

SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Africa Section

Report of the Section activities for 2022

SCB Executive Office
1133 15th St. NW
Washington, DC 20005

*SCB's Mission is to Advance the Science and Practice of Conserving
Earth's Biological Diversity*



Executive Summary

The Board of Directors of the SCB Africa Section presents this annual report of the Section's activities in 2022. The report is intended to ensure accountability of the Section's administration and preserve institutional memory.

This year was another year of new initiatives for the SCB Africa Section. We organized the first ever African Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium during the 6th North American Congress for Conservation Biology in Reno, Nevada, United States, with simultaneous live streaming at the first IUCN's African Protected Areas Congress in Kigali, Rwanda. We also created a Presidential Service Award to honor those who continue to volunteer their time and experience to support the Section. This year, it was awarded to Dr. Murali Pai for his almost 10 years of managing the *African Conservation Telegraph* newsletter. Furthermore, we did a fundraising drive which raised over \$6,000.00 to support the African Graduate Student Research Award. As a result, we gave 17 student research awards this year, compared to only six in 2020. We also started working relationships with key stakeholders in African conservation science and practice. This included an MoU signed with the African Platform of the Ghent University, Belgium, and a budding relationship with the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group. Furthermore, we instituted a Board position on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) and developed the Section's DEIJ policy. Finally, we designed a website that would be used as a community of practice to promote collaborations among African scientists. This website would be launched in early 2023.

While initiating new programs, the SCB Africa Section also sustained existing programs in 2022. We organized the 6th e-mentoring program during which 23 mentees received academic support and mentorship from 16 mentors across Africa, North America, and Europe. The *African Conservation Telegraph* newsletter published four issues in its 17th volume this year. Our social media platforms and mailing lists remain active resulting in more than double following on our Twitter and over 40% increase in our Facebook following. We also awarded the Young Women in Conservation Biology (YWCB) biennial award to Dr. Itoro Archibong Joseph of the University of Uyo, Nigeria. Furthermore, the Section Policy Committee approved the publication of a policy statement addressing illegal logging in Okomu National Park,

southwestern Nigeria. We also consulted with the editorial board of *Conservation Biology* to institute proper measures to avoid parachute science in its scientific publications.

These achievements would not have been possible without the selfless service and unflinching support of the Section Board and other member volunteers. We are also grateful to the staff members of the SCB Executive Office in Washington D.C., United States, the editorial members of *African Conservation Telegraph* newsletter, Dr. Tsholo Lori, and Dr. Abraham Ekperusi, and members of the Awards Committee, and Section Policy Committee.

As I rotate off the Section Board due to the expiration of my tenure as the Section President, I am full of gratitude and a huge sense of accomplishment. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this great society in Africa and the numerous benefits and lessons that come with the leadership. I am also grateful to the donors who financially supported the student research award this year. I am excited for the various changes and new programs I infused into the SCB Africa Section, and I am confident that my successor and the Section Board will take the Society to even greater heights. The year 2023 is an exciting year for the SCB Africa Section as we host the ICCB in Rwanda.

Israel Borokini
President of the Board of Directors,
SCB Africa Section

SCB values

Mission

The mission of the Society for Conservation Biology is to advance the science and practice of conserving Earth's biological diversity.

Vision

The Society for Conservation Biology envisions a world where people understand, value, and conserve the diversity of life on Earth. We envision SCB, a global community of conservation professionals, as a leading scientific voice for the study and conservation of Earth's biological diversity.

Organizational Values

The Society for Conservation Biology holds these values:

- There is intrinsic value in the natural diversity of organisms, the complexity of ecological systems, and the resilience created by evolutionary processes.
- Human-caused extinctions and the destruction and loss of function of natural ecosystems are unacceptable.
- Maintaining and restoring biological diversity are individual and collective responsibilities of humans.
- Science is critical for understanding how the natural world operates and how human actions affect nature.
- Collaboration among scientists, managers, and policy-makers is vital to incorporate high-quality science into policies and management decisions affecting biological diversity.

Strategic Priorities

In service to the mission, vision, and values, the SCB Strategic Plan focuses on five priorities:

1. Facilitate the creation and dissemination of conservation science.

The highest quality scientific research and expertise needed to understand and conserve biological diversity is identified, supported and disseminated.

2. Advance the application of conservation science to management, policy and education.

Management, policy and education at local, national, regional, and global levels are directly informed with the highest quality science. The effectiveness of management actions is routinely and openly evaluated.

3. Empower Sections, Committees, Working Groups & Chapters to build local, national & international capacity.

SCB Sections, Committees, Working Groups, and Chapters grow and develop to build local, national, and international capacity worldwide for conservation of biological diversity.

4. Build organizational capacity to maintain robust & sustainable economic & business models.

SCB has the capacity necessary to sustain core operations and implement programmatic goals and objectives that advance our vision and mission.

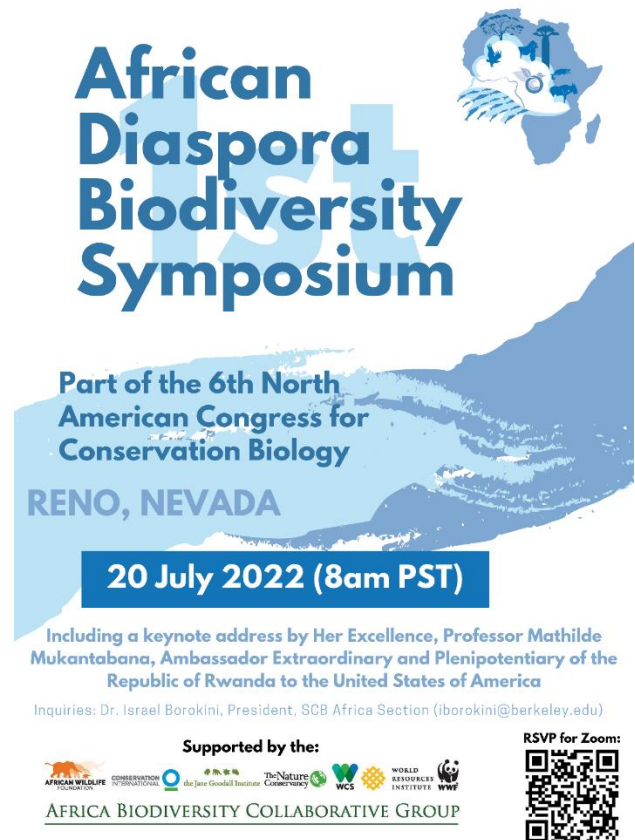
5. Enhance services to meet current & potential member needs.

The needs of current and potential SCB members are effectively served to maximize their impact in advancing our vision and mission.



Strategic priority 1: Facilitate the creation and dissemination of conservation science

The SCB Africa Section successfully organized the first ever Africa Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium, during the 6th North American Congress for Conservation Biology, Reno, Nevada, and the first ever IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress, Kigali, Rwanda. The symposium was recommended in the report of a USAID-funded study on harnessing African Diaspora on biodiversity conservation in Africa. This symposium was

African Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium

Part of the 6th North American Congress for Conservation Biology

RENO, NEVADA

20 July 2022 (8am PST)

Including a keynote address by Her Excellence, Professor Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the United States of America


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AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

RSVP for Zoom:



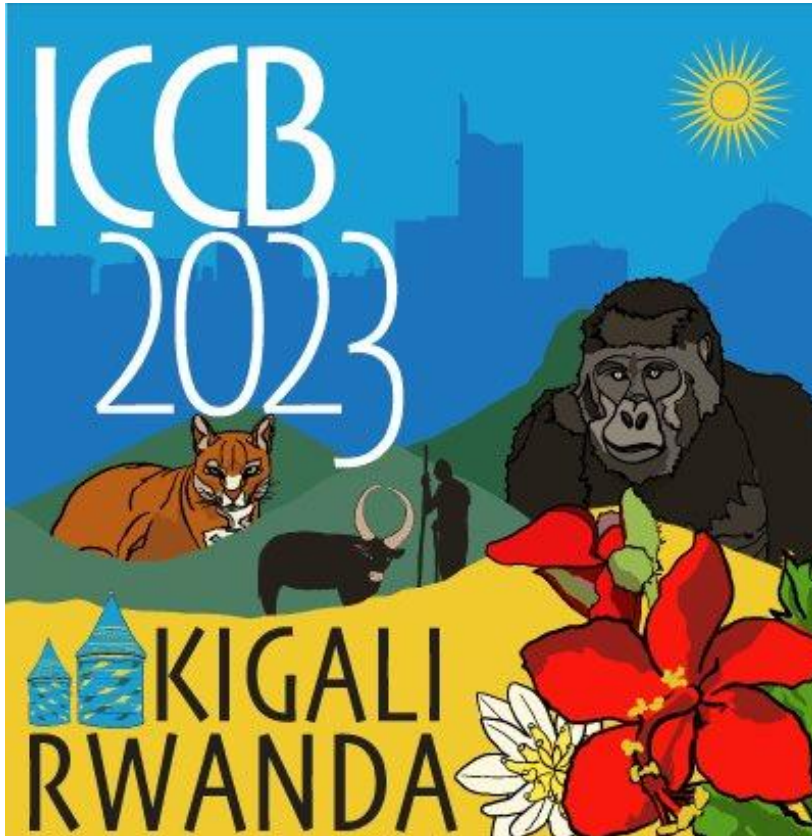
intended to bring together all African conservation experts in the Diaspora to consolidate efforts to support biodiversity conservation in Africa. The symposium, which was sponsored by the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG), featured presentations by Dr. Kirsten Siex, the USAID Africa Director, and Dr. Djibril Diallo, the founder and CEO of African Renaissance and Diaspora Network NGO. Other notable speakers include Dr. Vijitha Eyango, the founder of Agriculture for Africa NGO, Professor Beth Kaplin, Director, Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management, University of

Rwanda, Dr. Kevin Njabo, Africa Director, Center for Tropical Research, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, University of California, Los Angeles, and Mr. Edwin Tambara, Director of Global Leadership, African Wildlife Foundation. The presentations and discussions of the symposium were recorded and hosted on the Section's YouTube channel [<https://www.youtube.com/@scbafrica7887/featured>]. Furthermore, the Section has finalized a community of practice website [<https://africanconbio.org/>] that will serve as a platform for collaborations among Africans in the Diaspora and those on the home continent. This website is an important deliverable of the Diaspora Symposium. The SCB Africa Section is grateful for the unflinching support it received from the ABCG and the African Wildlife Foundation towards the successful organization of the symposium.

The SCB Africa Section was invited to give a presentation during the Ecology in Africa: present and future prospects symposium, as part of the INTECOL 2022 conference in Geneva, Switzerland. The Section President gave the presentation titled "Developing networks for biodiversity conservation in Africa" on behalf of the SCB Africa Section. The presentation identified challenges of biodiversity research in Africa and how professional societies such as the SCB can mitigate this.



Despite several efforts, we could not organize a regional congress, African Congress for Conservation Biology (ACCB), in 2022. We could not secure a cost-effective location in Namibia nor sufficient local organizing support in Kenya, despite the availability of local resources. Our efforts then shifted to Zimbabwe, where the Chapter assured of local resources to successfully organize the congress, but limited human capacity for a 2022 meeting. The SCB Zimbabwe Chapter and the SCB Africa Section Board will continue to discuss and plan towards a possible ACCB 2024.



In addition to hosting the 30th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB), between December 6 and 17, 2021, the SCB Africa Section retained the rights to host the 31st ICCB in Kigali, Rwanda in 2023. The theme and other activities planned originally for the 2021 congress are retained for the 2023 congress in-person. Members are encouraged to plan and attend this congress.

However, the ICCB 2021 was noted to have fewer than usual symposia and workshop proposal submissions from members of the host Section. We now advocate for more member engagement for the ICCB 2023, which would be held in July 23-27, 2023.

Recently, the Section Board leadership had conversations with the editorial board of *Conservation Biology* journal to address issues relating to diversity of authorship and parachute science. This conversation results in strengthening the relationship to increase the number of associate editors from Africa as well as some changes in the editorial policy of scientific publication that will address parachute science.



African Conservation Telegraph, ACT, the Section's official newsletter, published four issues in its 17th volume, which were released in March, June, October, and December 2022, respectively. The Section board is grateful to Dr. Murali Pai and Lalarisoa Rakotoarimino for their sustained efforts to manage the ACT newsletter. Dr. Pai continues his unflinching support and excellent service for this newsletter since its resuscitation about 10 years ago. For this reason, Murali was awarded the first Section Presidential Service award in 2022.

Strategic priority 2: Advance the application of conservation science to management, policy and education

In 2022, the SCB Africa Section successfully published a policy statement titled, “Salvaging Okomu National Park from Ruin: Proposals for Sustainability in Critical Times,” which addressed illegal logging in Okomu National Park southwestern Nigeria. This policy statement, which was authored by Dr. Stephen Awoyemi, a former SCB Africa Section President, and Prof. Emmanuel Aigbokhan of the University of Benin, Nigeria, was received by the Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and has spurred an internal investigation for which the SCB Nigeria Chapter is involved as a stakeholder. It also opened door of collaboration between the SCB Nigeria Chapter and the Nigerian government on the conservation of natural resources.

The Section Board recognizes the great work being done by Dr. Abraham Ekperusi, the Policy Committee Chair and the members of the Section Policy Committee. The Chair of the Section Policy Committee also represents the Section on the SCB Global Policy Committee. The Section is also grateful to Dr. Janette Wallis, who had represented the SCB Africa Section on the SCB Global Policy Committee until recently.



Strategic priority 3: Empower the SCB Africa Section, Chapters and Committees to build local, national & international capacity

The Section welcomes two new Board members in addition to a transition in Section leadership. The tenure of Israel Borokini as the Section President ends in December 2022, but he hands over to Badru Mugerwa as the new President starting in January 2023. I will continue to support the Section, albeit, behind the curtains. Dr. Adedotun Afolayan, the SCB Nigeria Chapter President, was elected as the next President-Elect. Adedotun also becomes the first woman to hold that position in the history of the SCB Africa Section. Also, Harrison Ngaaje is elected as the new Membership and Nominations Officer. Harrison is the CEO of Ajemalebu Self Help NGO in Cameroon and he also has an extensive record of international conservation policy and multinational conservation agreements. Likewise, the Section Board welcomes Clare Kyasiimire as the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Officer. Clare is a consultant for an NGO in Uganda and also serves as the Grants Coordinator for the SCB Chapters Committee. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the SCB Africa Section as its President for the past three years and eight months. It has been quite a journey of accomplishments and trail-blazing initiatives for the SCB Africa Section, and professional network expansion for me personally.



The Section Board is grateful to several volunteers who have served the SCB Africa Section in non-administrative positions. This includes Dr. Abraham Ekperusi, the Chair of the Section Policy Committee, and Judicaël Fomekong, Dr. Margaret Awuor Owuor, and Haytem Bouchri, members of the Policy Committee, James Munyawera, our Social Media Coordinator, Dr. Adrian Shrader, the Chair of the Section Graduate Student Research Award Committee, Dr. Janette Wallis, and Dr. Fatsuma Olaleru, a member of the Award Committee and assistant coordinator for the Young Women in Conservation Biology (YWCB) group. Other volunteers include Dr. Tsholofelo Lori, the Coordinator for the Section's Education Program, Lalarisoa Rakotoarimino, the assistant editor for ACT newsletter, all mentors for the 2022 e-mentoring program, and African representatives on the editorial boards of the three SCB journals.

This year, the Section leadership also initiated efforts to strengthen relationships between the SCB Africa Section and the SCB Chapters in Africa. In the first ever meeting, the Section President and the President-Elect met with the Chapter Presidents to discuss ways to strengthen the ties and to enhance sharing of information among Chapters. It is hopeful that the Section-Chapters leadership meetings would continue to mutually strengthen and benefit SCB in Africa. This is more crucial as the SCB restructuring places all Chapters under the Section management.

On the African continent, we have functional Chapters in Nigeria, Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda, Kenya, Cameroon, and Zimbabwe. Despite having a relatively large number of SCB members in South Africa, we are lacking in volunteers to serve on the Chapter leadership for the SCB South Africa Chapter.

The SCB Nigeria Chapter continues her giant strides in 2022 through a series of educational webinars for members. These webinars focus on topics such as SCB membership experience, the status and conservation of Nigerian flora, Application of GIS in biodiversity conservation and planning, and preventing sexual harassment and assault in field work. Additionally, the SCB Nigeria Chapter completed its official NGO registration with the Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission and also signed an MoU with GIS Konsult company on Green School projects in Nigeria.

Strategic priority 4: Build organizational capacity to maintain robust & sustainable economic & business models

The SCB Africa Section made significant progress towards the NGO registration in Rwanda. We compiled all documents needed for the registration and applied to the Ministry of Environment for a required supporting document for the registration. We eventually received a letter of support from the Ministry of Environment, but it turned out that we needed a different document from the Ministry and not a support letter. We are working to develop this document which would be reviewed by the SCB Legal Counsel before seeking an endorsement from the Ministry of Environment in Rwanda. It is hopeful that my successor will complete this NGO registration, following which we can open a bank account in a pan-African financial institution so that members can pay their membership dues without the hefty international transaction fees.

This year, the Section also started several working relationships with stakeholders in African biodiversity conservation. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Platform of the Ghent University, Belgium to foster a relationship that will increase engagement with the African Diaspora and facilitate human capacity in conservation science, education, and practice. We also have a working relationship with the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group which resulted in a \$2,000 donation towards the Africa Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium. The SCB Africa Section will continue to strengthen the ties with the ABCG and the African Wildlife Foundation to make significant impact on biodiversity conservation in Africa.

Up till 2021, SCB Global was the main source of revenue for the Africa Section; the funds come primarily from journal publications and membership dues. However, in 2022 and for the first time in the Section's history, we raised more revenue from fundraising than from dependence on the SCB global. As of December 30, 2022, the SCB Africa Section had raised a total of \$14,435 in revenue comprising \$6,000 from the SCB and \$8,435 from fundraising and other support. The \$8,435 includes financial support from the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group for the Africa Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium, and

\$6,435 from fundraising to support the African Graduate Student Research Award. We are grateful to the following 22 donors for their generous donations totaling \$1,535.00:

- Badru Mugerwa
- Dale Wright
- Martine Maron
- Judicaël Fomekong
- Marc Bosch
- Don Waller
- Maria Zubkova
- Peter R. Law
- Ann Holmes
- John F Mull
- Andrea Schreier
- Michelle L. Kissling
- Warren Sander
- Adam G Clause
- Carolyn Whitesell
- Julie S Viollaz
- K Yoganand
- Mary Peacock
- Pricila Iranah
- Thomas B Smith
- Theresa Laverty
- Israel Borokini

Additionally, the Forest Partners International, an NGO based in Pennsylvania, United States and operating in Liberia, donated \$4,900 for the student research award. We are sincerely grateful for these donations which will help strengthen the SCB Africa Section and support her programs towards building capacity for conservation science, education, and practice in Africa.

This revenue was spent to support the specific programs for which the SCB Africa Section received the donations. This includes \$500 each for 17 graduate student research awardees and an additional \$50 each as bank transfer fees for each transaction, website design and hosting, NACCB 2022 registration for the Africa Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium speakers, and 12 sponsored 2-year SCB memberships for the volunteer mentors for the e-mentoring program. We brought forward \$5,040.96 from 2021, which when added to the balance from 2022 budget (\$3,109.64), gives an overall balance of \$8,150.60. It is hopeful that as the SCB Africa Section continues to build strategic partnerships and engage members more effectively, we can diversify the Section's revenue base and provide more services and support for members.

Our primary social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) experienced considerable growth in 2022. This growth was especially observed after the announcement of the student research awards, which garnered significant attention this year. Compared to this time in 2021, our Twitter following has more than doubled, while our Facebook following has increased by more than 40%. This feat is connected with the illustrious efforts and dedication of James Munyawera as well as the public attention the advertisement of the Africa Graduate Student Research Award received. This year we also officially launched our Section's YouTube channel, which was initiated with content from the inaugural African Diaspora Biodiversity Symposium held during the 6th North American Congress for Conservation Biology, Reno, Nevada, and the IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress, Kigali, Rwanda. For the upcoming year, our ambitions are amplifying, with the launch of an Africa-and conservation-specific expert database- which is set to be launched in January 2023. This platform will allow members and non-members alike to create concise professional profiles and will help centralize and increase the visibility of relevant expertise on the African continent. Our hope is also that it will facilitate more intra-African networking among members and non-members, and serve as a launchpad for better public insights into conservation-related work across Africa.



<https://www.facebook.com/SCBAfrica/>



[@SCBAfrica](https://twitter.com/SCBAfrica)



<https://conbio.org/groups/sections/africa/>

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Strategic priority 5: Enhance services to meet current & potential member needs

SCB is a membership-based professional society, therefore membership services are an important part of the Society's mission. This is particularly important for African members and students, many of whom may not afford the membership dues. This is one of the reasons the Section's Gmail mailing list and social media platforms are open to all African conservation experts, regardless of their SCB membership status.

As a growing society, it is important to cater for minority groups, ensure that all voices are heard, and encourage adherence to basic principles of mutual respect among members. As a result, we created a Board position of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) and appointed Dr. Christine Wilkerson to help establish the Office and develop the DEIJ policy for the SCB Africa Section. We are grateful to Christine who worked assiduously to develop the DEIJ policy within the year and also organized a webinar to get general feedback from members on the policy.

The SCB Africa Section held the first ever annual business meeting outside of an ICCB on December 7, 2022. The meeting ran for three hours but no one was in a hurry to leave, due to the wealth and breadth of information shared during the meeting. We are grateful for the tremendous positive feedback we received from members. The annual business meeting also featured a presentation by Dr. Tony Lynam, the global SCB President on the restructuring of the society.



The Young Women in Conservation Biology (YWCB) award was officially presented in 2022 after a 6-year hiatus. The award was presented to Dr. Ito Archibong Joseph of University of Uyo, Nigeria for her admirable grassroots work on conservation in southern Nigeria. An award includes a commemorative plaque and 2-year SCB membership. Ito also gave a presentation during the 2022 Section annual business meeting. We hope to sustain this award as a traditionally biennial award to support early career women in conservation science and practice in Africa.

The SCB Africa Section also organized the 6th e-mentoring program in 2022, with the help of Dr. Tsholo Lori, its coordinator. This year, we received and matched 23 mentees with 16 volunteer mentors. The e-mentoring, which ran from May 26 and December 21, 2022, encompassing several areas including proposal writing, research designs, paper writing, and career support, among others. Surveys were administered to both mentors and mentees twice: once, midway in the mentoring program, and the other at the end of the mentoring program. The mentees reported that they:

- a) gained skills on grant writing and submitted a grant application,
- b) received feedback on their research thesis,
- c) were trained on writing literature review, and received feedback on their paper prior to submission to a journal,
- d) were educated on appropriate data analyses to use for their research work,
- e) were exposed to funding portals to explore for research funding,
- f) acquired skills to use R statistical software and Distance software for data analysis,

- g) were taught on using reference software for scientific paper reference management, and
- h) were trained on how to write competitive cover letter for graduate school applications, among many other valuable trainings.

Some of the mentors promised to keep working with the mentees even after the -mentoring program has ended.

The SCB Africa Section Board is grateful to the following mentors who dedicated their personal time to invest invaluable skills and training for the early career African students:

- Dr. Margaret Awuor Owuor (University of Bern, Switzerland)
- Dr. Oluwatobi Olaniyi (Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria)
- Dr. Jesugnon Tonouewa (University of Parakou, Republic of Benin)
- Dr. Florence Opondo (Laikipia University, Kenya)
- Dr. Matthew Ogwu (Appalachian State University, North Carolina, United States)
- Dr. Emmanuel Komolafe (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)
- Dr. Eric Djomo Nana (University of Oxford, United Kingdom)
- Dr. Tonjock Rosemary-Kinge (University of Bamenda, Cameroon)
- Dr. Tsholofelo Lori (BA Isago University, Botswana)
- Dr. Abebe Getahun Gubale (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)
- Dr. Fatsuma Olaleru (University of Lagos, Nigeria)
- Dr. Robin Johnson
- Dr. Mariana Carvalho (BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.)
- Dr. Abdullahi Ali (Hirola Conservational Program, Kenya)
- Dr. Jennifer Moore (Moore Ecological Analysis and Management LLC, United States), and
- Dr. Israel Borokini (University of California, Berkeley, United States)

Some of the mentors volunteered to support more than one mentee, since we did not have enough mentors for a 1:1 mentoring pair. This act of kindness and support is greatly appreciated.

The SCB Africa Section offered its African Graduate Student Research Award in 2022. This would be the second time it was offered, after its debut in 2020. This time, however, we opened the call to all African graduate students conducting research relating to biodiversity conservation science and management in Africa. We received 132 applications while we have funding for just six awards, therefore, we organized a fundraising event to increase the possible number of awards. We received a total of \$6,435.00 which was added to the Section's \$3,000.00 to give 17 awards this year, compared to just six in 2020. The fundraising drive was well received and we are again grateful to the 22 individual donors and the Forest Partners International who supported this student research award. Further, some of the donors recommended that the Section should organize this fundraising drives annually and they pledged to continue to support the research award.

The Section Board congratulates the 17 awardees of the 2022 African Graduate Student Research Award:

- Anya D. Abeh (Cameroon)
- Amos Chege (Kenya)
- Marwa Hrizi (Tunisia)
- Tenita Padayachee (South Africa)
- Adedoyin Oladeji (Nigeria)
- Nelson Bukamba (Uganda)
- Gboyega Awoyemi (Nigeria)
- Christine Mwendu (Kenya)
- Tolotra Andriamanantena (Madagascar)
- Michael Ayeh (Ghana)
- Blessing Ojomah (Nigeria)
- Blessings Chingagwe (Malawi)

- Coleen Mumbang (Cameroon)
- Caroline Hannweg (South Africa)
- Geoffrey Muhanguzi (Uganda)
- Houangninan Midinoudewa (Republic of Benin)
- Joas Makwati (Tanzania)

What can you do?

As the SCB Africa Section continues to advance, it is clear that the Section Board, comprising voluntary Officers, may have challenges in sustaining the various activities to benefit members. Therefore, we continue to make a clarion call for members to step up and engage with the Society more meaningfully. We are looking for members to volunteer in any of the following ways:

- a) Members of the Awards Committee for the African Graduate Student Research Awards,
- b) Instructors for the professional development workshop series under the Education Program,
- c) Leadership positions on the SCB Chapters in your country, for example in the SCB South Africa Chapter which has become defunct due to no commitment from members in that country to take on the leadership positions,
- d) Experts on bylaws and constitution reviews for professional societies,
- e) Donors for the African Graduate Student Research Award, and to increase African participation in the ICCB 2023 through travel grants,
- f) Researchers to collaborate with the SCB Africa Section to apply for research grants such as the U.S. NSF grants to increase capacity on African conservation science and practice,
- g) Volunteers to support the ACT newsletter either as contributors or editors,
- h) Volunteers to help increase SCB presence in the Francophone countries,
- i) Volunteers for various roles and tasks for hosting the ICCB 2023, and
- j) Volunteers to help host and/or organize the ACCB in 2024.

Your support and contribution (of time and money) will make significant impact in achieving the goals of the SCB Africa Section.

Appendix 2

Board of Directors, SCB Africa Section 2022



Dr. Israel Borokini

President of the Board of Directors, SCB Africa Section

Israel is a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Berkeley and a David H Smith Conservation Research Fellow. He is also a fellow with the current assessment on the Sustainable Use of Wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) of the United Nations. Israel completed his Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology at the University of Nevada, Reno. He also served on the technical expert group on invasive species management for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). His research interests include conservation biogeography, spatial phylogenetics, plant ecology, and ethnobotany.



Badru Mugerwa

President-Elect, SCB Africa Section

Badru is PhD candidate at the Technical University of Berlin and Leibniz Institute of Zoo and Wildlife Research. Badru is a founder and director of a Community Based Conservation Organization working with local communities to stop poaching and other threats to wildlife in Uganda. He is also the chair of the African golden cat conservation and working group. His conservation work focuses on the interactions between people and biodiversity. The goal is to understand the threats and identify working community-based threat reduction interventions. Other research interests include ecological

modeling, statistics, bush meat poaching, forest degradation, remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems.

Dr. Margaret Awuor Owuor

Education and Science Officer



Dr. Margaret Owuor is a National Geographic Explorer and ecologist with a bias for marine and coastal ecosystems. Owuor lectures and heads the Department of Hydrology and Aquatic Sciences at South Eastern Kenya University. Owuor holds a Ph.D in Marine and Coastal Management from the University of Cadiz, Spain. Owuor's research work on mapping and valuation of ecosystem services has also led to her winning grants from different organization like MASMA grant by Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, the National Geographic Early Career grant to map the flow of mangrove ecosystem services in Mtwapa Creek and National Geographic Support for Women Grant (Lyda Hill) and WWF Russell E. Train fellowship on Ocean Management to carry out her project on valuation and mapping of mangrove ecosystem services in Mida Creek using the choice experiments and the matrix approach.



Dr. Michelle Fasona

Financial Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Michelle has a Ph.D. in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Her Ph.D. research used the interactive techniques of remote sensing, geographic information system, conservation biogeography and landscape genetics for large mammals in selected forest reserves in South-West, Nigeria.



Frowin Becker
Information Officer

Frowin is an early career conservation scientist from Namibia, busy completing a PhD in Conservation Biology at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Over the years, his research has focused on conservation technology and he is currently concentrating his efforts on using sound (particularly avian sound) to monitor environmental changes. Since 2016, Frowin has been working for the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness as a field technician and data scientist, helping the project collate a biodiversity baseline for the Okavango River basin.



Dr. James Watuwa
Membership and Nominations Officer

Dr. James Watuwa is a wildlife veterinarian and conservationist. He earned his bachelor's degree in veterinary medicine at Makerere University Uganda. He currently works as a zoo veterinarian at the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (Entebbe-Zoo), and he is the founder and CEO of Elgon Wildlife Conservation Organization, with a mission to promote biodiversity and wildlife conservation.



Dr. Christine Wilkerson

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Officer

Christine is a conservation biologist and carnivore ecologist, and is the co-founder of Black Mammalogists Week. Her research interests include human-wildlife conflict, carnivore movement ecology, multidisciplinary GIS, and using participatory methods for more effective and inclusive conservation outcomes. She has spent the last decade working in conservation biology and natural resource management around the USA and in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, and has also served in various capacities as an informal educator. Her current research focuses on socio-ecological drivers of carnivore movement, conflict, and coexistence in the Bay Area and in Kenya. Christine is appointed as the Section's DEI Officer to help develop the Office and the Section's DEI policy.



Dr. Janette Wallis

Member-at-large #1 & YWCB Director

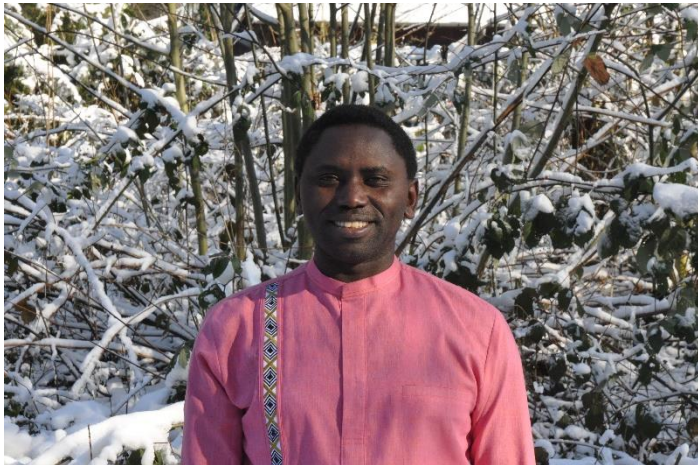
Janette is a primatologist whose primary interest is chimpanzees, baboons, and other African primates. She serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the IUCN journal *African Primates* and is Co-Vice Chair of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group's Africa Section. In addition, Janette is a Scientific Advisor for the Plastic Pollution Coalition and serves on the boards of Kids Saving the Rainforest and the Tonkolili Chimpanzee Project. She is the Executive Director of the Kasokwa-Kityedo Forest Project in Uganda, where her research focuses on behavioral ecology of chimpanzees and the various effects of forest fragmentation. She also has an ongoing interest in the topics of primate conservation, disease transmission, and tourism.



Dr. Jean Bernard Ndayambaje

Member-at-large #2 & Conference Coordinator

Bernard is a Senior Lecturer and the Head of Chemistry Department at the University of Rwanda. He completed his Ph.D. in Biotechnology at the Anna University, India. His research interests include extraction and purification of biologically active compounds from natural resources, screening for therapeutic uses against various disorders, and detailed study on the molecular mechanism of action using various cell-based assay systems. Additionally, he also conducts research on the enzyme-assisted extraction of important compounds from spices and fruits for crop improvement and disease resistance.



Jean Aimé Ruticumugambi

Member-at-large #3 & Student representative

Aimé is a landscape ecologist fascinated by the patterns and determinants of species richness and composition in time and space in both natural and human-modified landscapes and largely in tropical agricultural landscapes. Aimé is a lecturer at Rwanda Polytechnic, Integrated Polytechnic Regional College, Kitabi, Rwanda, and he is on a study leave for doctoral research in Bioscience Engineering at Ghent University, Belgium. Jean Aimé is a member of various professional organizations, and he is currently the Secretary of the SCB Rwanda Chapter. He is also an honorary research fellow at the Center for Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management, University of Rwanda.