

Organizational Members & Corporate Friends of the Society for Conservation Biology Policy

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The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of conserving Earth's biological diversity. SCB maintains a number of values that influence its policy and practice:

- There is intrinsic value in the natural diversity of organisms, the complexity of ecological systems, and the resilience created by evolutionary processes.
- Human-caused extinctions and the destruction and loss of function of natural ecosystems are unacceptable.
- Maintaining and restoring biological diversity are individual and collective responsibilities of humans.
- Science is critical for understanding how the natural world operates and how human actions affect nature.
- Collaboration among scientists, managers, and policy-makers is vital to incorporate high-quality science into policies and management decisions affecting biological diversity.

SCB envisions a world where people understand, value, and conserve the diversity of life on Earth and where SCB, a global community of individuals, organizations, and commercial businesses dedicated to conservation, serves to advance our mission and values.

Organizational Members and Corporate Friends of SCB are designed to be symbiotic relationships that provide mutual learning and benefit opportunities. Organizations and businesses may be interested in becoming affiliated with SCB for a variety of reasons including using the breadth and reach of the SCB membership as a venue to market products or to use SCB's reputation to augment their own conservation efforts. SCB, is interested in becoming affiliated with key organizations and businesses also for a variety of reasons including developing long-term partnerships and securing financial support.

SCB Organizational Members are non-profit businesses, such as non-governmental environmental organizations, universities and colleges, zoos and aquariums, and government agencies that include conservation or science as a significant part of their mission statement or work.

SCB Corporate Friends are for-profit businesses or enterprises, such as environmental consultants, publishers, banks, certification organizations, congress organizers, and manufacturers of scientific equipment, that strive to ensure no net loss of biodiversity, reduce or offset environmental degradation, support sustainable development, and/or sustain/advance human rights.

Organizational Members and Corporate Friends of SCB commit to:

- Endorsing and acting in accordance with SCB's mission, values and mission
- Upholding SCB policies and interests of SCB
- Supporting SCB through annual dues/contributions
- Ensuring that their activities, products and services minimize or reverse:
 - Biodiversity loss
 - Environmental degradation
 - Unsustainable development
 - Reduction of human rights

Such organizations and businesses will contribute to the goals of SCB, whenever feasible and appropriate, by:

- Identifying and pursuing opportunities for joint programs and other shared initiatives with the SCB Executive Office and/or other SCB Groups (Sections, Committees, Working Groups and Chapters). Sharing information and resources of value to SCB members and/or the SCB Executive Office.
- Informing the SCB Executive Office of conservation-related activities and significant developments.
- Publicizing its membership with the words: "An [Organizational] Member of the Society for Conservation" or "A Corporate Friend of the Society for Conservation" (SCB website URL and logo optional).
- Participating in SCB communications initiatives and online communities.

Organizational Members have the right to submit one vote per topic/election on behalf of their organization.

Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Office to assure that approval criteria are met and to examine the potential contribution and any reputational risk to the Society. The Executive Office can approve any application that poses a low reputational risk to SCB. If reputational risk is considered to be of a medium or high level, then the application will be submitted to the SCB Board of Governors for consideration. If an Organizational Member or Commercial Friend of SCB is unable to continue to meet criteria for membership, their membership may be subject to revocation.

Risk Evaluation Table and Decision Tree for Determining Approval of Organizational Memberships & Corporate Friends of the Society for Conservation Biology

Risk Evaluation Table:

SCB only benefits from collaboration with an Organizational Members or Corporate Friends if their mission, operations, products and/or reputation align with the SCB Mission: To advance the science and practice of conserving Earth’s biodiversity. All other organizations or businesses are at best neutral in this regard or bring certain risks for SCB’s reputation.

Three (3) risk levels (low, medium, and high), were identified to determine how an applicant will be evaluated (Table 1).

- Organizations or businesses that meet the low-risk criteria can be approved by the SCB Executive Office.
- Organizations or businesses that meet the medium-risk criteria must be reviewed by the SCB Board of Governors who will decide if the membership is approved or denied.
- Organizations or businesses that meet the high-risk criteria must be reviewed by the SCB Board of Governors who will decide if the membership is approved or denied.

Risk levels and procedures used to evaluate Organizational Membership or Corporate Friend application processing.

‘Low Risk’	‘Medium Risk’	‘High Risk’
Organizations or corporate businesses whose operations contribute to protecting biodiversity and the environment, securing sustainable development, and advancing human rights.	Organizations or corporate businesses whose operations do not directly contribute to the loss of biodiversity, environmental degradation, unsustainable development, and/or reduction of human rights; OR if they do so, they strategically take steps to offset or minimize their impacts.	Organizations or corporate businesses whose operations are, or might be, associated with, the unchecked loss of biodiversity, environmental degradation, unsustainable development, and/or reduction of human rights.
Application will be reviewed, and approved, by the Executive Office.	Application will be reviewed by the Executive Office and submitted to the Board of Governors for consideration. The Board will balance favorable aspects against problematic aspects and consider potentially difficult justifications to the greater membership.	If the application falls into this category, the recommendation of denial will be submitted to the Board of Governors for confirmation.

A decision tree was developed to determine what risk level each applicants fall's into:

