



Society for Conservation Biology

Society for Conservation Biology  
Social Science Working Group

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2007**

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

[www.conservationbiology.org/SSWG](http://www.conservationbiology.org/SSWG)

**In 2007**, the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) held its annual meeting in Africa for the first time.

Capitalizing upon this opportunity, SCB Social Science Working Group (SSWG) efforts in 2007 focused on the science and practice of conservation in Africa. To advance conservation social science, we solicited, reviewed, and sponsored symposia, workshops, and individual papers for the annual meeting in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. We also sponsored short courses for conservation practitioners and provided SCB memberships to social scientists across the continent, building social science capacity and facilitating the application of social science to conservation problems. Through these efforts – and very popular “social” sponsored by SSWG and the SCB Africa Section – conservation scholars and practitioners had the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and build productive working relationships.



In addition to these geographically focused efforts, we made strategic investments to expand, diversify, and engage our membership – and thereby increase the scale and scope of our impact. Through sponsored memberships, scientific symposia, and volunteer Ambassadors, we extended our reach to increasing numbers of students, scholars, and practitioners around the world.

Through these activities, we made clear strides in 2007 towards our vision of SCB integration, enhanced social science capacity, and recognition as a leader in the field. The interdisciplinary scientific program at the 2007 annual meeting; establishment of a Gender and Social Science working group within the Africa Section; and the increasing number of social scientists looking to SCB as a forum for dialogue and debate are all testament to the success of SSWG efforts.

At the same time, however, much work remains to be done to further strengthen social science and its application to biodiversity conservation. As we enter our 5<sup>th</sup> year, and reach the halfway mark on the SSWG vision we crafted in 2005, it is time both to reflect and to look forward. Accordingly, we will proceed on two parallel tracks in 2008: while continuing to move forward with previously identified critical activities, we will also initiate a strategic planning process to review our progress to date and to guide us for next five years.

Thanks in advance for helping to craft our vision for the future – and for making this vision a reality!



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

## Mission

The mission of the Social Science Working Groups is to strengthen conservation social science and its application to conservation practice.

## Vision

By 2010, we envision

- conservation social science fully integrated within the structure, activities and membership of SCB
- 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 principal 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

## HIGHLIGHTS for 2007

*SSWG accomplishments in 2007 include:*

- Ensuring a prominent role for social science at the 2007 Society for Conservation Biology annual meeting in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, including 11 symposia, 2 workshops, 2 short courses, and several dozen contributed papers and posters.
- Sponsoring and co-sponsoring numerous symposia, workshops, short courses, and lectures. Collaborators included The Global Diversity Foundation, American Association of Geographers, World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.
- Launching an Ambassadors program to expand, diversify, and engage membership.
- Awarding 8 multi-year fellowships to early career African social scientists, with support from the Christensen Fund.
- Granting an additional 37 SCB memberships to developing country social scientists, with support from The Nature Conservancy.
- Launching an online Working Paper Series to highlight application of social science to conservation practice.
- Increasing membership by 20% and member country diversity by 39%.



Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Photo by Tara Teel

## Program Committee

To promote SSWG's goal of strengthening conservation social science and its application to conservation practice, the SSWG Program Committee creates and implements strategies for integrating social and natural science information and expertise within SCB, between SCB and other professional societies, and in the published conservation literature.

### Members

Richard L. Wallace (Chair; Ursinus College, USA)  
Murray Rudd (Vice Chair; Memorial Univ. of Newfoundland, Canada)  
David Cherney (Univ. Colorado-Boulder, USA)  
Kathryn Semmens (Univ. of Delaware, USA)  
Ashley Schafer (Ursinus College, USA)

### 2007 Accomplishments

- Organized social science papers, sessions, symposia, workshops, networking event, and other forums at the 2007 SCB annual meeting in Port Elizabeth, South Africa
- Solicited, proposed and reviewed social science sessions and individual presentations for the local organizing committee for the 2008 SCB annual meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Reviewed all social science papers published in *Conservation Biology*, in preparation for a "best of" compilation and a proposal to include *Conservation Biology* in the Social Science Citation Index
- Worked with the Human Dimensions of Wildlife community to foster substantive collaboration with SCB



SSWG business meeting in South Africa 2007. Photo by Daniel Miller

## Education Committee

To advance conservation social science knowledge, the SSWG Education Committee supports academics through forums and mechanisms for information exchange and learning with SCB, with other professional societies, and with n SCB journals.

### Members

David M. Hoffman (Chair; University for Peace, Costa Rica)<sup>1</sup>  
Rinku Roy Chowdhury (University of Miami; USA)  
Jane Packard (Texas A&M University; USA)  
Altaf Hussain (IUCN; Pakistan)  
Dyana LaRosa (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute; Panama)

### 2007 Accomplishments

- Initiated Working Paper Series
- Updated online compilation of Conservation Social Science syllabi
- Organized short courses at the 2007 SCB annual meeting



Wildlife in Kruger National Park. Photo by Tara Teel

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<sup>1</sup> Current affiliation: Mississippi State University.



## Conservation Committee

To help solve conservation problems, the SSWG Conservation Committee develops resource materials and conducts activities to build social science capacity among conservation practitioners. Current efforts focus on outreach in the form of (a) the compilation and dissemination of conservation social science tools and (b) provision of training for conservation professionals.

### Members

Tara Teel (Chair; Colorado State University, USA)  
Diane Russell (Vice-Chair, U.S. Agency for International Development, USA)  
Rodolfo Tello (American University, USA)  
Shannon Earle (Conservation International, USA)  
Nora Haenn (North Carolina State University, USA)

### 2007 Accomplishments

- Re-launched and updated the online Catalog of Conservation Social Science Tools
- Co-sponsored and organized a 1-day short course *What Do the Social Sciences Have to Offer? Multiple Social Science Perspectives for Conservation Planning* with Colorado State University. Course was held in conjunction with the SCB 2007 annual meeting
- Planned a roundtable on conservation social science at USAID headquarters in Washington, D.C.
- Initiated planning for a 4-day social science short course at SCB 2008 annual meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee



Short course participants: Sita Zougouri, Daniella Mota and Solange Bandiaky. Courtesy of Solange Bandiaky

## Policy Committee

To help solve conservation problems, the SSWG Policy Committee develops resource materials - - scientific briefs, position statements, and other informational materials -- to aid conservation decision-makers inside and outside of government. Consistent with the SCB Policy on Policy, activities focus on two general policy arenas:

1. Policy interventions introducing scientific knowledge and methodology into conservation policy.
2. Policy interventions advocating specific conservation actions by governments or other major institutions.

### Members

Jennifer Jones (chair)  
Dan Brockington  
Barend Erasmus  
Kristin Carden

### 2007 Accomplishments

- The SSWG Policy Committee was dormant in 2007, while focused instead on other strategic activities.



SSWG-Africa Section social. Africa Section President Delali Dovie (second from left) welcoming everyone.  
Photo courtesy of Michael Mascia.



## Communication Committee

To ensure that the SSWG functions effectively and efficiently, the Communications Committee coordinates SSWG general communication efforts. Current activities focus on the SSWG website, email discussion list, and updates to the SCB newsletter.

### Members

Angelika Wilhelm-Rechmann (Chair; Nelson Mandela Memorial University, S. Africa)  
Nejem Raheem (Vice-Chair, newsletter; University of New Mexico, USA)  
Sheri Stephanson (webmaster; WWF, USA)  
Rodolfo Tello (web development; American University, USA)  
Nathalie Walker (discussion list moderator; Consultant, UK)  
Danielle Mota (SSWG jobs website; SCB, Brazil)

### 2007 Accomplishments

- Updated and expanded website
- Maintained growing and increasingly active email discussion list
- Produced and disseminated SSWG newsletters



SSWG members organized a workshop on gender and conservation at SCB 2007. Courtesy of Solange Bandiaky

## Membership Committee

To ensure that the SSWG functions effectively and efficiently, the Membership Committee coordinates general SSWG membership activities. Current efforts focus on membership growth and diversification, as well as the development of a directory for SSWG members and other conservation social scientists.

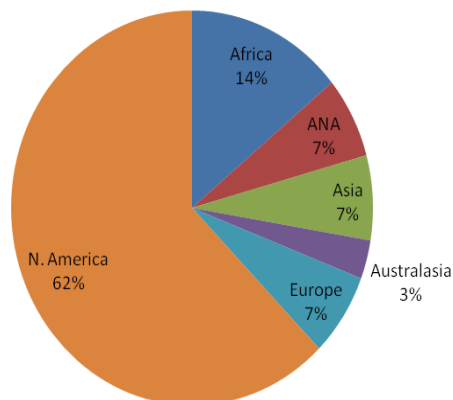
### Members

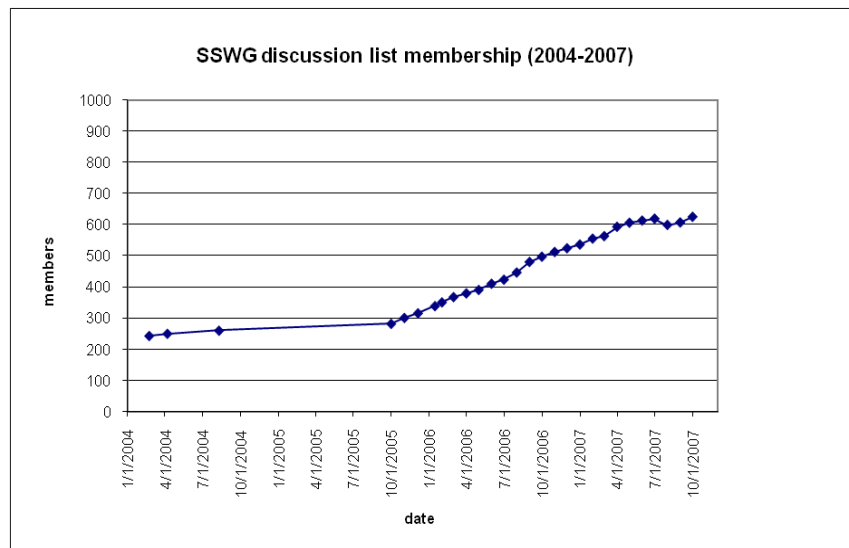
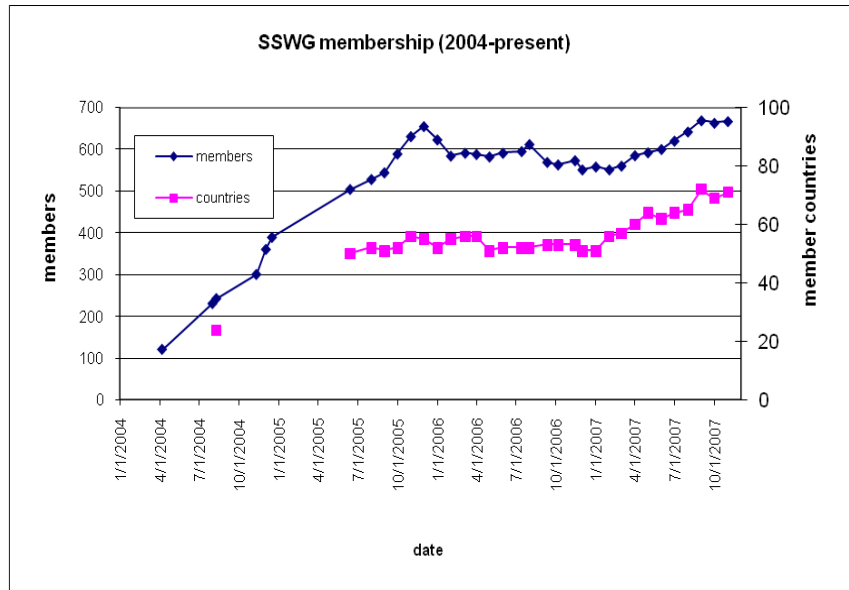
Brian Czech (Chair; US Fish & Wildlife Service, USA)  
Annie Claus (Coordinator, Ambassador Program; WWF, USA)  
Chris Robinson (Clarkson University, USA)  
Mark Zegler (U. California-Santa Barbara)  
David Bray (Florida International University)  
Jan van der Ploeg (University of Leiden, Netherlands)

### 2007 Accomplishments

- Increased membership by 20%
- Increased member countries by 39%
- Launched SSWG Ambassadors program

SSWG membership 2007





Elephant in Addo National Park. Photo by Tara Teel

## Student Affairs Committee

The Student Affairs Committee represents student interests and coordinates SSWG activities designed to meet student needs. Current activities focus on expanding and diversifying student membership, providing incentives to African students to promote membership and active involvement, and developing a student authored peer-reviewed manuscript.

### Members

Josh Drew (Chair; Boston University, USA)  
Jen Shaffer (Vice-Chair; University of Georgia)  
Oliver Pergams (U. of Illinois-Chicago, USA)  
Valerie Hickey (Duke University, USA)  
Sandra Znajda (Dalhousie University, USA)  
Shawn Margles (Antioch University of New England; USA)

### 2007 Accomplishments

- Based on SSWG Grad Student Guidebook, authored and submitted for publication a manuscript to provide early-career professionals with advice about working across disciplinary boundaries.
- Organized an “Ubuntu” discussion for the 2008 American Museum of Natural History symposium *Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World: Lessons for Global Policy*, providing an open forum for young conservation practitioners to learn about the SSWG’s activities as well as highlight some of our most recent successes.
- Awarded 8 Fellowships to early career African conservation social scientists (SCB membership, hard copy journals, small stipend), with financial support from The Christensen Fund
- Awarded 37 SCB memberships to early career conservation social scientists, with support from The Nature Conservancy

## Nominations Committee

To ensure that the SSWG functions effectively and efficiently, the Nominations Committee coordinates SSWG activities associated with SSWG and SCB elections. Current activities focus on identifying candidates for the SSWG Board.

### Members

Bill Forbes (Chair, Stephen F. Austin University, USA)  
Katrina Brandon (Conservation International, Argentina)  
Nejem Raheem (University of New Mexico, USA)  
Diane Russell (U.S. Agency for International Development, USA)  
Peter Wilshusen (Bucknell University, USA)

### 2007 Accomplishments

The Nominations Committee organized nominations and elections based on discipline-specific positions on the Board. Each discipline-specific Board position also involves chairing a committee to carry out Working Group goals. The Nominations Committee organized and facilitated elections for seven of the ten positions on the Board of the Social Science Working Group.

### 2007 Election Results:

<i>Anthropology Representative:</i>	David Hoffman (July 2007 to July 2009)
<i>Geography Representative:</i>	William Forbes (July 2007 to July 2009)
<i>Political Science Representative:</i>	Daniel Miller (July 2007 to July 2008) <sup>2</sup>
<i>Psychology Representative:</i>	Tara Teel (July 2007 to July 2009)
<i>Sociology Representative:</i>	Tammy Lewis (July 2007 to July 2009)
<i>At-large Representative:</i>	Richard Wallace (July 2007 to July 2009)
<i>At-large Representative:</i>	Angelika Wilhelm-Rechmann (July 2007 to July 2009)

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<sup>2</sup> Won special election to finish the term for Michael Mascia, who resigned his seat as Political Science representative to the SSWG Board after being elected Social Science Representative to the SCB Board of Governors. The Social Science representative to SCB Board is automatically a member of the SSWG Board.



## Audit Committee

The Audit Committee coordinates internal oversight of SSWG accounting and financial reporting processes and audits the SSWG's financial statements. The Audit Committee also audits progress toward SSWG goals by producing an annual report for the year.

### Members

Tammy Lewis (Chair; Muhlenberg College, USA)

Christie Manning (Hamline University, USA)

Beth Caniglia (Oklahoma State U.; USA)

### Financial Report

The 2006 Social Science Working Group's Financial Report indicated \$2765 in unresolved expenses. Based on these expenses, the 2006 Audit Committee reported that the final balance for the year could be a minimum of \$1,857.81 and a maximum of \$4,622.81. The expenses were resolved with the Society for Conservation Biology and in January 2007, the SSWG began the year with a balance of \$4,622.81.

**Opening balance: January 1, 2007 = \$4622.81**

#### Income

Yearly section support	\$1000
Christiansen Grant	\$1500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

#### Expenses

Fellowship awards	\$1000
Listserv operating costs	\$120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,120</b>

**Closing balance: December 31, 2007 = \$6002.81**

The SSWG account is managed in a sub-account by the Society for Conservation Biology and disbursed as instructed by the SSWG. The SSWG Audit Chair, in consultation with the SSWG President and the SSWG Chief Financial Officer, has conducted an analysis of the spending from this account, and has confirmed that the moneys in the account, as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007, were as follows: \$6,002.81. This is consistent with the report from the SCB office.

Through the audit process, we have determined a few procedures that will make it easier for the SSWG Board to be aware of what the SSWG has received, spent, and its outstanding obligations. The CFO will track of SSWG's finances in a spreadsheet that SSWG manages independently of SCB and the CFO will circulate financials to the SSWG Board prior to each conference call.

William Forbes, Ph.D.  
Chief Financial Officer

Tammy L. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Chair, Audit Committee

December 11, 2008



From the campus of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, where the 2007 conference was held and part of which is a nature reserve. Photo by Daniel Miller

## Contributions 2007

The SSWG is again 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  
The Nature Conservancy

### Direct Support to SSWG Board Members

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

### In-kind Support

#### Organizations:

Boston University  
Colorado State University  
Muhlenberg College  
University for Peace  
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University  
SCB-Executive Office  
Stephen F. Austin University  
University of Michigan  
Ursinus College  
World Wildlife Fund

#### Individuals:

Danielle Mota (SCB)

## SSWG Ambassadors 2007

### Africa

Alais Lendii (Tanzania)  
Angelika Rechmann (South Africa)  
Cecililia Lukindo (Tanzania)  
Charles Efuetakoa (South Africa)  
Cosmas Kombat (Ghana)  
Folaranmi Babalola (Nigeria)  
Jen Schaffer (Mozambique)  
Martin Adeimile (Tanzania)  
Oliver Njounan Tegomo (Cameroon)  
Solange Bondiakry (Senegal)  
Wafae Benhardouze (Morocco)  
William Apollinaire (Rwanda)

### Asia

B.K. Dalit (Nepal)  
Mukti Roy (India)

### Australasia

Amy Fletcher (New Zealand)

### Austral and Neotropical America

*None*

### Europe

*None*

### North America

Joleen Timko (Canada)



From the campus of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, where the 2007 conference was held and part of which is a nature reserve. Photo by Daniel Miller

## The Social Science Working Group Board 2007

President	Mike Mascia (michael.mascia@wwfus.org)
Vice-President	Rich Wallace (rwallace@ursinus.edu)
Secretary	Dan Miller (dcmlle@umich.edu)
Chief Financial Officer	Bill Forbes (forbesw@sfasu.edu)
Audit Committee	Tammy Lewis (Tammy.Lewis@gw.muhlenberg.edu)
Communication Committee	Angelika Wilhelm-Rechmann (a.rechmann@mweb.co.za)
Conservation Committee	Tara Teel (tteel@lamar.colostate.edu)
Education Committee	David Hoffman (DHoffman@anthro.msstate.edu)
Membership Committee	Brian Czech (brianczech@juno.com)
Nominations Committee	Bill Forbes (forbesw@sfasu.edu)
Policy Committee	Jennifer Jones (jenleejones@gmail.com)
Program Committee	Rich Wallace (rwallace@ursinus.edu)
Student Affairs Committee	Josh Drew (jdrew@bu.edu)



From the campus of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, where the 2007 conference was held and part of which is a nature reserve. Photo by Daniel Miller