

Bylaws of the European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology

Article 1

Mission

The mission of the European Section of the Society for Conservation Biology is to promote conservation biology and its application to conserve biological diversity in Europe. The principal goals of the Section are

- to increase awareness and understanding of European conservation issues.
- to strengthen conservation biology research and its application in Europe.
- to organize on a regular base, a European Congress of Conservation Biology
- to advocate for biological diversity and willingly offer and promote the role of scientific review in assessment of conservation strategies.
- to develop, promote and facilitate networks of communication and collaboration among Society members, and other researchers, managers, government agencies and non-governmental organizations in Europe and throughout the world.
- to supply unbiased, policy-relevant scientific evidence and information on biodiversity and conservation issues.

Article 2

Membership

Section 1. Voting Members. Any member of the Society for Conservation Biology who has an interest in the objectives and the activities of the Section may join the Section as a voting member. Only voting members may be elected to Section offices and vote on official matters affecting the Section. If the Section assesses dues, all voting members shall be responsible for payment.

Section 2. Expulsion. Membership in the Section shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following events: (1) member's notice of such termination delivered to the President or Secretary of the Section, personally or by mail, (2) a determination by two-thirds of the Section Board that the member has engaged in conduct materially and/or seriously prejudicial to the interests or purposes of the Section.

Article 3

Governance

Section 1. Section Board. Twelve members shall constitute the Board of the Section. The board composition should aim to achieve good geographic and gender balance. All Board members shall be voting members of the Section. The term of office shall be three years with the option of a further period of three years through re-election.

Section 2. Terms of Responsibility. New Members of the Board shall sign a Terms of Responsibility upon taking service in the Board. The Section Board may vote on expulsion of a Section Board Member, by vote of two-thirds of the Section Board, if a Member has failed to comply with the Terms of Responsibility.

Section 3. Officers. There shall be four officers: President, President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President Elect shall be elected by Section members every three years. Term of office for the President Elect is three years, followed by three years as President. The Secretary and Treasurer are Board members selected by the Board for terms of three years. All officers must be voting members of the Section for their entire term of office.

Section 4. Strategic plan. The Section activities are guided by a strategic plan which is a living document forming the basis of the actions of the Board and its Committees. The strategic plan identifies goals and tasks for the development of the Section and includes both short term and long term goals.

Article 4

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations. Nominations for Board members and President Elect shall be solicited by the Section Board. Nominations can be done by any Section Member including self-nominations, and provided within a duly-announced deadline. All nominees must be voting members of the Section. The list of nominations shall be submitted by the Secretary to the membership at least one month prior to the deadline for receipt of ballots.

Section 2. Balloting. Ballots shall be received from the Section Members by a duly announced deadline and shall be counted by one or more members of the Section Board or agent(s) authorized by the Society's Board of Governors. The President shall appoint a replacement to count ballots for any member of the Section Board who has been nominated. The candidate(s) receiving the largest number of votes on the ballots shall be declared elected. In case of ties, the Board will choose at majority vote the elected candidate(s) taking into account geographic and gender balance.

Section 3. Vacancies. If the office of President is vacated for any reason, the President Elect shall assume the duties of the President for the balance of the President's term. All other vacancies occurring during an officer's term shall be filled by appointment by the Section Board.

Section 4. Special Elections. A special election may be held at any time during a period of dormancy (see Article 11) to reactivate the Section.

Article 5

Duties of Officers

Section 1. President. The President shall organize and preside over meetings and mailings intended to substitute for meetings. The President, or another Board member designated by the President, shall serve as the Section's voting representative on the Society's Board of Governors in accordance with Section 5.

Section 2. President Elect. The President Elect shall assist the President and perform his/her duties when he/she is absent.

Section 3. Secretary. The Secretary shall record minutes (or appoint one to do so), administer correspondence of the Section, and maintain historical records and a list of members.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain accounts, and collect and distribute funds for Section activities. The Treasurer shall coordinate fund-raising activities, if any.

Section 5. Representative on the Society's Board of Governors. The representative (the President or his/her designee, see Section 1) serves as a Member at Large on the Society's Board of Governors in accordance with the Society's Bylaws. Only the representative may officially represent the Section on business of the Society.

Article 6

Standing Committees

Section 1. Chairs and Membership. Standing committees shall be chaired by a member of the Section Board. Chairs shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Section Board. Committees shall be composed of interested members of the Section. The Chair shall be responsible for appointing the other members of the standing committee, and these members shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair. All standing committees shall, at any time, be accountable to the Section Board. The committees shall, when appropriate, strategically develop relationships with scientific, and other organizations that further the mission of the Section. Standing committees include Membership, Education and Student Affairs, Communications, and Policy committees.

Section 2. Charge of the Membership Committee. This committee shall be responsible for encouraging membership in both the Section and the Society, and establishment and oversight of local Chapters. The

committee shall assist the Secretary in maintaining the list of the Section's membership and shall help facilitate any mailings to the membership.

Section 3. Charge of the Communications Committee. This committee shall facilitate development of printed and electronic publications of the Section. This committee also shall work with other committees of both the Section and the Society to achieve outreach and marketing goals.

Section 4. Charge of the Policy Committee. This committee shall upon suggestions from Section Members, Chapters, and the Board or by own initiative, decide to take action to explain the Section's view on a particular issue or controversy. In the case of formal statements, these shall be prepared according to the procedures established within the Society.

Section 5. Charge of the Education and Student Affairs Committee. This committee shall facilitate and carry out initiatives designed to promote conservation education, encourage student participation in meetings, create opportunities for interaction among students and professionals, and administer student awards.

Article 7

Ad hoc Committees and Chapters

Section 1. The Section Board, either by its own initiative or at the solicitation of the membership, may at any time decide to form an ad hoc committee with specific Terms of Reference. Committees shall be chaired by a voting member of the Section. Chairs shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Section Board. Committees shall be composed of interested members of the Section. The Chair shall be responsible for appointing the other members of the committee. All committees shall, at any time, be accountable to the Section Board.

Section 2. Any local Chapter established within the geographical limits of the Section should receive support from the Section on matters relating to the Society. The formal relations between Chapters, the Section and the Society are regulated in the Chapters' Agreement, Bylaw and Charter.

Article 8

Finances

The Section shall be supported by grants, contributions, and fund-raising activities. Funds of the Section shall be supervised by the officers (Article 3, Section 2), and shall be administered by the Treasurer. Financial records shall be reported to the membership.

Article 9

Policy.

Section 1. Definitions. A "Statement" is any public statement that reflects the position or view of the Section. "Public Advocacy" is any public activity by the Section in support of a Section Statement.

Section 2. Conditions for Declaration of Statements and Public Advocacy. The Section may make Statements and engage in Public Advocacy subject to the conditions outlined in the Society's general Policy approval process. The Board and its Policy committee should actively engage Chapters and Sections Members to identify relevant topics for Policy statements.

Section 3. Reporting. The policy initiatives of the Section shall be reported to the Section Members and to the Society.

Article 10

Meetings

Section 1. Annual Membership Meeting. A Members' Meeting shall be held, or an alternative mechanism for conducting Section business and facilitating communication among members arranged, at least once every year.

Section 2. Procedure and Order of Business. Meetings and voting deadlines shall be announced at least one month in advance. At the beginning of each meeting any Section or Society business shall be discussed prior to other scheduled agenda items. The business portion of each meeting shall be run by the President. The Section's Bylaws shall be available at each meeting.

Section 3. Votes. All votes of the Section on matters not specified in the Bylaws shall be decided by a simple majority of those voting. Tie votes in Members' Meetings or in meetings of the Section Board shall be broken by the presiding officer.

Section 4. Quorum. 10% of the Section's members (if the membership exceeds 150 individuals) or 15 members of the Section, including members represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum of the Section, and 50% of Section Board members a quorum of the Board.

Article 11

Annual Report.

The Secretary in collaboration with the President and the Board shall file an annual report on the Section's activities with the Society. The report shall be distributed to members.

Article 12

Continuation/Dissolution

Section 1. Section Board Requirement. If the membership fails to elect a Section Board, the Section shall be considered dormant. At that time the outgoing Section Board shall forward the Section's charter, bylaws, and remaining funds to the Society. The Section may be reactivated at any time within a period of two years by holding a Special Election. The purpose of the Special Election is to vote for a Section Board.

Section 2. Membership Requirement. If the membership falls below 100 for longer than two years, the Section shall be considered dormant. At that time the outgoing Section Board shall forward the Section's charter, bylaws, and remaining funds to the Society. The Section may be reactivated when membership rises above 100.

Article 13

Amendment to Bylaws

Section 1. Procedure. Proposals to modify the Section Bylaws must be approved by a majority of the voting members present and voting at any scheduled meeting (or alternative voting mechanism) of the Section. A voting member who is absent may file an absentee ballot.

Section 2. Conformance. No amendment to these Bylaws shall be enacted that results in a conflict with the Bylaws of the Society. Proposed amendments to the Section Bylaws must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Society's Board of Governors before becoming effective.

Ratified for the Board of Governors by

President, Society for Conservation Biology

Date