

Society for Conservation Biology A global community of conservation professionals

Photo: ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING ORGANISMS, THE BRISTLECONE PINE TREE (*Pinus longaeva*) CAN LIVE UP TO 5,000 YEARS. CALIFORNIA, USA





All success, and failure, is built upon history.

Understanding the history in which we operate is essential in conservation. Conservation challenges are not just a collection of current issues to be resolved, they are the culmination of decisions, informed or not, over years, decades, even centuries. The same is true for conservation success stories—they are the result of partnerships forged over time with stakeholders completely dedicated to a common vision.

In the inaugural issue of *Conservation Biology* Michael Soulé had this to say of the fledgling society that he and a small group of dedicated conservationists were helping to nurture in 1987: "The Society is a response by professionals, mostly biological and social scientists, managers and administrators to the biological diversity crisis that will reach a crescendo in the first half of the twenty-first century." Today the Society envisions "a world where people understand, value, and conserve the diversity of life on Earth and SCB is an effective, internationally respected organization of conservation professionals that is the leading voice for the study and conservation of Earth's biodiversity." Michael Soulé's hope that the science of conservation biology would flourish and that it could inform management and policy is now being realized.

Growth has not slowed. We topped 12,000 members from over 140 countries in 2006. Our fastest growing sectors are developing country residents and students. As a result of an unprecedented partnership between Blackwell and Elsevier Publishing and the SCB, online content to *Conservation Biology, Conservation In Practice*, and *Biological Conservation* was made available for free to all developing country Society members.

At the first annual meeting of SCB in 1987, entire symposia were dedicated to the role of disease in conservation, edge effects, conservation genetics, and training the next generation of conservationists. The 2006 Annual Meeting, "Conservation Without Borders," was our largest meeting ever—we seem to say that every year. The diversity and quantity of content (over 900 oral and poster presentations) was staggering. Of particular note was the strong showing in marine content—one quarter of contributed papers and nearly half of the symposia were marine-focused. The meeting closed with a look back at 20 years of the Society, when Michael Soulé, Curt Meine, Elise Granek, Michael O'Connell, Mac Hunter, Kent Redford, Peter Brussard, Kathy Kohm, Francesca Grifo, and others helped us remember from whence we came—not a dry eye to be found in the house.

How SCB should ensure that science informs policy and management decisions that affect biodiversity was spelled out in the SCB's 2005-2010 Strategic Plan. In 2006, after 20 years of anxious preparation and debate about how we would engage this largely unfamiliar arena, we secured funding to launch our policy office and begin, in earnest, to inform policy with conservation science. In its first full year under the direction of SCB, the David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellows made an impact with congressional testimony, securing major research grants, significant media coverage, and generally making conservation scem a bit less stodgy while making it more accessible to those outside of our community.

The vaquita, pictured here, became the most endangered cetacean at the end of 2006. Does it take the extinction of the baiji, China's Yangtze River dolphin, to motivate action and recover the vaquita? We were aware of these species' imperiled states long before 2006. How many more will live on in pictures alone?

Our actions, each year, build our legacy.

President 2005-2006, John Robinson Executive Director, Alan D. Thornhill



Governance

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* term ended July 2006

Becoming carbon-neutral

Emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by humans is altering the earth's climate in ways that will profoundly affect our lives. In this century global climate change may produce a one meter rise in sea level, which would put most of Bangladesh and some island nations—and much of the United States' state of Florida—under sea level. In addition to these impacts on humans, global climate change will have enormous impacts on biodiversity. For instance, in 2004 a team of conservation biologists at the University of Leeds concluded that by 2050, 15% to 37% of all landbased animals and plants may become extinct under the most plausible projections of climate change.

More than 95% of SCB's contribution to global warming derives from jet fuel burned to take people to our annual meeting. Each passenger on a fully-booked London-New York flight, for instance, is responsible for about 1.2 tons of carbon. Running our Executive Office for one year generates about 2% as much carbon as our annual meeting. In late May 2006 we polled registrants for the 2006 Annual Meeting about their willingness to increase registration fees to invest in projects that would offset the carbon generated by our travel. Nearly 350 registrants responded. Survey results were the same for students and for non-students, and for people from developed or developing countries. By overwhelming majorities, respondents said:

- much less.

At the 2006 Annual Meeting, the SCB Board of Governors voted to act in accordance with the clear wishes of meeting attendees. To offset the carbon impact of our 2007 meeting in South Africa, we are investing in an exciting project to restore degraded landscape on a World Heritage Area. The project would store carbon, benefit biodiversity, and help alleviate poverty in the project area, with long term sustainability through ecotourism. Most carbon would be stored in an indigenous succulent evergreen plant which has been demonstrated to store carbon efficiently in a low rainfall system, with high resistance to loss from wildfire and decomposition.

responsibility for our carbon footprint.

SOUTHERN OCEAN

• SCB should increase registration fees to offset the carbon impact of attending the Annual Meeting. • Everybody should pay at least a symbolic amount, but persons from developing countries should pay

• SCB should invest in projects like restoration of natural landscapes that directly benefit biodiversity in addition to atmospheric carbon reduction, even if these tons of carbon cost more.

Additionally, Blackwell Publishing, the publisher of our journal, Conservation Biology, recently became the first major academic publisher to make its operations carbon neutral. To our knowledge, we are the first professional organization in ecology, conservation, or management of natural resources to take

European Congress of **Conservation Biology**

Europe Section

The first European Congress of Conservation Biology (ECCB), held in August 2006 in Eger, Hungary, was declared a great success by organizers and participants alike. With more than 1000 participants from over 50 countries, the scientific program reflected diverse backgrounds, areas of research, and cultures. There was great coherence in the priorities expressed, and it is clear that conservation biologists across Europe have many common goals.

One of the objectives of the ECCB was to raise the profile of SCB and the Europe Section among government administrators at both the national and European level. Participants had the opportunity to meet with Ladislav Miko, one of the directors at the Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission; András Demeter, Enlargement Coordinator on conservation issues of the Directorate General for Environment; Miklós Persányi, Hungarian Environment Minister; and, Jan Szyszko, Polish Environment Minister. This gave an opportunity for conservation biologists to further engage with policy at the European level. For example, the participants urged the environment ministers, who were preparing for a meeting in Poland shortly after the congress, to strengthen the Natura 2000 network.

Another important objective of the ECCB was SCB and section recruitment. Approximately 150 individuals joined SCB, bringing the number of European members to 750. Thanks to András Báldi and the local organizing committee for all their hard work. They succeeded in making the ECCB a truly memorable event and set a high standard for others to follow. Pictures are posted at www.eccb2006.org.



Opening reception at ECCB, Eger, Hungary.



A helicopter crash in September 2006 took the lives of a remarkable group of conservationists and internationally renowned experts in Himalayan ecology and the empowerment of local people to care for and conserve their natural resources. Like the snow leopard (Uncia uncia) pictured here, these amazing people were, as Nepali botanist Tirtha Shrestha said, "sons of the mountains - they knew them, travelled them, lived for them." SCB's Asia Section honored their lost friends and colleagues with the dedication of their book, Conservation Biology in Asia, published in November 2006.

Africa: The role of women in conservation biology and their advancement of the discipline globally are evident to all, however, African women are underrepresented in the field of conservation science on the African continent. The Africa Section identified this gap and launched the Young Women Conservation Biologists group in 2006. The group was formed as a vehicle to advance career opportunities for young African women in conservation and has already created a mentorship program to give support and encouragement to female members. The Africa Section has also been very busy preparing for the first SCB global meeting on the African continent in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, July 2007.

Asia: Under the leadership of the Asia Section, Conservation Biology in Asia was published in November 2006. The volume is dedicated to the 24 conservationists who lost their lives in the line of duty in a helicopter crash in eastern Nepal on 23 September, 2006. The 461-page book contains 29 papers and is edited by Jeff McNeely, Tom McCarthy, Andrew Smith, Linda Whittaker, and Eric Wikramnayake. Partial support for the publication was provided by SCB and Resources Himalaya Foundation.

Austral and Neotropical America: The Section's President, Javier Simonetti, and Yolanda Kakabadse have been recognized by SCB with 2006 Distinguished Service Awards. Both awardees were nominated by the Section in recognition of their distinguished service and work in the field of conservation biology.

Australasia: In addition to giving two student awards for outstanding papers in 2006, the Australasia Section began planning for their first regional meeting: Biodiversity Extinction Crisis Conference - a Pacific Response, to be held in July 2007 in Sydney, Australia.

Marine: Dedicating their efforts to education and outreach in 2006, the Marine Section initiated a redesign of their Web site, created the "Sea Star of the Month" to feature the achievements of a Marine Section member each month, and began to expand efforts in student affairs and education.

North America: The Section was very active in the policy arena in 2006, generating three policy statements on conservation issues relevant to North America: Scientific Societies' Statement on the Endangered Species Act; Grizzly Bear protection under the Endangered Species Act; and, Ecological Science Relevant to Management Policies for Fire-prone Forests of the Western United States.

Local Chapters

There are 29 Active SCB Chapters with 11 in formation globally. Traditionally, Chapters have been university-based and student run but as SCB expands we are receiving more interest in regional representation for conservation activities. This trend is particularly noticeable outside of the United States as we receive requests for Chapters such as the China or Bhutan Chapter. Chapters organize and participate in local on-the-ground conservation efforts in their areas. A few examples of Chapter initiatives are listed below:

Berkeley–Partnered with university and high school students to restore a creek that runs through campus. Raised over \$1000 for their sister chapter in Kenya through a concert and other fundraising efforts.

Bolivia–Promoted conservation activities on television, explaining the roles and tasks of the chapter (mission, vision, etc.) and inviting viewers to join in conservation actions.

Colorado State University–Organized three volunteer days with The Nature Conservancy at Phantom Canyon Preserve to help with invasive weed control and fence repair.

Florida–Sponsored a two-part workshop focusing on scientific writing aimed at the general public as well as technical audiences. Over 60 individuals participated.

Kingston, Ontario Chapter–Started a pilot program in local schools, bringing environmental and sustainability lessons to elementary classes, planted a native garden in another schoolyard, and expanded the chapter's native butterfly garden on Queen's campus.

Minnesota–Partnered with other regional student conservation groups to organize the first annual Minnesota Natural Resources Conference in February/March 2006, entitled: "Sustainable Natural Resources Management: Defining Our Legacy." This historic, cross-disciplinary event was held with the Minnesota Chapters of the American Fisheries Society, the Society of American Foresters, and The Wildlife Society.



SCB Chapters hosted a networking event during the SCB 2006 Annual Meeting - complete with local bluegrass music!

Hard work

Working Groups

Social Science Working Group – 551 members

The SCB Social Science Working Group (SSWG) had another very successful year. Silas Siakor of Liberia, who received a 2005 SSWG travel grant, won the 2006 Goldman Prize for Africa. SSWG leadership resulted in 11 social science sessions at the 2006 SCB Annual Meeting in San Jose, California, USA: 4 symposia, 5 workshops, and 2 short courses. The SSWG also launched an online Catalog of Social Science Tools, Graduate Student Guidebook, and a compilation of conservation social science syllabi, and the SSWG email discussion list grew by 70%.

Freshwater Working Group – 480 members

The Freshwater Working Group increased capacity in 2006 by establishing bylaws and electing a 10-person Board of Directors to replace the original ad-hoc committee that conducted FWWG activities. With members from five continents, the new Board extends the group's scope far beyond its North American origin. The Board began a strategic planning process, with goals of clarifying the purpose of the working group, focusing activities, and increasing its impact. The working group continued to make SCB meetings more relevant to freshwater concerns by helping organize four freshwater-oriented symposia and holding FWWG events at the San Jose meeting; organizing a freshwater symposium at the First European Congress of Conservation Biology; and preparing freshwater activites for upcoming SCB meetings in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and Little Rock, USA in 2007. Members and other interested individuals continued to receive recent freshwater conservation literature through the FWWG's listserve.

Working Group for Ecological Economics and Sustainability Science – 151 members

WGEESS was founded in mid-2006 and made their debut at the SCB Annual Meeting in San Jose, California. Beginning with a modest number of members, support for this group has increased to 151 by the end of the year. The WGSSEE is home to SCB members who work on issues related to the conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation. Such issues generally fall under the rubric of ecological economics and sustainability science, and include the likes of ecological footprinting, natural capital valuation, Peak Oil, alternative energy futures, environmental justice, and the political economy of biodiversity conservation.

BOLIVIAN WEAVING PATTERNS ARE UNIQUE TO EACH CULTURAL GROUP. TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN THEIR COUNTRY, THE BOLIVIAN CHAPTER ALSO TOOK A UNIQUE APPROACH. SCB's publications feed the needs of the global community of conservation professionals-needs that weren't always met in developing countries because of expense. A partnership between Blackwell and Elsevier Publishing and the SCB, online content was made available for free to all developing country Society members. The Nature Conservancy facilitated this by sponsoring hundreds of members from developing countries.

Conservation Biology

Total	9595	8024	
Institutions	5656	4732	
Outside USA	1006	1379	
United States	2933	3163	
Circulation	2006	2005	



Conservation Biology celebrated its 20th year of publication in 2006. It set new records for manuscripts received (806) and highest impact factor ever (4.11). Another large volume of 1850 pages was produced this year and it included three

Special Sections: The Northwest Forest Plan: A Global Model of Forest Management in Contentious Times; 20th Anniversary of Conservation Biology; and, The Ecological Effects of Salvage Logging after Natural Disturbance. The cover of the June (Anniversary) issue was a reprise of the first issue, published in May 1987: a painting of the (thought to be extinct) Caerulean Paradise-Flycatcher of Sangihe Island, Sulawesi. The Society was happy this time to include a photo of the in fact extant bird, recently rediscovered. Previously known only from a single specimen collected in 1873, this rare bird was rediscovered in October 1998 around forested valleys of Mount Sahendaruman in southern Sangihe.

Conservation In Practice

Circulation	2006	2005
United States	7061	5127
Outside USA	999	887
Instituions	1081	991
Total	9141	7005

Now into its seventh year of publication, *Conservation In Practice* has become an invaluable tool to both conservation practitioners and researchers for keeping up on the field. The magazine is now also a staple of many classrooms. In early 2006, the magazine received a \$30,000 grant from National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to develop articles and companion teaching tools. In each issue, as a supplement to the feature articles, the magazine provides study resources and a series of online discussion questions to stimulate classroom debate. Today's students, after all, are tomorrow's thinkers and leaders.

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The Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology

Programs like the Smith Fellowship Program encourage innovation and leadership in conservation research through a unique combination of training workshops, partnerships with on-the-ground conservation organizations, and mentorship from both an academic scientist and a conservation practitioner.



The David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program

In 2006, the Smith Fellows Program selected its first class of Fellows under the administration of SCB. These outstanding early-career scientists receive two years of postdoctoral support while working at the interface of conservation science and application. The Smith Fellows Program has supported 38 Fellows since its inception, and all are life members of SCB.

Fellows Class of 2006



Myra Finkelstein

Project: Understanding the effects of interacting threats on the survival of long-lived species.



Robert McDonald

Project: Urbanization and conservation priority setting: scaling from global patterns to local processes.



Tania Schoennagel

Project: Fire risk and forest restoration in the wildland-urban interface of the Colorado Front Range.



Katherine Smith

Project: Forecasting infectious disease emergence resulting from the global trade in wildlife.

Conservation without borders

The 2006 Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting in San Jose, California, USA, 24-28 June, commemorated the Society's 20th anniversary. The 9th Annual International Conference of the Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS) was held concurrently. The two societies shared the common theme of "Conservation Without Borders," with its four major threads woven throughout the scientific program: local-level and regional-level conservation, marine and freshwater conservation, 21st century conservation, and transboundary conservation. Over 1700 individuals attended.

In all aspects of meeting organization, SCB could not have asked for better partners. On the evening of 27 June, SCB and SCGIS conducted a silent and live auction—a tradition at SCGIS meetings—to share treasures and artwork from around the globe. Money received from the auction was shared by both societies to support international and domestic scholarship programs.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS: In lieu of a banquet, a closing celebration of SCB's anniversary was held, followed by a reception. Master of Ceremony Kent Redford and speakers Mac Hunter, Curt Meine, Michael Soulé, Peter Brussard, Kathy Kohm, Javier Simonetti, Francesca Grifo, Mike O'Connell, and Elise Granek made the event moving and memorable.

SPEED PRESENTATIONS: In addition to standard oral presentations, SCB experimented with a new format—speed presentations. Presenters gave their key ideas and results in three minutes and then stationed themselves at separate tables where they could interact with audience members interested in learning more about their work.

MARINE CONSERVATION

Marine issues were highlighted in dedicated sessions as well as integrated with other sessions to demonstrate that most conservation challenges and approaches are applicable in any realm. Seven of 18 symposia, approximately 25% of contributed papers, and approximately 20% of posters focused on marine themes.

OVER HALF OF NORTH AMERICAN AVIAN SPECIES, NEARLY ONE THIRD OF CALIFORNIA'S PLANT SPECIES, AND 24 U.S. FEDERALLY THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES EXIST WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA



At the Annual Meeting each year, SCB recognizes new and continuing conservation leadership. Dedicated to solid science, international collaboration, and conservation practice, these individuals have left lasting impressions on the discipline of conservation biology and the global conservation movement.

Distinguished Service Awards

Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award

Stuart Pimm For research that revolutionized the way in which ecologists view ecological change in the long term, over large scales, and across many species and for aggressive advocacy for maintaining a strong Endangered Species Act in the USA.

Distinguished Service Awards

Dee Boersma For her excellent research on seabirds, for mentoring and training young biologists, and for creating a strong foundation for SCB during her tenure as president.

Mark Burgman For his unique perspective of incorporating risk and uncertainty in the development of management options for conservation.

Nature Conservation Foundation For practicing conservation in India with scientific rigor, focus, and imagination - a combination that has resulted in discovery of new species and is resulting in the restoration of many habitats.

Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro For leading conservation projects in Ecuador where she served as Minister of the Environment, and for her service to global conservation organizations.

Javier Simonetti For his distinguished career as researcher, practitioner, and educator in his native Chile and throughout Latin America where his research frequently has been incorporated into policy.

Student Presentation Awards

1st place: Carolyn Kurle University of California, Santa Cruz, USA Introduced rats indirectly transform island intertidal communities.
2nd place: Mya Thompson Cornell University, USA Applied acoustic monitoring: African forest elephant population estimates from Kakum National Park, Ghana.

3rd place: Jeffrey Milder Cornell University, USA
Assessing the conservation benefits of sensitive land development.
4th place: Jennifer Solomon University of Florida, USA
Polling for poachers: testing a unique method for estimating illegal

resource use in protected areas.

View from inside Staff

Executive Office Alan D. Thornhill | Executive Director Therese Cluck | Development Coordinator Gwenaële Coat | Meeting Coordinator Heather DeCaluwe | Executive Assistant Shonda Gilliland Foster | Program Coordinator, David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Autumn-Lynn Harrison | Communications Coordinator Kathryn Powers | Membership Coordinator

Conservation Biology Gary Meffe | Editor Ellen Main | Managing Editor Margaret Flagg | Editorial Assistant

Conservation In Practice Kathy Kohm | Editor Catherine DeNardo | Senior Editor Rebecca Gamboa | Editorial Assistant Langdon Cook | Web Editor

AN EXPEDITION IN THE HIMALAYAS

Financial Statement 2006

The David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program (Smith Fellows) was added to the SCB budget in 2005. SCB Annual Meeting budgets were managed externally until 2005 at which time they were included in the primary SCB budget. The 2006 values are reported unaudited. Audited financials are available from the SCB Executive Office.

Support and Revenue

Dues and contributions Government contracts Foundation and non-profit grants Annual Meeting Other income Total Support and Revenue

Expenses and Capital Allocations

Publications General and administrative Membership Annual Meeting Conservation programs Total Expenses and Capital Allocations

Liabilities and Assets

Endowment investments (market value) Property and equipment (net of depreciation) Current assets Current assets (receivables) Total assets Total liabilities Total Liabilities and Net Assets

Thank you!

We owe our gratitude to the following organizations for supporting SCB in 2006:

SCB: The Christensen Fund | David and Lucile Packard Foundation | John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation The Nature Conservancy | U.S. Forest Service, Region 2 | Wilburforce Foundation | The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation 2006 SCB Annual Meeting: Blackwell Publishing | California Department of Fish and Game | California Department of Transportation Wildlife Corridors Working Group | California State Parks | Centro Internacional de Ecologia Tropical | The Christensen Fund | David & Lucile Packard Foundation | Dell | Ecosystems Restoration Associates Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. | Environmental Science Associates | Ford Foundation | International Association of Society and Natural Resources | Jones & Stokes | H.T. Harvey & Associates | Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation | Nevada Biodiversity Initiative | Oregon State University, Department of Zoology | Pacific Gas and Electric Company | Red Latinoamericana de Botanica | San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory | Santa Clara Valley Water District Stanford Institute for the Environment | The Irvine Company | The Nature Conservancy | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Geological Survey University of California, Berkeley, College of Natural Resources Universidad De Chile, Programa Interdisciplinaro De Estudios En Biodiversidad | Wilburforce Foundation | Zoological Society of San Diego Conservation In Practice: David and Lucile Packard Foundation | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation | Pew Institute for Ocean Science | University of Washington Smith Fellows: The Cedar Tree Foundation

2006	2005	2004	2003
\$1,045,500	\$1,313,138	\$980,000	\$990,000
\$48,000	\$518,390	\$47,000	\$63,000
\$985,000	\$168,000	\$295,000	\$231,000
\$800,000	\$168,000		
\$158,700	\$38,473	\$12,000	\$16,000
\$3,039,206	\$2,038,000	\$1,334,000	\$1,300,000
\$1,048,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,140,000	\$987,000
\$235,000	\$250,000	\$190,000	\$180,000
\$153,000	\$90,000	\$70,000	\$68,000
\$621,000	\$196,000		
\$450,000	\$293,000	\$40,000	\$65,000
\$2,507,000	\$2,029,000	\$1,440,000	\$1,300,000
\$1,200,000	\$1,053,500	\$887,000	\$737,000
\$12,600	\$16,800	\$17,000	\$20,000
\$390,000	\$508,700	\$469,000	\$561,000
\$1,600,000	\$79,000	\$382,000	\$162,000
\$3,202,600	\$1,658,000	\$1,755,000	\$1,480,000
\$318,000	\$29,000	\$78,000	\$139,000
\$2,884,600	\$1,677,000	\$1,341,000	\$1,052,000

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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Autumn-Lynn Harrison, SCB

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Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals

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