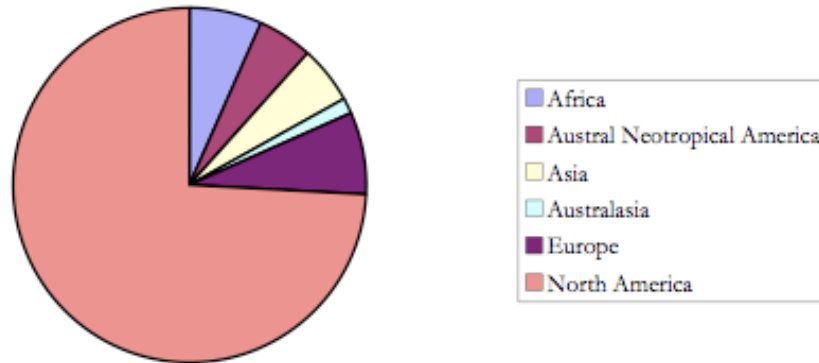
SSWG Discussion List. Number of individuals posting & postings per month for 2006.

SSWG Membership by Country

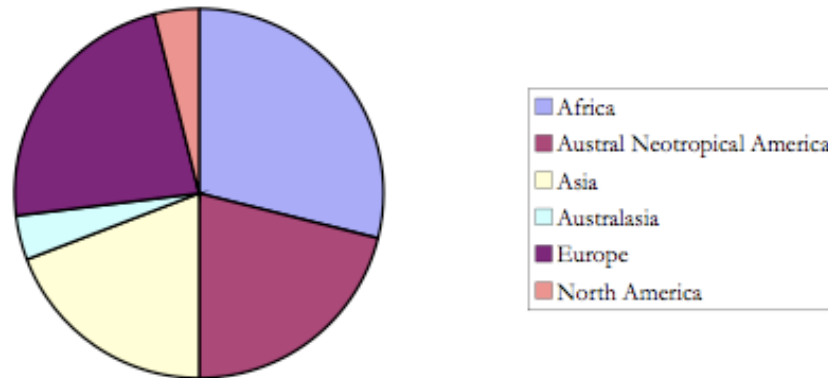
Country	No. Members
United States of America	388
Canada	20
United Kingdom	17
Kenya	8
Mexico	8
South Africa	7
Tanzania	7
India	6
Bolivia	5
Other *	85

* See sidebar for countries with four members or less

SSWG FEB 2007 Membership Representation Per Georegion



SSWG FEB 2007 Member Country Representation Per Georegion



Countries with 4 members

Argentina
Australia
Peoples Republic of China
France
Italy
Japan
Turkey

Countries with 3 Members

Ecuador
Germany
Namibia
Philippines
Thailand

Countries with 2 Members

Hungary
Madagascar
New Zealand
Sierra Leone
Sweden
Switzerland
Uganda

Countries with 1 Member

Bangladesh
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Chile
Colombia
Croatia
Denmark
Finland
Guatamala
Honduras
Ireland
Malawi
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Peru
Portugal
Rwanda
Sudan
Taiwan
Trinidad & Tobago
Uruguay
Zambia
Zimbabwe

OBJECTIVE 2. Increase awareness and capacity among conservation scientists and practitioners.

Online Resources

- Re-launched the SSWG website (Communications Committee).
- Launched the online Catalog of Conservation Social Science Tools (www.conbio.org/workinggroups/sswg/catalog/index.cfm), which brings together key resources in social science for conservation practitioners (Conservation Committee).
- Developed a compendium of conservation social science syllabi as an academic resource (Education Committee).
- Developed graduate student guidebook for students doing work in trans-disciplinary conservation (www.conbio.org/workinggroups/SSWG/toolkit/index.cfm) (Student Affairs Committee).
- Developed framework for a Working Paper Series to highlight case studies demonstrating exemplary use of social science in conservation (Education Committee).

Publications

- “Conservation Biology and Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Integrating Academic Disciplines for Better Conservation Practice” *Ecology and Society* 11(2):34 (Student Affairs Committee).
- “Using psychology to save biodiversity and human well-being” *Conservation Biology* 20 (3): 702-705 (Audit Committee)
- “Conservation Social Science: What’s in the black box?” *Society for Conservation Biology newsletter* 13(2)(SSWG Board)
- Drafted manuscript “A tool-kit for graduate students working in transdisciplinary conservation: letters from the field” (Student Affairs Committee).

Learning Forums

- Sponsored large-scale sessions discussing the contributions of several social science disciplines to biodiversity conservation, including psychology, applied economics, and the policy sciences, at 2006 SCB annual meeting.
- Established foundation for capacity-building at SCB 2007 by helping to organize two short courses, in collaboration with Colorado State University, Global Biodiversity Foundation, and the University of Florida (Conservation Committee, Board).
- Organized panel discussion “Resolving Conservation Issues with Social Science” at the 2006 Association of American Geographers national meeting (Geography Representative).
- Organized three-part session on “Poverty and conservation” for the 2007 Association of American Geographers national meeting (Education Committee).
- Co-sponsored workshop “Methods for Assessing Benefits and Costs of Protected Areas” (with The Nature Conservancy; October 12, 2006).

Honors

- Silas Siakor of Liberia, who received a 2005 SSWG travel grant, won the 2006 Goldman Prize for Africa.

OBJECTIVE 3. Establish the Social Science Working Group as a primary leader in the advancement of conservation social science knowledge and use of this knowledge to conserve biodiversity.

Outreach

- Raised awareness and encouraged involvement in the SSWG at the 2006 meetings of the American Anthropological Association, American Association of Geographers, Society for Applied Anthropology, International Association for the Study of the Commons, International Association for Society and Natural Resources, and the SCB European Section.
- Raised awareness and encouraged involvement in the SSWG at the Nature Conservancy's Conservation Strategy Conference.
- Led the push for integration of social and natural sciences in conservation within SCB.

Collaboration

- Began collaborating with several social science professional organizations and communities, including:
 - American Society for Environmental History
 - Association of American Geographers
 - International Association for Society and Natural Resources
 - Human dimensions of fish and wildlife community
 - Society of Policy Scientists
 - U.S. Society for Ecological Economics
 - Conservation psychology community

Recognition

- Many collaborating groups initiated discussions with the SSWG Board, suggesting that emerging recognition of SSWG's leadership in conservation social science (Program Committee, Board).
- SSWG was independently referenced in the scientific literature as a leading example of efforts to integrate social science into biodiversity conversation:
 - An Anthropological Perspective on Some Unexpected Consequences of Protected Areas: Paige West, Dan Brockington CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, 20 (3): 609-616 JUNE 2006
 - Causal explanation of Indonesian forest fires: Concepts, applications, and research priorities: Vayda AP HUMAN ECOLOGY 34 (5): 615-635 OCT 2006
 - Perceived barriers to integrating social science and conservation: Fox HE, Christian C, Nordby JC, Pergams ORW, Peterson GD, Pyke CR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY 20 (6): 1817-1820 DEC 2006
- The numerous publications and online resources described under Objective 2 illustrate the SSWG's growing leadership in integrating the social science into the science and practice of biodiversity conservation.

Financial Report

In 2004, the Social Science Working Group received initial start-up funding of \$12,000 to underwrite the efforts of establishing a commitment to the social sciences within SCB. These funds, provided through grants from the Christensen Fund, have been used to encourage attendance at SCB conferences and for developing country student memberships.

The account is managed in a sub-account by the Society for Conservation Biology and disbursed as instructed by the SSWG. The SSWG Audit committee has conducted an analysis of the spending from this account and has confirmed that the moneys in the account, as of December 31st, 2006, were disbursed as follows:

1. \$12,000.00 granted in 2004
Disbursed as \$6000.00 in 2004 and \$6000.00 in 2005
2. \$2500.00 granted in 2006 for 2006 SCB meeting symposium expenses

This is a total funding through 12/31/06 of \$14,500.00.

Expenditures allocated by SSWG from the account are as follows:

1. In 2005, SSWG awarded \$9708.19 in travel grants to four developing country conservation professionals and one student to participate in the 2005 SCB annual meeting, as a result of an SSWG-sponsored competition. However, SCB has so far been unable to confirm whether \$198.00 of this money was paid out.
2. In 2005, SSWG awarded 11 student memberships in SCB valued at \$434.00, as a result of an SSWG-sponsored competition. These students had both interest and experience in the application of social science to biodiversity conservation. However, SCB has so far been unable to confirm whether \$67.00 of this money was paid out.
3. SCB has so far been unable to confirm what portion, if any, of the \$2500 granted for symposium expenses was paid out.

Income/Expense

Income		
Grants	14,500.00	
Total Income	14,500.00	
Expense	Resolved	Unresolved
Subscriptions	367.00	67.00
Travel Awards	9,510.19	198.00
Symposium	0	2500.00
Total Expense	9,877.19	2765.00
Balances	Minimum	Maximum
	1,857.81	4,622.81

The Audit Committee reviewed the finances and agreed with the CFO that discrepancies exist between the SSWG records and those of the SCB office. At the time of this report, those inconsistencies are unresolved and await the final SCB audit, which was forthcoming at the time of publication of this report.

In the interim, actual outflows are unknown, as \$2,765.00 in expenses are unresolved. The possible range of SSWG total outflows through 12/31/06 is \$9,877.19 to \$12,642.19. The possible range of SSWG total balances as of 12/31/06 is \$1,857.81 to \$4,622.81.

Oliver Pergams, Ph.D.
Chief Financial Officer

Carol Saunders, Ph.D.
Chair, Audit Committee

April 3, 2007

Contributions

The SSWG is immensely grateful to the individuals and organizations that provided direct support to the SSWG, as well as financial and in-kind contributions that supported SSWG activities through support to individual SSWG Board and Committee members.

Direct SSWG support

The Christensen Fund

Direct Support to SSWG Board members

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

In-kind support

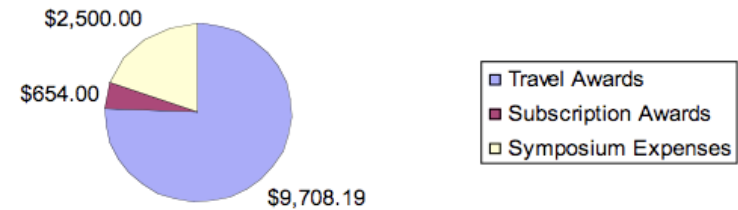
Organizations:

Bucknell University
Chicago Zoological Society
Conservation International
The Nature Conservancy
Santa Clara University
SCB - Executive Office
Society of Policy Scientists
Stephen F. Austin State University
University of New Mexico
Ursinus College
Wildlife Conservation Society
World Wildlife Fund

Individuals

Danielle Mota (SCB)
Nasser Olwero (WWF-US)
Luis Pabon (TNC)
Kat Powers (SCB)
Diane Querey (WWF-US)

SSWG Outflows Through 12/31/06



The Social Science Working Group Board

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