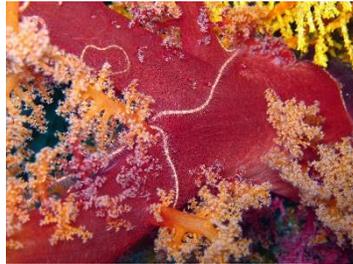


CONSERVATION SCIENCE IN OCEANIA

The Society for Conservation Biology Oceania Section Strategic Plan REPORT of ACHIEVED GOALS 2013-2018



SCB-Oceania Goals & Objectives

We have four programme goals for SCB-O, relevant to conservation science, conservation management, policy, and education and one organisational goal (increased capacity) underpinning the programme goals. These goals aim to focus our efforts to effect change by increasing regional coverage and influence of conservation research and enhancing the use of that science in management, education, and policy.

The activities under each goal, detailed in the workplan for each year, will track our progress each year of the Strategic Plan, 2013-2018.

PROGRAMME GOALS

- **Conservation Science:** Scientific research and knowledge is essential for informing policy, management, and education. Conservation science and related activities of our members – as well as others working in this area – support conservation action.
- **Conservation Management:** The effectiveness and transparency of conservation management (often termed adaptive management) is maximised. There is considerable opportunity to work with conservation managers, communities, and stakeholders to integrate science for effective management through the articulation and measurement of clear goals.
- **Policy:** Conservation and development policies significantly affect the long-term viability of ecosystems and their dependent organisms and processes. Science and its information are fundamental for evidence based policies produced by government and other organisations. Dissemination of policy-relevant conservation information, including responses to government and community initiatives that may positively or negatively benefit the environment are a focus for our engagement.
- **Education:** Understanding of our ecosystems and their threats is critical to ensuring their long-term viability. People need to know how they work, how much we depend on them, and what threatens them. This is best undertaken through education programmes that build capacity and support communities.

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL

- **Increased Capacity:** The SCB can increase its effectiveness by operating as a coordinated and coherent group that provides essential information relevant to our four major conservation programme goals. We find ways to increase our impact and role through communication mechanisms and through coordinated action by our members. Our member expertise is expanded across a broad range of conservation areas to promote, support, and undertake conservation in our region. This is done by building our funding base and providing useful science and information, both of which help improve conservation outcomes.

I. CONSERVATION SCIENCE

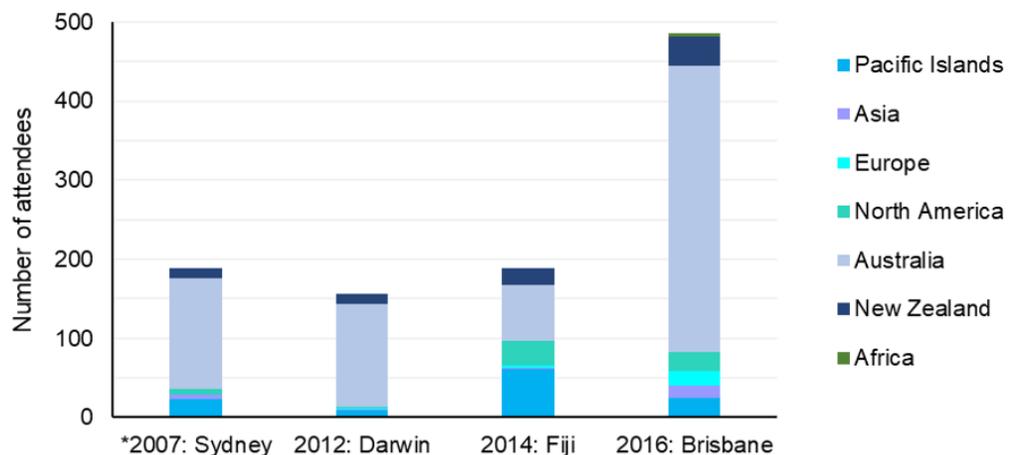
Our Objectives

1. Hold an Oceania regional conference every two years in a different part of our region, focusing on key conservation issues.
 - Achieved with growing attendance and strong positive reviews



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2. Expand dissemination of research results and findings through attendance by members at selected, high-visibility international and national scientific, policy, and management conferences, symposia, and meetings.
 - Supported student awards at related conferences
 - Sponsored Victorian Biodiversity Conservation Conference in 2017, 2018
3. Associate and lift our profile at other relevant meetings (e.g. ecological and wildlife management societies).
 - Supported student awards at related conferences (Ecological Society of Australia and others)
 - Sponsored Victorian Biodiversity Conservation Conference in 2017, 2018
4. Support *Pacific Conservation Biology (PCB)* and promote the journal to top conservation scientists for publishing and access
 - Successful special issues in 2014, 2016, 2018 promoted as part of conferences
 - Awarded PCB supported student presentation award 2016, 2017, 2018
 - Undertaking negotiations for formal MOU and to provide membership discounts to Oceania members
 - PCB applied for Impact Factor

- Have undertaken analysis that demonstrates SCBO contributions have largest citations and have driven increase in PCB citations overall
5. Identify, publish, and disseminate Oceania research priorities periodically.
 - Regular Pacific Conservation Biology Special Issues
 - Led key publications summarizing conservation issues and priorities for the region
 - Kingsford, R.T., J.E.M. Watson, C.J. Lundquist, O. Venter, L. Hughes, E.L. Johnston, J. Atherton, M. Gawel, D.A. Keith, B.G. Mackey, C. Morley, H.P. Possingham, B. Raynor, H.F. Recher, and K.A. Wilson. (2009). Major conservation policy issues in Oceania. *Conservation Biology* 23, 834-840
 - Weeks, R., Adams, V.M., 2017. Research priorities for conservation and natural resource management in Oceania's small-island developing states. *Conservation Biology*, 10.1111/cobi.12964.
 6. Carry out effective scientific research on conservation problems and solutions
 - Regular Pacific Conservation Biology Special Issues
 - Led key publications summarizing conservation issues and priorities for the region (Kingsford et al *Conservation Biology*, Weeks and Adams *Conservation Biology*)
 - Supported SCBO Brisbane chapter revegetation planting which is also designed as experimental plot to measure the change in biodiversity over time in revegetated plot
 7. Increase communication and collaboration among researchers, managers, and policy makers in the Oceania region to ensure key policy and management institutions,

II. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Our objectives

1. Improve communications and interactions between researchers and managers in the region.
 - Weeks and Adams *Conservation Biology* paper specifically engaged managers and government to identify their priorities and to connect them to existing science where it has addressed their questions.
2. Promote, develop and disseminate adaptive management practices throughout the region to conservation managers and practitioners (e.g. workshops, publications, case studies).
 - Conservation Policy statements published in *Pacific Conservation Biology* and associated press for related policy work

III. CONSERVATION POLICY

Objectives

1. Generate and enhance interest, involvement, and capacity of conservation biologists to work effectively with policy stakeholders

- How to engage effectively in policy – workshop led by SCBO Board at Wellington conference 2018.
 - Policy statements/submissions – Regular policy submissions on relevant policy
2. Support development of policy response papers to major issues (see Kingsford et al. 2009), including submissions to government policies and inquiries where relevant.
 - Freshwater policy statement
 - Policy statements/submissions – Regular policy submissions on relevant policy
 3. Use conservation papers or special issues (e.g. *Pacific Conservation Biology*) in Oceania to produce a discussion papers on effective policy and management.
 - Have PCB section for policy statements now
 - Freshwater policy statement first to be published in PCB as well as on Oceania website as policy statement

IV. EDUCATION

Objectives

1. We will contribute to the region’s undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education and training capacity in conservation science through the roles of members.
 - Supported ~6 travel awards to Fiji, 33 to Brisbane and 30 to Wellington dramatically increasing education and training opportunities for Pacific Islanders through attendance at our conferences.
 - Directly mentored pacific islanders in the publication of their works (e.g. Wednt et al 2016 PCB paper).
 - Have no established chapters in PNG and SI through these conference conversations with supported attendees
2. Develop an education initiative every two years that addresses the region’s need for undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education and training capacity.
 - Have delivered regular content on how to give a good presentation, how to write and publish your research, how to engage in policy and how to be a good mentor/mentee
3. Develop and build partnerships with organisations involved in conservation in Oceania (e.g. universities, research centers, NGOs) to enhance educational opportunities in conservation.
 - Delivered public events in partnership with NGOs/Universities
 - Co-hosted conferences with Universities
 - FUTURE LOOKING – develop relationships with NGOs and funding agencies to deliver grants programs in partnership
4. Awards individuals recognising their contribution to effective conservation
 - Annual student awards for best paper, best presentation and best presentation -

- PCB/CSIRO sponsored
 - Distinguished Service Award Oceania award given in 2016 and 2018
 - Regular nominations for Oceania members for global DSA (and strong representation in successful awardees – e.g. John Woinarski, James Watson, Stacy Jupiter, Sue Tael)
5. Provide student awards to encourage excellence in conservation science.
 - Annual student awards for best paper, best presentation and best presentation - PCB/CSIRO sponsored
 6. Improve our outreach through newsletters, conferences, listservers, Facebook and Twitter
 - Have facebook and twitter account with regular content.
 - Established news site and have regular content posted
 - Have added KPI metrics documenting our performance to our news site

V. INCREASED ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Goal

SCB-Oceania is recognised in the Oceania region for its role in conservation science and its impact on effective conservation. We encourage membership and active involvement, which allows us to increase our influence in our key focus areas. SCB builds and maintains the organisational capacity necessary to operate.

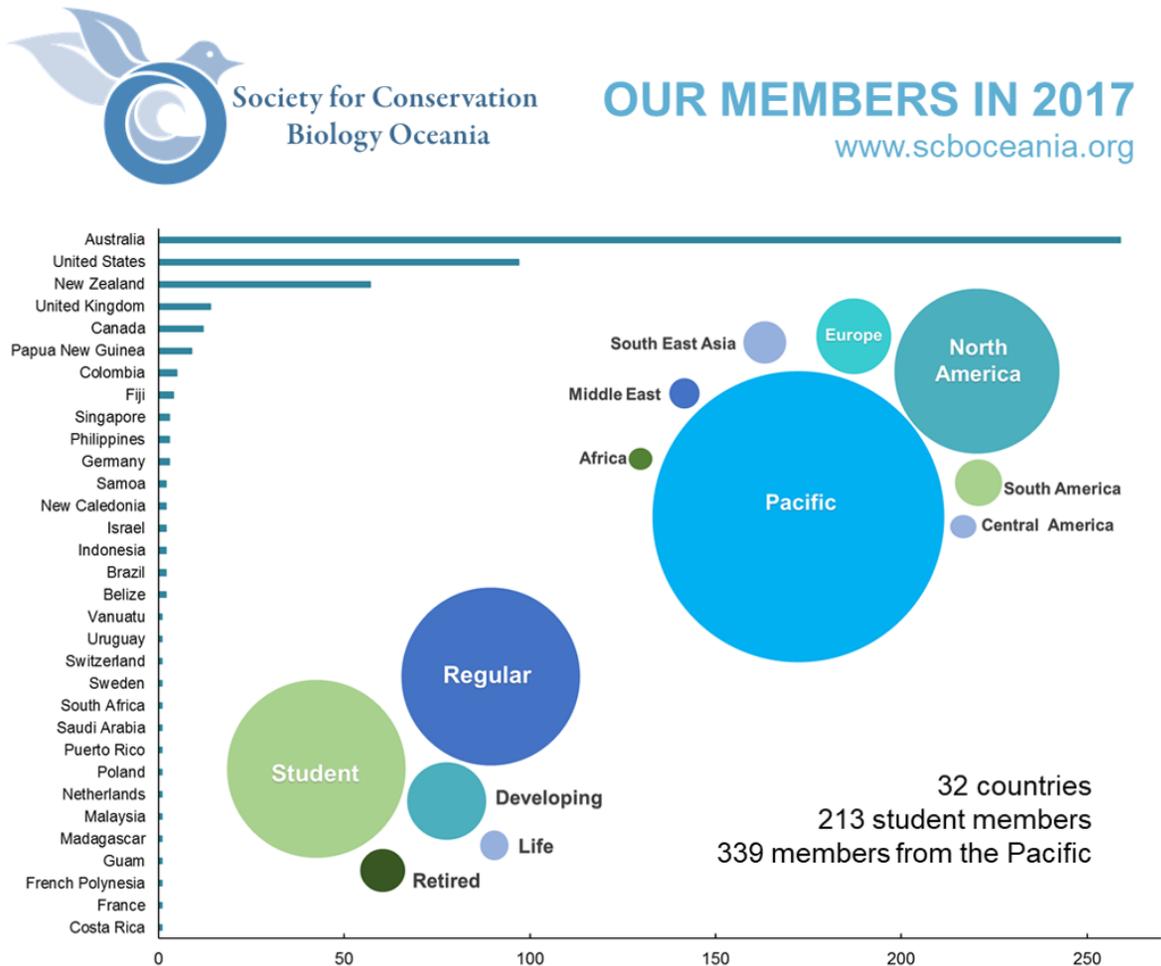
Rationale and Strategic Impact

For effective input into conservation outcomes in our region, we must be recognised as credible by key decision-makers, potential partners, and the public. At the most basic level, powerful constituencies, interest groups, and institutions should look to us as a source of sound information that will help them resolve conservation problems. We will increase our interaction and effectiveness with the media, built on useful products from our key programme areas. We will have adequate capacity and direction. We will also focus on building reliable funding sources, an adequate operating reserve, committed and skilled staff, sound business practices, and an effective Board.

Objectives

1. Effective interaction within the Board to deliver on our programme areas.
 - Regular teleconference meetings
 - Strong participation in committees
 - FORWARD LOOKING – need to structure board to include reps on global committees
2. Support the setting up and maintenance of Chapters in different parts of the region
 - Have 7 chapters all strong and active
 - Running small grants through chapters
 - Conducting a policy review of chapters

- Need to structure clear grants policy for chapters and align with global rounds
 - Have committed matching travel funds for global travel awards for attendance at SCBO increasing participation by chapters in our conferences
3. Expand and diversify Oceania Section membership.
- Increasing membership over time. Now over 500 members



4. Set good examples regarding environmentally-friendly performance.
- Clear Sustainability policies for conferences – meeting and exceeding global performance in this area (see papers by Chades and others where SCBO is a clearly identifiable org and outperforming others)