

SCB's Field Work in the Policy Ecosystem

Initial Issues of Emphasis

In February 2007, SCB's Board of Governors considered priorities in the new U.S. Congress and the long-term interests of SCB members worldwide. The Board reviewed policy briefing materials and chose five initial areas of emphasis for SCB's policy work. The work will be led by the Executive Office under the supervision of the Policy Committee. The Board encouraged Sections, chapters, and other SCB groups to work on the areas of emphasis and other policy issues in consultation with Policy Director John Fitzgerald and the Policy Committee to ensure that new initiatives do not inadvertently conflict with the work of SCB or SCB groups.

The Board asked representatives of each Section to report to the Policy Committee

and the Executive Office on its policy plans by 15 May. The North America Section will discuss plans at its members meeting on 24 May in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The initial areas of policy emphasis, to be reviewed at the 2007 annual meeting, are

- **Climate change.** This was voted SCB's highest policy priority.
- **Scientific integrity in government decision making.** Examples include the U.S. Endangered Species Act, other procedures affecting biological diversity, and procedures that protect scientists and practitioners from political retaliation.
- **Empowering key treaties and international agreements affecting biological diversity.** Examples include

see **Policy**, page 3

2007 ELECTION RESULTS

The following individuals were elected to the Board of Governors in the 2007 general election. The new Board members will begin their two-year (President Elect, followed by two years as President) or three-year (all other governors) terms of office immediately after the 2007 annual meeting in Port Elizabeth.

Luigi Boitani
President Elect

Gary Tabor
Nongovernmental organization

Curtis Flather
Governmental agency

Michael Mascia
Social sciences

Six Reasons to Join Your Regional Section

I'm on the road about half the time, mostly within the United States and Canada, and come in contact with many SCB members. In talking with those members who live in North America, I often inform them that I am currently President of the North America Section and I encourage them to become more active in Section activities—from voting in our elections to becoming involved in committees and governance. Most of the time, I get a puzzled look. As it turns out, we have 9050 SCB members living within the United States and Canada, but only 2600 of them (29%) are members of the North America Section, and only 4400 North American residents (49%) are members of any Section. Membership in Sections corresponding to residence is somewhat higher for other geographic regions, from 37% for residents of Asia to 56% for

see **Sections**, page 10

CONSERVATION ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology is the scientific and humanistic study of the human species: humankind's present and past biological, linguistic, social, and cultural variation. Anthropologists contribute to conservation their detailed knowledge of people, places, and the networks of influence and pressure on those places. Anthropologists often have been in the position of "conservation critics" due to their insistence on fine grained and critical social research.

Collaboration between anthropologists and other types of conservation scientists is beginning to generate new conservation approaches grounded in better knowledge of social systems and relations, attention to inequalities, and appreciation for diverse conceptions of "conservation."

The discipline of anthropology emerged from the study of non-Western peoples as a result of travel and colonization during the 1800s. At its outset, anthropology was marred by racism and pseudo-scientific methods of comparing people and societies. Some early anthropologists used Charles Darwin's concepts of evolution and "survival of the fittest" to bolster notions of Western superiority. In the 1920s, however, Franz Boas in the United States, Bronislaw Malinowski in the United Kingdom, and their students fashioned a modern anthropology that rejected—and in the case of Boas actively fought—racism. They and others developed the hallmark of the anthropological approach: emphasis on (1) "cultural" (as opposed to biological) dimensions in explaining human behavior and variability and (2) the need for extended fieldwork using participant observation, language skills, and, often, historical and archaeological investigation. For more than eighty years, modern anthropology

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2007 ANNUAL MEETING • 1–5 July, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

The 21st annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology will be held 1–5 June 2007 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

The Local Organizing Committee has selected a total of 472 contributed papers, 188 symposium presentations, 300 posters, 98 speed presentations, 8 workshops, 3 organized discussions, and 8 short courses.

More than 1200 individuals already have registered for the meeting. Please register before 18 May to take advantage of reduced fees: www.conbio.org/2007/register.

Journalists are eligible for registration waivers, but must be members of SCB. The 2007 annual meeting is an opportunity to improve local, regional, and global communication between the media and conservation professionals.

The Local Organizing Committee strongly encourages you to make travel arrangements as soon as possible. Airline flights to, from, and within South Africa are generally in heavy demand.

Air travel information is available at www.nmmu.ac.za/scb/airtrav.htm. South Africa Airways is offering meeting participants a 15% discount on published fares, but these are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. The hotels listed on the meeting Web site will be served by buses. Details on accommodation are available at www.nmmu.ac.za/scb/accom.htm.

SCB Seeks Partnership for Office Space

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) is a global professional organization dedicated to advancing the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity. To learn more about our organization please visit www.conbio.org. The organization was founded in 1985. In 2001, our Executive Office was established to manage the needs of our growing membership and well-known publications. Since then, our staff has expanded considerably. The Nature Conservancy has housed the Executive Office with an in-kind donation of office space since 2001, but no longer can accommodate our growth. Deepest thanks to The Nature Conservancy for their support during the initial years of the Executive Office.

The Executive Office currently includes eight full-time and two part-time staff in

an 800 square foot office. We seek donated or reasonably priced space to better accommodate our current staff and allow for growth in the near term. We would be grateful to our friends and partners for assistance in our search for new office space. Below is a list of our needs for the next several years; some of these are flexible.

- At least one and preferably multiple private offices that can accommodate a total of ten private workstations for full-time staff and an additional five to ten private or shared workstations for part-time staff and interns
- A private or shared conference rooms for meetings
- A storage area for marketing materials and so forth

- Technological infrastructure to accommodate staff on high-speed internet on a local area network (SCB will provide computers and equipment)
- Located in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, accessible by Metrorail, and preferably in a LEED-certified building
- Space may be furnished (preferred) or unfurnished
- Security – preferably located in a secured building

If your organization is interested in partnering with or sponsoring our Executive Office, or if you know of another group that might be interested, please contact Kat Powers, Operations and Outreach Manager, 1 703 276-2384 x 100, kpowers@conbio.org; or Alan Thornhill, Executive Director, 1 703 276-2384 x 102, athornhill@conbio.org

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the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and, potentially, the International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB).

• **Biological security.** Controlling the importation of non-native invasive species and illegally harvested wood products, for example.

• **Investment and procurement.**

For instance, the United Nations Environment Programme's Finance Initiative "Biodiversity Workstream" is developing guidance for extractive industries on conserving biological diversity.

Work on these issues will be conducted in close consultation with the relevant Section leaders and policy teams. To draw on the expertise of SCB's membership, we are building teams with expertise in each of the five priority areas. SCB members with appropriate background and sufficient time to provide draft testimony or review drafts by the Executive Office or others are encouraged to contact John Fitzgerald and their Section or chapter leaders.

More information on SCB's policy program, including elements of our strategic plan, a short paper describing the U.S. Congressional budget process, and our initial statements on climate change policy, are available at SCB's Web site under Resources / Policy. An introduction to the initial policy issues also is available online.

THE NEW U.S. CONGRESS

During the past several months, the U.S. Congress held hearings on climate change and scientific integrity in climate and the biological sciences. SCB continued to work in coalition with other groups and independently to help the staffs of committees and subcommittees identify issues and potential witnesses, and to otherwise prepare for these hearings.

Climate Change

Recognizing the relationship between climate security, energy security, and natural resource stewardship, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi instructed most committees with jurisdiction over aspects of climate change and energy policy to report their legislation by the end of June in order to celebrate 4 July as Energy Independence Day.

Initial SCB statement on climate change. The leadership of the Energy and Commerce Committee asked nongovernmental organizations and industry leaders to respond to a letter that posed a series of questions about climate change policy. SCB's Policy Director, with the help of Policy Committee chair Luigi Boitani and other Board members, developed an 18-page statement by the 19 March deadline. The full statement is

available on SCB's Web site. Without endorsing any particular legislation, SCB made several recommendations in response to the letter from the Committee, focusing mostly on issues within that committee's jurisdiction. In summary, these points were

- 1. Include forests and other natural mitigation systems in calculations** so that their role in controlling the effects of greenhouse gases, and their changing status in the face of climate change, are taken into account and addressed through conservation and restoration.
- 2. Require conservation rates for energy utility services** with modest charges for essential services. Escalate rates for larger amounts of use; time of day and seasonal adjustments to reduce peak demand; and adjustments to encourage utilities to offer and profit from efficiency investments, such as insulation, efficient appliances, and industrial electric motors.

3. Studies by the U.S. government, European Commission, and others have suggested that taxes on greenhouse gases are an effective means of encouraging efficient use and funding clean alternatives in the United States and other countries. Accordingly, SCB recommended that the Committee **consider applying fees to the sources of greenhouse gas pollution.** Fees could be set to reflect the pollution attributable to the oil and gas transmitted in pipelines and to the generation of electricity transmitted through power lines and assessed on energy transmitted through those means. For example, the European Commission has presented three papers recommending such taxes and tariffs on goods and services imported from countries that do not have comparable controls on pollution. Foreign flights landing in France are now taxed to reflect their greenhouse gas emissions.

SCB suggested that the Energy and Commerce Committee work with the Committee on Ways and Means to impose tariffs or limits on imports, the production of which generates pollution at levels that exceed those allowed by the United States. Proceeds can be made available as loans or grants to help clean up production methods in developing counties that are affected.

Studies and reports by the Congressional Budget Office (Dinan, T. September 2006. Evaluating the role of prices and R&D in reducing carbon dioxide emissions.), Department of Energy, and numerous think tanks found that taxing greenhouse gases will be more effective than trading pollution allowances. Additional studies by the Economic Policy Institute (Barret, J., et al. 2002) and the Environmental Protection Agency and Argonne National Laboratory (2004) indicate that pollution taxes are most effective when their revenue is applied to increase energy efficiency and production of renewables and to reduce other taxes.

- 4. Promote renewable energy** through a renewable energy portfolio standard; better access to the grid and new, efficient transmission lines; and other tax shifts.
- 5. Cap emissions of all six major greenhouse gases** near current levels. Develop a program for rapid phase-out of the

greatest sources of pollution and the least efficient plants in conjunction with reductions in caps every four to five years thereafter. Work with other relevant committees such as Ways and Means, Natural Resources, Appropriations, Government Oversight, and the select committee on climate change to develop complementary legislation while planning to refine the provisions over the course of this Congress. Research by the Department of Energy and others demonstrates that solutions are more numerous and less expensive than widely believed, particularly when compared to the alternative expense of ecological and human responses to drought, floods, disease, and so forth. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change probably will require limitations on emissions and land use, tax adjustments, directed spending, international agreements, and changes in development assistance, research, and enforcement. In fact, this challenge offers great opportunities for the United States' economy and environmental health.

6. Direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, and other agencies to **override regional discriminatory practices in grid management**. These agencies could enhance energy transmission and policies in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Together, they can encourage contributions by renewable sources and develop guidance for minimizing the ecological impact of all energy sources, including fossil and nuclear power.

7. Cut subsidies, direct and indirect, for any energy source or energy use that does not produce the net public benefits

currently needed. For example, the life cycle of nuclear energy involves enriching the fuels, largely through coal-burning power plants. The Congressional Research Service estimated that US\$4.25 billion was allocated to direct subsidies of fossil energy in Fiscal Year 2005. Recent studies of subsidies to the nuclear power industry have found that 60–90% of their costs—several billion dollars per year—are paid or allowed by the federal government. Other studies have shown that from the late 1940s to the late 1990s, nuclear and fossil fuels received between \$115 and \$147 billion in subsidies as compared to \$5 billion for renewables. (See Kaplow, D. 2005. Nuclear power in the U.S.: still not viable without subsidy. Earthtrack. www.earthtrack.net/earthtrack/index.asp.) Likewise, revise federal policies on access to subsurface minerals to ensure full restoration when vested rights are exercised. In addition, minimize leasing that compromises biological diversity. Redirect the savings toward implementation of conservation programs that enhance mitigation, adaptation, and management of energy in ways that support the conservation of biological diversity.

Scientific Integrity

John Fitzgerald has been working regularly with three coalitions of groups that seek to unearth instances in which science has been suppressed and pose solutions to the problem.

Fitzgerald serves on the steering committee of the Endangered Species Coalition (as he also did from 1984 to 1995). He is in regular communication with SCB members and others participating in working groups led by the Union of Concerned Scientists, Defenders of Wildlife, and a whistleblower protection coalition that includes the Government Accountability Project, a law firm and think tank on whistleblower protection. SCB member Francesca Grifo heads the UCS program on scientific integrity.

U.S. Endangered Species Act and National Forest Management Act. Recent court decisions, whistleblower leaks, and a report of the Department of the Interior's Inspector General have led to additional scrutiny concerning Bush Administration appointees at the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture while restoring a degree of protection for biological diversity. Highlights include rejection by the District Court of attempts to eliminate the requirement that populations of sensitive species be maintained in the National Forests (read the decision at www.savenationalforests.org) and a Ninth Circuit decision reemphasizing the primacy of the Endangered Species Act in land and water management decisions.

John Fitzgerald and Dominick DellaSala, Policy Chair of the North America Section, worked with Congressional staff and coalition colleagues to help Congress investigate and shape constructive responses to these developments. Representatives Gilchrest and Saxon, longtime supporters of the Endangered Species Act, recently challenged the proposed sweeping changes after chairs Norm Dicks and Nick Rahall of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and National Resources Committee told the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service that extensive changes to definition and protection of species' ranges would not be allowed by Congress.

These events are helping to shape hearings scheduled for early May on implementation of the Endangered Species Act. Dominick DellaSala currently is scheduled to testify on political interference with the recovery planning process for the Northern Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis caurina*.

Advances in Whistleblower Protection. On 14 March, the U.S. House defeated an amendment that would have removed specific protections for scientists. They instead approved the Stupak amendment, which added protection for participation in scientific societies and journals. The House also approved H.R. 985, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007. The bill clarifies that instances of political interference with science are to be considered "abuses of authority" and therefore protects their disclosure. The Stupak amendment states that preventing a federal scientist or grantee from publishing or presenting their research is an interference. The bill, summary, and status are available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.985.EH>:

Call for 2008 Award Nominations

Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award

The Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award is given annually to an individual with a distinguished record of research and outstanding application of science to the conservation of our biological resources. The intention of the award is to recognize the innovative application of science to resource management and policy. Although all scientists are eligible for the award, because of Edward LaRoe's distinguished career as a public servant, preference is given to employees of governmental resource management agencies or science agencies.

Past recipients of the LaRoe Award are

2006	Stuart Pimm
2005	Daniel Pauly
2004	Jerry Franklin
2003	Stephen Schneider
2002	John Lawton
2001	Robert Pressey
2000	Phil Pister
1999	Chandler Robbins
1998	J. Michael Scott

The 2007 LaRoe Award recipient is Jeremy Jackson.

Please send nominations for the 2008 LaRoe Award to J. Michael Scott, Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 44-1141, Room 103, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1141, USA, msscott@uidaho.edu (with copies to Sarah

Martinez, sarahm@uidaho.edu). Nominations should be in the form of a nominating letter with an accompanying resume of the nominee. Multiple letters of support for nominees are encouraged. Nominations must be received by **1 October 2007**.

Distinguished Service Awards

SCB annually presents awards for distinguished service in the field of conservation biology. For 2008, SCB is soliciting nominations from its members and other conservation professionals. Among the categories eligible for awards are

- Academia
- Government
- Outside academia and government
- Social, economic, and political work
- Education and journalism

Nominations for individuals or institutions, including a nomination form and a minimum of two supporting letters, must be received by **1 October 2007**. The form is available at <http://conbio.org/SCB/Activities/Awards/>. Letters and form must be submitted as a single document in Word. Separate letters will not be accepted. Please send nominations to Saterson.Kathryn@epamail.epa.gov. If the nominator does not have internet access, contact Kathryn Saterson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 109 TW Alexander Drive, MC: B305-02, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, USA, 1 919 541-2535.

UPDATES FROM REGIONAL SECTIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

AUSTRALASIA

Inaugural Section Meeting

The Australasia Section welcomes you to its inaugural meeting, *The Biodiversity Extinction Crisis—An Australasian and Pacific Response*, at the University of New South Wales from 10–12 July 2007. Registration is now open. This meeting, the first of its kind in the Australasian region, aims to draw together conservation professionals from the greater Australian / Pacific region (including Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the Pacific Island Nations). The meeting will be of interest to researchers, students, managers, policy makers, and social scientists from governmental and non-governmental organizations. We hope that meetings of the Australasia Section will become regular events in the region. Please join us.

We have assembled exceptional plenary speakers, excellent symposia, exciting sessions, and extraordinary social functions. Our plenary speakers include Michael Soulé, Michael Archer, Stuart Bunn, Chris Dickman, Alexandra de Blas, Hugh Possingham, Peter Brussard, David Towns, John Woinarski, Dick Watling, and David Claudie. The meeting will focus on five major themes: (1) challenges particular to the Australasian / Pacific region, (2) managing threatening processes of universal importance, (3) case studies of conservation in action, including biodiversity monitoring and assessment, (4) conservation science and policy, and (5) conservation science and the community (non-government organizations, indigenous people). Six symposia are being organized that focus on these theme: (1) whole of landscape conservation in Australia—approaches and case studies, (2) the role of invasive species in extinctions, (3) whether dingoes have a role in the conservation of Australian ecosystems, (4) conservation genetics within the Australasian region, (5) legislative and institutional arrangements for biodiversity protection in Australia and the Pacific, and (6) community partnerships for effective conservation.

Our social events will kick off with a mixer on the evening of 9 July at the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New South Wales. On 10 July, there will be a mixer / luncheon exclusively for students attending the meeting. On that same evening we will hold a special public forum on Climate Change and Water at Taronga Zoo. On the evening of 11 July, join us for a dinner and harbor cruise. There will be additional options for post-meeting sightseeing tours in the Sydney area. For further details, visit www.biodiversity2007.com.

Harry Recher

MARINE

The Board of Directors of the Marine Section has been busy moving several initiatives forward. If you would like to

participate in Section activities, please contact President Ellen Hines (ehines@sfsu.edu).

Survey. Results of the Marine Section survey have been summarized. Results and priority follow-up tasks for Section Board and membership are posted on the Section's Web site.

Annual meeting. Three members of the Section Board, Phaedra Doukakis, Ellen Hines, and Anne Salmon, will attend the 2007 annual meeting. Anne is co-organizer of a symposium on ecosystem consequences of fishing. A social for members of the Marine Section and their friends will be held at 7:30 P.M. on 2 July at the Pine Lodge. Among our speakers will be Myra Finkelstein, a Smith Fellow currently at the University of California, Santa Cruz. We also will hold a Section members' meeting at a date and time to be announced. Further information will be distributed via the Section's listserv and Web site.

Section Board meeting. The Section Board and SCB's Executive Director Alan Thornhill met from 15–19 March in Moss Landing, California.

The main issue discussed during the meeting was the International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC). The meeting, tentatively titled "Making marine science matter: from data to policy and management," will be held in Washington, D.C. during the first half of 2009. We currently are discussing how to incorporate the name and objectives of the International Marine Protected Areas Congress into this meeting. The meeting will be designed to be international and multidisciplinary, with outreach to and involvement of policy makers, the general public, and the press. It will embrace a participatory, product-oriented approach, using working groups and blue ribbon panels that produce tangible products (e.g. white papers, vision documents).

Current Board member John Cigliano is Chair of the nascent Steering Committee for IMCC. Discussions are underway regarding co-conveners or cooperators. Section members and others who are able and willing to assist in organizing the meeting are encouraged to contact John (jaciglia@cedarcrest.edu).

New committee structure and chair appointments. The Board decided to reorganize the existing committee structure and appoint a chair for each committee. We encourage members to participate on committees by contacting committee Chairs. Please see the Section Web site for more information on committee structure, chairs, and activities.

Section Board president. The Board voted on a policy regarding the Section's president. Henceforth, the president will serve a two-year term and must serve one year on the Board before election to the presidency. Current president Ellen Hines was approved to remain on the Board for an additional year, with her term ending 31 December 2008.

Section Policy initiatives. After forming a new policy committee, the Board discussed how to more actively

participate in SCB policy work. Members are encouraged to view the SCB policy priorities document and contact the Section's policy committee chair, Chris Parsons, if they would like to become involved.

Web site and listserv improvements. The Board is working to make these tools more relevant and useful, guided in part by the survey results. Please visit the new featured Web sites and the SeaStar on the Section's home page. We encourage members to contact Amber Himes (amber_himes@fws.gov) with further suggestions and additions.

Ellen Hines

FRESHWATER WORKING GROUP

Working Group Members and Issues Featured in BioScience

Two members of the working group, Robin Abell and Josh Viers, were featured in the March 2007 issue of *BioScience* (volume 57, issue 3), which drew attention to freshwater conservation. The same issue of *BioScience* also contained an article by Richard Blaustein on resource equity issues in and around protected areas (pages 216–221). There is a sidebar discussing the Skukuza Symposium on Freshwater Protected Areas, which both Josh and Robin attended. They relay the many challenges and benefits of conserving freshwater ecosystems and biological diversity.

2007 Annual Meeting

Please visit our booth at the 2007 annual meeting, where we will be selling t-shirts to benefit freshwater conservation activities. A field trip on freshwater conservation will be held on 1 July. The trip fee of \$30 includes transportation, lunch, and refreshments.

Results of a survey of working group members are expected soon. Thanks to all those who helped to develop or answered the survey. The results of the survey will inform the strategic planning process of the working group.

North America Section Meeting

During the North America Section's meeting with the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation in Little Rock, Arkansas, we will present an informational poster about the Freshwater Working Group and propose new research questions regarding the effects of transportation networks on freshwater ecosystems.

Aventino Kasangaki

SOCIAL SCIENCE WORKING GROUP

Call for Submissions to the Working Paper Series

“Conservation social science is the study of the conservation-relevant aspects of human society, including the

relationships among humans and between humans and their environment. Since successful conservation inevitably requires changes in human behavior, drawing upon decades of social science research to better understand what people do, and why, provides valuable insights for conservation policy and practice.” (Mascia, M. 2007. Conservation social science: what's in the black box? SCB Newsletter 13(2):1, 11.)

The goal of the Social Science Working Group (SSWG) Working Paper Series is to provide a forum for conservation social science research, and especially for work that highlights the successful application of social science tools and approaches to conservation policy and practice. The intent of the series is to function as a venue to promote current research, as well as to provide authors and researchers with a forum to offer and receive critiques on work in the final stages of completion. Through its simplified review process, the series offers rapid dissemination of critical conservation social science work to the SCB community, social science peers, students, and other conservation professionals. This is an opportunity for authors to offer their work for initial public viewing and commentary before its submission to an appropriate journal. The SSWG hopes that the Working Paper Series will become the place where conservation social scientists turn for the most current and critical insights into the field.

The SSWG Education Committee will review submissions; submissions will not be distributed for formal peer review. Papers should be ~10,000 words. After approval, papers will be archived on the SSWG Web site indefinitely at the discretion of the SSWG Board. The author retains the copyright and authority to remove the paper from the Web site at any time. For submission procedures and style guidelines, or if you have any questions or comments concerning the Working Paper Series or the SSWG, please visit us at www.conbio.org/workinggroups/SSWG/.

Subscriptions to Discussion list Soar

The number of subscribers to the SSWG discussion list has been increasing steadily and has now passed 600, doubling in the last year and a half. The list serves as a forum for news, announcements, and discussions on a wide range of conservation social science issues, with a growing number of active participants. Please consider subscribing to participate in this vibrant community.

Nejem Raheem

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has been growing and diverging into subdisciplines and specializations.

Both Boas and Malinowski studied the ways that humans make a living from the land and their “material culture”: the artifacts, food sources, and other materials that humans produce and trade. Theory about the relations between humans and nature evolved with the work of Julian

Steward and

Raymond Firth, among others.

Steward focused on understanding and classifying modes of subsistence

such as hunting, gathering, and horticulture without situating these modes as steps in an upward cultural evolution. Firth, following Malinowski, examined non-Western economic systems of trade and exchange.

Key concepts in early modern anthropology retain their importance. Among these concepts are

- Human “adaptation” to an environment is not determined by ecological conditions alone; people can exploit the same resources in different ways
- Technology mediates human relations with nature, but technology is socially produced
- Economics (types of exchange and trade, systems to cope with real and perceived scarcity) determines modes of exploitation of natural resources
- Relations of power, prestige, and status significantly shape economics

Anthropologists soon realized that development of theories from studies within isolated small-scale societies posed numerous theoretical dilemmas. Even the most isolated populations were connected to larger economies through trade, commodity production, or inclusion in a colonial state. Few societies are homogeneous; they are complex and multi-layered. All peoples have a history of establishment, migration, change, and adaptation to specific places. Colonialism and the expansion of the global economy radically transformed “traditional” societies. Many were destroyed or

severely damaged by slavery, disease, and the depredations of early exploration and colonization. Other traditional societies adapted to new production and market systems. Understanding how “local people” adapt and integrate into markets and political processes has become central to anthropology. Uncovering and tracing these connections helps us to discern behaviors and practices in relation to use and conservation of natural resources.

Anthropology can challenge conventional wisdom on human-environment relationships.

Archaeology and indigenous history reveal that many areas thought to be

“wilderness” were significantly shaped by human intervention; they are anthropogenic landscapes.

Anthropologists document the ways in which direct threats to biodiversity from local exploitation are linked to wider sociopolitical and economic pressures and networks. Anthropologists also have played a key role in highlighting indigenous conservation strategies, such as protecting refugia, species taboos, and seasonal hunting restrictions, thereby revealing and documenting indigenous and local knowledge in conservation.

Anthropologists contribute to conservation in numerous ways.

Anthropology and the Environment is an active section of the American Anthropological Association, and the Society for Applied Anthropology (SFAA) has many professionals working in conservation.

Anthropology contributes with theory, method, and practical experience in living and working in remote settings, which are often the places set aside for conservation.

Although environmental and ecological anthropologists are

united in concern for loss of biological diversity and environmental degradation, they may take different approaches to conservation. These approaches include

- Support to conservation initiatives through fieldwork, data collection, knowledge of local people and societies, ethnobiology, and ethnoecology
- Critical engagement with conservation initiatives from the perspective of indigenous and human rights, and concerns about inadequacies of social science inputs into conservation planning including lack of historical and sociopolitical analysis
- Support for human-centered approaches to conservation such as community-based conservation and rights-based conservation
- Planning, funding, implementing, and evaluating conservation initiatives

Resources

Anthropology and Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association, <http://www.eanth.org/>.

The Social Science Working Group is co-sponsoring a course on ethnoecology and community conservation (organized by Gary Martin, University of Kent, Canterbury) at SCB's 2007 annual meeting.

Brosius, J.P. 2006. Common ground between anthropology and conservation biology. *Conservation Biology* 20:683–685.

Diane Russell

*Biodiversity and Social Science Specialist
U.S. Agency for International
Development*

Donations to SCB promote the science of conservation biology and protect the diversity of life on Earth

- Donate appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. If you donate equities owned more than a year, you can avoid tax on the capital gains and reduce income tax by deducting the fair market value as a charitable contribution.
- Make a bequest to SCB in your will. A bequest may reduce taxes on your estate.

Please send donations to
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Sections, from page 1

residents of Europe. Overall Section participation also is relatively high in Europe and Australasia (89% of European residents and 80% of Australasian residents are members of any Section). Approximately 5% of SCB's members are affiliated with the Marine Section.

Nevertheless, our membership data and the day-to-day experiences of myself and Presidents of other Sections suggest that relatively few SCB members know that Regional Sections exist. Or if members do know, they seem to assume that by virtue of living in a geographic region, they are automatically a member of the corresponding Section. Alas (and unfortunately, in my view), this is not the case! Currently, the option to join one or more Sections does not appear on either the hard-copy membership enrollment form or on the new-member page of SCB's Web site. After joining SCB, new members must navigate through the Web site in order to join one or more Sections. (To join a Section, navigate to the bottom left of your Member Home Page—look for the apple—and choose “My Section and Working Group Affiliations.” You then will be directed to a page where you can become a voting member of one or two Sections and as many working groups as you wish.)

We anticipate that the process of joining a Section will become easier with upcoming improvements to our Web site and membership form.

For now, here are six reasons why you should join one or more Regional Sections.

1. Policy Involvement. With a growing number of members and a more equitable geographic representation of its members, SCB is becoming less centralized. That is, a greater proportion of activities are falling under the purview of Sections and other SCB groups rather than the central, global organization. Sections are enhancing SCB's capacity for action. In particular, several Sections plan to become increasingly active in conservation policy issues, in coordination with SCB's Policy Director and Policy Committee.

2. Meetings. The location of SCB's annual, global meetings now alternate between North America and, in rotation, other continents. Regardless of where they live, many SCB members cannot afford frequent travel outside their region of residence. For this and other reasons, the Regional Sections are beginning to host their own meetings. The easiest way to receive timely information about these meetings, and opportunities to plan or participate actively in the meetings, is to be a member of the Section. In 2007, both the Australasia Section and the North America Section will begin holding major Section meetings; the Europe Section held a highly successful meeting in August

2006. Information about upcoming Section meetings is available at www.conbio.org/Sections/meetings.cfm.

3. Your Voice. As SCB's activities increase in number and are coordinated at regional levels, opportunities are expanding for individuals to make substantial contributions to Section efforts. For example, you can nominate candidates (including yourself!) for the Boards of Directors of most Sections. You can (should!) vote in the Section elections. You can join and become actively involved in Section committees. In addition, you can attend members' meetings of the Section at regional and global SCB meetings. Further, you can engage in discussion about critical policy and governance issues of your Section.

4. Networking. Section membership provides an effective means to meet, interact, and collaborate with fellow conservation professionals who live or work in your region. As Rodrigo Medellín, President of the Austral and Neotropical America Section, has emphasized, south–south and north–south linkages are essential if we are to succeed in conserving biological diversity in developing countries.

5. Education. Many Sections are launching major education initiatives, with many opportunities for training at all career stages. Knowledge and circulation of information about educational activities is optimal within Regional Sections.

6. Promote conservation in your region. Joining a Section gives you a geographical (or ecosystem type) identity and a sense of belong to a specific group within SCB that goes above and beyond governance, journals or other publications, and meetings. Section membership is an outstanding platform from which to stimulate regional conservation by collaborating with other regional members.

Please navigate SCB's Web site as described above and join one or more Regional Sections.

Reed F. Noss

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Decisions concerning publication rest with the Editor.

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Announcements

Education Committee Update

Due to the high level of interest in education issues, we are pleased to announce the launch of a listserv where SCB members can exchange information, ideas, and tips on teaching, texts, programs, and other education-related topics. To sign up for the listserv and participate in discussions, please visit <http://list.conbio.org/mailman/listinfo/scb-education/>.

Educational Opportunity

The CALFED Science Program, in collaboration with California Sea Grant College Program, seeks applications for predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows. The Science Fellows Program aims to bring junior scientists together with CALFED Program agency scientists and senior research mentors. These partners engage in collaborative data analysis and research projects relevant to ecosystem management and reliability of water supply, including analyses of the extensive monitoring database collected and maintained by the implementing agencies. In 2007, fellowships will be awarded to address (1) the four priority issues as outlined in the CALFED Science Program 2006 Proposal Solicitation Package: environmental water, invasive aquatic species, trends and patterns of populations and system response to a changing environment, and habitat availability and response to change, or (2) specific needs identified by CALFED implementing agencies: environmental water account, pelagic organism declines, using a systems modeling approach for identifying critical linkages, and developing indicators and performance measures. For more information, visit <http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/EDUCATION/CALFED/CALFEDIndx.html>.

Bibliographies Available

A series of bibliographies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides a comprehensive review of the current literature covering conservation programs, including the research needed to improve practices. Two new bibliographies recently were published in support of USDA's Conservation Effects Assessment Project: *Environmental Effects of Conservation Practices on Grazing Lands and Wetlands in Agricultural Landscapes*. These and previously-published bibliographies are available at (www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/ceap/index.shtml). Paper copies of all bibliographies can be ordered from Stuart Gagnon (sgagnon@nal.usda.gov).

Meetings

The 13th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM), *Landscape Continuity and Change—Social Science Perspectives and Interdisciplinary Conversations*, will be held 17–21 June 2007 in Park City, Utah, USA. ISSRM is the premier scientific meeting for academic and government researchers, students, land managers, and NGO representatives who are broadly interested in the human dimensions of natural resources and the environment.

Meetings typically attract 800 or more participants from more than 25 nations. Participating disciplines include sociology, psychology, anthropology, political science, economics, landscape architecture, environmental planning, outdoor recreation management, history, and the natural sciences. For more information, visit www.issrm2007.org.

The conference *Parks, Peace and Partnerships* will be held 9–12 September 2007 in Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada. This international conference is being convened to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Waterton / Glacier International Peace Park, the world's first peace park. International Peace Park designation legitimized a spirit of cooperation that has been used to seek ongoing designations and other forms of cooperation that may not have been anticipated at the time. The conference aims to document that ripple effect and consider its potential and realization around the world by sharing success stories, embracing challenges, and advancing the theory and practice of transboundary management. Attendance will be limited to approximately 200 participants. Details are available at www.peacepark2007.org or from info@peacepark2007.org.

The Fourth International Partners In Flight Conference, *Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats and People*, will be held 13–16 February 2008 in McAllen, Texas, USA. The conference theme will be shared with the 2008 International Migratory Bird Day (www.birdday.org/). The conference will focus on international connections that further bird and habitat conservation throughout the western hemisphere. Two types of concurrent paper sessions will focus on issues in bird conservation. In addition to standard sessions typical of meetings of scientific societies, sessions followed by a facilitated discussion session will aim to produce a strategic action plan to be distributed to all partners within weeks of the conference. The program also will include keynote speakers, vendors, social events, a poster session, a variety of single-day and multiple-day birding field trips, and a proceedings that will include papers developed from posters. Details will be posted on the Partners in Flight Web site (www.partnersinflight.org) and distributed through various bird conservation listservs as they develop. In the meantime, contact Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov) with inquiries.

The conference *Ingestion of Spent Lead Ammunition: Implications for Wildlife and Humans* will be convened by The Peregrine Fund from 12–15 May 2008 at Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. The goal of the conference is to promote a better understanding of ingested spent lead ammunition as a source of lead exposure and to reduce its effects on wildlife and humans. For details, visit http://www.peregrinefund.org/Lead_conference/ or contact The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho 83709, USA, 1 208 362-3716, tpf@peregrinefund.org.

SCB Adopts Five Major Areas of Policy Emphasis and Forms Teams

Policy, from page 4

Another bill is being prepared by the Senate's Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. Differences will be resolved in conference if the Senate passes its version.

International Treaties and Policy

The House Ways and Means Committee's Democratic Majority statement on trade policy now affirms a majority policy of requiring all countries that are parties to U.S. trade agreements to implement and enforce common, multilateral environmental agreements in regard to their trade with the United States. The statement refers specifically to Peruvian harvest and trade in mahogany (<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/media/pdf/NewTradePolicy.pdf>).

Biological Security

U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer, co-chair of the Congressional Indonesia Caucus, introduced his bill to ban the importation of illegally harvested wood products (H.R. 1497). The Associated Press noted, "The logging bill would extend the Lacey Act—which prohibits importation of wildlife taken in violation of conservation laws—to apply to wood and timber products. The measure would ban the import, export or sale of timber products made in violation of domestic or foreign law or international treaty." The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans.

Sections and Chapters

The North America Section will discuss its 2007–2008 policy framework during a members' meeting on 24 May in Little Rock, Arkansas. North America Section President Reed Noss recently cosigned a letter with officials of Defenders of Wildlife and other groups urging Congress to strengthen the laws and programs designed to control the introduction and spread of invasive aquatic species.

SCB chapters also are contributing to policy activities. For example, the Washington, D.C. chapter has a large membership that can provide considerable leverage and leadership. The chapter has hosted a series of speakers and is scheduling policy-planning sessions. Chapter members in the western United States are drafting comments, to be reviewed by other SCB members with expertise on wolf ecology and the U.S. Endangered Species Act, on a proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delist gray wolves (*Canis lupus*).

Policy Workshops at 2007 Annual Meeting

We are planning two lunch sessions at the 2007 annual meeting (on 2 July and 4 July) that will bring together policy experts and representatives from groups within SCB. An outreach survey will be included in the registration packets.

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