

Board Meeting of the Austral and Neotropical America section of the Society for Conservation Biology

2008

Summary

Between April 21 and 25 of 2008, the board of the Austral and Neotropical America (ANA) section of the Society for Conservation Biology met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to discuss the future of the section. The board discussed three main topics: I) the organization of the board, II) Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meetings, and III) a manuscript for Conservation Biology. The board members also: IV) gave talks in a mini-conference organized at the State University of Rio de Janeiro. This minute was written by Mariana Vale, Director of Communication.

Board members present at the meeting

Gerardo Ceballos (President)
Christian Bonacic (Director of Conservation)
Nora Byrum, via internet (Director of Education)
Julio Calvo (Director of Nominations, Policy and Audit)
Rurik List (Chief Financial Officer)
Mariana Vale (Director of Communication and Meetings)

Rio de Janeiro, 21-25 de Abril 2008

PART I: ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

1. Elections 2008

The board decided that all board members leaving their positions will remain on the board for two more years as *ex-officio*, to support the incoming board members and give continuity to the activities within ANA. The board decided to nominate the following persons for open positions:

- Director of Nominations, Policy and Audit: Bernal Rodríguez (Costa Rica, 2 years)
- Director of Education: Nora Bynum (re-election, 2 years)
- Secretary: Jesús Pacheco R. (México, 1 year)

2. Representatives in SCB committees

The board decided that ANA will do everything possible in order to have representatives at every committee of the Society for Conservation Biology. The representatives for the June 2007-July 2009 period are:

- Policy: Julio Calvo
- Development: Mariana Vale
- Conferences: Rurik List
- Awards: Rodrigo Medellín y Jorge Galindo
- Audit: Gerardo Ceballos
- Carbon Offset: Gerardo Ceballos
- Education: Nora Byrum
- Membership: Luis Aguirre
- Governance: Gerardo Ceballos
- Publications: Cristian Bonacic
- Student affairs: Marion Adeney

3. Attributions of Board Members

The board decided to clearly define the responsibilities of all board members. These responsibilities, as described by the current board members themselves, are outlined in Annex 1.

4. Activities of Board Members 2007-2008

The board asked every board member to describe the activities that he/she has carried out or plans to carry out within ANA. The descriptions are in Annex 2.

5. Institutional Memory

The board acknowledged the lack of institutional memory within ANA. The board decided to ask *ex-officio* Javier Simonetti and Rodrigo Medellín to write a report on the main events that occurred during their terms.

PART II: SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY ANNUAL MEETINGS

1. 2008 Annual Meeting in Chattanooga TN, United States

Gerardo Ceballos, Nora Bynum, Mariana Vale and Rodrigo Medellín will be present at the 2008 Annual Meeting. They will be in charge of organizing the open ANA meeting. Mariana Vale will check with SCB as to the assigned date and time for the meeting and will invited all ANA members through the listserv.

2. Joint ANA/North America Meeting in 2011

There was a proposal for a joint meeting with the North America and ANA sections of SCB in 2011.

3. ANA Presence at other meetings

The board acknowledged the need to have a greater participation of ANA in existing meetings in the ANA region, as opposed to the creation of an ANA regional meeting. The board intends to organize sections with ANA representatives in the conferences organized by other regional societies.

PART III: MANUSCRIPT FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

During the 2007 SCB Annual Meeting, SCB decided to call on all regional sections to write a manuscript for a special issue of Conservation Biology. All regional sections have responded except for ANA. During the board meeting in Rio de Janeiro, the board started working on such a manuscript, writing a draft and assigning parts of the manuscript to each board member present at the meeting. The board decided to continue working on the paper after the meeting, in order for ANA to be able to participate in the above mentioned special issue of Conservation Biology.

PART IV: MINI-CONFERENCE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

ANA took advantage of the presence of the board in Rio de Janeiro to have a mini-conference at the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), in collaboration with The Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution. The event was organized by Mariana Vale (Director of Communication) and featured talks from all four board members coming from abroad: Rurik List (Chief Financial Officer), Julio Calvo (Director of Nominations), Criatián Bonacic (Director of Conservation) and Gerardo Ceballos (President). See flier in Annex 3 for details.

The conference, entitled “Conservação Ambiental na América Latina,” was attended by at least 79 people from 12 different institutions, mostly students. Fifty-nine participants that attended at least three of the four talks received a certificate of participation signed by Mariana Vale representing ANA, and by Maria Alice Alves and Rosaza Mazzoni representing UERJ (see certificate template in Annex 4).

The mini-conference was a great opportunity to share cutting edge research and thinking on Conservation in Latin America, and to publicize the Society for Conservation Biology.

ANNEX 1: Responsibilities of all ANA board members, as described by the current board members.

President

The president is responsible for planning, consensus and coordination of the activities for the section. He/she has a crucial role in giving continuity to the activities as well maintaining the cohesion and unity of the section. Among the president's functions is to preside over the Board of Members, suggest candidates for positions within the board, and indicate *ex-officio* members for positions within the board and in SCB committees.

Director of Membership and Programs

The purpose of the Director of Membership and Programs is to: 1) contribute to the development of policies and guidelines for the section, 2) find a glaring identity to build local and regional capacities, 2) to contribute to members' empowerment in seeking an objective way of bringing benefits to the Society for Conservation Biology, and to Latin American fellow researchers and conservation biologists.

Director of Conservation

The role of the Director of conservation is to promote the Society for Conservation Biology and the development of the discipline of Conservation Biology in the ANA section. Papers, strategic documents, talks, conferences and statements from ANA are also responsibilities of the position. The Director of Conservation helps the Director of Education to implement courses in the ANA region as well to promote membership in collaboration with the Director of Membership and Programs.

Director of Education

The Education Director seeks to advance formal and non-formal training in conservation biology in the ANA region. The Director shall periodically survey the membership of the section to determine priority areas for action and to update the current database of conservation science programs in the ANA region. The Director will also seek to facilitate technical or financial support to educational initiatives in conservation within the region, as feasible and subject to approval by the ANA Section Board. The Director may also initiate educational activities, such as topical short courses and courses in teaching conservation biology, subject to approval by the ANA Board.

Secretary

The activities of the Secretary of ANA include: 1) the organization of the working agenda of the President, 2) help the President with work meetings, 3) coordinate ANA events, including the ones in Mexico and abroad, 4) put together the minutes for these meetings, and 5) organize video-conferences with the ANA members.

Director of Nominations, Policy and Audit

The Director of Nominations, Policy and Audit is by default the representative for the Policy Committee of SCB. The responsibilities of the position are: 1) be responsible for the fulfillment of deadlines and closure of processes, and 2) communicate with the SCB Governance and Finance Manager and the ANA President. The Director of Nominations, Policy and Audit is responsible for organizing the elections of the board members, according to the following schedule:

- a. February: provide an update on the ANA board membership to the SCB Governance and Finance Manager
- b. March: prepare the solicitation for nominations for the following year, with the approval of the SCB Governance and Finance Manager and the President of ANA
- c. April: send the solicitation for nominations to SCB to be forwarded to all ANA members. The solicitation for nominations will be open for one month and will end at the end of April.
- d. May: potential candidates for each open position send their letters of interest and CVs (both in English and Spanish) to the Director of Nominations, Policy and Audit.
- e. June: count the votes for each open position and send a letter to the candidates elected. Send a report to SCB and the President of ANA.

Chief Financial Officer

The activities of the Chief Financial Officer include the coordination of funds with the SCB Governance and Finance Manager and the ANA President. Responsibilities include administering funds for the board meeting, for attending conferences, for fellowships and for any other relevant activities of the board or association.

Director of Communication and Meetings

The Director of Communication and Meetings is in charge of maintaining the flow of communication within the board and the section as a whole. The director manages the listserv, posts announcements on the section's website, and assists other board members in promoting meetings.

ANNEX 2: Description of the activities current board members have already carried out or plan to carry out within their term on the ANA Board.

President, Dr. Gerardo Ceballos

My goal for my term as President of ANA is to strengthen the section, and to help making ANA a stronger and more independent section. This is required to represent the conservation needs of the region. My specific goals are: 1) increase the presence of ANA in the SCB, 2) increase ANA membership, 3) review and improve the benefits for the members. 4) have representation of ANA in all the SCB committees, 5) organize ANA board meetings every year, 6) have ANA board members attending the SCB annual meetings, and 7) organize a regional meeting with the ANA section in 2011.

Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Rurik List

The Chief Financial Office has revised and commented on the following documents: 1) Guidelines for the regional meetings, 2) SCB Benchmarks, 3) Manual for conference organization, 4) Best ways to achieve the strategic goals of Global and Regional SCB meetings.

Director of Conservation, Dr. Cristián Bonacic

The first activity of the Director of Conservation will be to contribute to the paper about the role and the possibilities of ANA within the Society for Conservation Biology, to be published in Conservation Biology.

The Director of Conservation and the President of ANA will organize an online conference for Latin American students with speakers from the region. They will also coordinate a symposium proposal for the Society of Conservation Biology Meeting in China in 2009.

Director of Nominations, Policy and Audit, Dr. Julio Calvo

In the last 4 years, the Director of Nominations, Policy and Audit has directed the 2006, 2007 and 2008 board member elections. This process encompasses five main steps, explained in Annex 1 of this report (Responsibilities of ANA board members).

Director of Education, Dr. Nora Bynum

As previously reported, in January 2007 we interviewed ANA members about educational priorities. The detailed report is available online on the SCB website¹. The survey generated valuable information for the ANA Director of Education and the board of ANA. Particularly, the interviewees put high priority

¹ <http://www.conbio.org/Sections/ANA/index.CFM>

on activities that facilitate efficient needs evaluations and the development of a curriculum in conservation. Furthermore, the interviewees from the region highlighted the importance of having education initiatives funded by ANA. All these activities would require some funds and a significant time commitment by the SCB staff or ANA volunteers. In the case of curriculum evaluation/development, the activities would be absolutely different from the activities previously carried by ANA.

In response to the results of that survey, and in collaboration with the SCB Global Educational Committee and the Africa section, we have successfully proposed a short-course in development of programs in conservation biology and evaluation of needs², which will take place before the 2008 SCB Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, United States.

In 2007, some ANA members also participated in an exhaustive review of SCB's dataset of educational opportunities in the ANA region, and the writing of a paper on academic programs in the region.³

Director of Comunicación, Dr. Mariana Vale

Since the Communication and Meeting Director's term started in June 2007, the director has carried out three main activities: 1) creation of a listserv for the section, 2) organization of the board meeting in Rio de Janeiro in April 2008, and 3) a one-day meeting in Rio de Janeiro where four ANA board members gave talks at the State University of Rio de Janeiro. The future activities of the Communication and Meeting Director include: 1) manage the ANA listserv, 2) update the ANA webpage, 3) co-author the ANA manuscript for Conservation Biology journal, 4) attend the ANA meeting during the 2008 Society for Conservation Biology Meeting, and 5) be a teaching assistant in the Short Course co-organized by ANA Director of Education, Dr. Nora Bynum during the 2008 Society for Conservation Biology Meeting.

² <http://www.conbio.org/activities/meetings/2008/program/courses3.cfm>

³ Mendez, M, A Gómez, N Bynum, R Medellín, AL Porzecanski, EJ Sterling. 2007. Conservation in Austral and Neotropical America: Building Scientific Capacity Equal to the Challenges. Conservation Biology 21(6): 1399-1403

ANNEX 3: Flier for the mini-conference organized by ANA on 24th April 2008 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mini-conferência:

Conservação na América Latina

24 de Abril
(quinta-feira)
UERJ

Palestras por profissionais de diversos países:

12:00h Sala da Pós-Graduação em Ecologia
Conservação Trans-fronteiriça: o caso México-Estados Unidos
Dr. Rurik List (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

14:00h Auditório Rolando Monteiro
Capacitação em Conservação no Chile: lições aprendidas no desenvolvimento de um curso de mestrado
Dr. Cristián Bonacic (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

15:00h Auditório Rolando Monteiro
Dinâmica da Cobertura Florestal na Costa Rica: causas e lições aprendidas para conservação
Dr. Julio Calvo-Alvarado (Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica)


16:00h Auditório Rolando Monteiro
Padrões Globais de Diversidade e Ameaça de Mamíferos
Dr. Gerardo Ceballos (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)


Locais:
Sala da Pós-Graduação em Ecologia: Pavilhão Haroldo Lisboa da Cunha, 2º andar – sala 202
Auditório Rolando Monteiro: Edifício Américo Piquet Carneiro, 2º andar


Organizadores:
Society for Conservation Biology (ANA/SCB)
Pós-Graduação em Ecologia e Evolução (UERJ)


Palestras em espanhol.
Participantes recebem certificado.

Informações: 21 8272-5050, mvale.eco@gmail.com (Mariana Vale)









ANNEX 4: Template of certificate issued to 59 participants that attended at least three of the four talks at the mini-conference organized by ANA on 24th April 2008 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

 Society for Conservation Biology	<h1>Certificado</h1>	
	Certificamos que	
 ECO UERJ PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM ECOLOGIA E EVOLUÇÃO	Nome Sobrenome	
	assistiu à mini-conferência “Conservação Ambiental na América Latina” realizada em 24 de Abril de 2008 no Rio de Janeiro pela Society for Conservation Biology (SCB/ANA), com o apoio do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ecologia e Evolução da Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ).	
	 Mariana M. Vale Diretora de Comunicação da Society for Conservation Biology (SCB/ANA)	 Maria Alice S. Alves Professora Adjunto do Departamento de Ecologia (UERJ)
		 Rosana Mazzoni Coordenadora da Pós-Graduação em Ecologia e Evolução (UERJ)