

# Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals



Annual Report 2008

Giving voice,  
strengthening  
community



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Bethany Woodworth, Conference Committee\*

\* Term ended July 2008





# Giving voice, strengthening community

“...we join together in professional alliance, in the service of each other, but also in the service of the less articulate members of our evolutionary tree.”

History of the Society for Conservation Biology:

How and why we got here

Michael Soulé, *Conservation Biology*

Volume 1, Number 1, May 1987

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) was founded by individuals motivated by the need to avert an imminent extinction crisis. Joining together as a unified public voice, they created a global community of conservation professionals. *Conservation Biology* gave voice to this emerging discipline, followed soon after by the first-ever international gathering of conservation scientists: the SCB Annual Meeting, now the International Congress for Conservation Biology. These flagship SCB activities remain the standard for communicating with our peers and inspiring each other to continue advancing conservation science.

These achievements were later joined by the award-winning publication, *Conservation* magazine and by targeted regional meetings hosted by SCB Regional Sections. There remained an additional need (and call from SCB members) to better communicate and utilize conservation science within a public forum, thereby effecting change in policies impacting the science and practice of conserving biodiversity. SCB's policy program, founded last year, and SCB's newest publication, *Conservation Letters*, provide these timely new voices.

Our policy work continues to fulfill and exceed expectations. In 2008, we helped to defend scientific integrity in the United States of America by partnering with like-minded organizations. We met with two U.S. Federal offices—the Government Accountability Office and the Department of the Interior's Inspector General—to assist in their investigation of how science is used by government agencies. Section leaders from six of SCB's seven regional sections also met with members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee to discuss how U.S. policy affects biodiversity in other parts of the world.

*Conservation Letters*, the newest member of our suite of publications was launched in 2008 in partnership with our publisher Wiley-Blackwell. Free to ALL members of SCB, *Conservation Letters* is already receiving wide acclaim and growing interest from authors and readers! We thank our Editors-in-Chief, Drs. Richard M. Cowling, Michael B. Mascia, Hugh P. Possingham, William J. Sutherland, and our Senior Editor, Dr. Corey Bradshaw, for making the first year of *Conservation Letters* so successful.

Through our publications, policy office, and other projects, SCB continues to give voice to the conservation science community and to those members of our global community that are unable to speak for themselves. We thank you for your support in 2008 and encourage you to engage with this community to help advance our collective mission: to advance the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity.

Georgina Mace, President  
Alan D. Thornhill, Executive Director

# Giving voice

In 2008, SCB's policy program, meetings, and publications were the leading instruments through which conservation professionals and students made themselves heard.

## SCB Policy Program

SCB's policy program is recognized as a leader and convener in advancing the scientific foundation for conserving biological diversity. In January 2007, SCB launched its policy office in order to actively engage in the policy arena and ensure that the best conservation science was used to craft conservation policy. Our policy work continues to fulfill and exceed expectations. A few highlights of the policy program for the year include:

- SCB helped to defend scientific integrity in the United States. Along with partner organizations we met with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Inspector General to assist in their investigations of how science is used by the DOI and other agencies.
- Section leaders from 6 of the SCB regional sections met with senior staff of U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee to discuss how U.S. policy affects biodiversity in other parts of the world.
- In coordination with our North America Section, SCB convened experts for a professional peer review of the next version of the final Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan.
- SCB, the Ornithological Council, and The Wildlife Society jointly submitted comments critical of proposed regulatory changes that would eliminate the requirement that federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to determine whether their activities or decisions would likely jeopardize the continued existence of species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.
- The Smith Fellows and Board of Governors received instruction on effective interactions with U.S. Federal government elected officials and were then able to put their new skills into practice during meetings with members of the U.S. Congress and their staffs.
- We briefed committee staff, caucus staff, and others on the legal and scientific intricacies of climate change policy options.

Our voice is strengthened by collaborating with our partners. SCB continued to work with other organizations to provide guidance and compare ideas on how best to combine science and policy in a wide range of areas from public lands to wildlife law to international aid. By preparing for the greatest conservation challenges and most significant conservation opportunities society has seen in a generation or more, SCB's policy program will empower scientific societies, governments, and markets to improve the conservation of Earth's biological diversity, and in turn, give conservation science a stronger voice in the policy arena.




Photo: Mexican grey wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*). In the spring of 2008, SCB led a workshop on wolf recovery planning under the Endangered Species Act. SCB members, including Dave Parsons, an SCB member, testified before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.





*(Canis lupus*  
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## Swift recommendations in a time of hope

At the close of 2008, capitalizing on the conservation opportunity created by a change of U.S. administration, SCB developed and presented recommendations for the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress to advance the scientific foundation for conserving biological diversity. Key actions include: strengthening the implementation of laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act; enhancing the federal role in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change; promoting international cooperation; and restoring scientific integrity. For more information on our policy program, go to: [www.conbio.org/resources/policy](http://www.conbio.org/resources/policy)



# Publications

SCB publishes the flagship peer-reviewed journal of the field, *Conservation Biology*, the award-winning magazine, *Conservation*, and the new journal, *Conservation Letters*. All SCB publications and affiliate publications are available for free online to SCB members in developing countries. In 2008, SCB continued to offer free memberships to 2500 conservationists 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.



*Conservation Biology* In 2008, *Conservation Biology* enjoyed its 22nd year of publication. It continues to be a popular publication target for conservation scientists and practitioners around the world with sustained and robust submittal rates and high competition for journal space. The impact factor for 2008 was 4.705, by far the highest ever for the journal, and a significant jump from 3.93 in 2007. Ongoing efforts by SCB to not only publish the top scientific papers in the world but also to address practical conservation problems and their solutions resulted in a special section synthesizing climate change effects on aquatic invasive species as well as a conservation focus on economic growth and biodiversity conservation. Both were featured in a volume of 1686 pages. Cover images of our six issues illustrate the great diversity of topics that we address: invasive rat predation on seabirds, whale ecotourism, invasive freshwater crayfish, a spectacular array of Pacific coral reef fishes, recreational fishers in Mongolia, and soil damage in Antarctica.



*Conservation* magazine's editorial mission is to explore key environmental issues from novel angles and bring cutting edge science and fresh thinking to the table. We strive to do it without being heavy-handed, without preaching, pleading, or bias. Then, we top it off with offbeat illustrations that add a touch of irreverence and delight. It's not your usual environmental fare. In 2008, we took on provocative issues including:

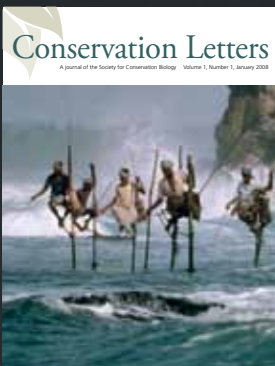
**Until Death Us Do Part:** The environmental toll of divorce

**A Witness to Violence:** How elephant slaughter is linked to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur

**Impostor Fish:** Playing fast and loose with seafood names is wreaking havoc on ocean conservation







## Introducing *Conservation Letters*

Conservation science, like the biodiversity it seeks to understand and safeguard, is evolving rapidly: building in urgency, crossing political and disciplinary boundaries, changing and being changed by the human environment. Fast, global, and policy relevant, *Conservation Letters*, a new SCB journal launched in 2008, is a forum for the rapid publication of the most novel research that transforms our perspective on important issues that are relevant across borders. Publication in *Conservation Letters* requires that all authors clearly articulate the implications of their findings for policy and practice. Papers are concise and merit urgent dissemination by virtue of their originality, general interest, and contribution to effective policy and management solutions; meeting this sense of urgency, average review time of the first volume was five weeks and submission to publication time was 17.5 weeks. The papers in *Conservation Letters*' first volume are scientifically rigorous, innovative and—importantly—likely to have a real impact on policy and practice.





## 22nd Annual Meeting: From the mountains to the sea

The South Eastern region of the U.S. is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world for freshwater species, particularly freshwater mussels, of which 150 species and subspecies have been reported in the state of Tennessee. The 22nd Annual Meeting of SCB was held 13-17 July 2008 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, U.S. The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Department of Environmental Sciences, hosted the meeting at the Chattanooga Convention Center. A total of 1190 individuals from 58 countries attended. The scientific program included 115 symposia presentations, 480 contributed papers, 90 speed presentations, more than 200 poster presentations, 10 workshops, four short courses, and one discussion group. The Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS) integrated their biennial workshop into SCB's meeting program, affording us another opportunity to strengthen our community by sharing with FMCS colleagues.





## Local impact of a global meeting

In the 1930s, the city of Chattanooga became the “Dynamo of Dixie” and a major manufacturing center. As an unfortunate consequence of this industrial past, the Federal government labeled Chattanooga the dirtiest city in the U.S. in 1969. Through an important conservation effort initiated by the city and its inhabitants, Chattanooga is now one of the greenest cities in the U.S., and can proudly attest to the positive results of their endeavor to fight the environmental challenges the city once faced.

To further local conservation, the Chattanooga Green Visioning Committee felt strongly that they should take advantage of the expertise of SCB’s members and solicit their input in refining the city’s Climate Action Plan. Accordingly, they hosted a roundtable during SCB’s Annual Meeting that brought approximately 20 SCB members from around the world together with another 20 members of the Green Committee and citizens of Chattanooga.

The Chattanooga Green Committee asked SCB members to consider four questions: (1) Which biological indicators can tell us when the impacts of human development are stressing the integrity of natural resources? (2) Why are these the best early warning indicators? (3) What actions or public policies should be adopted to protect these resources? (4) Which are most critical? How should we prioritize our policies and actions? SCB members provided input that drew from their experience in applying natural and social science to land-use planning for urban and ex-urban areas worldwide. We also commented on management and policy responses to natural and anthropogenic change.

The Chattanooga participants came away from the roundtable with a clear sense of the range of perspectives in the conservation community on issues related to climate change and its economic impacts, including water availability and urban ecology, and metrics and planning paradigms that they had not yet considered. The dialogue among the Green Committee and SCB served as motivation for all participants to engage more fully with their communities and regions.

## Outstanding results

Presentations by 12 student award finalists were a highlight of the SCB Annual Meeting. The talks covered a broad geography, from the Himalayas to remote islands off the coast of Africa, and a breadth of topics including paleobiology, biodiversity law, and urban conservation. Congratulations to the student award winners:

First place – Alexandra Iona James

*Can species reintroductions aid ecosystem restoration? A case study from arid Australia*

Second place – Brent Sewall

*Integrated ecological and social assessments for conservation planning and reserve design*

Third place – Allison Leidner

*The effects of urbanization on an endemic coastal butterfly*

Fourth place – Deborah Ann McArdle

*Describing historical patterns of marine life population dynamics using a life history approach: a 120 year history of the California spiny lobster*

# Strengthening community

SCB fosters and enables impactful conservation work by members young and old around the globe: award winners, post-doctoral fellows, Regional Sections, Local Chapters, and Working Groups.

## Distinguished Service Awards

### Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award

Gonzalo Halffter for extraordinary contributions to conservation research, teaching and policy in Mexico, particularly through founding and leading the Institute for Ecology, Mexico.

### Distinguished Service Awards

Mario Baudoin for extraordinary contributions to conservation research, teaching and conservation policy in Costa Rica, Bolivia, and across Latin America.

Anne Kapuscinski for global leadership in biotechnology policy and conservation genetics, conservation of aquatic biodiversity, and interdisciplinary analysis of sustainability issues.

David Lindenmayer for extraordinary contributions to conservation research, teaching and conservation policy in Australia and beyond.

Helene Marsh for work with aboriginal communities to promote sustainable harvest, research on the ecology of endangered species, and development of conservation strategies.

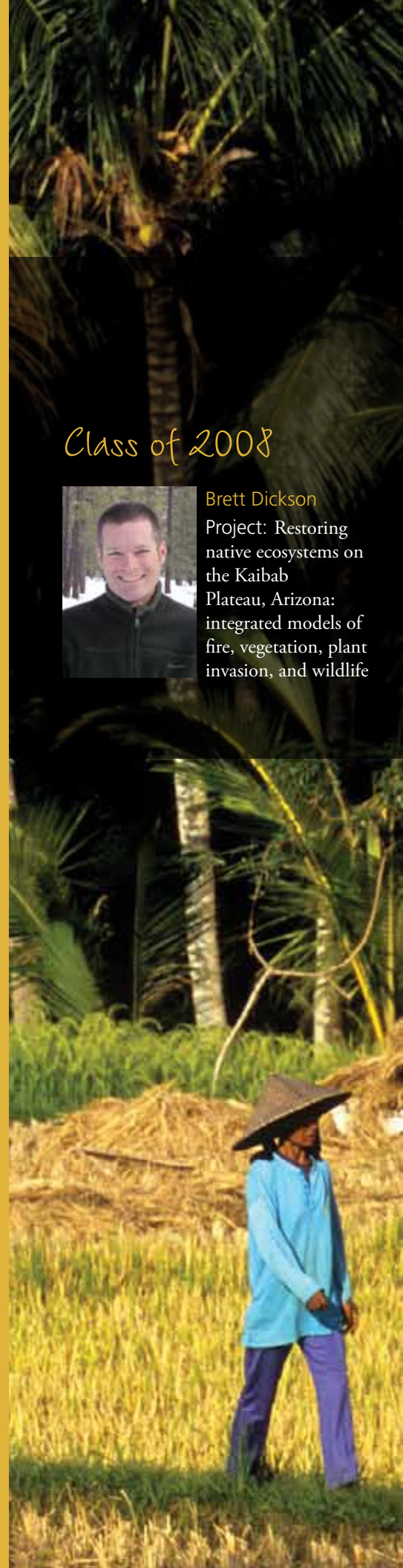
Jorge Soberon for extraordinary contributions to conservation research, teaching and policy in Mexico, and beyond, particularly through founding and leading CONABIO.

## Class of 2008



Brett Dickson

Project: Restoring native ecosystems on the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona: integrated models of fire, vegetation, plant invasion, and wildlife





# Smith Fellows

The Smith Fellowship Program seeks to develop future world leaders and entrepreneurs who are successful at linking conservation science and application and has supported 46 Fellows since its inception. Smith Fellowships provide two years of postdoctoral support to outstanding early-career scientists.



**Holly Gibbs**

Project: The implications of evolving U.S. energy policy for tropical conservation and climate change



**Olaf Jensen**

Project: Understanding fisheries collapse and recovery: biological, management, and economic correlates of failed fisheries



**Anne Salomon**

Project: Forecasting the ecological effects of marine reserves to inform ecosystem-based management correlates of failed fisheries

[www.conbio.org/SmithFellows](http://www.conbio.org/SmithFellows)

Photo: Smith Fellow Holly Gibbs' research cautions that without thoughtful planning the biofuels boom may imperil biodiverse ecosystems, increase greenhouse gas emissions, and undermine food security by driving up prices and monopolizing prime farmland. Dr. Gibbs warns, "If we run our cars on biofuels produced in the tropics, chances will be good that we are effectively burning rainforests in our gas tanks."



# Africa Section



## Communications and Mentoring Programme

The Africa Section's Communications and Mentoring Programme, established in 2007, coaches young African conservation biologists on researching, writing theses or dissertations, writing manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals, and developing grant proposals. Ten mentees were selected from across Africa, with special focus on Albertine Rift nations and young women. Mentors were selected on the basis of their academic profile and years of experience. The Section provided a travel grant to a mentee with an outstanding manuscript or proposal to attend SCB's 2008 Annual Meeting. Bright Boye Kumordzi emerged the winner for his manuscript, "Elephant population survey in Digya National Park, Ghana." Kumordzi used a systematic segmented track line design and dung-count surveys to determine the distribution and densities of the Digya elephant population in the park.

## Young Women Conservation Biologists

The role of women in conservation biology and their advancement of the discipline globally are evident to all, yet African women are underrepresented in the field of conservation science on the African continent. The Africa Section identified this gap and created the Young Women Conservation Biologists group (YWCB). The winner of the 2008 award, Kristal Maze, of the South African National Biodiversity Institute, was recognized for her exemplary national planning, management, and policy development for fine-scaled biodiversity conservation in the Southern African biodiversity hotspots.

## Policy

Policy issues have become central to conservation of biological diversity in Africa, in tandem with attaining the Millennium Development Goals, e.g. MDG 7, to ensure environmental sustainability in reversing the loss of environmental resources. If properly managed, conservation of biological diversity can provide livelihoods for the vast majority of the poor. However, the gap between scientists and policy makers, and gender tenure rights, has limited the potential of conservation to support growth and development on the African continent. In 2008, the Africa Section planned a regional meeting for early 2009 that will offer solutions and steps forward.





## Asia Section

China, home to this endemic golden pheasant, is the largest developing country in the world. The country's vast terrain and varied climate also make it the sixth most biologically diverse nation on the planet. At this intersection of biological diversity and rapid development are a number of conservation challenges. The Asia Section, in coordination with the Chinese Local Organizing Committee, made preparations for SCB's first Annual Meeting on the Asian continent. With the theme, Conservation: Harmony for nature and society, SCB's 23rd Annual Meeting will be held in Beijing, China, 11-16 July 2009.



# Austral and Neotropical America Section

During SCB's 22nd Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, United States, the Austral and Neotropical America (ANA) Section carried out a number of activities: 1) a short-course on needs assessment and curriculum design in conservation biology, 2) a social event between ANA and the Social Science Working Group, 3) a general ANA meeting, and 4) an ANA board members meeting. ANA's director of education, Nora Bynum, together with SCB's Africa Section and the Center for Biodiversity Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History, organized a two-day course entitled: Technical Support for Needs Assessment and Curriculum Design and Implementation in Conservation Biology. The course was well attended, including six participants from the ANA region, and two funded by partial scholarships from the Section.





# Australasia Section

In 2008, the Australasia Section kicked off the development of a series of proactive policy actions in the region. Richard Kingsford (University of Sydney) led a collective effort to develop a series of policy white-papers that will identify chief conservation concerns in the region. The white papers will elaborate on sensible policies whereby governments and other stakeholders might discuss these concerns.



## Encouraging students

The Australasia Section awarded winners of SCB-sponsored “best student conservation” talks. The awards include a one-year subscription to *Pacific Conservation Biology* and a two-year membership to SCB, with online subscriptions to *Conservation Biology*, *Biological Conservation*, *Conservation* magazine, and *Conservation Letters*. In 2008, the following awards were given:

Ben Barr, Massey University

Best student talk on a conservation topic

New Zealand Ecological Society, Christchurch, New Zealand

Investigating chevron skink (*Oligosoma homalonotum*, Pictured in photo above) ecology and the impacts of rat control

Barbara Lokes

Best oral presentation

New Guinea Biological Conference, Jayapura, Indonesia

Detecting and delineating forest cover change in the lowland rainforest of west coast Manus using GIS and remote sensing techniques

Ira Aldila Putri

Best oral presentation - runner-up

New Guinea Biological Conference, Jayapura, Indonesia

Putative orchid mycorrhiza of *Spathoglottis plicata* blume at University of Cendrawashi Campus Waena, Jayapura

Rijal Idrus , University of Canterbury

Best presentation on a conservation topic

Analysing the anthropogenic threats to sustainability of coral reefs.

Australia/New Zealand Marine Sciences Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand

Tarnya Cox, University of Queensland

Best presentation on a conservation topic

New Guinea Biological Conference, Darwin, Australia

Carnivore odours as repellents: an effective pest management tool?

# Europe Section



## Conservation Biology Summer School in Papingo, Greece

In collaboration with the University of Ioannina and the Center of Biological and Cultural Diversity, the Section's education committee organized the Conservation Biology Summer School in Papingo, Greece. Papingo is located in the core of Pindos National Park, the largest mountainous national park in Greece. Funded by the Greek Ministry of Environment and Public Works, the summer school convened an international team of conservation biology instructors and 15 undergraduate and postgraduate students from all over Europe. Participants immersed themselves by taking part in interactive lectures, field sessions, and mountaineering. The Europe Section aims to build on the success of this first year and organize the Conservation Biology Summer School on an annual basis.

## Policy

The Europe Section enhanced relationships with key administrators at the European level, which has led to SCB's involvement in the Commission's "Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity (TEEB)" project. The Section led a visit of 20 conservation biologists to the European Parliament in Brussels, and held meetings with four of the Directorates-General from the European Commission, select Members of the European Parliament, and representatives of the European Environmental Bureau.

The work of the policy committee led to the Section's resubmission of the Bialowieza Resolution to the new Polish Minister of Environment, Maciek Nowicki. The resolution expresses a desire for enhanced protection of the Bialowieza Forest in eastern Poland, the last primeval lowland forest in Europe. More than 80% of the area is logged commercially. The resolution asks that the forest be conserved as a treasure of biological diversity in Europe and a reference point for scientific research and conservation.

## Building Capacity

Proceeds from a successful first European Congress on Conservation Biology organized by SCB's Europe Section went to build capacity and hire the Europe Section's first employee, who will be based at the Hungarian Museum of Natural History and will focus on maintaining and strengthening the European membership of SCB.

## Communication

The Board of Directors launched a blog to communicate with its widely distributed Section members and to discuss decisions and activities the Board takes, including actions, meetings, members leaving, and new ones arriving. To follow the blog, and to learn about upcoming activities of the Europe Section, visit: <http://euroconbio.blogspot.com/>





## Marine Section

The Marine Section was very active this year planning the 2009 International Marine Conservation Congress, *Making Marine Science Matter*. This inaugural congress will also serve as the second International Marine Protected Areas Congress. Actions taken by the Marine Section in 2008 put their upcoming congress theme into motion; the Section submitted comments to the Chairman of the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality regarding President Bush's Memorandum for Pacific Marine Conservation Assessment, citing science in support of the protection of remote islands and atolls of the Pacific. The Pacific Marine Conservation proposal capitalizes on a tremendous chance to dramatically alter the seascape of conservation.



## North America Section

SCB's North America Section developed an ambitious yet realistic program of activities based on the priority areas of SCB's 2006-2010 Strategic Plan. The Section provided scientific peer review of key agency documents that influence the conservation and management of species and ecosystems, including but not limited to proposals to list species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, recovery plans, and ecosystem management plans. Jointly with the National Center for Conservation Science and Policy, the Section submitted comments in response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (DOA) efforts to prepare for climate change at the Federal level. SCB recommended specific research directions and identified necessary actions that the DOA should take to move forward with its Climate Change Strategic Plan for Research, Education, and Extension.



# SCB Chapters

In the past few years, SCB's Chapters have undergone unprecedented growth in membership, resources, and activities. Since the formation of the Chapters Advisory Committee in 2003, SCB grew its 12 chapters to 32 active chapters worldwide, representing 150% growth in five years. Chapters are also no longer just student groups; at least half of SCB's chapters now embrace professional members from government, non-profits, and private organizations, as well as laypersons.



## In 2008, SCB Chapters:

Sent 18 students to the Dominican Republic during winter break to build eco-friendly stoves for the Rio Grande Abajo community | *Central New York*

Brought speaker Jack Hanna to Syracuse University, raising over \$4000 to donate to local conservation efforts | *Central New York*

Commenced an annual "School Yard Makeover" to increase public awareness about local plants | *Kingston*

Partnered with the City of Kingston on a Fish and Frogs project, informing local school-aged children about the harmful effects of storm-water pollution | *Kingston*

Launched "Envir'On Tap," a quarterly series that brings together experts, scientists, and the general public to discuss hot issues in conservation biology in a casual bar setting | *SCBinDC*

Convened researchers, students, and the public and private sectors to discuss research and develop collaborations at the 2008 Iowa Conservation Symposium | *Iowa State*

Worked on a proposal against the current Gulf of Mexico aquaculture plan, and successfully led a student coalition (University of New Orleans Sustainability Initiative) to secure funds for recycling bins and service on the University of New Orleans campus | *New Orleans*

Hosted a film screening of "The 11th Hour" | *Toronto*

Co-sponsored a "Focus the Nation" conference on climate change, held a youth education event called "the Imagination Celebration" in which young children painted reusable bags to educate them on the prevention of plastic bag usage, and restored 5 acres of habitat via a \$10,000 grant | *Orange County*

Hosted the Annual Brazos Valley BioBlitz, which is traditionally a 24-hour survey of all living organisms in an area, and is used to educate the public about nature and the importance of diversity | *Texas A&M*

Hosted the 10th Annual Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium with participants from multiple academic institutions, government agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations | *UC Davis*

Sponsored field trips to watch monarch butterfly migration and raptor migration, held screenings for the documentary, "RiverWebs" as well as the "Planet Earth" series, and cosponsored a panel discussing birth control impacts on wildlife | *Yale*

...and much more.

# SCB Working Groups

Working Groups focus on a disciplinary integration and topical areas relevant to the mission and goals of SCB.

## Social Science Working Group

Established in 2003, the SCB Social Science Working Group (SSWG) is dedicated to strengthening conservation social science and its application to conservation practice. The SSWG creates forums and mechanisms for information exchange, promotes dialogue and debate, and builds social science capacity among conservation practitioners.

The SSWG celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2008. In recognition of this milestone, and with the generous support from the Moore Foundation and The Christensen Fund, the SSWG Board of Directors initiated development of a new five-year strategic plan. The foundations for this plan were a strategic review of SSWG's progress to date and a formative assessment of future directions for the SSWG. The independent strategic review, led by David Bray (Florida International University) concluded that "the SSWG represents a truly historic achievement...the SCB...has much reason to be grateful to the SSWG, since it is allowing SCB to realize a long-held but mostly unrealized vision of disciplinary integration." The new 2009-2014 SSWG Strategic Plan is designed to build upon this success with a renewed focus upon resolving key scientific debates in conservation policy, establishing a vibrant global community of conservation social scientists, and catalyzing development of the next generation of leaders in social science.

In addition, the SSWG carried out a series of programmatic activities in 2008. These included helping to organize the social science component of the 2008 SCB Annual Meeting; sponsoring a short course on the role of social science in conservation planning; launching an online, searchable Social Science Expert Directory; and expanding its Ambassadors Program to include 19 individuals in 15 countries.

## Religion in Conservation Biology Working Group

The Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group (RCBWG) was founded in 2007, in recognition of the fact that religions have played a substantial role in formulating views of nature and defining relationships of the roles of humanity in nature, thus, inextricably linking religious life and natural systems. Early in 2008, the RCBWG attained official status and with a steadily increasing membership, action committees were formed, an official Board elected, and permanent officers appointed.

Religion is a component of all cultures, and is frequently the guiding and controlling component through which societies legitimize themselves. The religious focus on the environment now appears to be an irreversible theme of theological inquiry and religious life. In this regard, there is an increasing call for cooperation between science and religion in addressing environmental issues. To facilitate this cooperation, the RCBWG has begun developing a communications and outreach program designed to build bridges of information and understanding between the diverse but increasingly linked fields of religion and conservation science.

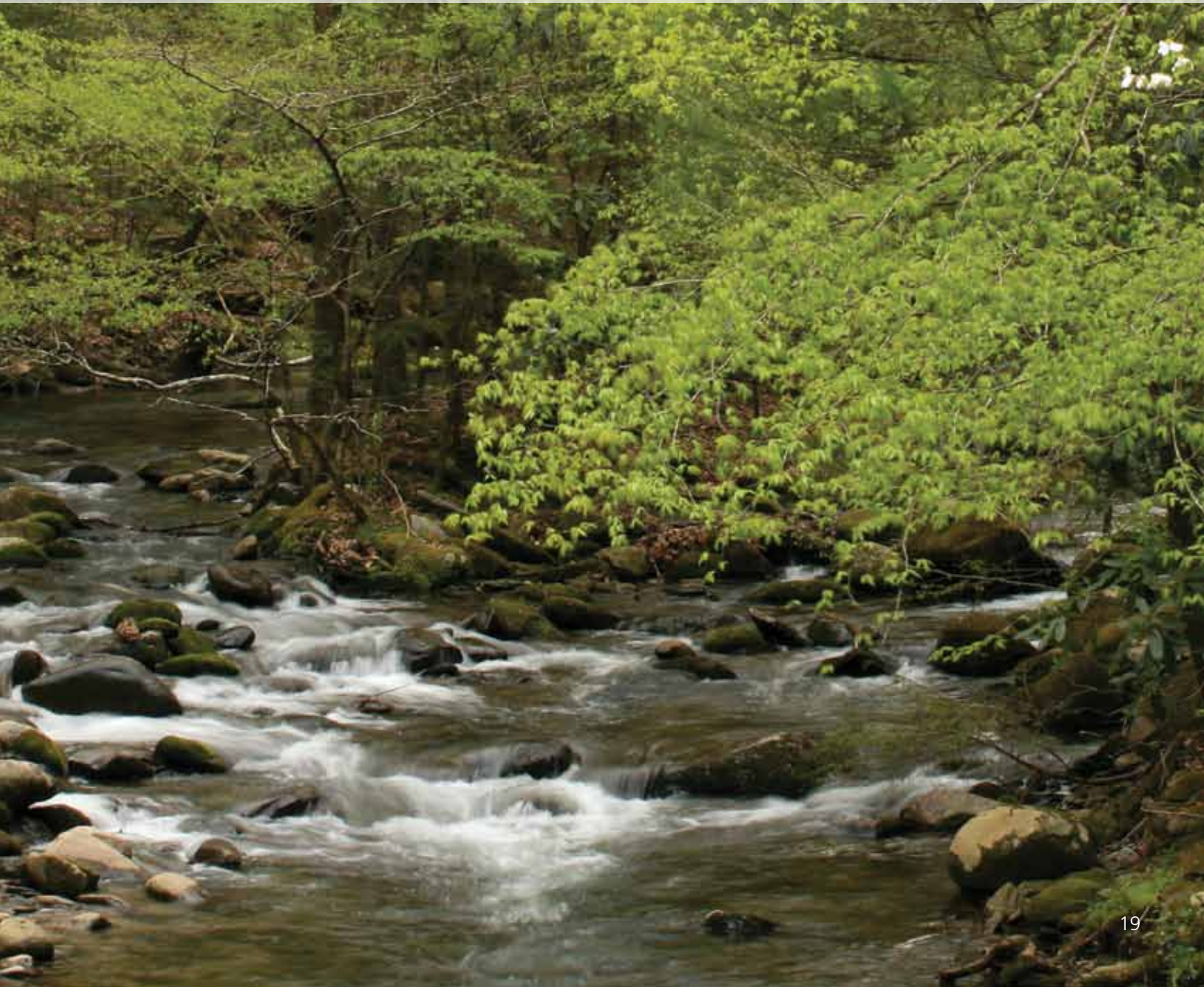






## Freshwater Working Group

In 2003, the Freshwater Working Group (FWWG) was formed to help promote freshwater conservation concerns within the Society and the discipline at large. In 2008, the FWWG took full advantage of SCB's Annual Meeting location of Chattanooga, Tennessee, U.S. - an area home to approximately 600 species of freshwater fish and more than 90% of the world's freshwater mussels. On a field trip to Duck River, FWWG hosted 60 participants from Australia, Germany, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and saw at least 17 species of mussels and 22 species of fish - only a glimpse of the total species richness of the site. Additionally, the FWWG's education committee developed a freshwater ecology and conservation module for the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners.





# Financial Report

The Society for Conservation Biology remains financially sound in 2008, in large part due to the strength of our journal *Conservation Biology*. In 2008 SCB made an investment by putting much of our cash assets into “bricks and mortar” with the purchase of an office building in Washington, D.C. The economic downturn did have a negative impact on the market value of SCB’s reserve fund and on SCB’s fundraising efforts. The significant deficit shown for 2008 is substantially an accounting artifact (funds received in one year but spent in another and delays in receipts), but also reflects deliberate decisions to invest in programs that do not support themselves in every year. Despite the downturn the Society’s membership is active, its board and staff committed, and its mission and vision have never been more important than they are today.

David Johns, SCB Treasurer

	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
Publications	\$1,288,282	\$1,233,207	\$1,588,121	\$1,147,279
Projects	\$593,467	\$1,192,702	\$841,735	\$1,443,780
Membership & Outreach	\$20,451	\$112,215	\$136,928	\$132,682
General & Administrative	\$243,115	\$65,426	\$186,728	\$62,648
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>\$2,145,316</b>	<b>\$2,603,549</b>	<b>\$2,753,511</b>	<b>\$2,786,389</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Publications	\$1,015,067	\$1,048,780	\$955,043	\$990,096
Projects	\$488,084	\$1,080,043	\$1,075,026	\$1,432,736
Membership & Outreach	\$61,483	\$204,167	\$211,338	\$266,339
General & Administrative	\$472,374	\$172,826	\$241,946	\$501,353
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,037,008</b>	<b>\$2,505,817</b>	<b>\$2,483,353</b>	<b>\$3,190,524</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$108,308</b>	<b>\$97,733</b>	<b>\$270,159</b>	<b>(\$404,136)</b>
<b>Assets and Liabilities:</b>				
Cash	\$158,388	\$371,142	\$1,019,992	\$302,791
Receivables & Other Current Assets	\$612,921	\$703,417	\$517,017	\$534,011
Total Current Assets	\$771,308	\$1,074,559	\$1,537,009	\$836,802
Endowment Investments (market value)	\$1,053,509	\$1,200,827	\$1,322,504	\$923,751
Property & Equipment (net of depreciation)	\$7226	\$11,725	\$7542	\$1,356,934
Other Assets	\$0	\$15,107	\$81,800	\$50,528
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,832,043</b>	<b>\$2,302,219</b>	<b>\$2,948,855</b>	<b>\$3,168,015</b>
Current Liabilities	\$29,504	\$370,240	\$562,074	\$720,049
Other Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$823,271
Total Liabilities	\$29,504	\$370,240	\$562,074	\$1,543,320
Net Assets	\$1,802,539	\$1,931,979	\$2,386,781	\$1,624,695
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,832,043</b>	<b>\$2,302,219</b>	<b>\$2,948,855</b>	<b>\$3,168,015</b>

Giving voice, strengthening community

SCB Annual Report 2008





# Thank you!

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