ABOUT THE PHOTO: SCB’s 2007 Annual Meeting was held in South Africa, home to one of conservation’s greatest success stories: the recovery of the southern white rhinoceros (Ceratotherium simum simum). Thought to be extinct, a population of 60-100 animals was discovered in 1895 in Kwazulu-Natal (where this photo was taken), recovering to over 12,000 animals after more than a century of protection.
Sometimes, the best way to get over trepidation is to jump straight in! We are proud of a number of significant leaps made this year, including:

- We hired a Policy Director and launched our long-awaited Policy Program.
- We held our Annual Meeting on the African continent for the first time.
- We took responsibility for the carbon output of the annual meeting.
- We selected another class of outstanding fellows in the David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program.
- We decided to purchase office space for the SCB Executive Offices and started the hunt for the appropriate building.
- We agreed to launch a new publication, *Conservation Letters*, with our publisher Wiley-Blackwell.
- We launched an unprecedented offer to all developing country SCB members for free online access to all our publications.

In 1985, Michael Soulé and the other founding board members chartered the SCB with the expectation that the fledgling society would play an active and meaningful role in the policy making process. After two decades of making a few small-scale successes in these unfamiliar waters, we leaped into the deep end! We hired an experienced Policy Director and thereby built capacity for policy engagement throughout the society. In the first year, among other things, we worked to defend the integrity of conservation science and wildlife law, developed policy training exercises for scientists and policymakers, and provided testimony and statements on climate change.

We took responsibility for our biggest impact on climate by offsetting the carbon produced (nearly three million kilograms) by the travel to our first ever annual meeting held on the African continent. More than 99% of registrants at the 21st Annual Meeting (held in Port Elizabeth, South Africa) elected to add a voluntary carbon surcharge to their registration fees. With the money from the 2007-9 annual meetings, we will invest in restoration of thicket vegetation on the Baviaanskloof MegaReserve in Eastern Cape, South Africa. The project will store carbon, benefit biological diversity, alleviate poverty through local employment, and provide long-term ecotourism opportunities.

The Smith Fellows Program continues to bring together future conservation leaders and entrepreneurs who are successful at linking conservation science and application. Evidence of the powerful collaborations among these early-career scientists included the much-cited *Conservation Biology* article “Top 40 American and Canadian Academic Institutions Identified in Conservation Biology.” This year’s professional development events included media training, research and work at NGOs and other non-academic institutions, frontiers in conservation strategies and tactics, the role of private environmental grant making foundations in conservation research, and how performance measures are used to gauge impact in conservation.

Our mission is to advance the science and practice of conserving the Earth’s biological diversity. We gauge our impact by measuring the performance of the society as we accomplish the goals of the 2006-2010 strategic plan. In the following pages we catalog our performance to date and recount some of the many exciting leaps of 2007. We encourage you to read about them, give us your comments, and let us know if you can contribute and reinforce our work in any way.

Turn the page and jump in!

Georgina Mace, Ph.D., President
Alan D. Thornhill, Ph.D., Executive Director

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*Marine iguana* (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*), Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. Marine iguanas are the world’s only lizard equipped to forage in the sea and are endemic to the Galapagos, occurring in subpopulations on separate islands (IUCN status: Vulnerable).
Policy

Before 2007, few formal groups of conservation scientists took the responsibility to actively engage in the policy arena to ensure that the best conservation science was used to craft conservation policy. The Society for Conservation Biology felt it was time to fill this gap. The greatest strengths of SCB in this regard are: (a) the knowledge and authority of our members, (b) the scientific and analytical skills that our members can contribute to policy issues, and (c) the ability to gather, organize, and synthesize the science underpinning conservation issues.

In 2007, the Society’s Policy Director, John Fitzgerald, J.D., in collaboration with the SCB Policy Committee, consulted SCB experts and allies in submitting extensive comments and technical advice on climate change policy options, prepared SCB Members to testify at two U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee hearings investigating the political manipulation of Endangered Species decisions, made our expertise available to coalitions, and helped SCB’s Sections advance their own policy work.

SCB’s five focal areas

The Society’s policy priorities focus on bringing vital science to policy-makers, helping them make sound judgments when creating policies. SCB recognizes that “policy decisions of major international conventions, governments, organizations, and foundations should be effectively informed by the highest quality scientific counsel, analysis and recommendations so as to advance the conservation of biodiversity” (Strategic Plan 2005). SCB also recognizes the need to intervene on critical policy issues, while not compromising SCB’s identity and reputation as a scientific society.

In February, the Board adopted these five major issue areas for the global policy program for the next two years:

1. Climate Change
   Local, national, and international energy, ecosystem management, and greenhouse gas policies can reduce the forces driving climate change and provide unprecedented funding for biological research and conservation and for the restoration of ecosystems.

2. Scientific Integrity
   Re-enforcing the sciences in the governmental decision-making and environmental assessment processes.

3. Treaties
   Empowering key international treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

4. Biological Security
   Controlling the importation of invasive species and illegally harvested plants and animals.

5. Green Investing
   Leveraging investments and spending – controlling our environmental footprint.

Governance

Executive Committee
Georgina Mace, President, Publications Committee*  
Luigi Boitani, President-elect, Policy Committee  
Paul Bauer, Secretary  
David Johns, Treasurer  
John Robinson, President*, Past President  
Deborah B. Jensen, Past President  
Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr., Past President*  

Voting Members
Katrina Brandon, Social Sciences*  
Gerardo Ceballos, Austral and Neotropical America Section  
Tracy Dobson, Humanities  
Michael Maslo, Social Sciences  
Shadrick M. Mashaari, Africa Section  
Jeff McLain, Asia Section  
Rodrigo Medellin, Austral and Neotropical America Section*  
Craig Morley, Australasia Section  
Reed Noss, North America Section  
Andrew Pullin, Europe Section  
Jon Paul Rodriguez, Non-governmental Organization*, Publications Committee  
Mary Rowen, Governmental Agency*  
Mark Schwartz, University or College  
Thomas Sisk, Local Chapters  
Stuart Strahl, Botanical Garden, Zoological Garden, Public Aquarium, or Natural History Museum  
Gary Tabor, Non-governmental Organization, Development Committee

Ex-Officio Members
Aram Calhoun, Student Affairs Committee*  
Maynard K. Davis, Audit Committee  
Mike Dombeck, Executive Director  
Smith Fellowship Program  
Erica Fleishman, Membership Committee*, Editor: Newsletter  
Kathryn Kohm, Editor: Conservation magazine  
Gary Meffe, Editor: Conservation Biology  
Kent H. Redford, Membership Committee  
Mike Scott, LaRoe Award Committee  
Kathryn Saterson, Awards Committee  
Gordon Smith, Carbon Offset Committee  
Eleanor Sterling, Education Committee  
Alan D. Thornhill, SCB Executive Director

Bethany Woodworth, Conference Committee

* terms ended July 2007

In cooperation with the new SCB Policy Director, John Fitzgerald, J.D., the SCB North America Section led a peer review effort that twice found that the Administration’s proposed recovery plans for the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*) would allow excessive harvesting of the owl’s mature forest habitat and rely too heavily on lethal removal of the competing barred owl (*Strix varia*, pictured here).
Each year at the Annual Meeting, 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.

**Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award**

Jeremy Jackson for his application of conservation science to policy and management.

**Distinguished Service Awards**

J.C. Daniel for his extraordinary contributions to wildlife conservation in India and beyond through stewardship of the Bombay Natural History Society.

Rodolfo Dirzo for his extraordinary contributions to conservation science, education, and policy in Mexico, Latin America, and beyond.

Malcolm Hunter for his extraordinary contributions to conservation biology and his exceptional leadership and service as President of the Society for Conservation Biology.

Kathryn McKinnon for her extraordinary contributions to global biodiversity conservation via the programs and policies of the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility.

Nature Kenya for its pioneering conservation and education work in Kenya.

**Student Presentation Awards**

Special thanks to Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford University Press, and Sinauer Associates for their support. Thanks to the Zoological Society of London and to the South Africa Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs for sponsoring the poster award and awards reception, respectively.

1st place (Tie): Toby Gardner The cost-effectiveness of biodiversity research in tropical forests.

1st place (Tie): Sanjay Gubbi Attitudes to development and conservation in an Indian KCP.

3rd place: Archana Bali and Jignasu Dolia Private lands around protected areas – the role of coffee plantations in mammal and butterfly conservation in the Western Ghats, India.

4th place: Mao Angua Amis Do freshwater and terrestrial priorities overlap in conservation assessments?

**Student Poster Awards**

1st place: Cheryl Chetkevitch Designing corridors for carnivore conservation in the Canadian Rocky Mountains: marrying pattern and process.

2nd place: Lourens Swanepoel If it pays, it stays: implications for wide-ranging leopards.

3rd place: Stephanie Sell Investigating population structure and philopatry in ringed seals.

4th place: Wilfred Odadi The effects of wildlife on cattle in Laskia Rangeland, Kenya.

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**Leucospermum cordifolium or pincushion protea, Western Cape, South Africa.** The Cape floristic region extends along the southwestern coast of Africa and contains 3% of the world’s plant species, including over 6,000 endemic plant species, on 0.05% of the world’s land area.

Right: Hunted to near extinction, Equus zebra zebra or Cape mountain zebra has recovered from 100 individuals to about 1000 (IUCN status: Endangered) and is protected by the Mountain Zebra National Park in South Africa.

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**SCB 2007: South Africa One World, One Conservation, One Partnership**

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, South Africa

The 21st Annual Meeting of SCB was held from 1 – 5 July 2007 in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The conference was hosted by the Centre for African Conservation Ecology (ACE), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. This was the first SCB meeting to take place in Africa and the largest international conference ever held in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

A total of 1866 individuals from 88 countries registered. The scientific program included 180 symposium presentations, 458 contributed oral presentations, 250 poster presentations, eight workshops, eight short courses, and three organized discussions.

The theme for the meeting, One World, One Conservation, One Partnership, emphasized the need to move away from national, regional, and disciplinary territoriality in support of unique and strategic collaborative efforts to conserve the Earth’s biological diversity. The unifying theme included the following focal areas: partnerships, conservation beyond disciplinary and geographic boundaries, global change, and interactions between biodiversity and society.

While an important outcome of this meeting was an enhanced understanding of how conservation biology can best be developed and promoted throughout the world, an equally important outcome was the strengthening of African conservationists’ role in influencing continental policy on conservation and sustainable development.

Socioeconomic issues were prominent at the meeting. Most of the products and services were procured from local Eastern Cape organizations, and African culture was showcased through entertainment, meals, and field trips. The Local Organizing Committee, under the expert leadership of Graham Kerley and Margot Collett, was committed to reducing the meeting’s environmental impact by ensuring that recyclable products were used to the greatest extent possible. The carbon offset project that was introduced this year demonstrated SCB members’ strong commitment to reduce negative impacts of their travel on biological diversity.

**Carbon offset**

More than 98% of registrants at the 2007 meeting added a voluntary surcharge to their registration fees to offset the carbon impact of the SCB Annual Meeting. With this money, we invested in restoration of thicket vegetation on the Bavianskloof MegaReserve in Eastern Cape, the third largest natural area in South Africa. The project will store carbon, benefit biological diversity, and (by employing local people to restore native vegetation) alleviate poverty in the project area, with long-term sustainability through ecotourism.

For more information visit: www.combio.org/projects/carbonoffset/Bavianskloof.cfm.
In Fiji, the Kangaroo Island echidna (Tachyglossus aculeatus or short-beaked echidna from Australia - one of only five extant species of egg-laying mammals. The species is not threatened by extinction, however, it’s distribution in Australia has been reduced by human activities, and the Kangaroo Island echidna (T. a. multiaculeatus), is classified as Near Threatened by IUCN due to increasing tourist activity and road mortality in its restricted island range.
Panthera tigris tigris or Bengal tiger from Bandhavgarh National Park, India. Auburn University's mascot is the tiger. Through its SCB Chapter, Auburn is competing against two other U.S. "tiger mascot universities" to raise $75,000 to help end illegal tiger trade in China and the Eastern Himalayas. At time of print, Auburn was in the lead!

Working Groups

SCB Working Groups focus on a topical area relevant to the mission and goals of SCB. Working Groups provide a voice for important conservation issues not currently addressed amongst SCB's many activities.

Social Science (672 members)
The Social Science Working Group (SSWG) announced the winners of the young African conservation fellowships. Eight multi-year fellowships were given to early career African social scientists.

SSWG launched an Ambassadors program and an online Expert Directory to facilitate global information exchange, capacity-building, and collaboration among conservation social scientists. The working group also launched an online Working Paper Series to highlight application of social science to conservation practice.

Freshwater (587 members)
The Freshwater Working Group significantly increased the focus on freshwater issues at the annual meeting this year. Thirty-three presentations related to freshwater conservation were offered during three oral sessions. Two freshwater-oriented symposia were held and nearly 20 posters presented at the meeting focused on freshwater-related subjects.

Ecological Economics and Sustainability Science (351 members)
The WGEISS was established upon a stated recognition that there are ecological limits to economic growth and a related challenge to biodiversity conservation, providing common ground with other professional societies that are addressing that challenge.

Chapters

There are currently 25 active SCB Chapters, with 12 in formation globally. Traditionally, Chapters have been university-based and organized by students, but as SCB expands, there is increasing interest in regional representation for conservation activities. This trend is particularly noticeable outside of the United States with requests for Chapters in China and Bhutan. Chapter size ranges from a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 258, with an average of 47 members. Chapters organize and participate in local grassroots conservation efforts. Some Chapters organize successful meetings on conservation issues. Chapter initiatives for 2007 included:

Arizona State University conducted outings to encourage students at ASU and other local individuals to aid in state conservation projects: volunteered for the Desert Tortoise Project, for a Buffel and Fountain (Invasive) grass removal project for the McDowell Mountain Preserve, and for the Black Footed Ferret project.

Auburn University collaborated with Clemson University and Louisiana State University in a very successful "Tigers for Tigers" World Wildlife Fund conservation awareness program. They hosted a booth at three major university games of American football this season with activities and fund-raising for Tigers for Tigers. For more information about this program, visit: www.worldwilderlife.org/sites/tigersfortigers/index.html

Bolivia developed a conservation biology guide for high school teachers: "Supporting environmental education programs in public schools of Bolivia."

Berkeley held the 2007 Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium, drawing over 200 people from campuses and communities around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Colorado Plateau sponsored a special session on conservation biology during the 9th Biennial Conference of Research on the Colorado Plateau held in Flagstaff, Arizona by the USGS Colorado Plateau Research Station.

Kingston became involved in outreach programs to local elementary and high schools in the Kingston, Canada area by collecting wildflower seeds from native gardens and providing them to the public in order to encourage the use of native plants in gardens. The Chapter was also involved in an all-candidates’ debate on environmental issues during the last provincial election.

Minnesota held its first annual meeting and retreat, "Conservation on Working Lands," at the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, Minnesota. The meeting included nearly 100 conservationists who discussed the Farm Bill, biofuels, the Minnesota Campaign for Conservation, and Conservation Leadership. The Conservation Committee made the Federal Farm Bill one of its top priorities. They met with staff members of Senator Klobuchar, Senator Coleman, and Representative McCollum as well as with other conservation organizations, and drafted Minnesota SCB recommendations for the Farm Bill. This became the basis for the North American Section's Farm Bill Policy and helped persuade Congress to approve a ban on the importation of illegally harvested timber and other plants.

Montana held three public meetings with invited speakers from Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and screened one of the Planet Earth films at a local theater.

Northwest Argentina participated in Public Audiences of the Salta Government and presented scientific justifications to halt a private hunting reserve project. The project was rejected by the government in April 2007. The chapter was successful in preventing the transformation of a forest remnant to sugar cane fields and conducted a regional biodiversity assessment for the area, including an analysis and policy report for local, provincial, and national authorities.
Smith Fellows

The David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program

The Smith Fellowship Program seeks to develop future world leaders and entrepreneurs who are successful at linking conservation science and application and has supported 42 Fellows since its inception. Smith Fellowships provide two years of postdoctoral support to outstanding early-career scientists.

Fellows Class of 2007

Victoria Bakker
Project: Connecting monitoring data to conservation action: development of population viability management strategies for rare and endangered carnivores

Julia Baum
Project: Sharks on coral reefs: estimating baseline abundances & ecosystem consequences of their elimination

Jedediah Brodie
Project: Understanding and mitigating the effects of climate change on the elk-aspen interaction in the northern Rocky Mountains, USA

Peter McIntyre
Project: Connecting fish management to ecosystem functioning: a nutrient-based approach

Victoria Bakker, Julia Baum, Peter McIntyre, Jedediah Brodie

Free online access to publications for SCB members in developing countries

In collaboration with Wiley-Blackwell and Elsevier Publishing, online access to Conservation Biology, Conservation magazine, and Biological Conservation (an SCB affiliate) is now free to SCB members in developing countries.

Free publications

Providing free access to conservation publications will greatly benefit conservation professionals and students in developing countries worldwide who often do not have access to current scientific information either about the species they work with or about the tools that are available to conserve them. Much of the Earth’s biodiversity can be found in developing countries and the destruction of biodiversity worldwide is so rapid that there is no time to waste.

Free memberships

Thanks to a grant from The Nature Conservancy, SCB offered free memberships to 2500 conservationists in developing countries, thereby providing access to the list of free conservation publications.
Support

Dendrobates tinctorius azureus or blue poison arrow frog from Suriname. Amphibians have been steadily - and sometimes rapidly - disappearing from ecosystems around the world as a result of habitat loss, climate change, pollution, introduced species, and disease. Almost a third of some 6,000 described amphibian species are listed as Threatened by the IUCN; more than any other vertebrate group.

2007 Financial Statement

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<tr>
<th>Support and Revenue</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
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<td>Dues and contributions</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$2,038,000</td>
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</tbody>
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| Expenses and Capital Allocations    |            |            |            |            |
| Publications                        | $955,043   | $1,048,000 | $1,200,000 | $1,140,000 |
| General and administrative          | $285,665   | $235,000   | $250,000   | $190,000   |
| Membership                          | $153,624   | $153,000   | $90,000    | $70,000    |
| Annual Meeting                       | $517,917   | $621,000   | $293,000   |            |
| Conservation programs               | $505,109   | $450,000   | $196,000   | $40,000    |
| Total Expenses and Capital Allocations | $2,469,358 | $2,507,000 | $2,029,000 | $1,440,000 |

| Liabilities and Assets               |            |            |            |            |
| Endowment investments (market value)| $1,325,870 | $1,200,000 | $1,053,500 | $887,000   |
| Property and equipment (net of depreciation)| $7,542 | $12,600 | $16,800 | $17,000 |
| Current assets                       | $1,017,419 | $390,000   | $598,700   | $469,000   |
| Current assets (receivables)         | $498,735   | $1,600,000 | $79,000    | $382,000   |
| Other assets                         | $81,800    | $15,107    |            |            |
| Total assets                         | $2,931,364 | $3,217,707 | $1,658,000 | $1,755,000 |
| Total liabilities                    | $562,074   | $138,000   | $29,000    | $78,000    |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets     | $2,369,290 | $2,899,707 | $1,629,000 | $1,677,000 |

Thank you!

We owe our gratitude to the following organizations for supporting SCB in 2007:


Smith Fellows: Cedar Tree Foundation

SCB Australasia Section Meeting: Department of Environment and Water Resources | University of New South Wales | Department of Environment and Climate Change | The Australian Wildlife Conservancy | Landcare Research New Zealand | Land and Water Australia | The Invasive Animals CRC | CSIRO publishing | The Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales | Humane Society International
Credits
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