

What's your vision on European Conservation science, policy and education? Join us to make it happen!

Report on SCB Europe Membership Meeting
Montpellier, ICCB/ECCB2016, August 2016

The membership event was organized in ICCBECCB2016 for everyone aiming to increase the impact of their work and strengthen conservation science and practice in Europe. The Board of the Europe Section aimed to get ideas and suggestions from the participants via a bottom-up approach regarding which strategic directions should the Section proceed, which should be the supported and promoted activities. More than 70 conference participants came to attend the meeting.

Following a brief introduction by the Board summarizing existing and potential new opportunities that the Section offers to SCB members in Europe, a facilitated group technique helped the participants to share ideas and visions, requests and contributions towards SCB and the Europe Section.

What are the most favored strategic directions and activities for the Section suggested by the participants? The following tables under the links summarizes the ideas in five areas and the number of votes it received.

Opportunities for Student Training

ID	Issue raised	Specific ideas, comments	No. of votes
1.1	Mentoring programme	Putting students in contact with mentors especially focusing on females and other diversity areas	5
1.2	Database of members	Access to members only, information to include country and areas of study to facilitate collaborations and identifying potential supervisors for postgraduate study.	3
1.3	Training schools on specific topics	Grants for young researchers to set up their own courses/summer schools focused on classroom- and field-based sessions	2
1.4	Cross-European activity for students	E.g. 'world cafes', courses, fieldtrips, rare species 'camp', etc. Should always have a clear scope.	2
1.5	Incentives for professors who involve [school] students	The incentives might be in the form of reduced ECCB fees and could be extended to include informal education opportunities such as guided walks/talks to local community groups.	1
1.6	Scheme for conservation biology courses to promote SCB	This would require the provision of a powerpoint slide and membership materials to each conservation biology degree (and other relevant courses) that	1

		could be used early on in the course to raise awareness of events and services provided by SCB and hopefully increase membership as a result.	
1.7	Workshops at conferences	E.g. publications, techniques	1
1.8	Shared resource/platform for training materials		1

Networking and enhancing opportunities

	Issue raised	Specific ideas, comments	No. of votes
2.1	Networking opportunities	Expanding professional network, better social networking, active communication, Google hangout	6
2.2	Fellowship Opportunities	Fellowship to study with lead scientists or institutions; Encourage senior professors to host early career colleagues (SCB can facilitate this); Internship	4
2.3	Accessing Job Opportunities	Conservation career fair; career opportunities for members, more European job on job boards	1
2.4	EU Level contributions	To foster joining European projects; EU policy level engagement;	2
2.5	Alliance with other professional focus groups to save the biodiversity (environmental impact assessment for example)		1

Urgent conservation issues

	Issue raised	Comment	No. of votes
	<i>Address: decision-makers</i>		
3.1	Link roadless areas with forestry	To be addressed within the work of the Road Areas Initiative	
3.2	Reform of agricultural subsidies to foster biodiversity		1
3.3	“Evidence” standards for policy	Blog by Per Sjögren-Gulve planned for end of August	1
3.4	Improved evaluation of interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of practitioners • Also under “Address: scientists” 	2

	<i>Address: scientists</i>		
3.5	Institution for summarising research outcomes for practice	Should be more comprehensive than policy briefs	1
3.6	Being united	Form and consolidate coalitions of bodies of conservation scientists, such as SCB and others	1
	<i>Address: public</i>		
3.7	Global consequences of consumption in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also under “Address: decision-makers” • Possible links to ongoing work on Natura 2000 	3
3.8	Involvement of people		1

Steering European Policy

	Issue raised	Specific ideas, comments	No. of votes
4.1	Direct work, contacts with the European commission and parliament (MPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership/participation in DG Environment biodiversity related committees; • Communicating scientific results and translating them into policy proposals Implement communication channels between SCB/Researchers and European policy level (DG Env) • Matchmaking with EU MPs (special programme available) 	6
4.2	Making the European Commission a constructive player in IPBES		6
4.3	Scientific support to European countries reaching the Aichi targets		2
4.4	Guidelines for Forest Stewardships Council – Scientific support to the revision of their standards for forest certification		2
4.5	Policy sessions at SCB conferences interacting with EU policy makers (invited speakers etc.)		2

Bring the society to your country

	Issue raised	Specific ideas, comments	No. of votes
5.1	To reach universities throughout Europe	Informs students; SCB courses; awards, travel grants; open days.	4

5.2	Interaction with other local/regional groups and societies	Connect and joint membership	3
5.3	Manage/support an nature conservation project	In a form of a chapter; as an outreach project	3
5.4	Contact authorities		2