



## Society for Conservation Biology Oceania



### **Support us, support science-based conservation.**

The Society for Conservation Biology Oceania Section promotes effective conservation, underpinned by science. We have a special focus on the conservation community's needs and challenges in Oceania, a truly unique part of the world.

Your support will help us improve the capacity of local communities to engage in conservation, and influence conservation-relevant policy.

[www.scboceania.org](http://www.scboceania.org)

## Support science education

SCB Oceania plays an active role in supporting and providing professional development for conservation practitioners and scientists through workshops, biennial conferences and mentoring.

The SCB Oceania Section hosts regional conferences every two years, with the conference location rotating between Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Conference travel awards are just one way through which we seek to improve access to the best conservation knowledge for people across our region. Preference is given to Pacific Island students who would otherwise be unable to attend the conference, and we always receive many more applications than we are able to support. These awards enable recipients to present their work to an international audience, develop professional networks, and to be exposed to cutting-edge conservation science. In addition, travel scholarships increase the diversity of presenters and research subjects at our conferences, to the benefit of all attendees.



***“Thank you so much for sponsoring the Island Nation Countries to attend the conference. Dr Ingrid Visser conducted the first dedicated marine mammal survey in PNG and [meeting her] has been the biggest highlight of attending this conference after two years of unsuccessful attempts to get in contact with her.”***

***- Wilma Mavea, Papua New Guinea***

- 5 international conferences have been held since 2007
- Conferences have attracted over 1,400 attendees from 29 countries
- Over \$110,000 has been awarded in travel support to people who could not otherwise attend
- Workshops have been held for SCBO members on writing, mentorship and getting your science published

### DONATIONS SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS TO EXTEND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE IN CONSERVATION...

**\$1000**

enables registration of four students to attend an international SCB conference

**\$2,500**

enables a Pacific Island student to attend an international conservation conference

**\$5,000**

supports three papers by Pacific Island students and practitioners to be published in special issues of journals

**\$10,000**

enables representatives from all local Chapters to attend and present at the International Congress for Conservation Biology



## JOHN LAMARIS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

John is a research scientist with the Wildlife Conservation Society Papua New Guinea program. He recently completed his BSc Honours degree with the University of PNG, studying the home range and movement patterns of the Admiralty cuscus (*Spiloglossus kraemeri*) and the use of *tambu* areas to sustainably conserve the species.

John attended the SCBO conference in Fiji (2014), where he participated in a workshop aimed at developing Pacific Island students' academic writing and presenting skills. At the same conference, he was awarded a prize for the best student presentation. He has subsequently authored two papers in the peer reviewed journal *Pacific Conservation Biology* including an invited submission to a SCBO-led special issue.

John has continued to be involved with SCBO. He was awarded travel scholarships to attend conferences in 2016 and 2018, and recently helped to start a new SCB Chapter in PNG.



## Support conservation nonprofit leadership

SCB Oceania operates as a regional semi-autonomous section of the global Society for Conservation Biology. Our volunteer Board of Directors, elected by our membership, predominantly comprises early- to mid-career conservation researchers and practitioners.

To have effective input into conservation outcomes in our region, as an organisation we must be recognised as credible by key decision-makers, potential partners, and the public. In order to achieve this, we continually strive to develop our organisational capacity and undertake regular strategic planning to refine our direction.

Our Board of Directors is focused on developing and implementing sound operational policies

and procedures, building reliable funding sources and an adequate operating reserve.

***In 2018, SCB Oceania became registered as a not-for-profit in Australia and achieved tax deductible status. We will become a registered charity in the coming year.***

Professional development for board members is key to skilled and effective nonprofit governance, but can be difficult to fund through traditional sources. Please contact us to discuss opportunities to provide funding or in-kind support in this area.

**\$500**

enables specialist training for one board member to act as a Contact Officer during conferences & public events

**\$750**

provides support for an Early Career mentoring and leadership workshop

# Support evidence-based conservation policy

SCB Oceania seeks to influence policy that affects conservation action at local, national, and international levels, with a central goal of ensuring that actions are informed by the best available scientific evidence. We do this by publishing Conservation Science Statements, authoring policy submissions, convening public events, and developing the capacity of our organisation and our members to engage with conservation policy.

## Real world impacts on conservation policy

At our 2016 conference, SCB Oceania released a scientific statement calling on Australian governments to take action on increasing rates of habitat loss, particularly in the states of Queensland and New South Wales. The land clearing declaration was endorsed by four scientific societies, the conference delegates, and more than 250 scientists from around the world. We called for the prevention of a return to the damaging past of high rates of woodland




and forest destruction, in order to protect the unique biodiversity and marine environments of which Australia is sole custodian.

The declaration received national media attention and reached more than 400,000 people on social media. Although new land clearing laws were knocked back in Queensland in 2016, stronger legislation was passed in 2018, following campaigning by SCB Oceania and others. The 2016 declaration continues to have impact in 2019, as it was relaunched by the Ecological Society of Australia in the lead up to the federal election, with 400 conservation practitioners, academics and students as signatories.

- Seven policy submissions made to government on conservation policies
- Four public events, attended by more than 1000 people, convened in Australia and New Zealand to support debate around the science-policy interface
- Direct support for members who influence policy through education and on-ground action
- Our affiliate scientific journal, *Pacific Conservation Biology*, is the regional outlet for peer reviewed conservation science, publishing four issues per year

## ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

SCB Oceania has held four highly successful public events on topical conservation issues. In 2018 we held a public debate, *Killing for Conservation*, in Wellington NZ on ethical issues around introduced predator control. This free public event was attended by nearly 500 people and confronted questions such as "What constitutes an invasive species?" and "Why do we do conservation?" The outcomes of this event included enhanced discussion and public literacy of key issues at the science-policy interface. The debate was recorded and is available to download as a podcast, thus increasing the reach and accessibility of this event.



A FREE PUBLIC SESSION

National Science Challenges NEW ZEALAND'S BIOLOGICAL HERITAGE

# KILLING *for* CONSERVATION

HOSTED BY *Kim Hill*



WED 4TH JULY | 5.30 TO 7.00 PM | THE AMOKURA ROOM TE PAPA

CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING WORLD  
Society for Conservation Biology  
5th Oceania Congress  
2-6 July 2018, New Zealand

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS. ASK QUESTIONS. GET INVOLVED!

CONSERVATION SCIENTISTS: JAMES MACLAURIN / EDY MACDONALD / DOUG ARMSTRONG / CILLA WEIHI

DONATIONS TO OUR ENGAGEMENT AND POLICY WORK CAN SUPPORT IMPROVED AWARENESS OF CONSERVATION ISSUES AND PROMOTION OF EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY...

**\$1000**

supports literature review and data collection for development of a Conservation Science Statement

**\$2,000**

enables hiring of venue and associated AV for recording (required for use on radio and dissemination online)

**\$5,000**

enables broader participation at public events by speakers from outside of the host city

**\$10,000**

enables a full day event; e.g. in 2020 we will host an Earth Optimism event which requires full venue, AV, and speaker support



## Support on-ground action

SCB Oceania supports on-ground conservation action and networking among members through its Chapters. These groups come together to carry out locally-relevant conservation action, and to provide a support network for emerging conservation leaders.

### Examples of on-ground impact through chapter-led action

Our **Hawaii Chapter** has around 200 members focused on caring for and enhancing conservation in these unique islands. The islands of Hawai'i have come to be known as the "Endangered Species Capital of the World", with many of the unique species and ecosystems that keep Hawai'i functioning under grave threat. Fortunately, there is a lot of power and *mana* (spiritual energy) flowing from these islands. The Hawaii Chapter has come together to protect and maintain this *mana*, and in 2018 alone helped to organise 5 habitat restoration events and held 3 conservation events, including an Earth Day Citizen Science Fair.

*Planting for Butterflies* is an on-ground conservation initiative led by the **University of Queensland - Brisbane Chapter** to test the success of planting native flora to benefit butterfly species. Planting plots have been established across the UQ St Lucia restoration area, and will be monitored over time to determine the relationship between planting efforts and butterfly abundance. The project kicked off with an initial planting event which saw volunteers plant c. 600 native plants known to attract native butterflies within the restoration area. Expert speakers discussed the importance of restoration efforts in urban settings and introduced participants to Queensland's butterfly fauna and conservation issues facing native butterflies.

### DONATIONS TO OUR CHAPTERS LEAD TO REAL ON-GROUND CHANGE...

**\$500**

enables a community beach cleanup event

**\$1,000**

enables a conservation photography workshop hosted by professionals

**\$2,000**

enables restoration of riparian habitat using 600 native plants

**\$10,000**

enables a multi-year habitat restoration project to conserve native fauna



We have six Chapters, in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii



SCBO Chapters ran and contributed to 40 activities and community events in 2018



Our 950 Chapter members include 380 undergraduate students, 420 graduate students and 150 conservation professionals