



Society for Conservation Biology

SOCIAL SCIENCE WORKING GROUP

...strengthening conservation social science and its application to conservation practice...

www.conbio.org/WorkingGroups/SSWG/

The Society for Conservation Biology's Social Science Working Group (SCB SSWG) is a global community of conservation professionals interested in the application of social science to the conservation of biological diversity. With 600 members in nearly 60 countries, the SSWG is home to social scientists (anthropologists, economists, human geographers, political scientists, psychologists, and sociologists), natural scientists, and conservation practitioners (governmental, nongovernmental, and private sector).

Activities

SSWG activities focus on advancing social science knowledge and solving conservation problems. In both of these areas, as well as in a variety of core functions, the SSWG Board and its Committees provide direction and leadership. The Program and Education Committees coordinate SSWG efforts to advance scientific knowledge, while the Policy and Conservation Committees focus on solving conservation problems.

To advance conservation social science knowledge, the SSWG creates forums and mechanisms for information exchange and learning. The SSWG Program Committee organizes symposiums, workshops, and short courses at SCB conferences and other professional society meetings. The Education Committee complements these efforts by developing resources for conservation social science educators and researchers, including course syllabi and working papers.

To help solve conservation problems, the SSWG develops resource materials for conservation practitioners and decision-makers. The SSWG Conservation Committee is generating products to build social science capacity among conservation practitioners, including a compilation of social science tools. The Policy Committee aids decision-makers inside and outside of government by providing scientific briefs, position statements, and other informational materials.

Accomplishments

Since our founding in October 2003, the SSWG has steadily expanded the scope of its activities.

Recent highlights include:

- 11 sessions at SCB 2006 (4 symposia, 5 workshops, 2 short courses).
- Conservation social science toolkit for graduate students
- Directory of conservation social science syllabi
- 5 travel grants to support developing country and student speakers (SCB 2005)
- 12 SCB membership awards for developing country students (2005).

Get involved

Join the SCB and the SSWG

Membership in the Social Science Working Group is growing fast with representation from around the globe. To join SSWG you need to be a member of SCB. It's inexpensive and easy to do. Go to: <http://www.conbio.org/WorkingGroups/SSWG/GetInvolved.CFM> and follow the suggested links.

Join the SSWG discussion list

The SSWG discussion list is the primary SCB outlet for SSWG updates, as well as general conservation social science news, dialogue, and job and conference announcements. To join, please go to: <http://list.conbio.org/mailman/listinfo/SSWG>

Contribute to the Online Catalog of Conservation Social Science Tools

The SSWG Conservation Committee is developing an online catalog of conservation social science tools to provide conservation practitioners with social science tools and approaches that can strengthen conservation policy and practice. The catalog will contain contributions from all social science disciplines, so don't hesitate to contribute. If you have some time to help us develop the catalog, or any suggestions, please contact Diane Russell, Conservation Committee Chair, at dirussell@usaid.gov.

Help us grow, advance knowledge, and solve conservation problems

Dedicated scientists, practitioners, and students drive our work. In the coming year, the SSWG plans to:

- Expand membership in developing countries and among students;
- Deliver the online catalog of conservation social science tools;
- Develop a series of conservation social science working papers
- Organize social science activities for SCB 2007 (Port Elizabeth, South Africa)

To learn more or to get involved in any of these activities, please contact Mike Mascia, SSWG President (michael.mascia@wwfus.org)

The SSWG Board

Mike Mascia	President (2006-2008 term)
Rich Wallace	Vice President/Program Committee Chair (2005-07)
Nejem Raheem*	Secretary/Communication Committee Chair (2005-06)
Oliver Pergams	Chief Financial Officer (2005-2007)
Katrina Brandon	Social Science Rep. to SCB Board of Governors
Peter Wilshusen	Membership Committee Chair (2005-07)
Jennifer Jones	Policy Committee Chair (2006-08)
Bill Forbes	Education Committee Chair (2005-07)
Josh Drew*	Student Affairs Committee Chair (2005-06)
Diane Russell	Conservation Committee Chair (2005-07)
Carol Saunders	Audit Committee Chair (2005-07)

*Incoming members***

Brian Czech	Economics Representative (2006-08)
Kunga Ngece	At-large Representative (2006-08)

*Term ends after SCB2006. **Term begins after SCB2006.