

Conservation Committee

Committee Members: A. H. Ali, J. Aliperti, B. S. Arbogast (Chair), C. Aylward, E. Baerwald, P. Barboza, E. Beever, B. J. Bergstrom, C. M. Callahan, G. Ceballos, A. Chavez, J. A. Cook, M. Cove, E. Davis, N. G. Dawson, N. de la Sancha, M. Dudenhoeffer, M. Dyck, N. Edmison, S. Farr, A. W. Ferguson, A. Ford, M. Gantchoff, A. J. Giordano, C. Goblet, J. González-Maya, D. Green, E. Green, R. Green, K. Gutierrez, M. Hawkins, A-M. C. Hodge, R. L. Honeycutt, M. Hughes, R. Jakopak, B. Jesmer, T. Jezkova, T. Jung, M. Kalcounis-Rueppell, D. M. Kaufman, T. Knowles, J. L. Koprowski, A. Krevitz, T. Lacher, N. Lewis-Rogers, H. Lutz, J. Malaney, R. A. Medellin, M. J. Merrick, M. Novillo, R. A. Ojeda, G. Perner, L. A. Randa, K. Reiss, M. Rentz, C. Warret-Rodrigues, M. H. Schadler, S. R. Sheffield, K. Smith, W. P. Smith, M. Snider, S. R. Stephens, M. E. Tewes, N. S. Upham, E. Wilson.

Mission:

The Conservation Committee (CC) was established by the ASM in 1927, a few years after the Society passed a resolution condemning the unscientific and propagandistic extermination campaign against predators at its 4th Annual Meeting in 1924. First known as the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee, the committee's name was changed to the Conservation Committee in 2002 to reflect the fact that it dealt with conservation issues that included all mammals. In 2002–2003, the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award subcommittee that CC had recently established was moved to full standing committee status. The CC promotes research, education, and science-based solutions to conservation and management of native mammals in North America and globally.

Information Items:

(1) The ASM Conservation Committee welcomed 25 new members in 2019.

(2) Activities of the ASM CC from June 2019 to April 2020 included:

(a) A more formalized committee structure and set of member duties for the CC was implemented in August, 2019 (see details below).

(b) The resolution “On the Impact of the Loss of Public Lands Protections on Wild Mammal Populations in the United States” (drafted by the ASM CC in 2018 and passed onto the ASM Resolutions Committee) was read and passed at the 99th Annual Meeting of ASM in Washington, D.C. A printed version of this resolution appeared in the *Journal of Mammalogy* Volume 100, Issue 6, and it is posted on the ASM's website at:

<http://www.mammalogy.org/asm-resolutions>

(c) The ASM CC drafted a position (Scientist Sign-on) letter in response to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's plan to delist gray wolves. This letter was not signed by the ASM President, but was read at the members' meeting during the Annual Meeting in 2019 as a point of information from the Committee.

(d) In 2018-2019, the ASM CC drafted and helped coordinate the distribution of a “Scientist Sign-on” letter addressing the current federal effort to rollback “Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest.” As of April, 2020, this rollback is now stalled in the federal courts thanks in part to scientist participation in the process (including the work of the ASM CC).

(e) In August, 2019, the CC discussed formulating a response to the USFWS Final Rule on proposed changes to the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The CC and ASM had previously written a joint letter with the Society for Conservation Biology North America (SCBNA) and the American Ornithological Society (AOS) that commented on proposed changes to the regulations guiding the implementation of ESA, including the revisions to the regulations for interagency cooperation, revisions related to listing species and designating critical habitat, and the recession of the regulations for threatened wildlife and plants (the 2018 joint letter can be read on the ASM Conservation Committee’s web page:

<http://www.mammalsociety.org/committees/conservation#tab3>). However, for procedural reasons, no further public comment period was opened in August, 2019, so we could not formally “comment” on the Final Rule.

Action Items:

- 1) **Funding request to support “Recent advances in the conservation of African mammals” Symposium at the 2021 joint American Society of Mammalogists–International Mammalogical Congress in Anchorage, Alaska**

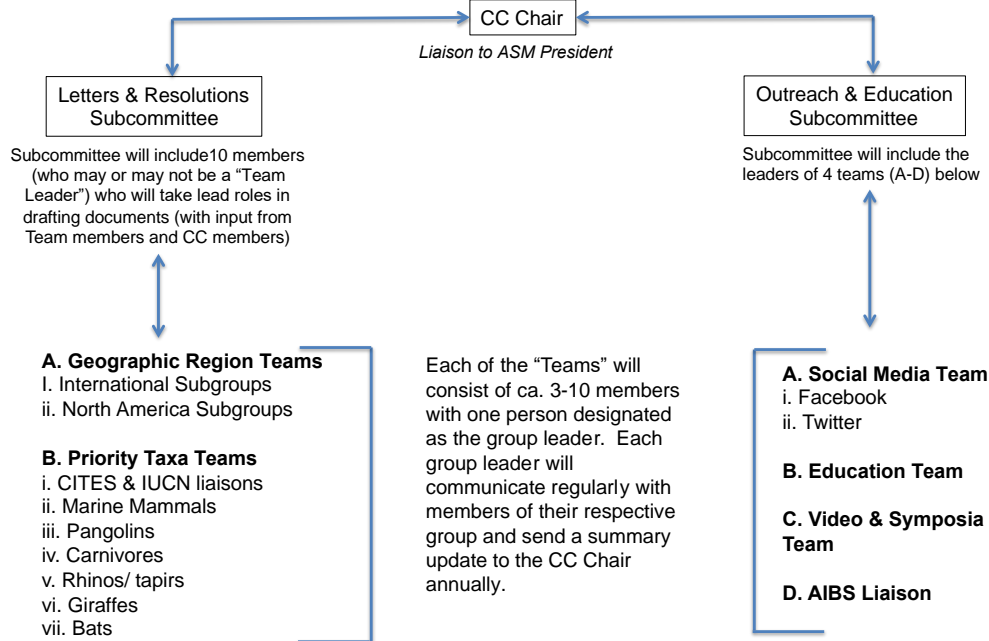
In conjunction with the sponsoring African Graduate Student Research Fund Committee and ASM’s International Relations Committee and the Human Diversity Committee, the Conservation Committee is co-sponsoring the effort to organize a symposium entitled, “Recent advances in the conservation of African mammals” at the 2021 joint American Society of Mammalogists–International Mammalogical Congress in Anchorage, Alaska. This symposium would represent the first effort to increase exposure of meeting attendees to historically-underrepresented geographic regions, and attendance by mammalogists from said regions. With the Board’s support, it is our intent that this symposium would represent the first in a longer-term commitment by the ASM to promote global diversity of mammalogists and mammalogy. A request is being considered for the next ASM budgetary cycle for the ASM Board to consider matching funds for up to \$9000, which the Board of Directors unanimously supported in an informal straw poll at the annual meeting in Washington DC, as reflected in the unabridged minutes from last year's meeting. Since this time, our committees have raised \$24,000 for this effort. We ask for the Board's support in dedicating \$9000 to this effort.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian S. Arbogast, Chair

arbogastb@uncw.edu

ASM Conservation Committee (CC) Structure



ASM CC Committee Assignments

Brian Arbogast (Chair)

LETTERS & RESOLUTIONS SUBCOM.

Rodney Honeycutt (Lead)

Brad Bergstrom

Andreas Chavez

Joe Cook

Anne-Marie Hodge

Tereza Jezkova

Melissa Merrick

Steve Sheffield

Syd Stephens

Nate Upham

LIAISON to RESOLUTIONS COM.- Steve Sheffield

CITES LIAISON- Rodrigo Medellin

IUCN LIAISON- Tom Lacher

A. GEOGRAPHIC REGION TEAMS

I. International

Africa

Adam Ferguson (co-lead)

Abdullah H. Ali (co-lead)

Anthony J. Giordano

Mexico/ Central America

Rodrigo Medellin (co-lead)

Gerardo Ceballos (co-lead)

Tom Lacher

Anthony J. Giordano

Southeast Asia

Missy Hawkins (lead)

Anthony J. Giordano (co-lead?)

South America

José González-Maya (lead)

Noé de la Sancha

Ricardo Ojeda

Marilyn Novillo

Tom Lacher

Anthony J. Giordano

II. North America

Canada

Tom Jung (lead)

Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell

Chloé Warret Rodrigues

Adam Ford

US- PNW & Alaska

Winston Smith (co-lead)

Joe Cook (co-lead)

Malorri Hughes

US- Southeast

Brad Bergstrom (lead)

Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell

US- Midwest & Great Plains

Evan Wilson

US- Southwest

John Koprowski (co-lead)

Joe Cook (co-lead)

Tereza Jezkova

Alex Krevitz

B. PRIORITY TAXA TEAMS

Marine Mammals

Christopher Callahan (lead)

Pangolins

Nicole Edmison (lead)

Karen Reiss

Evan Wilson

Anthony J. Giordano

Giraffes

Travis Knowles (lead)

Bats

Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell (lead)

Marilyn Novillo

Holly Lutz

Tom Jung

Dana Green

Eric Green

Rhinoceroses & Tapirs

Brian Arbogast (lead)

Tereza Jezkova

Camille Goblet

Mike Cove

Anthony J. Giordano

Carnivores

Steve Sheffield (lead)

José F. González-Maya

Mike Cove

Sydney Stephens

Marissa Dyck

Cody Aylward

Alex Krevitz

Chloé Warret Rodrigues

Anthony J. Giordano

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

A. Social Media Teams

I. Twitter

Jason Malaney

Cody Aylward

II. Facebook

Katie Smith (lead)

Chloé Warret Rodrigues

B. Education Team

Steve Sheffield

Camille Goblet

Rhiannon Jakopak

Megan Dudenhoeffer

C. Video & Symposia Team

Jason Malaney

Joe Cook

Tom Jung

D. AIBS LIASON

Joe Cook