



Duluth, Minnesota, USA—SCB Annual Meeting, 2003

Society for Conservation Biology

Annual Report 2003

Growing

Society for Conservation Biology

Growing

The Society for Conservation Biology is a global organization of conservation professionals dedicated to promoting the scientific study of the phenomena that affect the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity. The Society's membership comprises a wide range of people interested in the conservation of biological diversity: resource managers, educators, researchers, government and private conservation workers, and students.



Two years ago, President Mac Hunter's vision launched an unprecedented effort by the Society for Conservation Biology to enhance the international capacity of conservation biology. As a major focus of this initiative, SCB is fostering participation of its global community of conservation professionals in International Sections. During 2003, SCB continued to thrive as its Sections gained momentum and the diversity and number of its members grew rapidly.

- The number of countries represented by our membership increased by 30% (currently 120 countries).
- Overall membership increased by 30%.
- The number of subscriptions to *Conservation In Practice* nearly doubled.
- The number of individual subscriptions to *Conservation Biology* increased by 10%—one third of that increase came from outside of North America.
- The number of institutional subscriptions to *Conservation Biology* increased by 40%, almost all from outside North America.



Executive Director
Alan D. Thornhill



Presidents
Deborah B. Jensen (term 2003-2005) and
Malcolm L. Hunter Jr. (term 2001-2003)

In November 2003, The Christensen Fund demonstrated its support of SCB's commitment to internationalization contributing \$200,000 to promote international capacity, participation, and representation over the next two years.

International Sections represented but one area of growth and activity for SCB during 2003. New working groups focusing on the social sciences and freshwater conservation biology will provide a conduit for these disciplines within the larger matrix of SCB, further diversifying the breadth and influence of our membership, publications, and outreach efforts. The Board of Governors and staff of SCB thank the dedicated members, partners and sponsors who support and encourage the Society in new directions.

We present this annual report as a challenge to ourselves. At its heart, the document traces the efforts SCB undertook in 2003 towards achieving our goals and increasing our impact. These pages also reflect additional opportunities for fulfilling the SCB mission—opportunities we will capitalize on in 2004.

Mission

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.

SCB thanks the following organizations for their support in 2003.

The Christensen Fund

Conservation International

John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Moriah Fund Environment Program

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration—National Marine Fisheries Service

National Park Service

National Science Foundation

The Nature Conservancy

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

US Forest Service, Region 2

World Wildlife Fund

Goals



Educate, at all levels, preparatory and continuing, the public, biologists, and managers in the principles of conservation biology

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Publish and disseminate scientific, technical, and management information

Page 4

Encourage communication and collaboration between conservation biology and other disciplines (including other biological and physical sciences, the behavioral and social sciences, economics, law, and philosophy) that study and advise on conservation and natural resources issues

Page 6

Promote research and the maintenance of the highest standards of quality in this activity

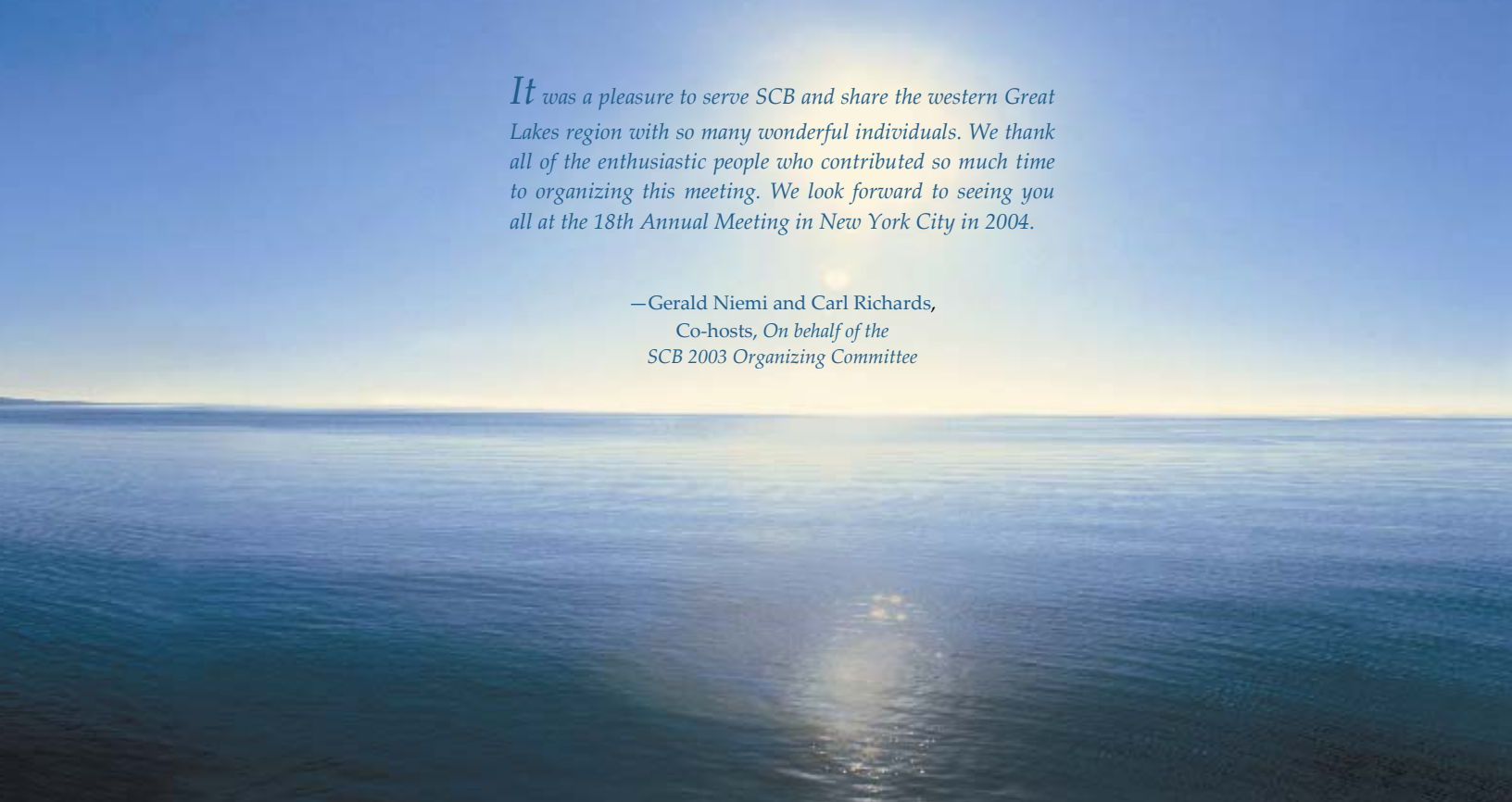
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Recognize outstanding contributions to the field made by individuals and organizations

Page 11

Promote all of the above through the provision of adequate funding

Page 12



It was a pleasure to serve SCB and share the western Great Lakes region with so many wonderful individuals. We thank all of the enthusiastic people who contributed so much time to organizing this meeting. We look forward to seeing you all at the 18th Annual Meeting in New York City in 2004.

—Gerald Niemi and Carl Richards,
Co-hosts, *On behalf of the*
SCB 2003 Organizing Committee

Lake Superior, Minnesota, USA

SCB's 17th Annual Meeting,

Conservation of Land-Water Interactions was held on the shores of Lake Superior from 28 June to 2 July 2003 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth, Minnesota, USA.

The meeting was one of the largest gatherings of SCB. Some 1150 individuals (including more than 300 students) from 45 countries visited the Great Lakes for the four-day meeting. The meeting was ground-breaking in terms of member participation in the Society. For the first time ever, all International Sections met simultaneously to define their goals. The Society Members Meeting was the largest in SCB history and helped sharpen the mission of the Society.

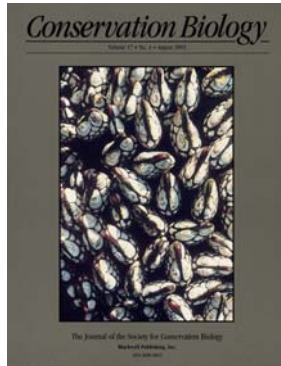
The scientific program included 15 symposia, 418 oral presentations and 133 posters. Each morning was ignited by outstanding plenary speakers, including two recipients of SCB 2003 Distinguished Service Awards. Michael Dombeck, former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, discussed links between national security and environmental health, and Jane Lubchenco of Oregon State University appraised challenges in designing and implementing marine protected areas.

In addition to showcasing cutting-edge conservation research and applications from around the world, the meeting included numerous social gatherings at local pubs and restaurants and performances by Finnish, Native American, and Celtic musicians. The social highlights of the week were a cruise on a moonlit Lake Superior and the annual awards ceremony and banquet on the final night of the meeting.

Goal: Educate at all levels, preparatory and continuing, the public, biologists, and managers in the principles of conservation biology

Publications

Conservation Biology



The second largest volume in *Conservation Biology's* 18-year history was published in 2003—two special sections highlighted population biology of invasive species and local solutions to human-carnivore conflict that also have global applications.

Conservation Biology made an historic change in 2003—authors may now submit manuscripts to the journal electronically! This change is an effective mechanism to reduce review and publication turnaround times, especially for individuals outside the United States. After just three months, the Editorial Office reports that 80% of manuscripts are being submitted electronically.

Circulation (December 2003)

4171	Developed Country
412	Developing Country
2300	Institutions
6883	Total

The unsung heroes of a successful journal are the Editorial Board members who perform their tasks as volunteers with little reward. SCB extends its thanks to the assigning editors of *Conservation Biology* for their scientific insights and high editorial standards during 2003. In addition, we welcome the six new Editorial Board members joining us from Australia, Hong Kong, Mexico, Singapore, Spain, and Sweden.



Pacific Conservation Biology

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the Australasia Section and Surrey Beatty & Sons, *Pacific Conservation Biology* joined SCB's suite of publications in December 2003. The exciting new partnership is designed to promote, support, and broaden the reach of Australasian conservation and wildlife management research. The affiliation increases the capacity of *Pacific Conservation Biology* to disseminate sound conservation science.

Conservation In Practice

Growth, excellence, and outreach

At the close of 2002, the editors of *Conservation In Practice* challenged themselves to continually increase the quality of writing published, expand the breadth of articles and case studies, and, most importantly, increase the impact of articles. According to these measures, *Conservation In Practice* indeed succeeded in 2003.

2003 SNAP EXCEL Award for *Thinking Like an Ocean*

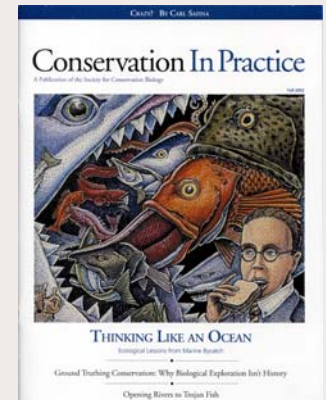
The annual competition sponsored by the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP) judges nearly 1,000 magazines, newsletters, scholarly journals, electronic publications and Web sites and recognizes exemplary work by association publishers in categories including editorial, merit, design, and general excellence. We are pleased to report that an article published in the Fall 2002 issue of *Conservation In Practice*, “*Thinking Like an Ocean: Ecological Lessons from Marine Bycatch*,” won the 2003 SNAP EXCEL Silver Award for feature article.

Expanding Spheres of Influence

Articles in *Conservation In Practice* and the issues they raise are having a broad impact, meeting not only the publication’s commitment to editorial excellence but also its goal of influencing conversations about biodiversity conservation. The science and technology correspondent for *The Economist* featured the Winter 2003 cover article, “*Conservation and conflict: mitigating the effects of war on biodiversity*,” as well as the Fall 2002 Numbers in Context article, “*Does green timber make a difference?*”

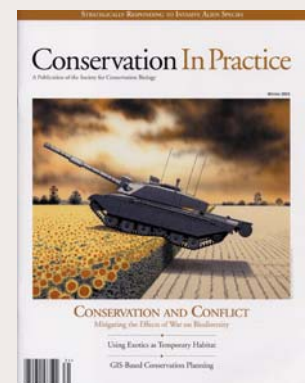
In its third full year of publication, *Conservation In Practice* already has a circulation of more than 5000, is available at an initial group of newsstands and on Amazon.com, and has launched partnerships with The Nature Conservancy and the Society for Ecological Restoration. During 2003, the magazine also added new editorial departments. Prominent and thoughtful writers such as E.O. Wilson and Carl Safina are now featured in “Essays,” while “Letters from Readers” provide a forum for discussion and reflection.

Conservation In Practice is grateful for the continued assistance provided by its partners and financial supporters—including government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private foundations. Without such support, its creation and continued production would not be possible.



Circulation
(December 2003)

3650	United States
343	Other countries
300	Institutions
5100	Total





Isla Cabritos, Dominican Republic

Around the World

SCB International Sections

AFRICA

Conservation in Africa is complicated by the growing human population living adjacent to protected areas and by the process of globalization. Local traditions rapidly are being replaced by western ideals, and trade in wildlife and plant products has increased dramatically to cater to urban markets. During 2003, the Africa Section developed approaches to tackle these complexities, motivate submission of manuscripts by African conservation biologists, and build and enhance the network of conservation biologists in Africa. Tremendous progress was made in developing training workshops and mentoring services, translating documents into French, enhancing the Africa Section's Web site, and organizing a symposium, *Conservation in areas of high population density in sub-Saharan Africa*, for the 2004 Annual Meeting.

ASIA

With its remarkable range of topography, climate, land cover, and indigenous cultures, Asia is a region of rich biodiversity—and, with 60% of the world's population, startling human population growth. Although the Asia Section, established in November 2002, is the youngest of SCB's International Sections, it has already recruited more than 300 energetic members. During the fourth quarter of 2003, the Section established an electronic newsletter, planned a conservation education workshop to be held in Israel during September 2004, and scheduled its first section meeting, to be held in Katmandu, Nepal during autumn 2005.

AUSTRAL & NEOTROPICAL AMERICA

The Austral and Neotropical America Section remained active throughout 2003. Acting on priorities identified in a strategic plan developed during the Section's Board of Directors meeting in La Habana, Cuba in 2002, the Section hosted a symposium at the 2003 Annual Meeting, *The future of conservation biology in Austral and Neotropical America*. The symposium examined regional scientific output and presented case studies on successful conservation initiatives in South America and the Caribbean. A Section-endorsed bid to host the 2005 Annual Meeting in Brasília, Brazil was accepted in July 2003. This meeting will be a milestone for the consolidation of the discipline of conservation biology in the region. In its continuing effort to build conservation capacity, the Section also co-sponsored a 2003 international postgraduate course, *Conceptual bases of biological conservation*, at the Reserva Nacional Río Clarillo in Chile.

November 2003 brought exciting news for SCB—The Christensen Fund became our most recent partner by funding a proposal for nearly \$200,000 over two years.

The funding will allow SCB to pursue three significant goals.

1. *Capacity*. Help build the capacity of SCB and conservation capacity throughout the world via SCB's International Sections.
2. *Participation*. Increase international participation in SCB governance and functions.
3. *Representation*. Increase representation of non-biological sciences in SCB and in conservation efforts worldwide through the newly-formed Social Science Working Group.

A primary goal of The Christensen Fund is to help elucidate the relationships between culture and environment and to strengthen the world's capacity to maintain cultural and biological creativity and diversity. This goal matches well with the goals of SCB. Thanks to the Christensen Fund and all of our partners for supporting SCB's objectives and operations.



Sandie Opiang (left) and Miriam Supuma at the Fifth New Guinea Biological Conference. Miriam was awarded the SCB sponsored Best Student Paper Award.

AUSTRALASIA

The past year was eventful for the Australasia Section. One of the Section's major achievements was facilitation of a new partnership between *Pacific Conservation Biology* and SCB (see page 4). The Section also raised its profile by sponsoring student awards at many regional conferences, including the Fifth New Guinea Biological Conference in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. Few international professional societies have a presence in Papua New Guinea. Thanks to strong participation from the international conservation community, including sponsorship by SCB, this conference gave many students their first opportunity to learn how research directly benefits conservation efforts in New Guinea. The Australasia Section provided a tremendous boost to these young scientists by providing awards for the best student papers—the first explicit recognition of such achievements at this conference.



Canterbury Cathedral—Canterbury, England was the home of the 2002 Annual Meeting, SCB's first in Europe.

EUROPE

During its inaugural year, the Europe Section made a number of organizational advances, impacted forest policy in Poland, and grew to more than 600 members. As a result of the first Board of Directors meeting in Eglingen, Germany, the membership committee began to organize a cadre of national contacts to expand SCB membership throughout Europe. The policy committee developed a resolution on the conservation of the Bialowieza Forest in Poland. This resolution was widely distributed and elicited responses from national offices of the environment and from the European Commission, Directorate-General Environment. In 2003, the Section's complementary activities illustrated its goals of improving communication in the European conservation community and using science to engage directly in conservation issues.





Many members of the Marine Section work at the interface of land and sea—like the beaches of this Caribbean island.



The North America Section made recommendations on new policies in order to improve management of U.S. forests like this grove of Aspen

MARINE

The objective of the Marine Section is to provide a “home” for conservation biologists working in the marine realm—a geographical area adjacent to but larger than the realms covered by all other SCB International Sections combined. During 2003, the Section increased its membership to almost 500 and strengthened the capacity of the Society to serve as a hub for marine conservation. Outstanding researchers from around the world gave invited presentations at three symposia hosted by the Marine Section at the 2003 Annual Meeting. These symposia, *Comparing marine and terrestrial ecosystems: Implications for conservation theory and practice*, *Marine reserves: A global perspective*, and *Conservation Planning for wide-ranging species: Challenges and strategies*, both fostered collaboration and cooperation among the international community of marine and terrestrial researchers and highlighted the connections between the Marine Section and its sister Sections.

NORTH AMERICA

The North America Section tackled difficult policy issues in 2003—including proposed sweeping changes to the management of U.S. National Forests. The Section convened an eight-member committee of scientists, chaired by Norman Christensen, of the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Studies, to provide a detailed critique of the new regulations and file comments on behalf of the Section. The committee suggested modifications to the proposed rule that they believe will improve forest management and conserve biological diversity in United States National Forests for future generations. When posted on the Society's Web site, the committee's report created a stir among scientists, House and Senate staff members, and environmentalists. At the end of 2003, another North American Section committee began work on a new report, this one evaluating proposed amendments to the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Linking Scientists and Practitioners

“We continue to be impressed by the quality and thoughtfulness of the reviews provided by SCB members”

Greg Hayward
Regional Wildlife Ecologist,
USDA Forest Service

The Rocky Mountain region of the United States Forest Service supports 230 species of conservation concern. To increase the scientific basis for agency management of this suite of species, an exciting new project is underway – including an extensive partnership with SCB and its global network of conservation experts.

During the past year, SCB members served as reviewers for species assessments produced through the Species Conservation Project—a regional Forest Service approach to conservation. During 2003, members reviewed 50 of the more than 200 assessments that will ultimately be produced. The Forest Service has given glowing praise for the level of expertise demonstrated by reviewers; report authors indicated that reviews received through this collaboration have provided some of the most helpful feedback they have ever received on technical manuscripts.

Making an Impact

SCB’s ongoing efforts to promote conservation science outside of academia met with tremendous success in 2003. Our bi-monthly Conservation News Tips are requested with great eagerness by the media. In 2003, research originally published in *Conservation Biology* was featured by organizations such as National Geographic, National Public Radio, and Discovery Channel Canada, as well as by publications including *U.S. News and World Report*, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, *Nature*, and *Science*. *Conservation In Practice* also enjoyed the exposure of feature articles reprinted in influential international magazines like *The Economist*.

Conservation Science in the Headlines



SCB Conservation News Tips feature, “Does shade coffee help or hinder conservation?” (December 2003), resulted in many media requests. This blue-crowned motmot is one of the many bird species depending on tropical forests in coffee farming regions.

Recognizing Achievements

Each year, SCB recognizes leadership in conservation biology. Many award recipients make impacts on science, education, and management well out of proportion to available resources. We thank them for their accomplishments and for the inspiration they provide to the global community of conservation professionals.



SCB President Mac Hunter congratulates 2003 Award Winner Martha Isabel Ruiz Corzo

2003 SCB Award Winners

The Aldo Leopold Foundation

For its commitment to Aldo Leopold's legacy of prairie restoration and research

Michael Dombeck

For his efforts as former Chief of the USDA Forest Service, for which he was described as "the most aggressive conservationist to head the Forest Service in at least half a century"

Martha Isabel Ruiz Corzo

For her work as a grassroots leader and subsequently as the Federal Director of the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico

Sarath Kotagama

For his work as the first professional ornithologist and professor of environmental science in Sri Lanka

Jane Lubchenco

For her leadership in marine conservation research and for her work as a driving force behind the marine protected areas movement in the United States

Stephen Schneider

Recipient of the Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award for initiating new research and policy directions in global climate change and atmospheric and ecosystems science

2003 Student Awards

First Place

Nicholas Souter
Flinders University, Australia

Adding burrows to enhance a population of the endangered pygmy blue tongue lizard, *Tiliqua adelaidensis*

Second Place

Reuben Keller
University of Notre Dame, USA

Keeping out the next invasive mollusc: a modeling approach to predicting the impact of future freshwater mollusc introductions

Third Place (Tie)

J. Alan Clark
University of Washington, USA
Taxonomic bias in conservation research

Nicola Koper
University of Alberta, Canada

Ducks as surrogate species for avian conservation in wetlands and prairies

Wei Liu
Iowa State

University, USA
Development of conservation strategies with biological and socioeconomic investigations: a case study on white-headed langur

Financial Summary

For the fiscal year ending 31 December 2003

Support and Revenue	2003	2002
Dues and contributions	990,000	950,000
Government contracts	63,000	10,000
Foundation and non-profit grants	231,000	225,000
Other income	16,000	15,000
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,200,000

Expenses and Capital Allocations	2003	2002
Publications	987,000	950,000
General and administrative	180,000	130,000
Membership	68,000	58,000
Conservation programs	65,000	62,000
Total Expenses and Capital Allocations	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,200,000

Liabilities and Assets	2003	2002
Endowment investments (market value)	737,000	599,000
Property and equipment (net of depreciation)	20,000	17,000
Current assets	561,000	333,000
Current assets (receivables)	162,000	116,000
Total assets	\$ 1,480,000	\$ 1,065,000
Total liabilities	139,000	13,000
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 1,341,000	\$ 1,052,000

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—
* Term ended July 2003

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Society for Conservation Biology
4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Virginia 22203
United States of America

www.conservationbiology.org