



Society for Conservation Biology

Social Science Working Group

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

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

www.conservationbiology.org/SSWG

Mission

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

Vision

By 2014, we seek to:

- Resolve key scientific debates in conservation policy;
- Establish a vibrant global community of conservation social scientists; and
- Catalyze development of the next generation of leaders in conservation social science.

Goals

We seek to realize this vision through continuous progress toward five goals:

1. *Science.* Advance scientific understanding of conservation as a social process.
2. *Policy.* Inform conservation decision-making through scientific dialogue and stakeholder engagement.
3. *Capacity-building.* Enhance the ability of scholars and practitioners to understand and address the social dimensions of biodiversity conservation.
4. *Membership.* Expand, diversify, and engage the SSWG membership.
5. *Organizational development.* Increase the capacity of the SSWG to achieve its mission.

GOALS 1 & 2: Science & Policy. Advance scientific understanding of conservation as a social process; and inform conservation decision-making through scientific dialogue and stakeholder engagement.

2010 Accomplishments

SCB Conference Activities

- Assisted Local Organizing Committee and SCB's Executive Office with preparations for 2010 SCB annual meeting in Edmonton; assisted with reviews of abstracts and session proposals and helped promote social science content at the meeting.
- SSWG activities at SCB 2010 included:
 - Led and co-sponsored several social science events:
 - 2 short courses
 - 1 workshop
 - 2 symposia
 - Contributed presentations and posters
 - Participated in a conservation science-policy roundtable event, led by SCB Section and Working Group Presidents.
- Assisted SCB Marine Section and organizing committee with promotion and planning of 2nd International Marine Conservation Congress, scheduled for 2011 in Victoria, BC.
- Began planning for SCB 2011 with Local Organizing Committee and SCB's Executive Office.

conjunction with SCB 2010 and will result in a “best practices and lessons learned” document on collaborating with Aboriginal peoples on conservation projects.

- Continued to collaborate with SCB North America Section and other partners on “100 Questions” exercises to identify conservation research priorities in Canada and the U.S., with financial support from SSHRC Canada (\$51,000) and the Kresge Foundation (\$176,073).

Journals & Publications

- Co-authored papers released in a conservation social science virtual issue of *Conservation Biology*.
- Co-authored articles stemming from “100 Questions” exercises to appear in *Conservation Biology*, *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, and *Bioscience* in 2011.
- SSWG board members served on the editorial board for *Conservation Biology* and *Conservation Letters*, assisting the journals with their efforts to ensure quality social science content.

Identifying Policy-Relevant Issues & Research Priorities

- Partnered on the initiative *Conservation and Collaboration with Aboriginal Peoples: Best Practices and Lessons Learned* (\$85,000 awarded by SSHRC Canada). Funding brought 29 Canadian Aboriginal representatives and scientists to a workshop held in

GOAL 3: Capacity building. Enhance the ability of scholars and practitioners to understand and address the social dimensions of biodiversity conservation.

2010 Accomplishments

Trainings, Special Sessions, & Other Capacity Building Efforts

- Partnered with Colorado State University and Wildlife Institute of India to offer a 2-week training program for Indian Forest Service Officers entitled *Enhancing Protected Area Management Effectiveness and Response to Human-Wildlife Conflict in and around Protected Areas*. Supported by a grant from the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (\$95,350), 32 officers attended the program (Fort Collins, CO, March 2010) which emphasized principles of protected area management, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and conservation social science.
- Organized three paper sessions and a panel discussion on *Biodiversity, Livelihoods, and Conservation: Emerging Trends, Challenges, and Responses* at the Association of American Geographers annual conference (Washington DC, April 2010).
- Delivered two 1-day short courses, providing training in social science concepts and techniques to more than 40 conservation scientists and practitioners at SCB 2010: *The Role of the Social Sciences in Conservation Planning and Methods for Applying Social Science to Understand Conservation Problems*.
- Offered 1-day workshop *Conservation in a Rapidly Changing World: Revitalizing Paradigms and Practice* at SCB 2010. Workshop participants explored practical methods of overcoming the limitations of scientific management and the narrow disciplinary confines present in many conservation science programs.
- Co-sponsored two symposia at SCB 2010: *Conservation Design for Human Beings: Agency, Identity, and Successful Institutions* and *The*

Promises and Perils of Paying for Conservation in a Changing World (two-part symposium). Content from the latter symposium on conservation finance was featured in *Nature* and *The New Scientist* as a follow-up to the session.

- Served on the planning committee for the 2010 conference *Pathways to Success: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fisheries and Wildlife Management* (Estes Park, CO, October 2010).
- Co-hosted 3-day workshop *Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conservation in India* (Kanha Tiger Reserve, India, December 2010), with a particular focus on understanding the impacts of conservation-induced displacement and identifying needs for future capacity building initiatives around this topic. The workshop was supported by a grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$45,256), with matching funds from the Wildlife Institute of India (\$42,316).

Resources

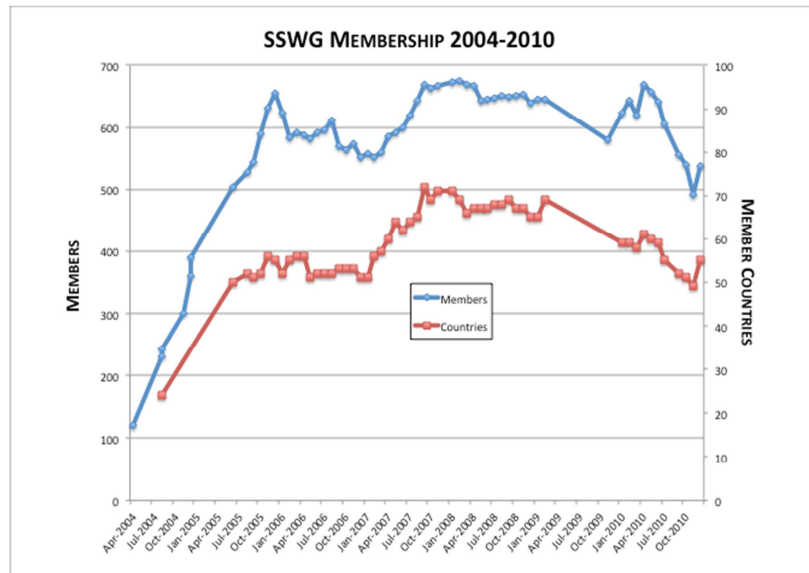
- Released second paper in the SSWG Working Paper series, *Taking Emigration and Remittances into Account in Watershed Management* (C. Taylor): <http://www.conbio.org/workinggroups/sswg/ResPapers.cfm>
- Continued to maintain conservation social science Expert Directory (n=182 registrants, 13% increase from 2009).
- Also continued to maintain and add content to Conservation Social Science Syllabi (n=45 syllabi available online).

GOAL 4: Membership. Expand, diversify, and engage the SSWG membership.

2010 Trends and Accomplishments

Membership Trends¹

- Experienced a slight decline in overall membership (n=537).
- Country representation also declined slightly from 2009 (n=55).



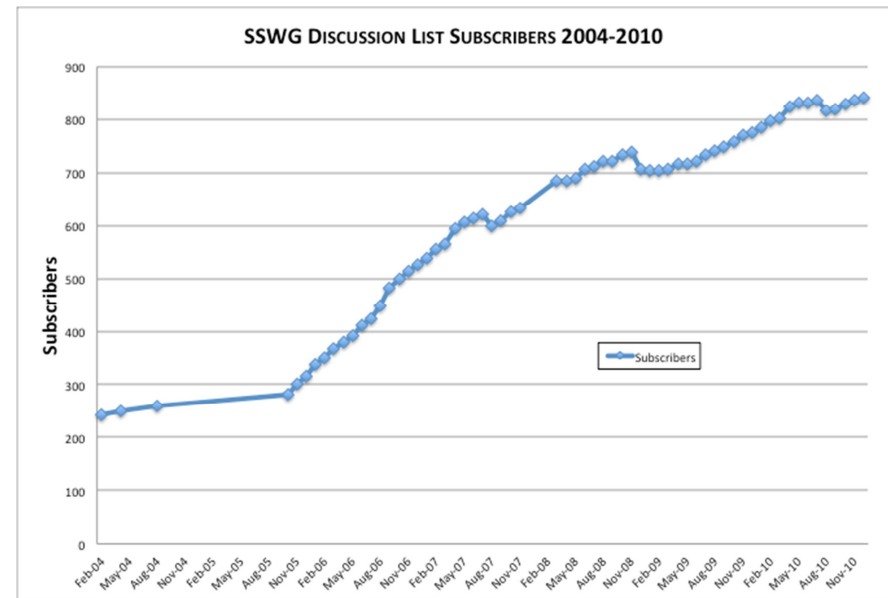
¹Note: detailed reporting was not available throughout 2009 due to the transition in the SCB membership system.

Activities

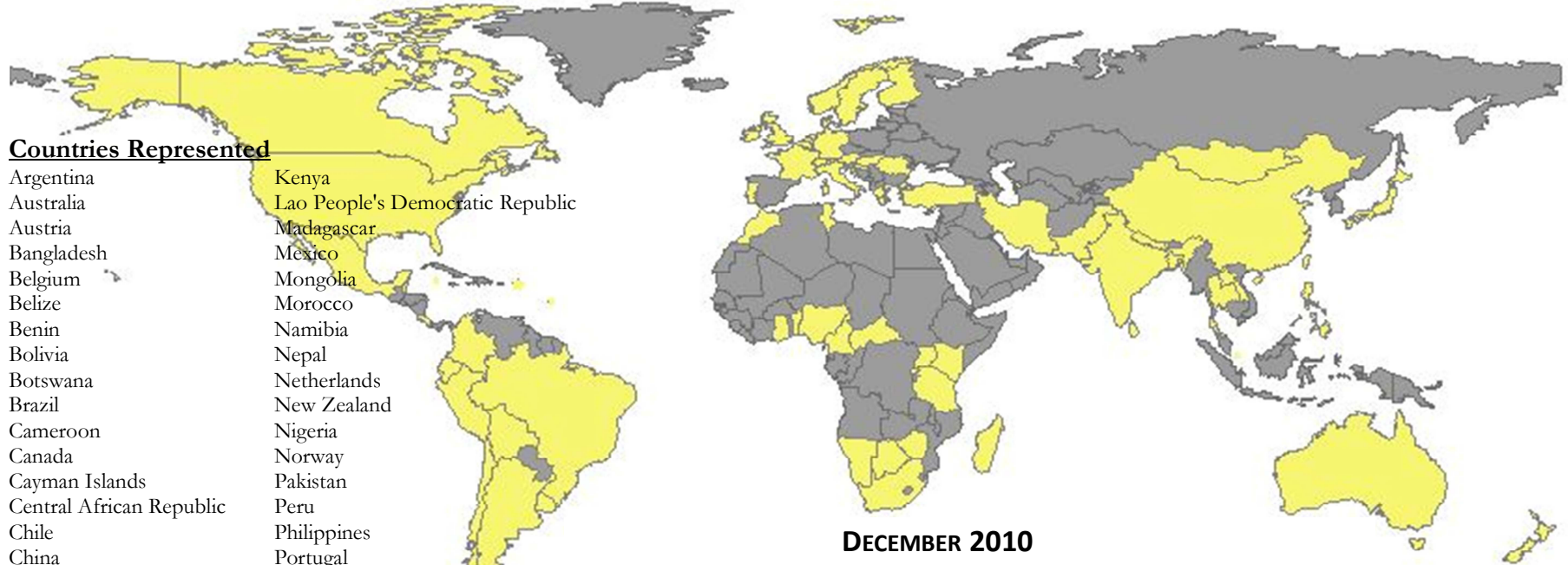
- Continued to maintain an active discussion list, with a 9% increase in membership (n=841).
- Continued to manage and promote new networking opportunities on Facebook (n=286 fans, up 100% from 2009)

and Twitter (n=130 followers, 165% increase), allowing members to keep up-to-date with conservation social science news, SSWG activities, and conference events.

- Launched a listserv for the SSWG Ambassadors program to enhance communication among Ambassadors (n=25) from countries around the world who serve to disseminate conservation social science resources and recruit/engage members from their respective regions.
- Organized SSWG’s annual business meeting and co-sponsored networking event with Oceania Section at SCB 2010.



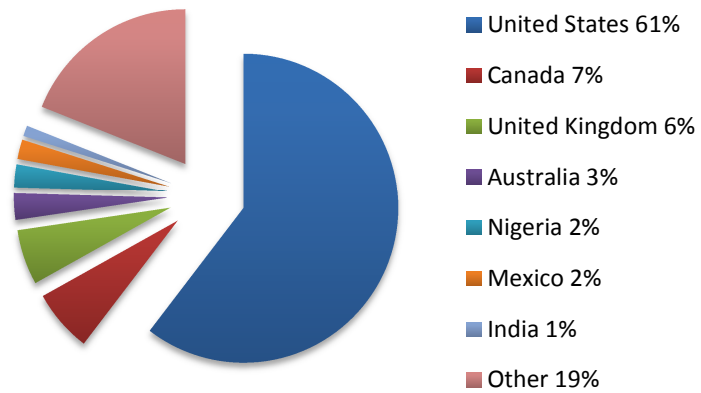
SSWG Membership 2010



Countries Represented

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Argentina | Kenya |
| Australia | Lao People's Democratic Republic |
| Austria | Madagascar |
| Bangladesh | Mexico |
| Belgium | Mongolia |
| Belize | Morocco |
| Benin | Namibia |
| Bolivia | Nepal |
| Botswana | Netherlands |
| Brazil | New Zealand |
| Cameroon | Nigeria |
| Canada | Norway |
| Cayman Islands | Pakistan |
| Central African Republic | Peru |
| Chile | Philippines |
| China | Portugal |
| Colombia | Romania |
| Costa Rica | Rwanda |
| Croatia | Singapore |
| Denmark | South Africa |
| Dominica | Sri Lanka |
| Ecuador | Sweden |
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | Switzerland |
| Finland | Taiwan, Province of China |
| France | Tanzania, United Republic of |
| Germany | Thailand |
| Ghana | Tunisia |
| Greece | Turkey |
| Hungary | Uganda |
| India | United Kingdom |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | United States |
| Ireland | Uruguay |
| Italy | Virgin Islands |
| Japan | Zimbabwe |

DECEMBER 2010



Total Membership = 537
Total Countries Represented = 55

SSWG Ambassadors 2010

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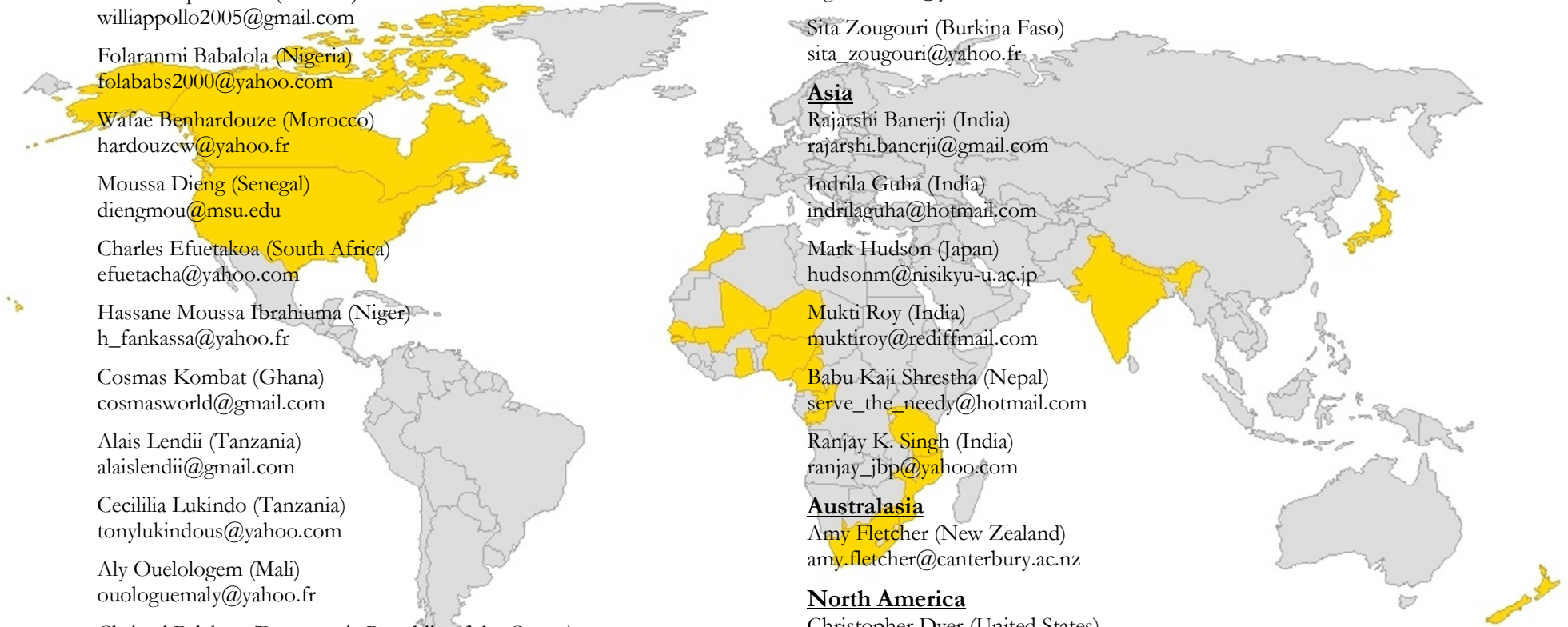
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North America

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GOAL 5: Organizational development. Increase the capacity of the SSWG to achieve its mission

2010 Accomplishments

Organizational Development Activities

- Held elections and successfully recruited for five board seats: representatives of economics, political science, and sociology, and two at-large positions (including a dedicated student seat).
- Reached out to potential funders and collaborated on proposals to explore opportunities for support of SSWG activities in 2011 and beyond.

Contributions

The SSWG is immensely grateful to the individuals and organizations that provided service and in-kind contributions to support SSWG activities in 2010.

Organizations

SCB - Executive Office

World Wildlife Fund

Colorado State University

Individuals

We'd like to thank the following individuals who transitioned off the board in 2010 for their valued commitment and service to the SSWG. These individuals have played an important role in advancing the mission and efforts of the SSWG:

Michael Mascia (World Wildlife Fund), former SSWG President and outgoing SCB Board Social Science Representative

Solange Bandiaky (Rights and Resources Initiative), outgoing At-Large Representative

Annie Claus (Yale University), outgoing At-Large (Student) Representative

A Special Note of Thanks

We'd especially like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Mascia, to whom we are extremely grateful for the leadership and vision he has provided to the SSWG over the years. Mike has worked tirelessly throughout his career to help bridge the gap between the natural and social sciences to improve biodiversity conservation. He was the force behind the establishment of the SSWG in 2003 and served as the group's President during its first five years. Mike continues to show amazing dedication to advancing the cause of integrating social science into conservation practice and to the activities of the SSWG. For these efforts, we are truly thankful!

Committees

The SSWG accomplishes its work through volunteer Committees.

Audit Committee

Steven Brechin, Chair, Syracuse University
Beth Caniglia, Oklahoma State University
Christie Manning, Hamline University
Mac Parish, Stanford University

Communication Committee

Daniel Miller, Chair, University of Michigan
Nejem Rahem, Vice Chair, Emerson College
Rodolfo Tello, SSWG Web Developer, American University
Nathalie Walker, SSWG Discussion List Moderator, Consultant, UK
Mac Parish, Stanford University
Danielle Mota, SCB, Brazil

Conservation Committee

Meredith Gore, Chair, Michigan State University
Diane Russell, Vice Chair, US Agency for International Development
Shannon Earle, Conservation International
Rodolfo Tello, American University
Michael Sorice, Texas A&M University

Education Committee

David Hoffman, Chair, Mississippi State University
Verna DeLauer, Clark University
Monica Ogra, Gettysburg College
Nicole Smith, University of Colorado at Boulder

Membership Committee

Robin Roth, Chair, York University
Solange Bandiaky, Rights and Resources Initiative
Sita Zougouri, SSWG Ambassador Program Coordinator, Burkina Faso
David Bray, Florida International University
Mike Skuja, Center for Rural People and the Environment
Danielle Ross-Winslow, Colorado State University

Nominations Committee

Richard Wallace, Chair, Ursinus College
William Forbes, Stephen F. Austin University
Katrina Brandon, Conservation International, Argentina
Nejem Raheem, Emerson College
Peter Wilshusen, Bucknell University

Policy Committee

Ashwini Chhatre, Chair, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Peter Wilshusen, Bucknell University
Fred Nelson, Maliasili Initiatives Ltd, Tanzania
Krithi Karanth, Center for Wildlife Studies, India
Catherine Benson, University of Michigan

Program Committee

Murray Rudd, Chair, University of York
David Cherney, University of Colorado at Boulder
Ashley Schafer, Ursinus College
Kathryn Semmens, Pew Environment Group

Student Affairs Committee

Christina Ellis, Chair, University of Melbourne
Annie MacFayden, University of Georgia
Radhika Govindrajana, Yale University
Oliver Pergams, University of Illinois at Chicago
Rebecca Witter, University of Georgia

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