Why and How to start a Local SCB Chapter

For the SCB Oceania Section Meeting
July 2014, Suva, Fiji
Rosalynn Anderson-Lederer
What is a local chapter?

Why would I want to join a local chapter?

How do I start a local chapter?

We can help guide your chapter every step of the way.
What is a local chapter?

Grassroots of the organization
Chapters are affiliates of SCB that serve an area such as a university, town, region, state, eco-region, country, or several small countries.

The purpose of Chapters is to provide a way for SCB members (and others) in local areas to organize and network around the mission of the Society.

Chapters are a way of “acting locally” while the parent society is a way of “thinking globally.”
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<tr>
<th>Chapter Region</th>
<th>Number of Chapters</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa Chapters</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>East Africa Chapter (inactive)</td>
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<td>Namibia Chapter (forming)</td>
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<td>Nigeria Chapter</td>
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<td><strong>Asia Chapters</strong></td>
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<td>India Chapter (forming)</td>
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<td><strong>Europe Chapters</strong></td>
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<td>Armenian Chapter</td>
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<td>Hungarian Chapter</td>
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<td>Switzerland Chapter</td>
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<td><strong>Latin America &amp; Caribbean Chapters</strong></td>
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<td>Bolivia Chapter</td>
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<td>Central Mexico</td>
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<td>Colombia Chapter (forming)</td>
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<td>Cuba Chapter</td>
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<td>Northwest Argentina Regional Chapter (inactive) *</td>
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<td>Peru Chapter (forming)</td>
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<td><strong>North America Chapters</strong></td>
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<td>Kingston Chapter – Ontario</td>
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<td>Toronto Chapter - Ontario</td>
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<td>Vancouver Chapter (forming)</td>
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<td><strong>United States Chapters</strong></td>
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<td>Northeastern US (4 Chapters)</td>
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<td>Midwestern US (4 Chapters)</td>
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<td>Southern US (9 Chapters)</td>
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<td>Western US (12 Chapters)</td>
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<td><strong>Oceania Chapters</strong></td>
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<td>Brisbane and UQ Chapter (Australia)</td>
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<td>Sydney Region Chapter (Australia)</td>
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<td>Wellington VUW Chapter (New Zealand)</td>
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• Chapter Project Grants open to all active and registered SCB Chapters.
• Grants are made on a first-come first-serve basis.
• Limited funds available and the grant application will be closed when funds run out.
• Chapter grants announced when funds are available.
Annual registrations are due JANUARY 31 of each year in order for a Chapter to remain active.
SCB Guide to Starting and Running an SCB Chapter

SCB Groups Handbook

Both are downloadable on the www.conbio.org website
Why would I want to join a chapter?
Benefits of joining a chapter

- A professional resource for finding jobs
- Projects that you have wanted to start
- Facilitation of continuing education lectures or classes
- Support for community and regional conservation projects and education
- Avenues for public and political advocacy for conservation opportunities for members to share local information and resources
- Moral and social support for professionals and students
Chapter membership can be tailored to meet the needs of members

As of 2011:

~ 1/3 of Chapters were comprised of mostly students
~ 1/3 of mostly professional members
~ 1/3 with a mix of students and professionals
Chapter activities can be tailored to meet the needs of members

Choose one or two things you want your local chapter to do well

- Restoration Projects
- Lecture series
- Field trips
- Community support
- Educational outreach
- Public Policy
Oceania chapter activities

Wellington - VUW Chapter (first chapter in Oceania)

Field trips: Mistletoe transplanting, Tramping, Beach clean-ups, Dives

Penguins nest box monitoring

Kumutoto restoration project

Seminar series

Wellington Bird Rehabilitation Trust

Newsletter
Oceania chapter activities

Sydney Chapter
(in their second year)

Field trips: Beach clean-ups

Seminar series

Grant writing

Penguins monitoring & reporting

Policy
Oceania chapter activities

Brisbane Chapter
(recently re-activated)

Previously focused on policy...

Now branching into new directions
Section and Global Conferences
Chapters are happy to help each other

SCB Missouri Chapter

SCB Bolivia Chapter

These chapters an offer advice and curricula for Education Outreach Programs
The Missouri chapter also offers advice on running Poster Competitions and Publishing a Newsletter and Blogging.
Minnesota and Missouri offer advice on website development
How do I start a local chapter?

Remember, we’re here to help you at every step of the way.
DONE... Who’s in with me? I want to start a chapter

Woohoo!! We are!!

You’ll need to create timeline
... and a list of potential resources
... and a preliminary focus and structure of the Chapter
... and an outline of the first meeting

Form a game plan
Contact Alysha Cypher, the new chapters coordinator at A.D.Cypher@eagle.clarion.edu for a copy of the 'ABC' templates:

- Chapter Agreement
- Bylaws
- Charter (ABCs)

www.conbio.org
Discuss the documents with your group, be sure to fill in the various “blanks”, and sign all three documents.

Then return all three to the Chair of the Chapters Committee.

The documents will be reviewed by the Chapters Chair and ratified by the SCB president.
Thank you

Questions?