



A global community of conservation professionals

Society for Conservation Biology



Annual Report 2004
Investing in community

Investing in community



The mission of the Society for Conservation Biology is to develop the scientific and technical means for the protection, maintenance, and restoration of life on Earth: species, ecosystems, and the processes that sustain them.

From the President and Executive Director

Seeing yourself in context makes for good conservation. Sleeping soundly on a Costa Rican beach, we may be unaware of a jaguar's proximity until we see her tracks in the sand the next morning. Our heart rate increases and we are struck by what we miss when our eyes are closed. As conservation professionals, we are both observer and participant. The best conservation occurs when we step outside of our own awareness, shift our perspective and recognize our place in a greater community.



We all live and function in many different communities from our place of work, to our local municipality, to the community of life in the watershed in which we reside, to our professional community of expertise. In 2004, the Society of Conservation Biology continued to grow as a *global community of conservation professionals*. Our membership is over 9000 individuals and our suite of publications includes *Conservation Biology*, *Conservation In Practice*, *Neotropical Conservation News*, the *SCB Newsletter*, and *Pacific Conservation Biology*.

As members of a global community, we are united in our cause. Yet, just as the natural world is diverse in its systems, species, and processes, we are diverse in our approach to our task. Conservation is more than just science. The personalities, cultures, experiences, and backgrounds of those working in conservation define the field. To support our community of conservation professionals during 2004 we established a Code of Member Ethics—a set of values and actions we hope all conservation professionals, including the SCB, will hold themselves to.

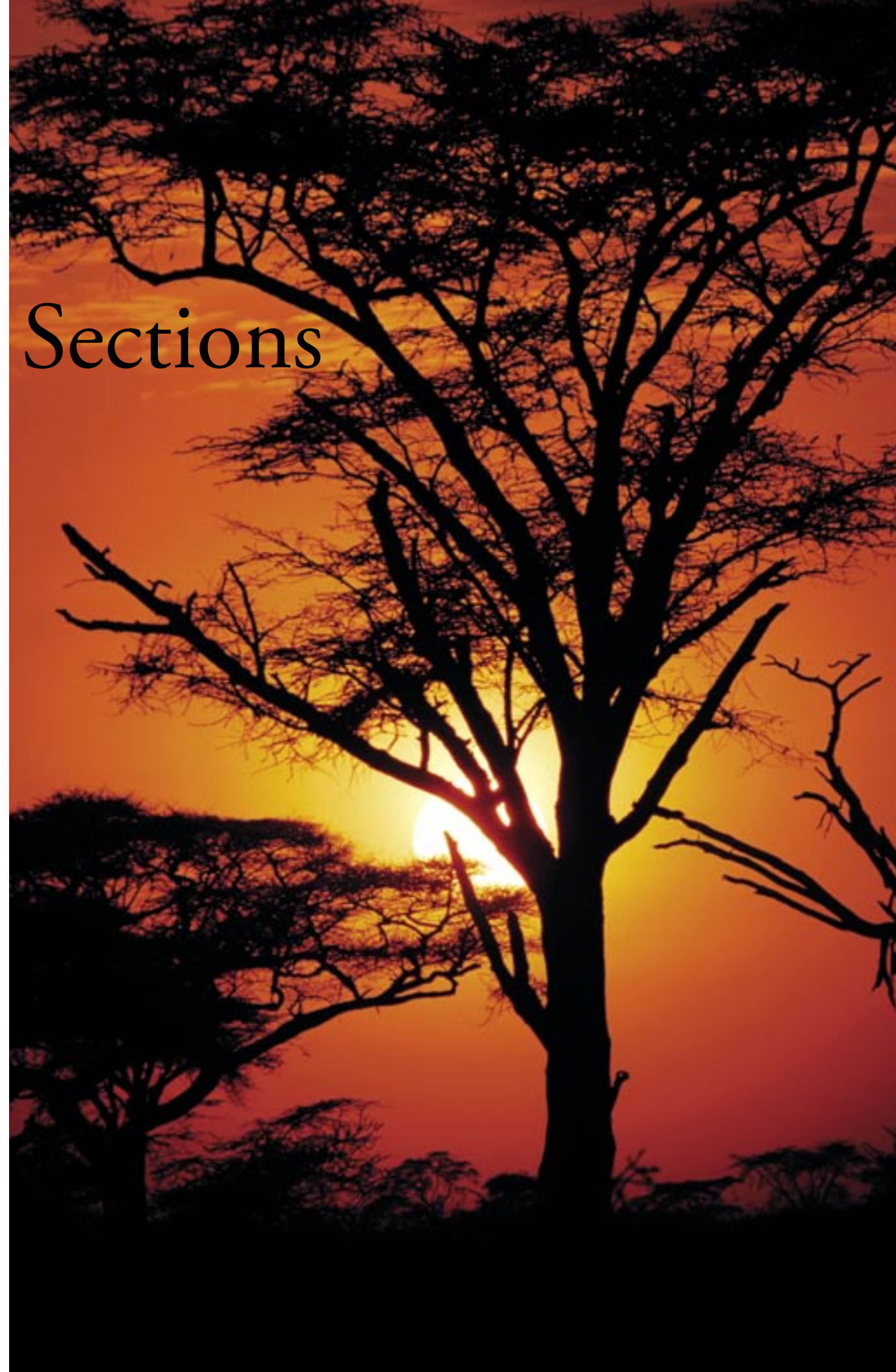
Being a part of this large community helps you place your work in context, broaden your impact, and benefit from the collective conservation experience of other individuals from across the world. As just one example, our 2004 Annual Meeting, the largest gathering in SCB history, brought over 1500 conservation professionals and students to New York City, USA. For a brief time, one of the largest cities in the world was not only an international hub for economics, trade, and world politics, but also for conservation.

With this annual report, we chronicle the efforts SCB members and our organization took in 2004 to unite our global community and increase its impact. We share these accomplishments with you and thank you for your achievements. Look for more information from us in 2005 as we announce an ambitious five-year strategic plan and commemorate our 20th birthday. We look forward to celebrating with you.

SCB President, Deborah B. Jensen (right, above)
and Executive Director, Alan D. Thornhill

Regional Sections

The Africa Section's 2004 Photo Contest Winner Landscapes: Sunrise on the Serengeti



Communities evolve. The Great Barrier Reef, the wet tropical forests of Borneo, the Kalahari Desert, formed over thousands to millions of years. Human communities too, are founded and adapt over time.

When the Society for Conservation Biology was formed, it was our intent to transcend geography, both in focus and in composition. Three years ago, the Society began actively cultivating this vision through the creation of Regional Sections. SCB Sections are designed to link conservation professionals throughout the world to the resources needed for success in conservation—and to link us to each other. SCB continues to evolve in response to the growing need for geographic integration and representation in the face of our global mission.

On a global scale, our community is diversifying. In 2004, two groups invested significantly in the Society to grow a membership and leadership that is more geographically representative of the global community of conservation professionals. The Tropical Biology Association and The Christensen Fund sponsored nearly 150 new memberships from the Africa, Asia, Austral and Neotropical America, Europe, and Marine Sections. With more than 2000 members added in 2004, the profile of the SCB membership continues to change. We have proactively encouraged the leadership that is a reflection of a global constituency—10 countries are represented by the 21 voting members of the SCB Board of Governors.

On a regional scale, our community is mobilizing. A generous grant from The Christensen Fund catalyzed many activities within SCB's Regional Sections in 2004. As just one example made possible by these funds, the Europe Section governing board met in Donana, Spain in January 2004, where among other things they: initiated planning for the 1st European Conservation Biology Congress in 2006; created an outreach team to support the Non-governmental communities of Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent State countries; developed a strategy to work with the Russian Ministry of Education to get best available information and tools into the hands of the faculty of national universities; and planned several symposia for upcoming international meetings.

Look for other SCB Section accomplishments described in this report. As we reflect on the excitement generated in the international conservation community in 2004, we look forward even more, to watching the continued succession of our global community.

Membership in SCB Regional Sections

Africa	440	Europe	383
Asia	388	Marine	533
Austral and Neotropical America	855	North America	2980
Australasia	314	<i>Numbers as of mid-year 2004</i>	

Making a difference

Africa

Ronald W. Abrams, Stephen Mufutau Awoyemi, Paula Kahumbu, Beth Kaplin, Shedrack M. Mashauri, Michel Masozera, Alison Ormsby

Asia

Habib Ahmad, Danilo S. Balete, Cara Lin Bridgman, Hiroyoshi Higuchi, Tom McCarthy, Jeffrey A. McNeely, Yoshihiro Natuhara, Linda Olsvig-Whittaker, Batbold D. Otgoid, Andrew T. Smith, Eric Wikramanayake, Pralad Yonzon

Austral and Neotropical America

Lorena Calvo, Alfredo Cuarón, Marcelo Lima, Miguel Marini, Cristian Olivo, Jon Paul Rodriguez, Javier Simonetti, Miguel Vázquez

Australasia

Robert Davis, Karen Firestone, Carolin Gross, Jean-Marc Hero, Menna Jones, Andrew Mack, Nicola Nelson, Tish Silberbauer

Europe

Luigi Boitani, Andrés Báldi, Javier Bustamente, Martin Dieterich, Renato Massa, Jari Niemelä, Owen T. Nevin, Andrew Pullin, Per Sjögren-Gulve

Marine

Carolyn Lundquist, Elliott Norse, Norm Sloan, Glen VanBlaricom, Robert Wilder

North America

Brian Czech, Chris Eckert, Pam Krannitz, Barry Noon, Peter Raven, Michael Reed, Sarah Reichard, Steve Trombulak, David Wilcove

Southern hemisphere collaboration between Africa and Austral and Neotropical America The Africa and Austral and Neotropical America (ANA) Sections have demonstrated clearly that cohesion of conservationists, working in different spheres and living in diverse areas and countries is not impossible. National borders or geopolitical zones are of little significance. Both Sections produce a newsletter uniting their community. NeoCons (Neotropical Conservation News) has been in existence for many years facilitating information exchange to strengthen conservation in their region. The Africa Conservation Telegraph, an energetic newsletter new in 2004, has already made a remarkable difference in the lives of conservationists on the African continent and around the globe. At SCB's 2004 Annual Meeting, these two Southern-Hemisphere Sections entered into serious ongoing discussions to promote the international dimension of the SCB mission. Look for the results of their collaboration at the 2005 Annual Meeting in a joint symposium - *Enabling, mainstreaming, and implementation: Putting conservation plans to work in the Southern Hemisphere*.

Asia responds to a natural disaster Asia Section activities in 2004 were largely overshadowed by the earthquake and tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004. Online, conservation groups and SCB members provided local observations and discussions while mobilizing quickly to help relieve suffering. SCB Asia Section Board member Eric Wikramanayake wrote from Sri Lanka of a "swathe of destruction about 200-300 meters along the coast," and Board member Linda Olsvig-Whittaker observed that despite the grim situation, at least some of our conservations started making and posting observations as soon as they pulled themselves out of the water. "We are a hardy bunch, and this disaster proves it." The Asia Section looks forward to its first regional conference in Nepal in 2005 and will continue to grow stronger as a community as it responds to the impact of the tsunami.

Europe and North America position themselves to tackle policy issues The Europe and North America Sections of SCB are taking on the responsibility for addressing critical issues at the science-policy interface within their regions. In 2004, these Sections were actively involved in developing position statements and resolutions. The North America Section submitted comments on the Critical Habitat Reform Act (H.R. 2933), describing the impacts of the reform and contributing science-based information and expert opinion to the Congressional deliberations. The Europe Section Policy Committee first received recognition for their work on the conservation of the pristine Bialowieza Forest in Poland. Focal issues of their work in 2004 included developing strategies against the abuse of key nature conservation terms (e.g., use of biodiversity argument in connection with clear-cutting the Bialowieza), and the release of the Section's Resolution advocating an expanded role for scientists in reviewing the efficacy of the EU nature conservation directives. While it is important to recognize the differences that exist between conservation biology (and politics) in Europe and North America, these Sections work with similar initiative for the inclusion of high-quality science in conservation policy, decision-making, and management.

Connecting and inspiring in Australasia The Pacific Nations currently are isolated not only in a biogeographical sense, but also in terms of interaction with the broader conservation community. To help address this sense of isolation and increase communication within the Australasia Section itself, the Section initiated a regular Bula [hello] Column from the South Pacific for the News and Views section of Pacific Conservation Biology. The inaugural column presented an overview of challenges faced by conservation scientists in Fiji. Students in the Australasian Section also feel isolated at times, and benefit from becoming a part of a larger conservation community. Tara Martin (University of Queensland) received first prize in the 2004 SCB Student Awards. She commented, "As an Australian post-graduate student attending my first overseas conference, I wondered how my work would compare to an international field. Receiving an award for my paper "Do experts know anything about birds and grazing?" was an acknowledgment that the caliber of work by Australian students is amongst the best in the world. On a personal level receiving the award was recognition of the interest in and potential contribution of my work to conservation biology and ecology." Bula!

Marine conservation and marine policy The Marine section sponsored two excellent symposia at the 2004 Annual Meeting, bringing international researchers at the forefront of marine conservation to present their research. A little more than a year after the Pew Oceans Commission released their report entitled "America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change" the United States Commission on Ocean Policy released their report, "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century," in September 2004. The marine section continued to work on the global ramifications of these ground-breaking reports while planning their participation in marine conservation short courses at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Conservation in an urbanizing world



New York City, New York, USA

SCB's 18th Annual Meeting

In July 2004, New York City was temporarily the home of the largest gathering of conservation professionals and interested public officials ever hosted by the Society for Conservation Biology. Our 18th Annual Meeting was attended by over 1500 individuals from at least 52 countries. New York City, the largest urban area in the eastern United States, was an appropriate venue to explore the effects of urbanization on nature and conservation.

The theme of the 2004 meeting focused on how best to conduct conservation in an urbanizing world. According to the United Nations, by 2007 more than half of the Earth's population will live in urban areas. In the next 30 years, most of the world's population growth is expected to be in cities in the less developed regions of the world. The urbanization process poses significant conservation challenges as well as changing patterns of consumption, trade, and ecosystem use.

Conservation biology has, from the very beginning, been an interdisciplinary endeavor and issues arising from urbanization necessitated involvement from conservation biologists experienced in sociological, socioeconomic, legal, and trade aspects among many others. Additionally the challenges of urbanization requires involvement from educators in ensuring that urban residents maintain a sense of connection to nature, even in the most densely populated places.

The 2004 SCB Annual Meeting addressed these emerging topics within 23 symposia, nearly 400 contributed presentations, and 250 posters. The meeting had an open atmosphere and a sense of community. Unique networking opportunities included a "Women in science" breakfast, a student/professional mixer, and a topical area networking lunch. Plenary speakers were predominantly non-biologists and infused the meeting with fresh conservation perspectives.

The Society for Conservation Biology gratefully thanks our host - the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, a consortium of the American Museum of Natural History, New York Botanical Garden, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Wildlife Trust. Thanks to all who made this meeting a success!

Financial Sponsors

Blackwell Publishing
ConEdison
Elsevier
The Nature Conservancy
Rainforest Alliance and
Explorers Club
Wildlife Trust

Publications

“Throughout close to four decades, the Brazilian Amazon, despite all the deforestation and burning, has gone from two national forests to what when certain commitments are completed will amount to more than 40% receiving some form of protection. Although there is still more to do to conserve the Amazon as a system, this achievement would scarcely have been dreamed of when this journal published its first issue. But what seemed impossible became possible. And so we should keep dreaming the impossible and, like eco-chemists with all our best science and positive good will render it possible.”

Thomas Lovejoy, *Conservation Biology*, December 2004, *Dreaming the Impossible*

Conservation Biology



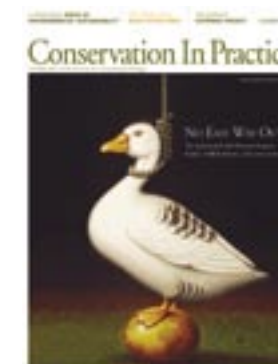
Conservation Biology is a peer-reviewed journal, designed for a community needing the latest research to apply to conservation decision-making. This community is not your standard group of academics - it is mission-oriented, global, and multidisciplinary. As such, *Conservation Biology* touches orders of magnitude more people than any other Society for Conservation Biology initiative. With an impact factor of 3.3 it is the nexus of conservation research, and a provocative forum for conservation researchers.

In 2004, readership of online articles increased by 35%. The *Conservation Biology* editorial office initiated paperless processing for all manuscripts. Circulation increased by nearly 1,000 subscriptions. A 30% increase in individual subscribers from developing nations and a 25% increase in institutional subscribers contributed to an overall circulation increase of nearly 1,000 subscriptions.

Circulation	2003	2004
Developed Countries	4171	4162
Developing Countries	412	587
Institutional subscriptions (subscribing and consortia)	2477	3275
Total	7060	8024



Conservation In Practice



When *Conservation In Practice* was founded five years ago, we envisioned it as a forum for frank conversations that transcend organizational and disciplinary boundaries. It wouldn't belong to a single organization but rather to a community of public and private conservation groups. The Society for Conservation Biology in this sense is not simply a

publisher but a leader of an influential partnership dedicated to raising the bar on conservation writing and thinking.

Over the past year, we've built on this model in a number of ways:

Partnerships Over 1400 new subscribers received *Conservation In Practice* in 2004 as a direct benefit of partnerships with The Nature Conservancy and Society for Ecological Restoration.

“The Uneasy Chair.” Authored by Jon Christensen this new column is an opinionated and thoughtful blend of commentary on the state of conservation.

Innovations Every issue now features concise, engaging commentaries on conservation tools, techniques, and ideas that are defining the frontlines of conservation.

Collective Experience *Conservation In Practice* seeks to add a new dimension to our readers outlook. We thank our community of experts, writers, and partner conservation groups for contributing their own outlook on conservation in 2004.

Circulation	2003	2004
Developed Countries	3650	5772
Developing Countries	343	197
Institutional subscriptions	300	102
Total	5100	6071

The success stories of conservation occur because of dedicated inspired individuals. Each year, SCB recognizes distinguished service in conservation with a suite of awards.

Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award

Jerry Franklin

For his pioneering development of ecological forestry, laudable research record of more than 300 publications, and his success in translating science into policy and management actions.

Distinguished Service Awards

A.J.T. Johnsingh

For his exemplary contributions to the conservation of mammals and forests in South Asia through leadership, guidance and inspiration.

Gerardo Ceballos-Gonzalez

For his outstanding contribution and dedication to the study, understanding, and conservation of Mexico's biological diversity through solid scientific research and conservation action.

Bittu Sahgal

For his battle to protect the tiger and all of wild India and his determination to communicate the rationale for protecting nature to a generation of Indians.

International Crane Foundation

For extraordinary contributions to international understanding and cooperation on behalf of conserving the world's cranes and the ecosystems they inhabit.

SCB 2004 Student Presentation Awards

1st place: Tara Martin

The University of Queensland, Australia
Do experts know anything about birds and grazing?
A Bayesian approach using expert opinion

2nd place: Sarah Greenleaf

Princeton University, USA
Wild bees enhance pollination by honey bees

3rd place: Trond Larsen

Princeton University, USA
Linking patterns, causes and functional consequences of changing biodiversity

4th place: Noah Kerness Whiteman

University of Missouri-St. Louis, USA
Host-parasite conservation genetics in the Galapagos Islands: Pragmatic value of the forgotten bounty

Behind the scenes

On the following pages, take a behind the scenes look at the Society - our finances, leadership, governing principles, and staff.

Financial Statement 2004

Support and Revenue	2004	2003	2002
Dues and contributions	\$980,000	\$990,000	\$950,000
Government contracts	\$47,000	\$63,000	\$10,000
Foundation and non-profit grants	\$295,000	\$231,000	\$225,000
Other income	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$15,000
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,334,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,200,000
Expenses and Capital Allocations			
Publications	\$1,140,000	\$987,000	\$950,000
General and administrative	\$190,000	\$180,000	\$130,000
Membership	\$70,000	\$68,000	\$58,000
Conservation programs	\$40,000	\$65,000	\$62,000
Total Expenses and Capital Allocations	\$1,440,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,200,000
Liabilities and Assets			
Endowment investments (market value)	\$887,000	\$737,000	\$599,000
Property and equipment (net of depreciation)	\$17,000	\$20,000	\$17,000
Current assets	\$469,000	\$561,000	\$333,000
Current assets (receivables)	\$382,000	\$162,000	\$116,000
Total assets	\$1,755,000	\$1,480,000	\$1,065,000
Total liabilities	\$78,000	\$139,000	\$13,000
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,677,000	\$1,341,000	\$1,052,000

We owe our gratitude to the following organizations for supporting SCB in 2004.

The Christensen Fund | Conservation International | David and Lucile Packard Foundation | John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation | National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service | National Park Service | The Nature Conservancy | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | U.S. Forest Service, Region 2 | World Wildlife Fund

Executive Committee

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John Robinson, President Elect
Kathryn Saterson, Secretary
David Johns, Treasurer
Stephen Humphrey, Chief Financial Officer*
Reed Noss, Past President
Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr., Past President

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Luigi Boitani, Europe Section
Katrina Brandon, Social Sciences
Susan Haig, Member-at-large*
Hito Higuchi, Asia Section
Menna Jones, Australasia Section
Paula Kahumbu, Africa Section*
Devra Kleiman, Botanical Garden, Zoo, Aquarium, or Museum
Steven Kellert, Social Sciences*
Carolyn Lundquist, Marine Section
Michel Masozera, Africa Section
Loyal Mehrhoff, Governmental Agency*
Bryan Norton, Humanities
John Ogden, Marine Section*
Jon Paul Rodriguez, Austral and Neotropical America Section*, Non-governmental organization
Mary Rowen, Governmental Agency
Javier Simonetti, Austral and Neotropical America Section
Eleanor Sterling, Non-governmental organization*
Bill Sutherland, University or College
Bruce Thompson, Member-at-large
Steve Trombulak, North America Section
David Wilcove, North America Section*

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Aram Calhoun, Student Affairs Committee
Erica Fleishman, Membership Committee, Newsletter Editor
Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr., Nominations Committee
Kathryn Kohm, *Conservation In Practice* Editor
Gary Meffe, *Conservation Biology* Editor
Mike Scott, Awards Committee
Eleanor Sterling, Awards Committee
Gary Tabor, Development Committee
Alan D. Thornhill, Executive Director
Steve Trombulak, Education Committee*

* term ended July 2004



Society for Conservation Biology

Code of Member Ethics

In an important milestone for the Society for Conservation Biology, the membership unanimously approved a Code of Member Ethics in August, 2004. The creation of this statement of values was truly community based – including participation from over 100 SCB members, with representation from every continent.

As a maturing Society that includes individuals who are committed to conservation, fairness, and scientific honesty, the Statement serves to remind us of our responsibilities and important ethical issues related to our professional work. Although the Statement is not a binding document, we believe it will have a positive impact on individual behavior by promoting discussion and awareness of these issues. We as a Society will strive to be an exemplar of the values and behavior our global community has endorsed.

We encourage all conservation scientists and practitioners to adhere to the following:

- 1 Actively disseminate information to promote understanding of and appreciation for biodiversity and the science of conservation biology.
- 2 Advocate the use of reliable information, rigorous scientific methodology, and credible inference in management decisions affecting biodiversity.
- 3 Recognize that uncertainty is inherent in managing ecosystems and species and encourage application of the precautionary principle in management and policy decisions affecting biodiversity.
- 4 Recognize their responsibility to conservation and scientific honesty, and inform other scientists, the public, and prospective clients or employers of this responsibility.
- 5 Avoid actions or omissions that may compromise their responsibility to conservation and science.
- 6 Be willing to volunteer their services for the public good at a level appropriate to their financial abilities.
- 7 Perform professional services or peer reviews only in their areas of competence, cooperate with other professionals in the best interest of conservation, and refer clients to other professionals with appropriate expertise.
- 8 Refuse to allow personal interests, compensation, or personal relationships to interfere with their professional judgment or advice.

9 Scrupulously avoid plagiarism; acknowledge the limitations of their research design, data, and interpretation of results; disclose conflicts of interest; honestly discuss their findings; and attempt to correct misrepresentation of their research by others.

10 Claim authorship of a publication or report only when they have contributed substantially to the conception, design, data collection, analysis, or interpretation, or have helped draft or revise the article, and approve of the published version.

11 When working professionally, especially outside their region of residence, interact and collaborate with counterparts, present seminars, confer regularly with appropriate officials, share information, involve colleagues and students in professional activities, contribute to local capacity-building, and equitably share the benefits arising from the use of local knowledge, practices, and genetic resources.

12 Treat colleagues and professional contacts respectfully and support fair standards of employment and treatment for those engaged in the practice of conservation biology.

13 Work to ensure that no colleague is unjustly deprived of his or her job, reputation, ability to publish, or scientific freedom as a result of his or her conservation efforts.

14 Protect the rights and welfare of human subjects used in research and obtain the informed consent of those subjects.

15 Adhere to the highest standards for treatment of animals used in research in a way that contributes most positively to sustaining natural populations and ecosystems.

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Society for Conservation Biology

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