



Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals

Europe Section



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

The **Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)** is an international professional organization dedicated to promoting the scientific study of the phenomena that affect the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity. The **Europe Section** was founded in 2002 and its members are present in 27 countries.

The mission of the Europe Section is to promote conservation biology and its application to conserve Europe's biological diversity.



SCB Europe Section meeting, Montpellier, France, 2014.

The Section has an international 13 member Board of Directors with President (András Báldi) and task-oriented committees including Policy, Education, Communication, Membership and Chapters and Student Affairs Committee.

Would you like to help the Section's work in your country as a National Contact Person?

Join our National Contact Network! Send your application to europe@conbio.org.

SCB-ES TAKES PART ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)



*IPBES is an intergovernmental body making effort for **better linkage between science and policy**. Meetings offer a platform for plenty of scientists, stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental organizations from all over the world, to improve the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services.*

IPBES-1

The first meeting was held in January 2013 in Bonn with an entry of *SCB Message For Better Integration of Important Knowledge Holders*. Delegates from over a 100 countries achieved the election of the IPBES Chair, Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), the adoption of an initial budget, and agreement on steps toward the development of an initial IPBES work programme.



IPBES-2

The second meeting of the Platform's Plenary was held in Antalya, Turkey, in December 2013. Approved work programme, the outline for assessments and their timeline clarified, all helped IPBES to moving forward and executing assessments. SCB-ES members were also elected to take part in the process: András Báldi became a member in MEP, Bengt-Gunnar Jonsson and Guy Pe'er are involved as observer with other stakeholders from 78 organizations, which was a good representation already at the beginning.

Board meetings

Two Board meetings were organised in 2013: in Rome and in Riga. As it became a usual start before Board meetings, a symposium by the SCB Europe Section had been organised at the University of Rome and the Faculty of Biology, University of Latvia. The sessions aimed to promote the Section and facilitate networking within the conservation professionals.

Some highlights from the SCB-ES symposia: Bengt Gunnar Jonsson discussed forest conservation issues in Sweden, while Maria Trivinio de la Cal introduced an ongoing project in Finland connecting ecosystem services, habitat conservation and forest management. Wood pastures, IPBES progress and other hot European conservation issues were also presented with discussions afterwards.

First board meeting took place in Rome in February 2013.

The current progress and the possibilities about how to promote and ensure scientific input into the process in IPBES was discussed among the Board following a report by Bengt Gunnar Jonsson and Guy Peer (involved in IPBES from SCB-ES).



The second Europe Section Board meeting was held in Riga, Latvia, in October 2013. One of the most important issues was the upcoming joint European and International Congress for Conservation Biology, which will be held in Montpellier in 2015.

ICCB 2013

The 26th International Congress for Conservation Biology in Baltimore (21-25 July) was the second largest global meeting of the SCB with more than 1500 participants. Attended by a small number of members, Europe Section got the opportunity to present activities and section issues throughout the Congress, including a members' meeting and chapter introduction.



SCB-ES poster at ICCB, Barbara Mihók SCB-ES coordinator

"Connecting systems, disciplines and stakeholders" was the focal topic of the 26th ICCB with the apparent aim to provide insights to numerous integrating and multi-disciplinary conservation research projects. Symposiums addressed hot topics in conservation as the potential appliance of social network analyses in conservation biology, conservation planning, ecosystem services just a few example of the wide spectral that subjects covered along the congress.



During the meeting Bill Sutherland was awarded the **SCB's Distinguished Service Award**.



Roadfree project (www.roadfree.org)

“It takes just one road to destroy a forest”

The European Parliament has backed two proposals by MEP Kriton Arsenis to take action against the construction of new roads in intact forests.

Nuria Selva and Pierre Ibisch, both members of the Policy Committee of the Europe Section, delivered papers on the European perspective on roadless areas and biodiversity and on a first assessment of the global roadless areas. The presentations were a result of an ongoing cooperation with Google and Kriton Arsenis, Member of the European Parliament.



First results were presented at a transsectional symposium at ICCB 2013 in Baltimore.

East European Regional Consultation on IPBES



Hungary hosted the IPBES East European Official Stakeholder Meeting where two members of the MEP (including SCB-ES president, András Báldi) and two members of the IPBES Bureau were present. Experts and stakeholders from Eastern-European countries were compiling a list of comments, suggestions and additional contribution to be channelled into the draft Work Programme 2014-2018 and the stakeholder engagement strategy.

Highlights from the European Section blog entries



Assessing the Natura 2000 network with a common breeding bird survey

Common pastures in Transylvania (Romania)



New means to communicate population risk assessments among scientists and decision-makers

Rewilding abandoned landscapes in Europe

Achieving the convention on biological diversity's goals for plant conservation

Evidence on grassland mappings to support protection of high nature value grasslands in the EU

The **Greek Summer School in Conservation Biology** is organised annually by the University of Ioannina alongside with SCB Europe in Zagori. The Vikos-Aoos National Park is a perfect location to offer the post graduates interesting theoretical presentations, discussions interspersed with practical fieldwork seminars and memorable hiking tours. To be informed of the next Summer School follow our blog or join the student listserv (below).

For Students

Would you like to join the **student listserv**? For joining, visit:

<http://groups.google.com/a/conbio.org/group/SCB-Students/topics>

Student wiki-page – current news and information

<http://scb-students.wikispaces.com>

To be informed of European Conservation activities, news and actual publications visit: **euroconbio.blogspot.com**



Join us on Facebook to be a member of our group with dedicated conservation biologists, post or comment hot conservation publications and discover announcements of postgraduate positions.



27th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) and the 4th European Congress for Conservation Biology (ECCB)

August 2-6 2015, Montpellier - France

Mission Biodiversity: Choosing new paths for conservation



SCB's International and European Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB & ECCB) are the most important international meetings for conservation professionals and students. They are a forum for addressing conservation challenges and for presenting new research and developments in conservation science and practice.



The congress is a cooperation for the first time of SCB with Agropolis International and the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB).

The wonderful City of Montpellier is located in south of France between the Mediterranean Sea and several national parks and is a hotspot of European biodiversity.

**MEET YOU IN
MONTPELLIER!**

For more information visit the
website:

<http://www.iccb-eccb2015.org/>



View of the old city from the top of the venue.

Email: europe@conbio.org

<http://euroconbio.blogspot.com>