2010

Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals

Leading in a changing world

TRANSITIONS AT SCB

In March 2010, SCB Executive Director Alan D. Thornhill, Ph.D. was hired as science advisor to the director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. During Alan's term as executive director, the Society nearly tripled its membership and annual budget and transformed itself into a truly global organization, claiming members from more than 125 countries as of 2010.

In October 2010, Anne E. Hummer joined SCB as executive director. Anne came to SCB from the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment where she served as the vice president for development and external relations. Her professional experience includes time with the Center for Science in the Public Interest and the World Wildlife Fund. Anne brings more than 20 years of experience in fundraising and management for non-profit organizations to SCB.

Q & A

With Anne Hummer and Alan Thornhill

SCB enjoyed great success in the first decade of the 21st century. The Society looks forward to building on that success to make the second decade as productive as the first. Through a series of questions and answers presented in the following pages, Alan shares his thoughts on the past, present, and future of SCB. Anne shares her thoughts on the future of SCB and what she finds most exciting in her new role as executive director.

Niue Island in the South Pacific Ocean is one of the largest uplifted coral atolls on Earth. Two articles in Vol. 24, No. 2 (2010) of *Conservation Biology* highlight potential strategies for conserving coral reefs in the midst of global change. Aswani and Sabetian examined effects of urban migration on fisheries and customary management systems, and Dalleau et al. explored spatial analyses to inform protected area designation for islands in the Pacific. *Credit:* Gavin Treadgold

Governance

Executive Committee

Luigi Boitani, President ('09-'11)

Georgina Mace, Past President ('07-'09); Governance Committee

Paul Beier, President Elect ('11-'13); Ecological Footprint Committee

Paula Kahumbu, Secretary

David Johns, Treasurer; Finance & Investment Committee

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Steven Beissinger, Conference Committee

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Gabriella Chavarria, Member at Large

Catherine Christen, Strategic Planning Committee

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Patricia Majluf, Austral & Neotropical America Section

Michael Mascia, Social Sciences*

Jeff McNeely, Policy Committee

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Fiona Nagle, Chapter Committee

Simon Nemtzov, Asia Section

Owen Nevin, Awards Committee

Chris Parsons, Marine Section

Andrew Pullin, Science & Publications Committee

Mike Scott, Government*

Gary Tabor, Non-Governmental Organization*

James Watson, Oceania Section

Ex-officio Members

Mike Dombeck, Executive Director, David H. Smith Conservation Fellowship

Erica Fleishman, Editor-in-Chief, *Conservation Biology*

Anne Hummer, Executive Director

Alan D. Thornhill, Ph.D., Executive Director

*Term ended July 2010

Leading in a changing world

Luigi Boitani, SCB President 2009-2011
Paul Beier, SCB President 2011-2013
Anne Hummer, SCB Executive Director

The year 2010 was one of leadership and transition for SCB. After serving SCB faithfully as executive director for nearly a decade, Alan Thornhill took on a new challenge as scientific advisor to the director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Luigi Boitani continued his leadership as President of the Board and Paul Beier prepared to take on the role in 2011. Together Luigi and Paul called on SCB members to continue to provide leadership to the conservation science community. At year's end Anne Hummer joined SCB as the new executive director. Even in this swirl of change and transition, SCB remained steadfast in its commitment to advance the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity.

The world around us changed significantly in 2010 as many countries experienced sweeping changes in leadership in the face of political unrest, natural disasters, and continuing economic uncertainty. Climate change, loss of species diversity, water availability and quality of water, habitat loss, and resource depletion are just some of the issues that continue to present challenges. SCB members continue to rise to these challenges, making positive differences through the application of science to the most pressing environmental challenges of the day.

This year, SCB's 24th International Congress for Conservation Biology, "Conservation for a Changing Planet," held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, was a great success, attracting nearly 1,700 conservation scientists, professionals and students from 78 countries. Our international meetings provide opportunities for members to make connections with their peers, publish articles, present papers, and help one another establish and promote careers in conservation science.

As a professional society, SCB leads the way in creating some of the most authoritative publications in conservation. This year, *Conservation Biology*, SCB's flagship publication, received top ten ratings for journals focusing on biodiversity conservation and environmental science in Thomson Reuters' "2010 Journal Citation Report." *Conservation Letters* marked its third birthday and received high marks in its first ranking among journals of its type. *Conservation* magazine continued to capture and explain complex conservation challenges and research in compelling and thought-provoking ways.

In 2010, SCB led a delegation to the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. This highly successful delegation contributed to several accomplishments, including helping to keep the Convention on Biological Diversity engaged in the REDD+ negotiating process to protect biodiversity. On the domestic front, SCB continued to engage policy-makers by bringing sound science to policy discussions.

Leading the way in conservation science in a world that is increasingly complex and contentious is no easy task. This report reflects the efforts of SCB members around the world who are creating greater understanding of the science that affects us all. As SCB members, your leadership continues to provide local, regional, and global communities for conservation biologists struggling to preserve biodiversity one region at a time, one society at a time, one continent at a time, and one ocean at a time. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

Q. This report highlights a few overarching ways that SCB leads in a changing world. In what ways have you seen SCB members lead on a day-to-day basis?

Anne I have had the privilege of seeing SCB members in action from their local chapters to participation in global meetings on international environmental policy. Their dedication and commitment to protecting the Earth's biological diversity gives me hope and inspiration every day. The Board of Governors consistently shows how much they care about SCB and their guidance and support help me keep things running efficiently. Our talented journal editors consistently produce superior products that influence and lead the conversation on conservation science.

In 2010, SCB challenged tar sands developments as a risk to whooping cranes and the planet. At the ICCB in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, symposia, speeches and tours highlighted the harms caused by tar sands development. The Keystone XL pipeline is proposed to carry Alberta tar sands oil to the Gulf Coast along the migratory path of the whooping crane (*Grus americana*). The CBC broadcasted stories about our formal comments on the inadequate assessments and the violations of laws that could result if the plan moves forward. *Credit:* Paul Wolf

Shaping policy for a changing world

Where science and law meet, SCB's policy team leads

CLIMATE CHANGE: Formulating policies on climate change with a focus on conservation biology

Helping states, social scientists and ecosystems address climate change and energy security: In letters to Congress and comments to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), we outlined ways to bolster existing law to better use science and ecosystem restoration to address climate change and secure clean energy, informing negotiations in California, Congress, and Cancun.

Reminding the agencies of their duty to ensure clean air for wildlife and ecosystems: Our comments on proposed EPA rules addressed the need to protect ecosystems and wildlife to meet the Clean Air Act's Secondary Standards for ground-level ozone and other air pollutants and called on them to consult wildlife agencies under the Endangered Species Act without delaying improved standards.

Informing the UN climate negotiators of ecosystems' roles in climate change: In a second letter to the climate negotiators we explained that many ecosystems, not just tropical forests, are powerful in mitigating and adapting to climate change, but only to the extent that they are not degraded by heat, drought and pollution.

TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS: Empowering key international treaties

Securing an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: SCB sent a delegation with recommendations to the key meeting in Busan, Korea and helped secure US and UN support for a new body to provide scientific information and analysis for policy questions in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

SCB helps make biodiversity treaty meeting a success: A highly qualified delegation recruited by SCB volunteered their time and paid their own expenses to the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. We collaborated with the EU to insert the Precautionary Principle into the lead paragraph of the Strategic Plan; assisted Costa Rica in enhancing its reporting on parties' plans and laws; helped make the marine plan the most comprehensive; urged keeping the CBD engaged in the REDD+ negotiating process to protect biodiversity, and helped secure endorsement of IPBES leading to UN approval.

SCB's Policy Web site:
www.conbio.org/policy

SCB Policy Blog:
www.conbiopolicy.org

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY: Re-enforcing the role of science in environmental law and policy

Protecting the scientific and legal integrity of the endangered species program in the U.S. and around the world: SCB Policy Director John Fitzgerald helped the Endangered Species Coalition present to officials a detailed outline of regulations to better implement the Endangered Species Act (ESA), to increase efficiency, reward partners with stronger recovery, reflect advances in science and restore the original global scope to keep US agencies from jeopardizing listed species anywhere.

Bringing the best available science to federal agencies: We organized a "listening session" with experts from Congress, NGOs and Scientific Societies to introduce new National Park Service Science Advisor Gary Bachlis; recommended language in a series of meetings for directives using existing law to enhance connectivity in Federal land management building on the work of President-Elect Paul Beier, and Treasurer, Attorney and Wildlands Coalition Convener, David Johns; and worked with Congress, CEQ, the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure robust rules on mitigation, monitoring and climate change, forest planning and endangered species.

SCB Executive Director Alan Thornhill joined former board member Gabriella Chavarria and SCB member Alex Dehgan in the Obama Administration as science advisors. SCB worked with Alan and other scientific societies to improve US scientific integrity principles, raising the standards across the Executive Branch.

BIOLOGICAL SECURITY: Controlling the importation of invasive species and illegally harvested plants and animals

SCB kept members informed of developments in invasive species policy and advances in the enforcement of the bans on trade in illegally harvested wood products; reported on proposed regulations to prevent the introduction of invasive species in ballast water; and took part in strategy sessions with agency partners suggesting ways to control abandoned (feral) house cats that kill millions of native birds and spread diseases to other species.

ENVIRONMENTAL (GREEN) INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT: Leveraging investments and spending

SCB used the release of the UNEP report on the economic benefits of ecosystem services to help secure the requirement in the strategic plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity that parties report on their Green GDP -- the economic values and trends of their natural resource stewardship.

From the cover of *Conservation Letters*, Vol. 3, No. 4, 2010: The landing of 'trash fish,' low value, undersized species of trawler bycatch that was generally considered unsuitable for human consumption and discarded, is common practice through South and Southeast Asia. Declines in target catches brought about by overfishing are causing trawlers to now land this low value resource to stay profitable. *Credit:* Aaron Savio Lobo

Q. How did SCB change in the nine years from 2001-2009 that you led the organization?

Alan Over my tenure as executive director, the membership numbers and annual budget nearly tripled and SCB grew into a global organization! We opened the Executive Office in Washington, DC, initiated the Policy Program, launched a new journal, and created Regional Sections, topical Working Groups, and dozens of new Chapters around the world. While our journal *Conservation Biology* had always enjoyed a global readership, in less than a decade, SCB transformed itself into a global player in conservation science!

Publications

Clarity for a changing world

SCB PUBLICATIONS INJECT CLOUT, CONTEXT AND DEPTH

From the scientific strength of *Conservation Biology*, to the cutting-edge environmental writing of *Conservation* magazine, to the originality and urgency of *Conservation Letters*, SCB publications speak with a high level of breadth and depth. In a rapidly changing world, SCB publications are foundation pieces for the science of conservation and its potential application to practice.

Conservation Biology

Conservation Biology is a frontline publication in an era of rapid environmental change. Twenty-four years after its debut as a groundbreaking scientific journal, *Conservation Biology* continues to elucidate, probe, and project environmental trends with considerable technical strength. A journal respected by conservation scientists and practitioners, *Conservation Biology* has robust submission rates, and a rigorous review and revision process ensure that accepted papers are of high quality and clarity. In 2010, its impact factor—a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in the two years following its publication—rose two-tenths to 4.89.

The number of article downloads exceeded 771,000 in 2010, a 31 percent increase from 2009. The most downloaded articles convey the topics of most interest to conservation professionals: understanding recent climate change, research questions of great importance to conservation, climate-change adaptation strategies, rethinking community-based conservation, effects of climate change on the Himalayas, and evaluations of corridor effectiveness.

The journal's overall excellence, reputation, and scientific contributions are illustrated by the "2010 Journal Citation Report" from Thomson Reuters. According to the report, *Conservation Biology* ranked number 2 of 33 in journals that focus on biodiversity conservation; 15 of 129 in journals with an ecological focus; and 7 of 192 in journals with an environmental-science focus. Such consistently high rankings across multiple disciplines affirm *Conservation Biology* as one of the most respected scientific journals in the field.

Conservation Letters

Conservation Letters is a must-read source of cutting-edge, policy-relevant conservation research from the natural and social sciences. This online journal features concise papers renowned for their originality, timeliness, and influence on policy debates and management solutions. Thomson Reuters added *Conservation Letters* to its Web of Knowledge in 2010. The journal's clout and impact factor is certain to grow.

Manuscripts are published with a turnaround time that gives *Conservation Letters* reach and influence on hot-button topics of the day. Articles received widespread media attention. One article, "The Scale of Illegal Meat Importation from Africa to Europe via Paris," was covered in the media 173 times. A sharp increase in readership and social science submissions in 2010 suggests *Conservation Letters* will remain a critical voice for a changing world.

Conservation Magazine

As environmental changes occur more rapidly and as the science grows more mature and the issues more intricate, *Conservation* magazine is there to capture and explain the transformation. *Conservation* magazine explores a diversity of topics from novel angles without preaching, pleading, or bias. A winner of numerous awards, including six Gold Excel Awards for General Excellence from Association Media & Publishing, *Conservation* magazine raises the bar on environmental thinking with a mix of world-class journalism, cutting-edge science, and provocative ideas. This outstanding publication is available quarterly in print and online in more than 58 countries.

Q. What do you find most exciting about your new role as executive director of SCB and what do you see as your greatest challenge?

Anne The most exciting aspect is meeting members and hearing their individual contributions to saving life on Earth. Each time I hear of the work that our members do on a daily basis I am inspired to do my best. The greatest challenge I think is meeting the financial needs of the organization. We have to weigh our aspirations as an organization with the reality of available financial resources.

"I was at a bluegrass festival this weekend near Charlottesville, Virginia and a gentleman wearing a SCB t-shirt did an incredibly kind thing. This gift is intended to pass along that kindness. Though he didn't identify himself by name, he said he was the treasurer of the DC chapter." – Paul Tigan

This donation was received by SCB in 2010 in thanks for a kindness by DC Chapter Treasurer Joe Burns. Joe is pictured below–wearing his ICCB t-shirt–at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Edmonton, Alberta.

24th International Congress for Conservation Biology

A global venue for ideas, research, and solutions for a changing world

Humans are causing large changes to the ecology of the earth. Industrial development and agriculture are changing landscapes. Carbon emissions to the atmosphere are changing climates. There are few places on Earth where these changes are more visually apparent than in Alberta, Canada, where rapid resource extraction, particularly that of oil sands, is fueling global environmental change.

It is appropriate that SCB held its 24th International Congress on Conservation Biology in Edmonton, Alberta. Here, 1,681 conservation professionals from 78 countries came together to address the world's most pressing conservation challenges, specifically those related to rapid industrial development that is driving global change.

ICCB 2010, "Conservation for a Changing Planet," featured eight concurrent sessions with 39 symposia, 24 oral sessions, and 11 speed sessions resulting in more than 570 talks presented. Presentations, workshops, and symposium covered all major conservation topics from species specific research to large scale biodiversity conservation initiatives, including issues such as: using natural ecosystems to store carbon in the context of climate change; bridging the science policy gap to achieve large-scale conservation; nature conservation in human dominated landscapes; impacts and conservation solutions to Canada's oil sands.

A hallmark of the 2010 ICCB was its strong policy element and solutions-driven scientific program. Each symposium proponent was asked to answer the question, "Which agencies should use the information presented at this symposium and how?" Partly as a result of this approach, ICCB enjoyed more policy-related symposia, short courses and workshops than previous conferences, and plenary speakers asked such policy relevant questions as "what should regulators do about estrogen-mimicking compounds that affect frogs and probably people?"

Over the last 24 years, ICCB meetings have gained the reputation of having tremendous convening power addressing the world's most critical conservation and management challenges. The Society is happy to report that the 2010 Congress, chaired by Mark Boyce, proved to be one of the best ever!

Class of 2010 Smith Fellow, Dr. Liana Joseph, is investigating the differences in consumer preference for "wildness" in a variety of wildlife products. Globally, overexploitation of species through activities such as the illegal trade is one of the main causes of species endangerment. *Credit:* Liana Joseph

10

Smith Fellows

10 years of outstanding postdoctoral research by the David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program

10 years of forward-thinkers

The Smith Fellows Program celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2010. In an era defined by rapid environmental change, Smith Fellows acquire the tools, confidence, and real-world experience necessary to inspire, develop and communicate forward-thinking solutions for the most pressing conservation concerns of our time.

The David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program develops future leaders and entrepreneurs who are successful at linking conservation science and application. Since its inception in 1999, the program has provided two years of post doctoral support to 54 early career scientists. Whether Smith Fellows are extending the reach of their work through the media and direct involvement in policy deliberations or by teaching in academic settings around the world, the Smith Fellowship Program is making a difference. A review of the program found that the Smith Fellowship experience changes the way Fellows approach conservation:

- They teach differently, bringing tested, real-world experience to the classroom.
- They network with each other well beyond their Fellowship and produce meaningful collaborations both within and amongst classes: "Smith Fellows for Life."
- They impact conservation well beyond the traditional peer-reviewed literature by extensive communication with policy makers and they educate non-scientists through the media and soft literature.
- They aspire to and attain leadership roles early in their careers.

At the 2010 ICCB, a group of Smith fellows organized a plenary panel: "Tackling the Future's Most Pressing Conservation Challenges in a Changing World." The panel featured Fellows Myra Finkelstein (2006), Jim Manolis (2003), and Cara Nelson (2004) and was moderated by Jedediah Brodie (2007). In this plenary session, SCB LaRoe Award Recipients and Smith Fellows discussed their views on the major conservation challenges likely to face conservation science in the next century. Panelists debated how our thinking, institutions, research and avenues for implementation need to change in order to tackle the growing list of conservation goals confronting society. Panelists also pinpointed the skills conservation biologists need to be effective leaders and ways of sharpening these skills.

Class of 2010

CLARE ASLAN
Project: Dissecting taxon substitution: Can nonnative mutualists rescue native species from extinction?

LIANA JOSEPH
Project: Implications for farming as a conservation tool: Consumer preference for the wild

KERYN GEDAN
Project: Ecosystem services provided by shellfish: Improving water quality in nutrient-polluted estuaries

BENJAMIN SIKES
Project: Utilizing natural soil biotic communities to enhance ecosystem resilience and recovery

Q. What are some things you'd like to see SCB do to lead in the scientific community in the future?

Anne: Several of the sections have noted that they want to lead the way in mentoring programs. Helping to develop the next generation of conservation scientists is an excellent way to make sure we get science into policy and practice. When I look at my own children I see the future. It gives me a sense of hope to see SCB members reaching out to the next generation sharing wisdom and experience. SCB members are leaders in their own communities and getting their story told to a larger audience will help build a stronger scientific community. Continuing to build a strong network of conservation scientists will advance not only SCB but science overall.

Temperate rainforests of the world Dominick DellaSala and Jeff McNeely were among 30 scientists that released the world's first comprehensive assessment of temperate and boreal rainforests of the world. The book's release was marked by international press coverage hosted by the Geos Institute and the SCB North America Section with coverage in the U.S., Chile, and British Columbia. It set the stage for placing temperate and boreal rainforests on par with tropical rainforests as a global conservation priority. *Credit:* Yenwen Lu, Olympic National Park, Washington, U.S.A.

SCB Sections

Regional Sections are able to take SCB's mission and goals and implement them on a regional scale to achieve real results.

Africa One of the most successful initiatives of the Africa Section is its mentorship program, which provides young scientists with access to mentors from around the world. The Communications and Mentoring Program (funded by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation) increases the capacity of African student conservation biologists to publish and disseminate their research in international peer-reviewed journals. The program's ultimate goal is to establish careers in conservation biology for more young African scientists, especially women. Mutually-beneficial relationships help mentors expand their own network of professionals and students working in Africa and continue their own research, and helps mentees achieve their research goals and advance their education and careers.

Asia The Asia Section is planning the second Asia regional conference of SCB. It will be held from August 7–10, 2012, at the Indian Institute of Science Campus in Bangalore, India. This meeting aims to draw attention to the urgency of biodiversity conservation in Asia just before the 11th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2012. It will bring together researchers, policy makers, students, teachers, NGOs, activists, and many others working towards the conservation of Asia's biodiversity.

Austral and Neotropical America In 2010, the ANA Section drew from the influence and abilities of its members to facilitate efforts in this region. The section organized and sponsored courses, conferences, and workshops on conservation biology-related issues. Some of the events included helping Cubans join SCB and the ANA Section; reaching out in social media, including Facebook and Twitter; and presenting plenary talks and other presentations in the U.S., Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Chile. ANA Board members also co-authored an editorial for *Conservation Biology*.

Europe Among strong competition, the Europe Section unanimously elected a bid from Glasgow to host the third European Congress of Conservation Biology in 2012. Under the theme "Conservation on the Edge" the meeting will be held from August 28 to September 1, 2012 at the Scottish Exhibition and Convention Centre. The Congress will be hosted by the University of Cumbria's National School of Forestry and will mark the tenth anniversary of the formation of SCB's Europe Section. The Section's Greek Summer School, as an Erasmus Intensive Programme, provided a diverse multidisciplinary two-week training programme from June 13–26, 2010 to 14 undergraduate students from four countries. Besides the up-to-date scientific knowledge on issues like biodiversity loss, global climate change, and genetically modified organisms, the lecturers also gave an overview of the current relevant European conservation policies providing time for open discussions and debates. The two day mountaineering excursion led to the core area of the Pindos National Park, the largest mountainous Park of Greece, and gave students the opportunity to observe the alpine ecosystem.

North America The North America Section continued its emphasis on science-based implementation of the landmark U.S. Endangered Species Act by reviewing actions to enhance recovery of threatened species such as Mexican wolf and northern spotted owl. The U.S. Department of Interior adopted recommendations submitted by the NA Section to form a recovery team tasked with developing a recovery plan for the wolf. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requested that SCB, along with the American Ornithologists' Union and The Wildlife Society, conduct a peer review of the 2010 spotted owl recovery plan that was overseen by Michael Reed for SCB. SCB reiterated its concerns that the recovery plan still does not protect sufficient habitat for this imperiled species. In 2010, the Section also began preparations for the sections' first North America Congress for Conservation Biology (NACCB), "Bridging the Gap: Connecting People, Nature, and Climate." The NACCB will be held July 15–18, 2012 in Oakland, California.

Marine Policy, in particular in international treaties, will be a major component of the upcoming Marine Section meetings. The marine policy committee produced a letter for the ocean policy process being led by the White House. The letter urges consideration of the impacts of underwater noise on marine species. A letter was also prepared for the Secretary of CITES supporting US proposals for uplisting polar bears under the treaty, which led to a publication in the journal *Marine Policy*.

Oceania The main effort of the Oceania Section in 2010 was organizing SCB's 25th global meeting in Auckland in 2011 and the International Marine Think Tank being held directly before ICCB. Two section board members, Richard Kingsford and James Watson, are the editors for a special issue of the journal *Pacific Conservation Biology* focusing on climate change and the Oceania region. The first two chapters of SCB in the Oceania region were created at the University of Queensland and Victoria University of Wellington.

Q. SCB has been around for 25 years. What has been most instrumental to SCB's success and longevity and what does SCB need to do to ensure continued success?

Alan: For SCB to continue to be successful there needs to be passionate grassroots enthusiasm for the mission and strong leadership to maintain the cohesion among various semi-autonomous groups within the organization. There are diverse opinions, different histories, and varying needs across the Regional Sections, Topical Working Groups, and Local Chapters of SCB. Those characteristics lead to a healthy and productive tension within SCB—this keeps SCB honest and responsive to its various constituents. Recognition and responsiveness to those different needs across the diverse membership of SCB will be a hallmark of our success—and will continue to be one of the biggest challenges.

Most Creative Invasive Dish
Julie Rushmore, current Vice-President of the Georgia chapter, baked cupcakes shaped like domestic cats and baby birds for the Georgia Chapter's educational invasive species barbecue, earning her the most creative invasive award! Other entries included an invasive clam chowder (opposite page, left) and Red-eared slider sliders (opposite page, right). *Credit:* R. Dean Hardy, President, Georgia Chapter.

SCB Chapters

There are currently 39 active SCB Chapters with several more in the works. From 2003 to 2009, the Chapter Advisory Committee was comprised of only two to four members. In May 2010, the renamed Chapters Committee grew to 12 members, each with a special focus on an aspect of Chapter activity. SCB's global meeting in Edmonton was a prime example of the recent expansion of Chapter progress. Eight chapter-specific events were held including workshops, planning sessions, and outreach activities.

In 2010:

The BERKELEY CHAPTER hosted its 12th annual Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium, drawing over 150 graduate students and professionals to mingle and share their work.

Members of the CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER volunteered three times at the Page Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Marcellus, NY where they helped the owner clean and repair her facilities and prepare for the upcoming season.

The CHINA CHAPTER held another "World Conservation Story Exhibition" at universities and museums in Beijing and Tianjin, attracting more than 100,000 people to the successful event.

The Washington area chapter, SCBinDC, hosted two happy hour events to encourage members to discuss conservation issues while providing a networking opportunity in an informal setting.

The GEORGIA CHAPTER hosted their first educational invasive species barbecue. Members brought dishes inspired by invasive species and participated in contests for most creative dish and best use of an invasive. With over 60 people in attendance, the event successfully raised funds to support the chapter's upcoming seminar series.

Members of the MONTANA CHAPTER hosted their third annual regional research symposium. Over 100 students, teachers and professionals presented papers and exchanged ideas on cutting-edge conservation issues.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CHAPTER hosted the community's Bioblitz, a 24-hour survey of biodiversity at a local park that served as an educational event for the public. The chapter also performed numerous cleanups both in the city and along the Texas coast and volunteered at Fossil Rim Wildlife Refuge.

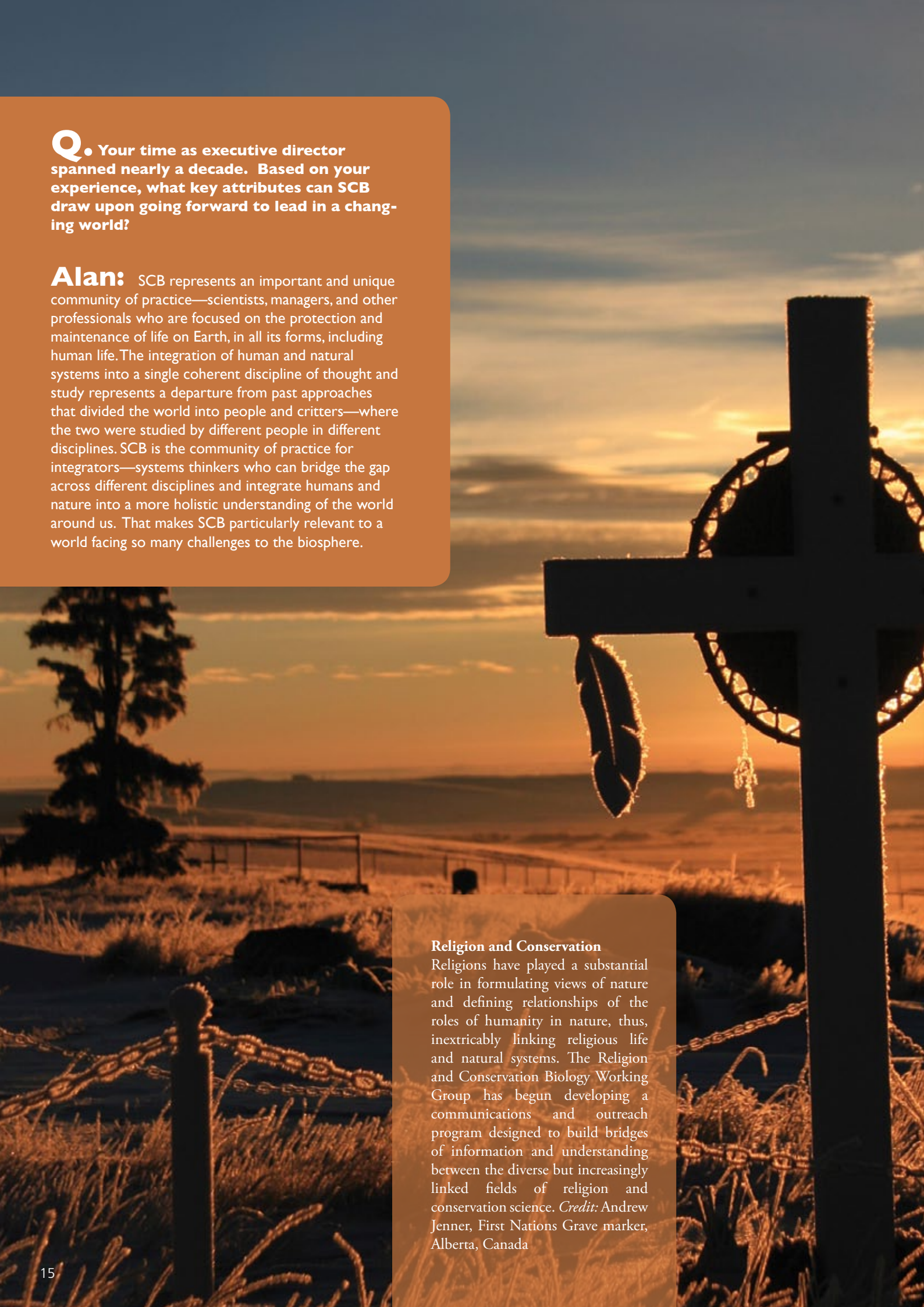
The TORONTO CHAPTER organized many film screenings, including the documentary, "Waterlife," which focuses on Great Lakes conservation in the face of social economic pressures of the region, followed by a panel discussion including representatives from the City of Toronto, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at University of Toronto.

The UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA – DAVIS CHAPTER has expanded their WIDSI (Watch it, don't squash it!) program where graduate students go into classrooms to teach students about the importance of science and nature. The program includes middle and high schools as well as elementary schools.

Members of the WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BIOS CHAPTER have been collaborating with a local high school to build a research facility to study the effect of emergent infectious diseases on North American amphibians.

Q. Your time as executive director spanned nearly a decade. Based on your experience, what key attributes can SCB draw upon going forward to lead in a changing world?

Alan: SCB represents an important and unique community of practice—scientists, managers, and other professionals who are focused on the protection and maintenance of life on Earth, in all its forms, including human life. The integration of human and natural systems into a single coherent discipline of thought and study represents a departure from past approaches that divided the world into people and critters—where the two were studied by different people in different disciplines. SCB is the community of practice for integrators—systems thinkers who can bridge the gap across different disciplines and integrate humans and nature into a more holistic understanding of the world around us. That makes SCB particularly relevant to a world facing so many challenges to the biosphere.



Religion and Conservation
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. The Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group 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. *Credit:* Andrew Jenner, First Nations Grave marker, Alberta, Canada

Working Groups

Working Groups of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) are groups that focus on a topical area relevant to the mission and goals of SCB.

Religion and 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.

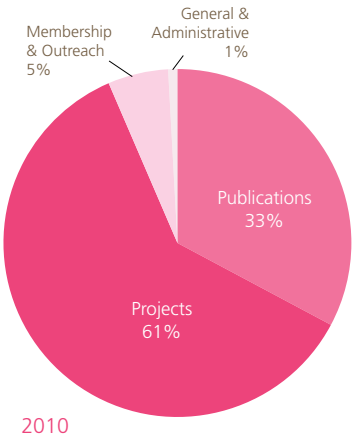
Religion is a component of all cultures, and is frequently the guiding and controlling component through which societies legitimize themselves. The religious focus on the environment now appears to be an irreversible theme of theological inquiry and religious life. In this regard, there is an increasing 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.

Social Science Working Group

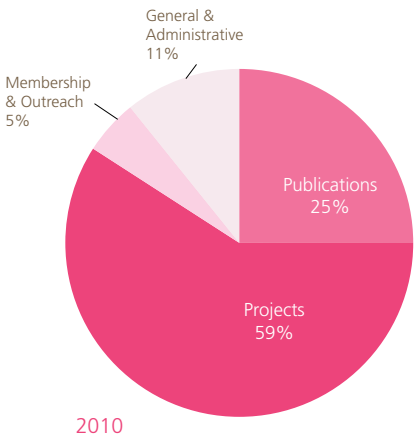
At the 2010 ICCB, members of the Social Science Working Group (SSWG) delivered two successful one-day short courses, "The Role of the Social Sciences in Conservation Planning" and "Methods for Applying Social Science to Understand Conservation Problems." Members also led and co-sponsored several social science workshops and symposia at the meeting, including: "Conservation in a Rapidly Changing World: Revitalizing Paradigms and Practice;" and "Conservation Design for Human Beings: Agency, Identity, and Successful Institutions." Content from the symposium, "The Promises and Perils of Paying for Conservation in a Changing World" was featured in the journals, *Nature* and *New Scientist*.

SSWG partnered with Colorado State University (CSU) and Wildlife Institute of India to train 32 Indian forest service officers in principles of protected area management, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and conservation social science. The first round of training occurred at CSU in March 2010 and was supported by a grant from the Indian Council for Forest Research and Education. A second phase of training for a new class of officers was completed in May 2010, and another grant was recently awarded to support a third phase in fall of 2011.

2010 Financial Report



2010
SCB Revenue



2010
SCB Expenses

Support and Revenue	
Publications	$1,043,308
Projects	$1,931,972
Membership & Outreach	$178,388
General & Administrative	$27,393
Gross Income	**$3,181,061**
Expenses	
Publications	$728,563
Projects	$1,721,686
Membership & Outreach	$148,587
General & Administrative	$314,230
Total Expenses	**$2,913,066**
Net Income	
Net Ordinary Income	$267,995
Net Board Designated Reserve Income	$112,825
NET INCOME	**$380,820**
Assets and Liabilities	
Cash	$445,335
Receivables & Other Current Assets	$565,514
Total Current Assets	$1,010,849
Endowment Investments (market value)	$953,513
Property and Equipment (net of depreciation)	$1,264,213
Other Assets	$36,123
Total Assets	**$3,264,698**
Current Liabilities	$611,648
Other Liabilities	$641,000
Total Liabilities	**$1,252,648**
Net Assets	**$2,012,050**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	**$3,264,698**

Support

Contributions are critical to fulfilling our mission. By giving to the Society for Conservation Biology, our supporters help ensure that policy- and decision-makers, scientists, educators, students, government, and private conservation workers, including those in remote and developing countries, have the information, opportunities, and support they require to protect and restore our Earth's biological diversity and ecosystem health. *Credit:* Vladimir Melnik, Bottle tree or desert rose (*Adenium obesum*), endemic tree of Socotra Island, Republic of Yemen.

Thank you to supporters for helping SCB protect biodiversity around the globe

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