



SCCS Beijing 2016

Conservation science in a changing world

Developing sustainable and practicable approaches to conservation for the 21st century

Chairs

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and*

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Preface

Recent decades have seen a dramatic change in the landscape of much of the tropics, and many other parts of the world's wilderness regions. Pressures of a growing global population, combined with changing patterns of consumption have led to an exponential growth in human demands for various commodities and demands for more energy intensive food.

As a result the world's ecosystems have suffered with a significant loss and degradation of many of the world's most biodiverse areas. Developing appropriate and practicable approaches to conservation have never been so important, yet developing such approaches requires a holistic understanding of not only the natural world, but also political and social systems. Here, over the course of 6 days we explore these topics and allow our students to develop conservation approaches which transcend the academic realm to understanding how this knowledge might be practicably integrated into workable approaches to conservation.

Each afternoon tasks will be set to allow students to develop these techniques under supervision, guidance and support. This will include the "fieldtrip" day-when students will be set group tasks to conduct whilst on their fieldtrips. Students will be asked to try to arrive by 1pm on the first day, to allow sessions to start (due to the formal opening the following morning).

We also have a subforum, where High school students can demonstrate their own conservation initiatives which took place in 2014, and will be repeated this year if enough suitable initiatives are put forward.

Background to SCCS

The Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) is the only international series of conservation conferences aimed entirely at students and young conservation scientists. It was first held in Cambridge, and has since expanded globally with meetings in Bangalore, New York, Brisbane, Australian, Turkey and Beijing. It not only helps participants gain experience and learn new ideas, but also make contacts for future careers, and build confidence in their abilities.

SCCS in Beijing is a collaboration between the University of Cambridge, Peking University and Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, and aims to cultivate more qualified conservation professionals in response to the growing societal interests in ecological conservation and to offer a platform for young conservationists all over the world.

The Beijing SCCS started in 2013, and has occurred annually since. Each year 50-80 young conservationists from different countries in the world have participated, not only exchanging views in conservation but also enjoying the cultural experiences in Beijing.

Agenda

Day 1: A taste of your work (this will be split between the afternoon of arrival day, and the following afternoon to allow opening attendance)

On the first day selected candidates will present their work in one of three styles: either as an oral, a poster-or on a discussion panel. Most participants will have the option of presenting their work in at least one form and sessions will be grouped thematically with discussion encouraged.

In the evening students will form regional groups to discuss the main threats to biodiversity in their region, what actions are currently being taken to mitigate those threats and the degree of success of those actions

Day 2: Species and ecosystems

On the second day we will have a number of researchers from a variety of institutes giving presentations on the biodiversity and threats to different species and systems (i.e. forest and karst). Methods for monitoring and analyzing data on an array of these species and systems will be discussed, and the importance of standardizing approaches and sampling protocols in gathering comparable data outlined.

In the evening the students will learn how to map out their species and conduct some basic spatial analysis of species occurrences.

Day 3: Social dimensions of conservation science

Conservation can only occur through sensible integration and understanding of the social dimension. Day four will explore the interactions between people and the environment, how we can sensibly gather social data to understand the true anthropogenic pressures and drivers which may be causing ecosystem or species level changes, and how we can work with people to mitigate these changes. In the afternoon students will join the Beijing forum fieldtrips-but will be encouraged to discuss the role of socially and environmentally responsible tourism in maintaining ecosystems, the impacts of development, and the needs to integrate local communities into decision making processes.

In the evening we will have a “town hall debate” where all students will be given a role in the community to help show the true complexity of decision making and the perspectives of different stakeholders.

Day 4: Assessing vulnerability

Day three will look at how vulnerability is assessed from species to ecosystem, and will include the redlisting process at both levels.

After the process has been outlined students will choose to either work on a species or an ecosystem and undertake the redlisting process for their system. Help and support will be available from all trainers to develop an appropriate redlist assessment, and to integrate the students' knowledge of the system or species as appropriate with details from the literature to develop a reasonable outline of the redlisting assessment. Approaches to find and integrate the appropriate data will be demonstrated and facilitated.

In the evening students have the option to continue working, or to briefly outline their assessment to other students present.

The student subforum will also take place this evening, with students from local High Schools presenting their own conservation initiatives.

Day 5: Practicable conservation

Day 5 will integrate all we have covered so far, and explore practicable options for implementing conservation. Additionally we will explore the implementation of other types of conservation-including designating and enforcing protected areas, designing corridors and even the relative merits of reintroductions. The day will be a combination of short lectures from all trainers and short practical exercises and discussions, including analyzing conservation successes and failures and trying to understand the underlying drivers.

We will also discuss other approaches (i.e. Marxan) to try to balance the needs of people, and biodiversity and highlight how ecosystem service provision may lend support to conserving biodiversity.

Day 6: Conservation Policy

On the final day of the workshop we will initially focus on the integration of conservation science with policy. This will involve discussing the various levels at which this may occur (regional, local, provincial, National-or even International), how to initiate dialogues, what information to include and the language appropriate to these discussions. Students will be guided on the importance of practicable, enforceable and monitorable policies, and how they might be implemented

Students will also be helped to draft a policy brief around the system they studied on the second day of the workshop.

In the evening all trainers and attendees will have a party which will include sharing food from all attendees countries, and a gift exchange.

Intended participants

Early career researchers, workers in NGOS and relevant research institutes. Some scholarships will be available for travel from other parts of the region and accommodation and food will be covered within Beijing. International students, especially students from other parts of Southeast Asia will be encouraged to apply, and information made available through relevant societies (i.e. the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation, and the Society for Conservation Biology). Extra funds will be sought to provide more scholarships for students to attend, the SCB has already pledged around \$1000 to provide scholarships for travel for participants.

Organizing team: Peking University Center for Nature and Society, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden

Lead organizer: Alice C. Hughes and LU Zhi

Deputy organizer and academic secretary: YIN Lijie

Contact: HU Yanan,

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Application

Please fill in the attached application form and submit it to us before the deadline

Time and venue:

Time: November 3rd-10th, 2016

(Including training session)

Sign-in: November 3rd

Check-out: November 10th

Meeting venue: Peking University, Beijing.

Accommodation: Zhengyuan Xin yuan Hotel.

Important Dates:

Registration and abstract acceptance close: August 20th 2016

Invitations send out: September 15th 2016

Participant selection:

- Qualified participants will be selected by the advisor committee members based on the abstracts submitted.
- All participants are required to provide an original full paper at the meeting

Costs:

-Accommodation during the conference: All accommodation and food during the conference will be covered for invited participants. 10-12 travel scholarships (\$550 within Asia, \$800 outside Asia) will also be awarded to candidates of exceptional achievement and who cannot travel to the conference by any other means

About the VISA

Once your application is approved, an invitation letter will be sent to you for getting a VISA as needed.

Contact us

Contact: HU Yanan,

Email: sccs-beijing@foxmail.com