



Society for Conservation Biology 2009 Report

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Traditional cormorant fishing on the Li River, Guilin, Guangxi Province, China has been practiced since approximately 960 A.D. Today, cormorant fishing is primarily part of the tourism industry, and China, with one fifth of the world's population, is the largest wild fishing nation in the world. To foster unique dialogue and to highlight achievements and challenges faced by Chinese conservation scientists, the 23rd International Congress for Conservation Biology drew over 1,200 conservation scientists, students, and practitioners to Beijing, China in 2009 for the first SCB global meeting on the Asian continent.



A Global Community of Conservation Professionals

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Milky storks (*Mycteria cinerea*) in rain. The small and declining population is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List due to loss of coastal habitat, hunting and trade.
CRÉDIT: G.O.C./123RF

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Our mission has never been more relevant

Welcome to the SCB 2009 Annual Report



Georgina Mace
SCB President 2007-
2009

The year 2009 was a challenge in many ways for the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB). We face an on-going global financial crisis. But as global leaders seek solutions to the linked problems of poverty and environmental degradation, we expect to see a world more prepared to receive relevant analysis and advice based on good science. As we learn more about the causes of biological degradation and loss, we see that the solution will require greater international understanding and cooperation as well as the very best scientific understanding. The Society for Conservation Biology's mission, to advance the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity, has never been more relevant.

SCB is a professional society. We are the group that hosts an international conference attended by nearly 1,500 conservation professionals each year. We are the organization that created some of the most authoritative publications in the field of conservation. SCB is the place to find a job, publish an article, present a paper, and to make connections among peers. But it is also a global group united by a common mission.

Regional Sections, local Chapters, and disciplinary Working Groups connect members at a grassroots level. These groups were busy in 2009, hosting their own successful meetings, forming new local chapters, growing their ranks, and engaging the public in local conservation initiatives.

2009 was a milestone year for SCB publications. *Conservation* magazine won a Best of the Best award; *Conservation Letters* provided a unique blend of ultra-current cutting edge research in its second year; and *Conservation Biology* continues to be the most authoritative journal in the field, defining both what conservation research is and should be. The June 2009 publication of a report on the 100 most pressing questions in conservation, a collaboration of SCB Sections, Working Groups, and representatives from 21 international organizations, will greatly impact conservation practice and policy.

Our policy work strives to represent members' voices, and in 2009 we made



Luigi Boitani
SCB President 2009-
2011



Alan D. Thornhill
SCB Executive
Director

significant achievements in bringing sound science to the political process. Our expert testimony was sought by policy-makers, we led meetings in which we shared expertise among our peers, and we partnered with other conservation organizations to strengthen our impact.

The 23rd International Congress on Conservation Biology (ICCB) took place during one of the worst financial markets in decades, and at the height of the H1N1 outbreak. Yet, members still traveled within and to China for the first ICCB ever held on the Asian continent and the first international conference on conservation biology in China. Section meetings grew as well. The inaugural International Marine Conservation Congress, hosted by the SCB Marine Section, and the second European Congress on Conservation Biology saw as much participation as the ICCB. All meetings reinforced and invigorated our network of conservation professionals across the globe.

Working individually as well as collectively, each of us has a part to play. We can contribute to a greater understanding of the current crises facing our planet, their various causes and consequences, and what we can and should do now to improve prospects for our generation as well as those that follow. When we look back on the 2009 ICCB, I hope we will see the impact of the Society on our global community and the work that we all do. This report is a record of the work that SCB members did in 2009, and of the advancements SCB took in supporting our 10,000 members worldwide. We hope it inspires you.



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SCB Members and attendees view posters at the 2009 European Congress for Conservation Biology in Prague, Czech Republic. Hosted by the SCB Europe Section, the 2nd ECCB was immensely successful, demonstrating strong interest in conservation biology among European members and other practitioners.

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Working locally

SCB Local Chapters focus efforts on their communities



SCB now has 35 active Chapters in eight countries, with four more Chapters currently in formation. We welcome our newest Chapters: Grand Junction, Colorado and Northwest Ohio. Chapters have great on-the-ground impact. Through networking and pooling their collective energy and knowledge, chapters were able to educate and inspire conservation biologists, many of whom are students, and engage in public outreach, and conservation of their local ecosystems.

Conservation

The **Kingston Chapter** of Ontario Canada encouraged Kingston elementary schools to 'think green' and express their views on an environmentally friendly school yard. The winners of the School Yard Makeover competition can now enjoy a little piece of local nature in their native plants yard.

The **Triangle Chapter** is reaching out to the wider conservation community with the [Research and Conservation Clearinghouse](#). The website provides a sounding board for conservation needs in North Carolina that can be addressed by students and faculty of the Triangle Chapter.

Chapter Bolivia has made considerable efforts to improve protected area management by training 19 park guards and provide them with skills like biological monitoring and environmental education, allowing them to actively participate in conservation of their area.

In partnership with another local group, the **New Orleans Chapter** aims to build sustainable communities in the area. They set a great example by their recycling initiative that





started at the University of New Orleans and is gradually expanding.

Several Chapters continue to be involved in local restoration projects and BioBlitz events. The **Orange County Chapter** has made impressive efforts to restore native sage brush habitat. Over 400 volunteers assisted in the BioBlitz organized by the **Texas A & M Chapter**, providing an excellent opportunity for community education on local conservation needs.

Public Policy

The **Madrean Chapter** drafted a two page brief on ecological issues on the U.S.-Mexico border for SCB's Policy Director.

The **Toronto Chapter** brought policy concerns about the Canadian Species at Risk Act (SARA) to the attention of the SCB policy team, and gained the SCB's permission to be listed as a scientific non-partisan supporter of the Scientific Committee on Species at Risk's position before a parliamentary committee.

The **New Orleans Chapter** advocated for the protection of Menhaden in the Gulf of Mexico through their restoration activities, research, and attendance at public meetings.

The **Orange County Chapter** attended public meetings of the Southern California Marine Protected Areas decision-making process (part of California's Marine Life Protection Act).

The **Montana Chapter** brought together regional scientists to their second annual Research Symposium on 'Science and Conservation in a Changing world', hosting Scott Creel, J. Michael Scott, and Chris Filardi.

Conferences and Seminars

The **China Chapter** took a significant role in organizing the 2009 ICCB in Beijing.

The **Colorado Plateau Chapter** in partnership with the North America Section and the USGS, co-hosted the [10th Biennial Conference of Research on the Colorado Plateau](#). This was the first joint meeting of SCB subgroups and hopefully the first of many. This three-day meeting, held in October in Flagstaff Arizona, hosted plenary speaker Paul Ehrlich and attracted more than 400 attendees.

The **Minnesota Chapter** hosted Wes Jackson and Curt Meine at their annual meeting, focused this year on 'Greening the Economy'. The keynote address is [available here >>](#)

The **Montana Chapter** brought together regional scientists to their second annual Research Symposium on 'Science and Conservation in a Changing world', hosting Scott Creel, J. Michael Scott, and Chris Filardi.

The **Central California Coast Chapter** hosted the 11th Annual Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium, focusing on

bridging gaps between academics and professionals.

The **Missouri Chapter** held a workshop with six speakers for 80 attendees on 'Managing Biological Resources in a State Undergoing Climate Change' at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference.

The **Madrean Chapter** organized a symposium to address ecological issues concerning the U.S.-Mexico borderlands at the Colorado Plateau meeting. The syposium included NGOs, researchers and former presidential administration officials.

The **Georgia Chapter** hosted prominent conservation biologist Stuart Pimm, Professor at Duke University, as part of the Warnell Seminar Series 'Preventing Global Extinction'.



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100 Questions of importance to practice and policy

SCB Sections and Working Groups set priorities for policy-relevant conservation research



Under the direction of SCB Board Member Bill Sutherland, SCB Sections and Working Groups identified 100 scientific questions that, if answered, would have the greatest impact on conservation practice and policy.

Representatives from 21 international organizations, regional sections and working groups of the Society for Conservation Biology, and 12 academics, from all continents except Antarctica, compiled 2291 questions of relevance to the conservation of biological diversity worldwide. Questions were gathered from 761 individuals. Questions were short-listed by email, and the final list of 100 questions was derived during a two-day workshop.

Published in the June 2009 issue of *Conservation Biology*, we anticipate that these questions and associated provocative discussion, will help identify new directions for researchers and assist funders in directing funds.



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Original solutions from young leaders

David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship



Class of 2009

Sarah Keenan Jacobi: "A Framework for Optimal Spatial and Temporal Resource Allocation for Large Scale Conservation Problems"

Lekelia "Kiki" Jenkins: "Global oceans, global knowledge: Codifying approaches for successful cross-cultural adoption of marine conservation technologies"

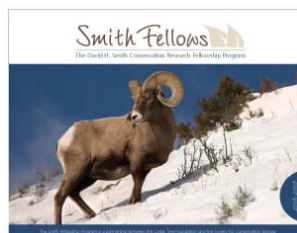
Raina Plowright: "Climate Change, Wildlife Corridors, and Health Consequences in the US Northern Rockies "

Sarah Reed: "Can conservation development conserve wildlife habitat connectivity?"

The Smith Fellowship, the nation's premier post doctoral program in conservation biology, seeks to find solutions to the most pressing conservation challenges in the United States. Each Fellow's research is conducted in partnership with a major academic institution and "on the ground" conservation organization to help bridge the gap between theory and application. The Class of 2009 fellowship recipients were selected from a pool of highly qualified recent Ph.D's from around the world.

While the Fellows' research projects focus on urgent conservation issues, they also learn first hand about the challenges and rewards of conservation applications. The program's focus is to enlarge their professional opportunities and ensure future success by helping them build relationships in the conservation and research communities and by providing opportunities for professional development through targeted workshops and training events.

- [Download the Smith Fellows 2008-2009 Report \(pdf\)](#)
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Honoring distinguished service and research

SCB Distinguished Service Awardees and Early Career Conservationist Awards



Each year, the Society for Conservation Biology recognizes and awards achievement by outstanding individuals in our field. The Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award is given annually to an individual who has been a leader in translating principles of conservation biology into real-world conservation. SCB Distinguished Service Awards are presented to individuals, groups, or institutions whose work has furthered the mission of the SCB. Early Career Conservationist Awards for achievement by professionals early in their careers.



Edward T. LaRoe Award

Joel Berger, U.S.

For extraordinary leadership toward conservation of migration corridors and predator-prey dynamics with efforts in Africa, Asia, Alaska and North America with strong science shaping policy. Joel is widely known for his work across three continents working in close collaboration with other institutions and governments.

Distinguished Service Awards

George Schaller, U.S.

For extraordinary contributions to the conservation of many of the world's most iconic and endangered species through leadership in field research and applied conservation.

- [Read George Schaller's inspiring address to ICCB 2009, Beijing, China](#)

Kamal Bawa, India

For extraordinary contributions to conservation in India through the establishment of the Ashoka Trust for

Research in Ecology and the Environment and related activities. Dr. Bawa is widely recognized for his work on the ecology, conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests.

Ernesto Enkerlin, Mexico

For his extraordinary pioneering role in wildlife management using knowledge and policy to produce real and tangible results, integrating and articulating conservation and sustainable development. Dr Enkerlin has succeeded in strengthening and implementing conservation actions across Mexico, making this country's protected areas system one of the most solid and functional in the developing world.

Marika Tuivava, Fiji

For extraordinary contributions to promoting biodiversity conservation in Fiji and the Pacific through biodiversity research and teaching and mentoring students, community groups and government staff. His work on the study and protection of the Fijian lowland forest is a major accomplishment. His work with the local communities and the government has succeeded in establishing a 20,000 ha protected area for this forest.

Award for Early Career Conservationist

Dr. Aili Kang, China

For a significant positive impact on medium to large sized mammals, primarily in the Chinese and Tibetan steppe, such as Marco Polo sheep, yak, saiga, and Przewalski's gazelle.

SCB Africa Section Young Women Conservation Biologists' Award

Shivani Bhalla, Kenya

For the dedicated conservation of lions, livelihoods and landscapes in Northern Kenya, and enhancing coexistence between humans and predators in this region.



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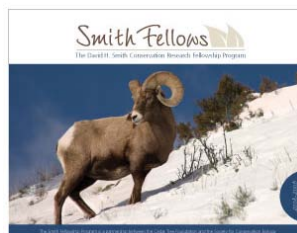
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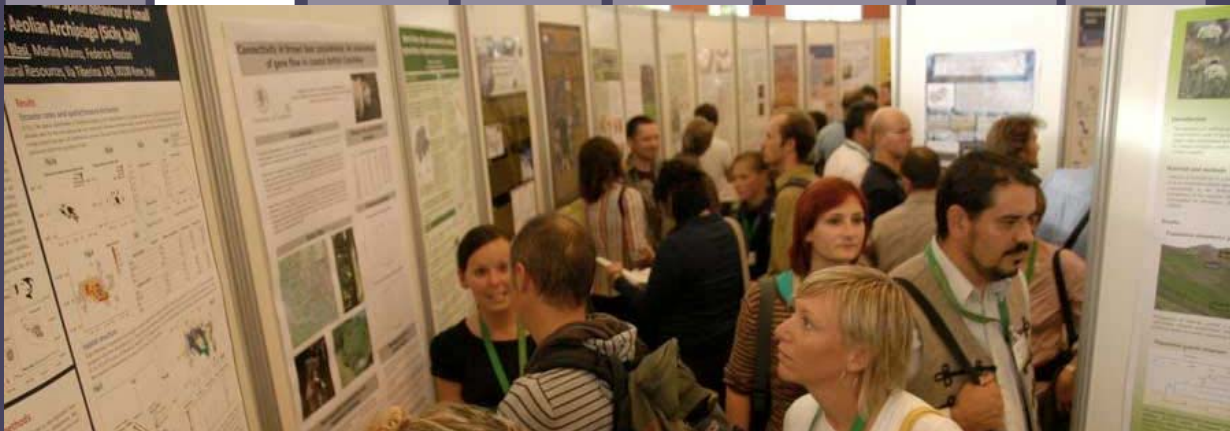


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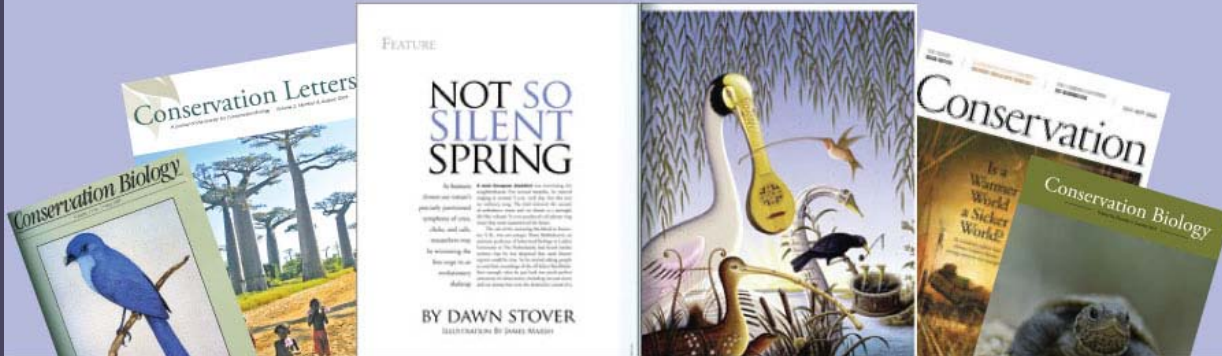


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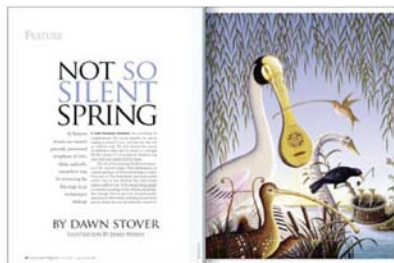


SCB publications are the voice of the science and practice of conservation. In 2009, *Conservation* magazine was lauded for its excellent feature articles, *Conservation Biology* had one of its highest impact factors (4.666), and *Conservation Letters* provided critical research and policy perspectives, fast and free online to the world.

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“Best of the best” in publishing about conservation

Conservation magazine wins Gold Excel Award



Ten years of publishing and *Conservation* magazine is still being recognized for its innovative and thought-provoking approach to writing about conservation. For the fourth consecutive year, *Conservation* was awarded the Gold Excel Award for general excellence from Association Media & Publishing. For the first time ever *Conservation* also received a special “Best of the Best” award, an honor shared with just three other magazine.

Over 1,000 association magazines competed for these top spots, some of which have circulation of over 100,000. *Conservation* magazine's growing recognition in the publishing industry shows the widespread appeal of the magazine and the quality of its pioneering articles.

The magazine's top stories were also prominent in the news. *Conservation* magazine's summer cover story “Is a Warmer World a Sicker World?” was featured on The Guardian's environmental network home page and a story on hybridization and conservation was featured on the Discovery Channel website.



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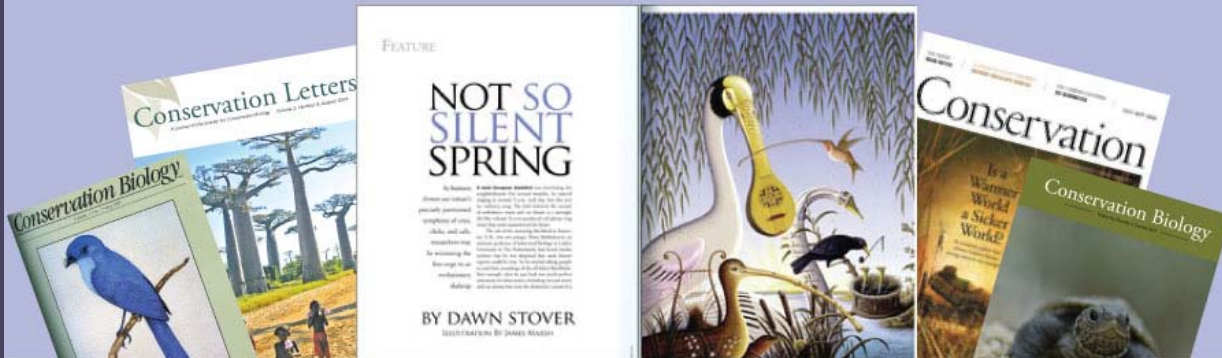


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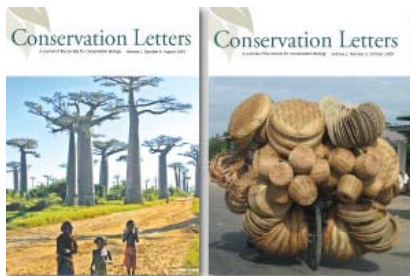


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Imperative research for free

Conservation Letters, free online access, and the 5 most accessed articles



Fast. Global. Policy Relevant
Conservation Letters is a vital publication aiming to communicate the most novel biological and social science research that will transform our perspective on crucial issues that are relevant across borders. Access to *Conservation Letters* is imperative to all researchers and policy makers.

Conservation Letters continued to offer free online access to all SCB members, who enjoyed first looks at pieces such as “Carbon payments as a safeguard for threatened tropical mammals”, covered by over 100 media outlets such as The New York Times, CNBC, Reuters, CBS News, Forbes, BBC, and Scientific American.

The top five downloaded articles of 2009 are free online to all audiences and are linked below:

Critical need for new definitions of forest and forest degradation in global climate change agreements
Nophea Sasaki & Francis E. Putz

Carbon payments as a safeguard for threatened tropical mammals
Oscar Venter, et al.

Assisted colonization in a changing climate: a test-study using two U.K. butterflies
Stephen G. Willis, et al.

Global priority areas for incorporating land-sea connections in marine conservation
Benjamin S. Halpern, et al.

Hitting the target and missing the point: target-based conservation planning in context
Josie Carwardine, et al.



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The semi-nomadic Bajau make their home on the ocean, and their houses on stilts offer some protection from rising sea levels due to climate change. In other areas such as the Maldives, local government is considering building villages on stilts to counter erosion and damage caused by rising tides. CREDIT: Crispin Zeeman/Marine Photobank

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Far-reaching testimony

U.S. Senate Environment Committee requests SCB's guidance.



"Changing forestry and other land management practices on [U.S.] federal land represents one of the most powerful, and, quite frankly, least costly tools that the nation has in fighting climate change."

- Dominick DellaSala
President, SCB North America Section

SCB's North America Section President Dominick DellaSala and SCB Policy Director John Fitzgerald prepared testimony that DellaSala delivered in March. DellaSala testified before the House subcommittee on national parks, forests, and public lands in a hearing on "Combating Global Warming in Public Lands." His testimony was comprehensive and far-reaching. He called for enhanced connectivity of natural landscapes, and recommended greatly reducing stresses on forested areas and curtailing oil, gas, and coal leasing on Federal Lands until a full program of climate mitigation and adaptation was prepared.

[DellaSala Written Testimony](#)
[DellaSala Oral Testimony](#)

Also in March, SCB briefed the Senate Environment Committee staff. They asked for our assistance in developing their approach to forests. With the help of senior specialists and the SCB policy committee, we reviewed current research on forests and climate change, and submitted findings to the Committee staff in August.



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Concisely covering the issues

SCB Climate Policy Principles



Tropical rainforests at tipping point
 SCB informed the conveners of U.N. climate talks that the Amazon rainforest and other tropical forests were now in danger of being severely altered by increasing heat and drought, throwing off all calculations underpinning the December climate talks in Copenhagen and causing irreversible losses across the planet. SCB offered to delegates a set of eleven Climate Change Policy Principles.

Inspired by global SCB leaders during ICCB 2009, and propelled by new findings summarized in Conservation magazine (Summer 2009), SCB's policy staff, Policy Committee and others published a short set of climate policy principles in November.

The Conservation magazine article noted that we now have evidence that whole rainforests can die faster than they grow, in response to climate driven drought and heat. In the Amazon, during 2005, climate-change-related die-off resulted in higher net emissions of carbon dioxide than the CO₂ emitted by all of Europe and Japan. Since life as we know it relies upon the Amazon rainforest, the time to act on greenhouse gas emissions is now. Our climate policy principles offer climate negotiators, legislators, and executive agency decision-makers some viable ways forward. We have distributed our principles to U.S. Congressional committees, leading U.S. environmental departments, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

These principles and supporting notes are intended for climate negotiators, legislators, and executive agency decision-makers. Before the document's release, and before the Committee reported its legislation to the Senate, SCB sent early drafts to Senate Environment Committee staff. SCB staff and senior members have briefed the Congressional Research Service, the staff of the Speaker of the House, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and others. We have also shared the document with senior staff of the United Nations Environment Programme under whose auspices the climate negotiations are taking place.

- [Read the climate policy principles here](#)
- [Press release for the climate policy principles](#)
- [Read the cover letter to Prime Minister of Denmark as he prepares to convene the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)
- In the News...
 - [DellaSala takes part in climate conference](#)
 - [Juliet Eilperin's story in the Washington Post](#)



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The semi-nomadic Bajau make their home on the ocean, and their houses on stilts offer some protection from rising sea levels due to climate change. In other areas such as the Maldives, local government is considering building villages on stilts to counter erosion and damage caused by rising tides. CREDIT: Crispin Zeeman/Marine Photobank

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Engaging and training our community

The SCB policy office trained and engaged members in policy actions



The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of California, is one of 13 national marine sanctuaries managed by NOAA. SCB leaders drafted an individual scientists sign-on letter to request enhanced funding for NOAA. The letter was circulated at the SCB Marine Section's inaugural International Marine Conservation Congress.

At the SCB Marine Section's International Marine Conservation Congress in May, SCB, the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, and Law of the Sea expert Charlotte de Fontaubert, hosted a "Hill Day" for conference attendees and led a brief course on the operations of the U.S. Congress. Inspired by meetings with congressional staff, SCB and MCBI leaders drafted an individual scientists sign-on letter to request enhanced funding for NOAA. IMCC organizers circulated the letter for conference attendees to sign.

- [Read the participants' letter here.](#)
- [Oceans Subcommittee NOAA Budget Request Letter](#)
- [Senate Commerce Committee Views and Estimates](#)

Among the many worthy symposia and workshops at ICCB in Beijing in July were two sessions that spoke directly to two of the greatest challenges that many nations, and China in particular face: climate change and controlling unsustainable trade in wildlife. Click on the links below to view the powerpoint presentations SCB's Policy Director used for those sessions:

- [Using Existing Conservation Law to Control Climate Change](#)
- [International and Domestic Laws Controlling Trade in Wildlife and Plants](#)



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Giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) overlooking its natural habitat from a tree perch, in the mountainous region of China's Sichuan province. Groundbreaking work on conservation of endangered panda populations was presented in 2009 at the first ICCB ever held on the Asian continent. CREDIT: Jason Mooy/istockphoto

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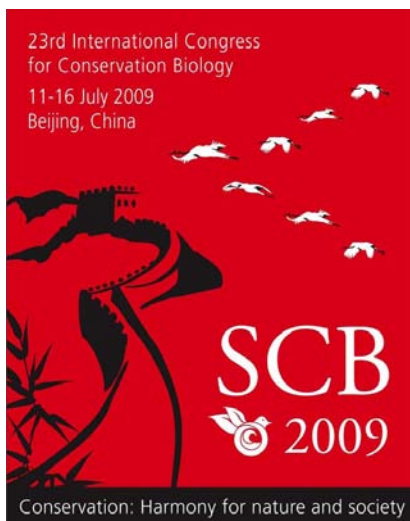
Expanding the global dialogue

ICCB held for the first time on the Asian continent



SCB marked a new achievement in its long history of fostering dynamic scientific dialogue when it hosted the 23rd International Congress for Conservation Biology for the first time ever on the Asian continent.

The choice of Beijing, China as a host location, which is both the largest developing country in the world and the sixth most biologically diverse region on the planet, signifies SCB's continued dedication to leading the global dialogue on today's most pressing conservation concerns.



"Conservation: Harmony for Nature and Society" was hosted by the Institute of Zoology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and brought together over 1,200 scientists and practitioners from 74 different countries. The scientific program included 27 symposia presentations, 677 contributed papers, 55 speed presentations, 193 poster presentations, a discussion group, three short courses, and 15 workshops.

The meeting introduced attendees to groundbreaking work on habitat loss and panda populations, research on the growing number of species that become extinct each year, and optimistic reports on the successful reintroduction of critically endangered Chinese alligators into the wild. Many attendees were encouraged by the presence of so many young conservationists from China, eager to protect their region's distinctive biological diversity.

Presentations by the 12 student award finalists were a highlight of the meeting. We extend our thanks to our

sponsor, Wiley-Blackwell, for making these awards possible.

First place

Oscar Venter, University of Queensland, Australia
Conserving biodiversity through global efforts to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation

Second place

Krithi Karanth, Columbia University, USA
The shrinking ark: large mammal extinctions in India reserve

Third place

Ian Craigie, University of Cambridge, UK
Large vertebrate population declines in Africa's protected areas

Fourth place

Danielle Shanahan, University of Queensland, Australia
Predicting population responses to changing land-use: do general rules in landscape ecology work?

Poster Awards

sponsored by *Animal Conservation*

First place

Ginger Allington, Saint Louis University
Reversal of desertification is associated with a loss of islands of fertility and changes physical and chemical properties in the soil

Second prize

Larissa Oliveira, Universidade de São Paulo
Distinct evolutionary lineages in the South American fur seal, *Arctocephalus australis*: insights for its systematics and conservation



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Sharing marine conservation success stories

Inuagural IMCC believed to be largest marine conservation conference ever held



May 17-24 the SCB Marine Section held the first International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. In total the IMCC attracted more than 1,200 registrants and participants from all over the world. The event featured 15 simultaneous sessions, a three-day marine protected area management training course, more than 20 side events and meetings, and incorporated the Second International Marine Protected Area Congress.



The meeting began with MPA-University - a three day set of training courses for Marine Protected Area managers and marine conservation practitioners. Additional notable events included a meeting on High Seas governance, a workshop on using the arts as a marine conservation outreach tool, a visit to congressional staffers in DC to advocate on marine conservation issues. An impressive array of leading marine conservationists were assembled to present plenary addresses including: Dr. Ratana Cheunpagdee, Dr. Rod Fujita, Dorothy Childers and Muriel Morse, and Dr. Sylvia Earle. To culminate, at the final dinner Dr. Callum Roberts, Professor of Marine Conservation, Environment Department, University of York, gave the Dr. Ransom A. Myers Memorial Lecture.



A special public event of the Congress, "Beyond the Obituaries: Success Stories in Ocean Conservation" was strikingly different from many marine science symposia. Reports of pollution, overfishing, and climate change usually echo through auditoriums and meeting rooms. "Beyond" was an opportunity for scientists and citizens to spend a day celebrating marine conservation efforts

and s that are making a difference. The day-long public event was hosted by the Smithsonian at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Presenters covered successful conservation programs ranging from oyster restoration in Florida to a combined family planning and coastal management effort in the Philippines that simultaneously benefits local people and coral reefs. Following the event, Dr. Daniel Pauly delivered the congress' opening address: 'Toward a conservation ethic for the sea: Steps in a personal and intellectual odyssey

One of the initial goals of the IMCC organizers was to encourage diversity of attendance at the meeting. IMCC allocated almost \$45,000 toward travel expenses for 24 individuals from 22 countries. Awardees traveled from locations as diverse as Bangladesh, Eritrea, Uruguay and Reunion Island. A grant from the World Bank supported all of the travel costs of 5 individuals; all other awards were supported by general conference funds.

- [Find out more about "Beyond the Obituaries"](#)
- [Watch the webcast of Beyond the Obituaries](#)
- [Watch the webcast of Dr. Daniel Paul's plenary talk](#)
- [Download the full IMCC 2009 program \(pdf\)](#)



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Giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) overlooking its natural habitat from a tree perch, in the mountainous region of China's Sichuan province. Groundbreaking work on conservation of endangered panda populations was presented in 2009 at the first ICCB ever held on the Asian continent. CREDIT: Jason Mooy/istockphoto

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Conservation biology and beyond

1,200 participants from 65 countries send message to EU Environment Ministers



The 2nd European Congress for Conservation Biology was organized by the Europe Section of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB-ES) in Prague, Czech Republic, 1-5 September. Plenary talks were delivered by Dr. Ladislav Miko, Minister of Environment, Czech Republic; Dr. Joan Martínez-Alier, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Dr. William Sutherland, University of Cambridge; and Dr. Petr Pyšek, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. The Congress featured 17 symposia, 9 workshops and training sessions, and was attended by more than 1,200 participants from 65 countries.

The Congress theme, "Conservation Biology and Beyond: from Science to Practice" reflects that delivering effective conservation requires a range of actors. Conservation still suffers from the fact that these different actors are being poorly coordinated. We still have work to do to ensure a concerted effort.

At its conclusion, the Congress delivered a message to EU Environment Ministers: The need for priority actions rather than visions - biodiversity conservation beyond 2010. The ECCB's growing popularity means that it is poised to become the most important conference on conservation biology in Europe, a continent with a long cultural history, where land use, hunting and fishing have become embedded in traditional practices.

- [Read the ECCB 2009 message to EU Environment Ministers](#)
- [View the full Congress web site](#)



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The Sonoran Desert, the last viable habitat for jaguars in the U.S., straddles the United States and Mexico. A 2009 *Conservation Biology* article evaluated the potential effects to desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis mexicana*) and ferruginous pygmy-Owls (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) of the planned construction of a 700-mile fence along the borderlands. [Read the Discovery News feature>>](#) [Download the paper>>](#) CREDIT: Eric Foltz/istockphoto

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Sapria himalayana Griff. is a rare, large (20cm), parasitic flowering plant limited to tropical forests of South and South-east Asia. The magnificent species is on the brink of extinction due to habitat lost from non-timber forest product extraction. CREDIT: TommyIX/istockphoto

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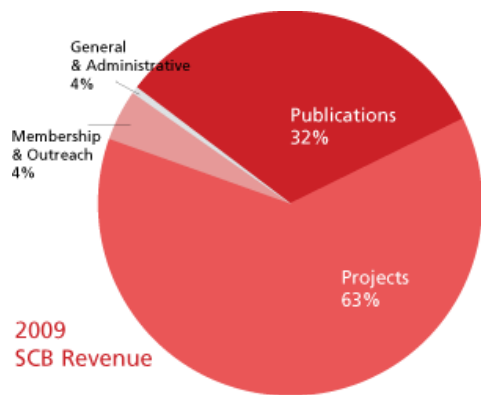
2009 Audited Financial Statement

From 2008, SCB regained approximately 10% of its reserve fund and continued to be supported largely by the strength of *Conservation Biology*. The global economic downturn continued to have an effect, and the deficit shown for 2009 reflects both a fundraising shortfall, and the investment in programs that do not support themselves in every year. Some new programs were very successful, including income raised by the SCB Marine Section's International Marine Conservation Congress. Despite the downturn the Society's membership is active, its board and staff committed, and its mission and vision have never been more important.

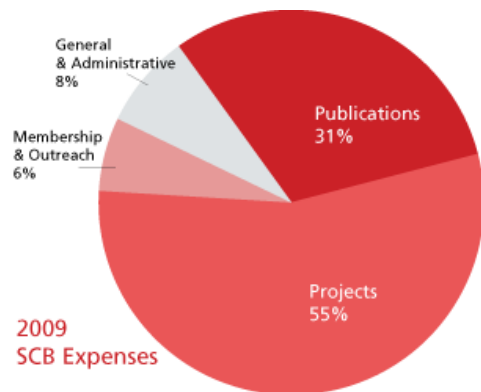
- [View the full financial statement with independent auditors report \(pdf\)](#)

Support and Revenue

Publications	\$1,000,875
Projects	\$1,935,722
Membership & Outreach	\$132,250



2009
SCB Revenue



2009
SCB Expenses

General & Administrative	<u>\$17,219</u>
Gross Income	\$3,086,066

Expenses

Publications	\$1,012,000
Projects	\$1,802,898
Membership & Outreach	\$202,927
General & Administrative	<u>\$258,629</u>
Total Expenses	\$3,276,455

Net Income

Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	\$(190,388)
Net Board Designated Reserve Income (Loss)	\$196,923
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$6,534

Assets and Liabilities

Cash	\$244,525
Receivables & Other Current Assets	\$389,550
Total Current Assets	\$634,075
Endowment Investments (market value)	\$1,010,608
Property and Equipment (net of depreciation)	\$1,321,637
Other Assets	\$78,215
Total Assets	\$3,044,535

Current Liabilities	\$604,791
Other Liabilities	\$808,514
Total Liabilities	\$1,413,305

Net Assets	\$1,631,230
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$3,044,535



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Yosemite Valley, Western Sierra Nevada Mountains, Yosemite National Park, California, USA. CREDIT: Andrew Zarivny/123rf

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Support to our supporters.

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 and 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.

We owe our gratitude to the following organizations for support in 2009:

Brewery Krušovice
 Becherovka Liqueur
 Cedar Crest College
 Cedar Tree Foundation
 ČEZ Distribuce
 Conservation International
 Czech Tourism
 Disney's Animal Kingdom Conservation Fund Grant
 ESRI
 European Science Foundation EuroDIVERSITY Programme
 George Mason University
 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
 Hewlett Packard
 Humane Society International
 Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
 International Visegrad Fund
 IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
 Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
 Korean Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs
 Marine Mammal Commission
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 National Park Service
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 The Nature Conservancy
 The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
 Parks Canada
 Pew Institute for Ocean Science
 Philips
 Rite in the Rain

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University of Washington
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Wilburforce Foundation
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Traditional cormorant fishing on the Li River, Guilin, Guangxi Province, China has been practiced since approximately 960 A.D. Today, cormorant fishing is primarily part of the tourism industry, and China, with one fifth of the world's population, is the largest wild fishing nation in the world. To foster unique dialogue and to highlight achievements and challenges faced by Chinese conservation scientists, the 23rd International Congress for Conservation Biology drew over 1,200 conservation scientists, students, and practitioners to Beijing, China in 2009 for the first SCB global meeting on the Asian continent.



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