The Social Science Working Group (SSWG) of the Society for Conservation Biology invites those of you interested in species and ecosystem conservation to participate in the 24th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB), the 2010 meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB). SCB is an international professional organization with more than 10,000 members around the globe (see www.conbio.org for more information).

The meeting is being held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (near the beautiful Canadian Rockies) on July 3-7, 2010. The theme of the meeting is "Conservation for a Changing Planet." Because of the focus on environmental change, the meeting will highlight the importance of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to conservation.

The call for proposals for symposia, workshops, discussion groups, and short courses is now open, and the deadline is October 14th. The call for individual abstracts (for oral or poster presentations) opens on October 7th, with a January 20th deadline. Contributions from all fields of conservation research and practice are welcome, including natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

The SCB’s Social Science Working Group (SSWG) is making particular efforts to encourage social scientists to consider this invitation, in the hopes of widening SCB’s international network of social and policy researchers who are doing work in applied conservation. SSWG is a global community of conservation professionals interested in the application of social science to the conservation of biological diversity. With nearly 700 members in 65 countries, SSWG is home to social scientists (anthropologists, economists, historians, human geographers, political scientists, psychologists, sociologists, and many others), ethicists, natural scientists, and conservation practitioners (governmental, nongovernmental, and business sectors).

Since 2005, SSWG has worked closely with the SCB annual meeting organizing committees to stimulate social science contributions for the meetings. In each year since then, the prevalence of social science and integrative conservation, reflecting the marriage of social and natural science, has increased significantly. We hope to continue that trend in Edmonton, with strong social science and integrative contributions that will promote collaborations between social and natural scientists interested in conservation issues that transcend location- or case-specific application.

As we head into 2010, SSWG is especially trying to engage conservation scientists (natural and social) in the questions raised by the recent paper “One Hundred Questions of Importance to the Conservation of Global Biological Diversity” (Sutherland et al. 2009, Conservation Biology vol. 23, no. 3, pp. 557-567). This paper is an attempt to identify questions of critical importance to the future of conservation practice and policy, and we are particularly interested in researchers and practitioners who are themselves interested in engaging these questions.

Additional information on the meeting, including links to instructions for submitting proposals, is available here: www.conbio.org/2010

If you have questions concerning the meeting, please contact Rich Wallace, SSWG vice president and program committee chair, at rwallace@ursinus.edu.

To learn more about the SCB Social Science Working Group, please visit http://www.conbio.org/workinggroups/sswg/.