

Society for Conservation Biology

A global community of conservation professionals

Europe Section

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

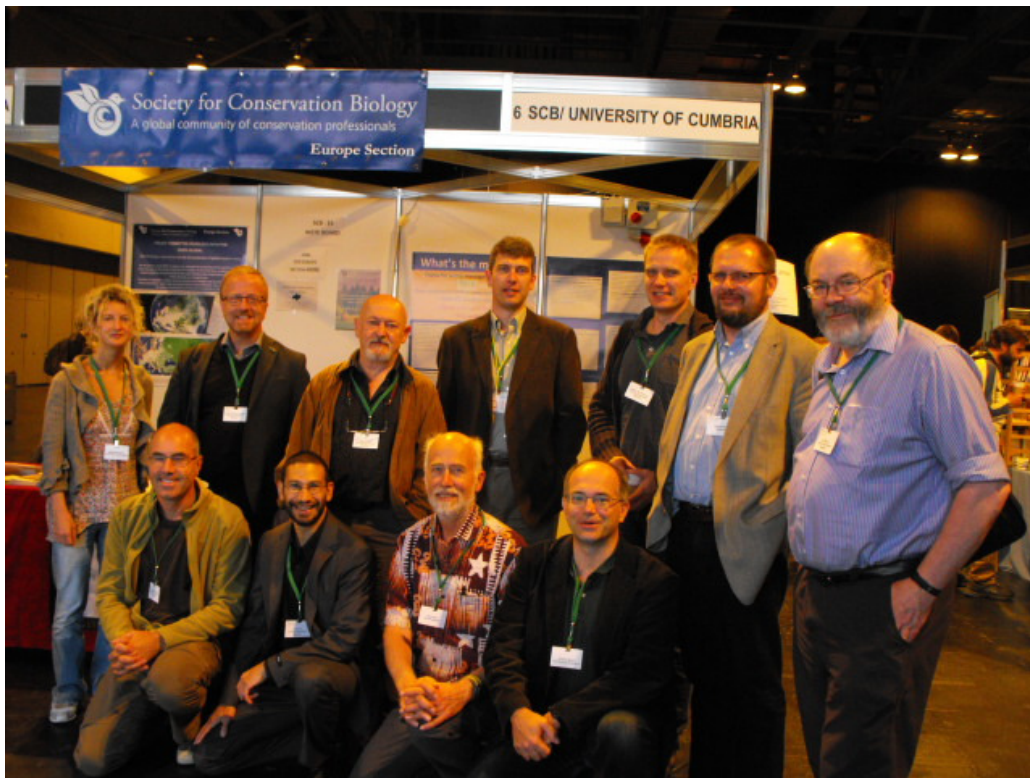
<http://www.conbio.org/groups/sections/europe>
<http://euroconbio.blogspot.com/>

europe@conbio.org

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

EUROPE SECTION MISSION

To promote conservation biology and its application to conserve Europe's biological diversity.



Members of the Board with Owen Nevin, Chair of the ECCB2012 LOC and Paul Beier, President of SCB in ECCB2012, Glasgow, September 2012. From l to r: Margherita Gioria, Bengt-Gunnar Jonsson, Gábor Lövei, Owen Nevin, Mikko Mönkkönen, Pierre Ibisch, Rob Marrs, first row: Raphael Arlettaz, Guy Pe'er, Paul Beier, András Báldi

The Section has an international 12 member Board of Directors with President (András Báldi), President Elect (Barbara Livoreil) and task-oriented committees including Policy (Chair: Pierre Ibisch), Education (Chair: Piero Visconti), Communication (Chair: Guy Pe'er), Membership and Chapters (Chair: Raphael Arlettaz) and Student Affairs Committee (rotating co-chairs).

Would you like to help the Section's work in your country as a **National Contact Person**? Join our National Contact Network! Send your application to europe@conbio.org.

3rd European Congress of Conservation Biology (ECCB2012)

28 Aug - 1 Sep, 2012, Glasgow, UK

The highlight of SCB-ES activities in 2012 was undoubtedly the 3rd European Congress of Conservation Biology (ECCB2012) held in Glasgow in the end of August.

After the organizational efforts of the previous years, the Congress was a success in scientific terms. In addition to the plenaries, workshops and trainings, the program included 24 thematic symposium with more than 190 talks, 380 oral and speed presentations in 38 sessions and almost 300 posters.

The Congress focus on ongoing science-policy initiatives such as **IPBES** was highlighted repeatedly during the plenaries and the sessions.

Importance of trans-disciplinarity, knowledge exchange and the end-users involvement in designing and conducting scientific research was mentioned as an important baseline in many talks.



Sir Robert Watson in an opening talk about the need for demand-driven conservation research



Anne Teller and András Báldi at the SCB-ES booth

A lot of discussions revolved around **ecosystem services** (ES) and their mappings. As Anne Teller from DG Environment pointed out in her plenary talk, current EU target require Member States to complete their national ecosystem assessment by 2014.

Highlights from ECCB2012

Student Award session

The session and the ceremony organized by the Student Affair Committee of SCB-ES were both crowded. Interesting stories about shrimps clutching on ducks, how to make Red List reassessment more efficient, how to cultivate critically endangered mussels, or whether green roofs can aid connectivity for spiders and carabid beetles were presented by the contestants. The winner of the Award was Bernard Coetzee, South Africa who's talk was titled: "Protected areas achieve significant conservation outcomes".



Policy Brief Contest

An exhibition and a contest of policy briefs, management briefs and many other forms of very concise documents relating scientific results were exhibited and reviewed during the conference.

Prize for the greenest travel

At the end of the Congress Swarovski Optik Green Travel Price was awarded to Willem Laermans from Belgium. Willem made his way up from Belgium to Glasgow using a boat and his bike. In five days he travelled 550 km challenged by Scottish weather conditions.



Science and policy

Message from ECCB

The SCB-ES Policy Committee organized a voting procedure among the Congress participants for delivering the policy message of ECCB.

Four issues were considered as high priority: intensification and homogenization of agricultural landscapes, old growth forests, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and conservation across national borders.



See more: <http://euroconbio.blogspot.hu/2012/09/message-from-glasgow-statement-and.html>

Resolution on Šumava National Park

SCB-ES submitted a resolution to the Czech Prime Minister in 2012 raising concerns on the current developments in the Šumava National Park. In autumn 2012, members of the Policy Committee visited the site and called for further actions to halt the intervention managements taken place in the NP. The SCB-ES trip to Šumava and the mismanagement of the site (see pictures) were resonated to the public through coverage on Czech TV.



The Šumava National Park (established in 1991 to protect the most valuable parts of the Czech side of the Bohemian Forest) gives home to several rare and endemic as well as endangered species. It forms the largest non-intervention area in the Central-European cultural landscape together with the neighbouring Bavarian Forest NP.



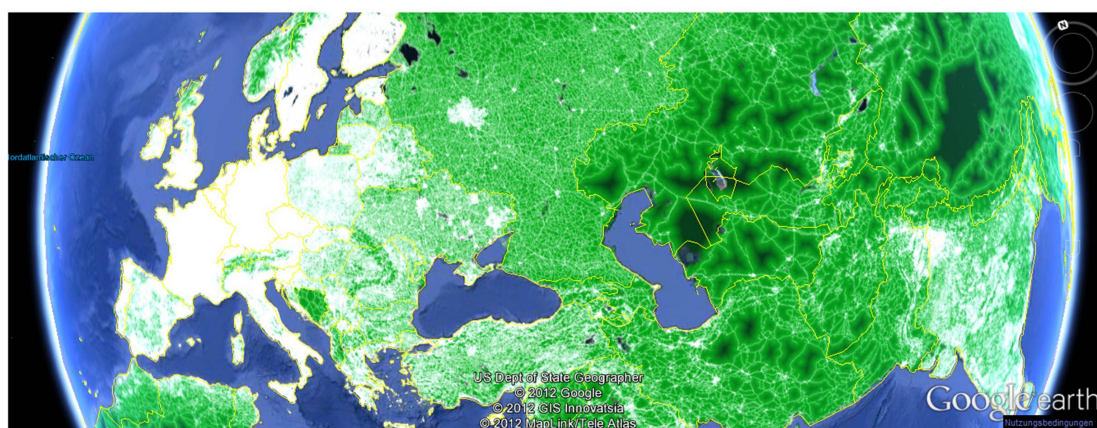
PC members at the site, 2012 autumn

Science and policy

Roadless Goes Global

The roadless areas initiative launched by SCB-ES in 2008 has become global. A prototype map of the world's remaining roadless areas was produced by Google in collaboration with SCB (*see below*). The map was presented at the Rio+20 conference in June 2012, where SCB also took part. After Rio+20, an SCB inter-sectional project took off. A symposium on roadless areas will be held at SCB's International Congress for Conservation Biology in Baltimore, Maryland 21-25 July 2013.

Global Roadless Areas: 1 km buffer



Google

Generated by analyzing the extensive database of roads in Google Maps, this proof-of-concept global map displays in a green-gradient all areas of land that are more than one (1) kilometer from the nearest road, rail or navigable waterway. The gradient darkens with distance, and significant large roadless areas in the world are readily apparent, such as the Amazon rain forest, Sahara desert, Canadian boreal forest and Indonesian islands such as Borneo. This Earth Engine project was initiated at the request of Member of European Parliament Kriton Arsenis in collaboration with the Society for Conservation Biology, to support their Roadless Areas initiative being proposed at the Rio+20 Conference. Caveat: the road data used to produce these maps inevitably contains inaccuracies and omissions, and the criteria for defining "roadless areas" is expected to evolve as policy discussions continue. We expect to regenerate this map as road data and policy formulations evolve.

Resolution for biodiversity-friendly AESs

A resolution focusing on the delivery of efficient biodiversity-friendly Agri-Environment Schemes and the maintenance of species-rich grasslands was formulated by the SCB-ES and the organizers of an ECCB2012 symposium and sent to high-level EU officials in December 2012.

"Depending how the ongoing reforms are implemented, all aspects of the reformed CAP have the potential to either help or hinder efforts to enhance biodiversity across Europe. We therefore believe that it is essential that biodiversity concerns are integrated fully into all aspects of the CAP reform process and implementation, with coherence sought with the ongoing design of Green Infrastructure across Europe."

Board Meetings

The Board of the Europe Section held its meetings in Vácrátót, Hungary (March 2012) and in Glasgow (September 2012).



Board meeting in Hungary, March 2012

CONTACT SCB-ES

Visit our blog:

<http://euroconbio.blogspot.com>

Email: europe@conbio.org

Elections

Two former BoD members: Raphael Arlettaz (Switzerland) and Bengt-Gunnar Jonsson (Sweden) have been re-elected and three new people joined the Board: Piero Visconti (Italy), Tibor Hartel (Romania) and Guy Pe'er (Germany) starting their terms in 1st January 2012. Barbara Livoreil has begun her 3-year term as President Elect.

Greek Summer School 2012

The Greek Summer School was held between 24 June - 7 July 2012 in Papingo, Greece, and was attended by fifteen Erasmus-supported students including the three additional SCB fellowships.

For more see: www.cbcd.eu/gss

Mediterraenean Ad-hoc Committee

The Committee held a meeting during the ECCB2012 where strategic directions, goals and research priorities were agreed upon. The committee is focusing on conservation biology research in the Mediterranean region and aims at becoming a bridge to the African, Asian and Marine Sections.

<http://www.conbio.org/groups/sections/europe/mediterranean-committee>



European Chapter Initiative

Two chapters were launched (Switzerland, Hungary) during 2012 in Europe and more to follow as a result of the ECCB2012.

**JOIN THE CHAPTER INITIATIVE:
ESTABLISH YOUR OWN CHAPTER**

Highlights from the Europe Section blog

Wood pastures in Europe- thematic series

In 2012 a very successful initiative raised significant awareness regarding the **wood pastures in Europe** through our blog: a post series dedicated to this very special habitat. Several authors from different countries shared their experiences and knowledge on wood pasture researches from Greece to Romania.



Hot conservation research topics in Europe

From set-aside fields to Natura 2000 network many currently boiling issue have been discussed in the entries from all over Europe. To be continued in 2013...

<http://euroconbio.blogspot.hu>

SCB-ES Annual Report 2012. Publication of SCB Europe Section

Edited by Barbara Mihók, SCB-ES Coordinator