

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2

A note on the ECCB Conference from our President

PG. 3

A review from the last newsletter, and a quick overview of the Plastic Free TLV campaign headed by our communications head Dr. Tania Bird

PG. 4

We highlight Iris Hahn of the Society for Protection of Nature, Israel on Pg. 4. We also have a few, new Israeli conservation articles!

PG. 5

All future SCB conferences and meetings, plus upcoming calls for proposals can be found on pg. 5



Photo Credit: Dr Uri Roll

The price of
anything is the
amount of life
you exchange for
it

Hengry David Thoreau



Impressions from Jyväskylä - the 5th European Congress of Conservation Biology

This past June the [5th European Congress of Conservation Biology](#) took place in Jyväskylä, Finland. It was attended by over 800 delegates including 10 Israelis. The conference itself was excellent - many interesting lectures, discussions, workshops and events. The main theme of the meeting was planetary wellbeing and consequently the CBD, IPEBES and biodiversity offsets featured in the plenaries. Beyond that there were many other topics representing the truly interdisciplinary field of conservation. Some research presented dealt with the effectiveness of conservation actions and measuring these, perspectives on the natural environment and human wellbeing, how different stakeholders could be better involved with conservation - from global policy-makers to local communities, new tools such as genomics and culturomics were presented and much more.



One of the nice additions to this meeting was having an in-house cartoonist that followed the meeting - [Seppo Leinonen](#). An extremely nice guy who drew elaborate cartoons following all of the plenaries (while the speakers were speaking...) and in the breaks between lectures - drew for whomever wanted a cartoon based on their conservation work / story. At times, the queue to get your cartoon drawn was even longer than that to get coffee and that is saying a lot!

We also had lots of fun in the evenings - enjoying the midnight sun in Finland, nice food and drinks, the plethora of lakes, and looking for flying squirrels in the city park. Hope you all will be able to join the SCB crowd in the upcoming [ICCB 2019](#) in Malaysia, next summer!

Uri Roll



PLASTIC FREE TEL AVIV!

The Straw Free campaign has gone national! Now called Straw Free Israel, this grass roots campaign is spreading awareness about the problems of single use plastic, and empowering people and businesses to adopt simple solutions themselves. Due to the success in Tel Aviv, SFI is now working with volunteers and businesses in Beer Sheva,



Haifa and Jerusalem, Pardes Hanna with more locations all the time. The objectives are simple; customers can ask waiters to #gostrawfree and businesses can commit to providing straws only on request. Together these actions can reduce the 1-5 million straws a day that we currently use in Israel alone, each of which will exist for over 200 years.

Businesses such as Loveat in Habima, and Rega Cafe in Sheinkin are among the 40+ businesses that are already seeing a positive response from their customers, and are saving money by reducing the use of straws. In addition, Straw Free Israel is selling reusable metal straws at these cafes and others, raising funds for the campaign and providing a sustainable alternative for customers to keep and bring with them whenever they go for a drink.

The campaign has been actively working with volunteers at street fairs, and public events and with school groups to inspire the younger generation to think about plastic consumption. A new website is planned for the campaign, which will easily show customers all the businesses that have joined the campaign. Their plans are also to expand their portfolio of alternative straws, such as edible straws, glass straws, and sustainably produced disposable straws to offer as a take away option for businesses. In the meantime, visit their facebook page and check out the pinned post to find out more about their straws, and the Notes sections to find out how you can join the campaign and help fight plastic pollution! The first step is the last straw.



[Straw Free Israel Site Here](#)

"Save the date: the 2nd Israeli Conference for Conservation Science will be held on the 16th-17th of April 2019 in the Technion, Haifa"

Build your own '[Conservation Connection](#)' with the Society of Conservation Biology. It's an online community platform designed for SCB members to collaborate, share and connect with one another!

And for up-to-date news, sign up to the [SCB blog on their website](#).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Troupin, D. & Carmel Y. 2018. Conservation planning under uncertainty in urban development and vegetation dynamics. *PLoS ONE* 13:e0195429. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0195429

Shamoon, H., Maor, R., Saltz, D. & Dayan, T. 2018. Increased mammal nocturnality in agricultural landscapes results in fragmentation due to cascading effects. *Biological Conservation* 226:32-41. doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2018.07.028

Roll, U. & Berger-Tal, O. 2018. Gritty until proven irritant - what makes a species invasive? Comment on Cassinello (2018). *Conservation Letters*. doi.org/10.1111/conl.12597

Barocas, A., Hefner, R., Ucko, M., Merkle, J.A. & Geffen, E. 2018. Behavioral adaptations of a large carnivore to human activity in an extremely arid landscape. *Animal Conservation*. doi.org/10.1111/acv.12414

Perl, R.G.B., Geffen, E., Malka, Y., Barocas, A., Renan, S., Vences, M. & Gafny, S. 2018. Population genetic analysis of the recently rediscovered Hula painted frog (*Latonia nigriventer*) reveals high genetic diversity and low inbreeding. *Scientific Reports* 8:5588. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-23587-w

SPOTLIGHT ON: IRIS HAHN, CEO OF SPNI

Named '100 most influential people in Israel' by [Marker Magazine](#)



Credit: Tomer Apelbaum

I hold a BA in Natural Sciences and Law, and an MA in Urban and Regional Planning, specializing in environmental planning. Throughout my life, I have been involved in various fields of nature preservation. I began my career with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) as a teacher-soldier, and years later, I moved into environmental planning, working as the director of the Planning Department in the Ministry of Environmental Protection. I also worked for two years in the private sector as an independent planner and lawyer.

Despite its small size, the State of Israel is characterized by exceptional biological diversity on an international scale. In addition, Israel will soon become the most densely populated country in the Western world. These two factors, coupled with constant pressure for development, presents a profound challenge in the effort to preserve Israel's nature. The planning arena is, therefore, an important key in the effort to preserve open spaces of a size, continuity and quality that will ensure the preservation of nature in Israel. However, preserving the open spaces is not enough, and the next step is land management in a manner that will preserve biodiversity for the future as well. In recent years, we have also been working to preserve nature and biodiversity in marine habitats, which are very much threatened by various development initiatives.

SPNI is Israel's leading, oldest and largest nature preservation organization. Since its establishment in 1953, SPNI has been active in a variety of fields for the conservation of Israel's biodiversity: influencing decision makers in the planning committees, the Knesset, the government and the legal arena; ongoing formal and informal educational activities for all ages; and public campaign activities. The preservation of biodiversity in Israel presents a crucial challenge, in which SPNI, as a civil society organization with a wide arrange of professional capabilities, plays a significant and leading role.

Announcements, Training, & Scholarships



GET FUNDING!

UPCOMING GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

01

[David H. Smith](#)

[Conservation Fellowship](#)

02

[Bioinformatics](#)

[Analysis for
Conservation](#)

[Genomics](#) (October
10-19 2018)

03

[Other Smithsonian-Mason
School of Conservation
courses](#)

04

Morris Kahn Marine
Research Station
Annual Seminar (Nov.
21)

The Zoological Society in London will be hosting between the 22nd- 23rd of November a symposium on [Linking behaviour to populations and communities: how can behavioural ecology inform conservation?](#) Registration is still open.

The [Conservation Marketing & Engagement Congress](#) (#ConsMark2018) is taking place **25-27 October 2018** at George Mason University - Arlington Campus, Arlington, VA, USA. [Registration](#) is open until **16 September**.