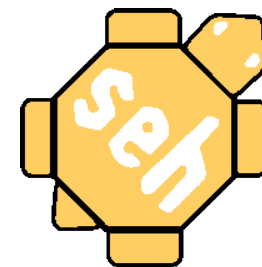


SEH Conservation Committee update - most recent work

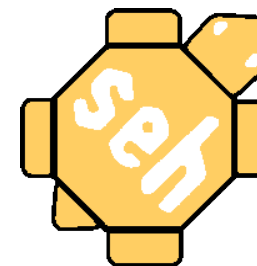
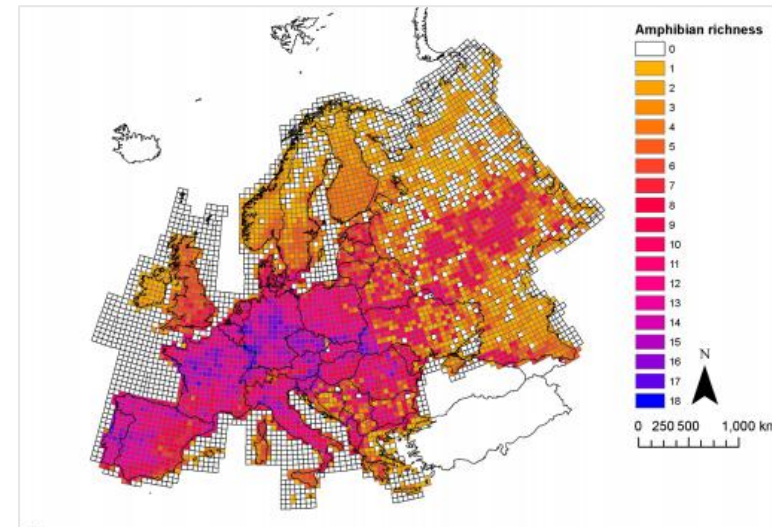
Dr Tony Gent
Chair of SEHCC



Conservation Committee

History

- Start
 - Founded 1981
 - First meeting: Zürich, Switzerland: 13-15 November 1981
 - Primary focus for herp conservation in Europe
- Focus
 - Species/ Habitat assessments
 - Bern Convention
 - 'On-the-spot' appraisals
 - Case files
 - Bern Action Plans
- Geographic scope
 - Mapping committee area
- Semi-autonomous - budget
- Changes
 - Via SEH Council
 - Increased role of national bodies
 - Capacity of members



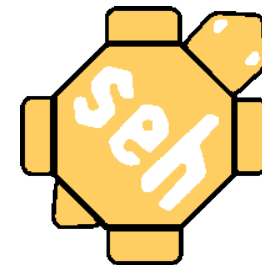
Conservation Committee

Current position: proposed mission statement

SEHCC is a Committee of members of *Societas Europaea Herpetologica* (SEH) who provide the focus for the Society's actions and activities relating to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

- Maintains an **overview of conservation** activities/ issues for herpetofauna throughout Europe
- Committee drawn from a **wide geographic range** with country 'representatives'
- **Exchanges knowledge** with European herpetologists and worldwide through consulting, conservation actions, meetings, email exchange, etc and input to the European Herpetological Congress
- Identifies **priority species and issues** especially where **Committee can make a difference** through the Society or through working with others, e.g.
 - Habitats assessments
 - Assessment of species status
 - Promoting research
- Providing herpetological expertise and input to **European policy** work: membership of European Habitats Forum, liaison with EC and Bern Convention
- Maintaining and developing **contacts** with national societies and assisting networking and **development of shared projects** across Europe.

SEHCC aims to provide support and advice and add value through developing/ formalising a collective response



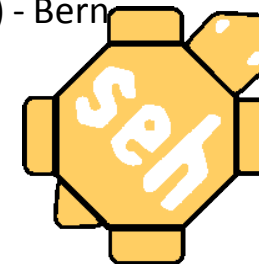
Conservation Committee

Members

- Council
- 'Task force'
 - Chair
 - Tony Gent (United Kingdom); EHF representative/
Monitoring,
 - Board
 - Ronald Zollinger (Netherlands)
 - Dan Cogalniceanu (Romania)
 - Tom Kirschey (Germany)
 - Raoul Manenti (Italy)
- Country reps
 - Cesar Ayres (Spain); Non-native species
 - Lars Briggs (Denmark)
 - Trent Garner (UK) -Diseases
 - Goran Nilson (Sweden)
 - Jelka Crnobrnjaq-Isailovic (Serbia)
 - Balint Halpern (Hungary) – Cons. grant
 - Yannis Ioannidis (Greece); SEHCC webmaster



- Katja Paboljsaj (Slovenia) Management of Natura 2000 sites
- Riinu Rannap (Estonia)
- Stefano Scali (Italy)
- Ulrich Schulte (Germany)
- Benedikt Schmidt (Switzerland) – Bern/ Diseases
- Jean-Pierre Vacher (France) - Bern



Conservation Committee

Meetings

55: Ljubljana 2008

56: Kusidasi 2009

57: Frankfurt 2010

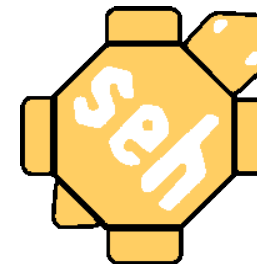
58: Luxemburg 2011 – monitoring & FCs talks

59: Budapest Zoo 19th May 2012 and Viper Centre, Kiskunsag National park 20th May 2012

60: London Zoo, London : Jan 2013

61: Veszprém, Hungary Saturday 24th August 2013

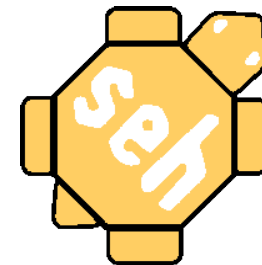
62: Institute for biological research "Sinisa Stankovic", Belgrade, Serbia 28 & 29 June 2014



Conservation Committee

Species issues

- Conservation actions for European pond turtles – a summary of current efforts in distinct European countries Uwe Fritz and Ylenia Chiari *Herpetology Notes, volume 6: 105 (2013)* (published online on 22 March 2013)
- Golden salamander – Italy golden Alpine salamander, *Salamandra atra aurorae* The Natura 2000 site "Altopiano dei Sette Comuni"
- Meadow viper – Hungary LIFE project/ Romania serious problems with important sites under agricultural pressure.



Conservation Committee

Less via SEH, as more done locally

Conservation grants scheme

SEHCC Lead: Balint

Conservation status and threats of westernmost populations of the meadow lizard (*Darevskia praticola*)

Project leader: Jelena Ćorović

Country : Serbia

- Study the distribution range and population status (density, sex ratio, age structure, body condition, level of infestation by parasites) of westernmost populations of the species
- Assess potential threats (negative human impact on preferred habitats).
- Help to build more precise Red List assessment (current IUCN status is Near Threatened and is known for its small and fragmented distribution range in Europe)

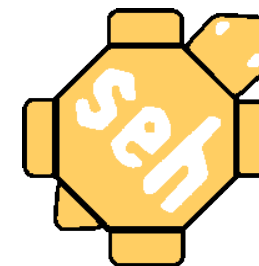


Reproductive biology, feeding habits and conservation of the Sicilian pond turtle *Emys trinacris*

Project leader Dario Ottonello PhD student, DAIS - Dept. of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics, Ca' Foscari University Venice,

Country: Italy, Sicily

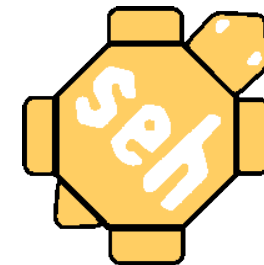
- Recently separated from *Emys orbicularis*, *E. trinacris* is endemic to Sicily.
- Categorised globally as Data Deficient and as endangered in the Italian Red List.
- The project has a goal of collecting data usable for defining IUCN status, including population estimation through capture-mark-recapture (CMR) assessing abundance and population structure
- studying habitat use, feeding habits and reproductive biology.



Conservation Committee

Action plans- list the original five

- Contractor (subcontracted to HCT) – submitted in 2006
- Query where going with these?
- Enquiry to party states
 - Replies from Estonia , Switzerland, France, NL, UK ... promises from others!
- SEHCC members input to Bern Convention Standing Committee 2012
- EC plan on midwife toads (via national organisations)

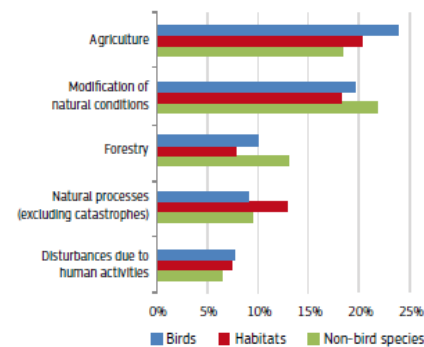


Conservation Committee

Prioritisation exercise: species/ issues

- IUCN red lists (2009) give ‘conservation priorities’
- ... Art 17 report lists status and key issues ...
- ... (& Bern Expert Group)
- SEHCC Criteria: wide geographic range/ different issues SEH can interact with
- Initiated Summer 2014 (early draft)
- Developing ‘country level’ reporting in SEHCC to identify issues

Art 12 & 17 reporting:
European Union, 2015.



Frequency of pressures and threats on terrestrial habitat types and species

Table 4. Red List Status (European Regional level) of reptiles by taxonomic family

Order	Family	Total*	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC	DD	% Threatened
Squamata	Agamidae	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
	Amphibomidae	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Anguillidae	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
	Boidea	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Coleophidae	27	0	1	0	2	23	1	3.7
	Gekkonidae	8	0	0	0	1	7	0	0
	Lacertidae	64	6	8	5	11	34	0	29.7
	Scincidae	12	0	1	0	1	10	0	8.3
	Troglodytidae	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Viperidae	10	0	1	3	0	6	0	40
Testudines	Emydidae	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Geomydidae	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	50
	Testudinidae	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	33.3
Total		139	6	11	10	18	92	2	19.4

*Does not include species closed as Not Applicable (NA).

Table 5. Threatened reptile species at the European and EU 27 level*. Most of the species listed below are endemic to Europe (these species not endemic to Europe are marked with an asterisk (*))

Family	Genus	Species	Common Name	Red List status
BASILISCA	<i>Basiliscus</i>	<i>basiliscus</i>	European Common Lizard	EN
		<i>eximius</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>geronius</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>iscariot</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>obsoletus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>obsoletus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>obsoletus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>obsoletus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>obsoletus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>obsoletus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
LACERTIDAE	<i>Lacerta</i>	<i>agilis</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>audaci</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caerulea</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>chalcidica</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
SCINCIDAE	<i>Scincus</i>	<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN
		<i>caucasicus</i>	Common Lizard	EN

* Species listed as NE (Not Endemic) in the EU 27 do not occur in the region.

Table 4. Red List Status (European Regional level) of amphibians by taxonomic family

Order	Family	Total*	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC	DD	% Threatened	
Anura	Alytidae	9	0	0	2	3	4	0	22.2	
	Bombinatoridae	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	33.3	
	Bufonidae	6	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	
	Hylidae	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	
	Pelobatidae	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	
	Pelobatidae	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
	Ranidae	21	1	3	2	2	13	0	28.6	
	Caudata	Plethodontidae	8	0	1	3	4	0	0	50
		Proteidae	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	100
	Salamandridae		25	1	1	3	4	16	0	20
Total		83	2	6	11	14	49	1	22.9	

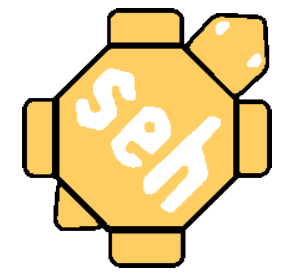
* Does not include species closed as Not Applicable (NA).

Table 5. Threatened amphibian species at the European and EU 27 level*. All species listed below are endemic to Europe

Family	Genus	Species	Common Name	Red List status
BASILISCA	<i>Basiliscus</i>	<i>geronius</i>	European Common Lizard	EN
BOMBINATORIDAE	<i>Bombinator</i>	<i>pedipodus</i>	Mountain Brook Frog	EN
BOMBINATORIDAE	<i>Bombinator</i>	<i>pedipodus</i>	Mountain Brook Frog	EN
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BOMBINATORIDAE	<i>Bombinator</i>	<i>pedipodus</i>	Mountain Brook Frog	EN
BOMBINATORIDAE	<i>Bombinator</i>	<i>pedipodus</i>	Mountain Brook Frog	EN

* Species listed as NE (Not Endemic) in the EU 27 do not occur in the region.

Reptiles: Cox & Temple (2009)
Amphibians: Temple & Cox (2009)



Conservation Committee

SEHCC Prioritisation exercise: species/ issues

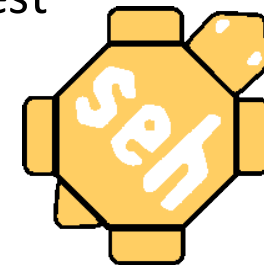
Provisional 'Top 10'

Species

- Great crested newt complex *Triturus cristatus complex*
- Meadow viper *Vipera ursinii*, especially Romanian sub-species *V.u. moldavica & rakosiensis*
- Golden Alpine Salamander (*Salamandra atra aurorae*)
- Green turtle *Chelonia mydas*
- Olm *Proteus anguinus*

Issues

- Non-natives, especially fish and crayfish & small Indian mongoose
- Disease: Bsal and Ranavirus
- Habitat management; avoiding harm/ communication of best practice on conservation areas
- Agriculture and funding that results in damaging activities
- Growth agenda and low societal value for nature

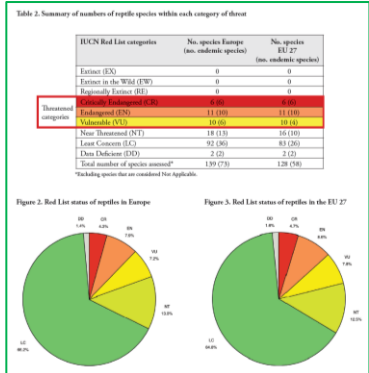
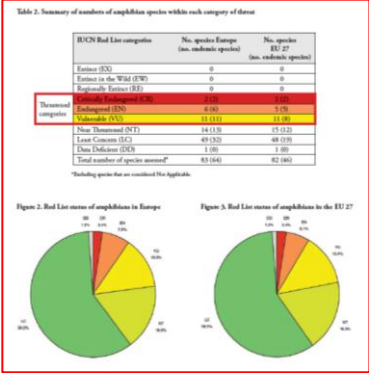


Conservation Committee

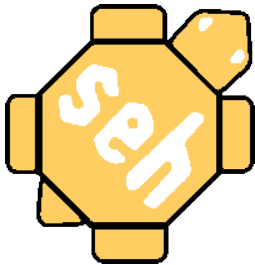


Red Listing

- Liaison with IUCN & input to European Red List
- Issues with Red Listing methods
 - National
 - Regional
 - Global
- Workshop at SEH Congress in Poland



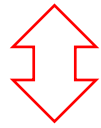
SEHCC Lead: Jelka



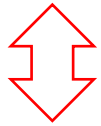
Conservation Committee

Non-natives

Pathway

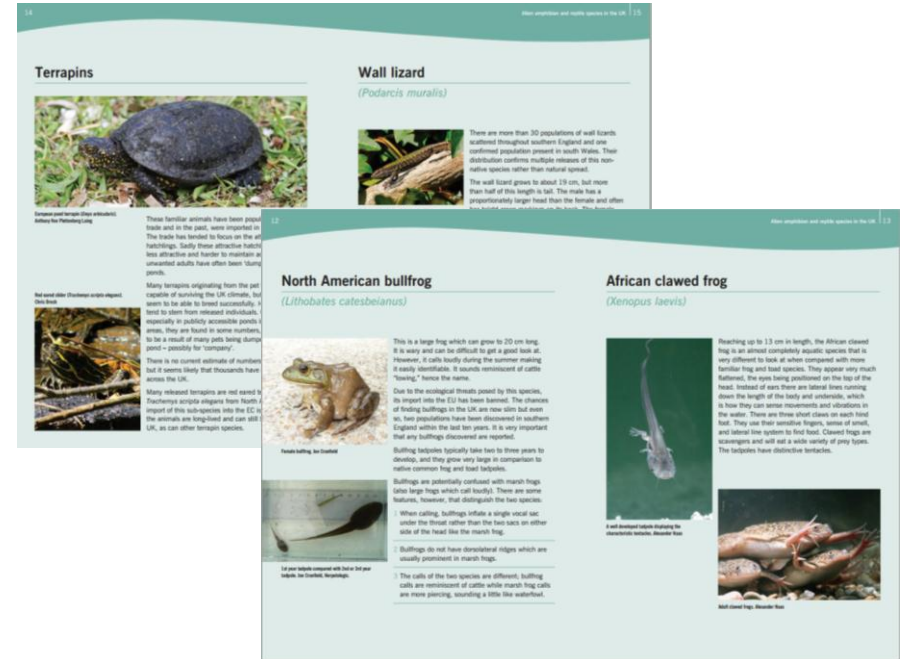


Risk assessment

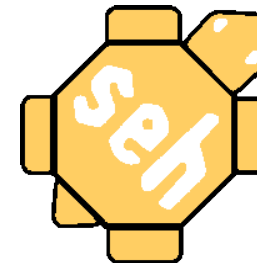


Management

- Highly significant issue:
 - Esp. in aquatic environment: fish, crayfish, plants
 - Terrestrial species: Mongoose – urgent action
- Specific SEH issues:
 - Terrapins in Spain (& disease issue)
 - Comments to DG Env re. Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014 and species listing
 - Clear link between non-native species and diseases



SEHCC Lead: Cesar

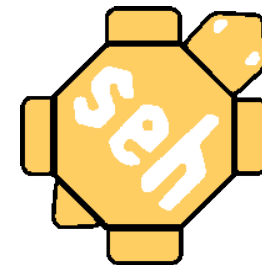


Conservation Committee

Disease

- **Chytridiomycosis:** *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd)/
B. salamandrivorans (Bsal)
- **Ranaviruses**
- Query to EC regarding link to Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014
- Research on pathways of diseases
 - Link between pet trade and diseases
 - E.g. research of pathways in the Netherlands focuses at airports – but does not address issues arising from imports by road.
- SEH-CC aims to promote cooperation between countries and authorities

SEHCC Leads: Beni/ Trent

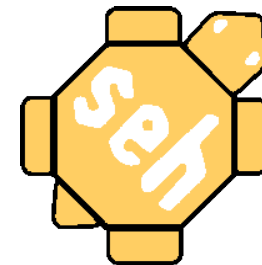


Conservation Committee

Policy

- Bern:—
 - *wider than EC 28 & more scope for NGO interaction*
 - Green toad in France
- EC via EHF: —
 - REFIT (fitness check of ‘Nature Directives’)
 - Green infrastructure/ No-net loss
 - Agriculture
 - Invasive non-native species
 - Management of N2K sites
 - SEH input to biogeographic seminars (e.g. Atlantic Biogeog region) & workshops

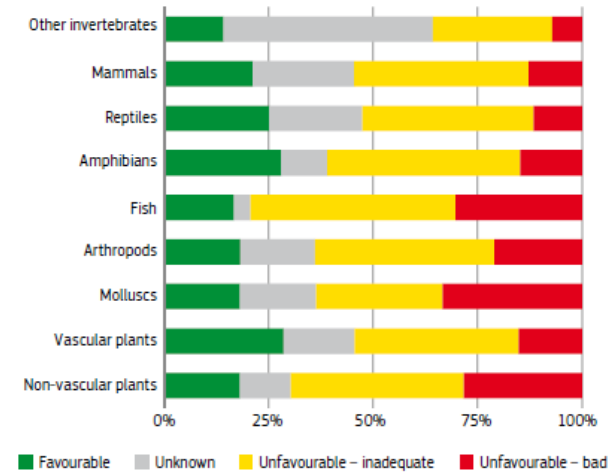
SEHCC Leads: Bern: Beni/ Jean-Pierre;
EC/ EHF: Tony/ Katja



Conservation Committee

Monitoring & surveillance/ FRVs

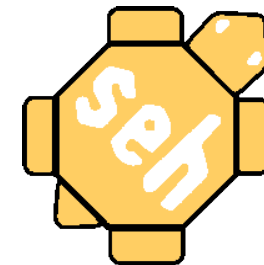
- Workshop: Monitoring of amphibians and reptiles in the frame of the Habitats Directive, (European Congress 2013)
- EHF/ EC Reporting Expert Group
- Input (via national organisations) to Article 17 reporting
- *State of European Nature report*



Conservation status of Habitats Directive species by taxonomic group



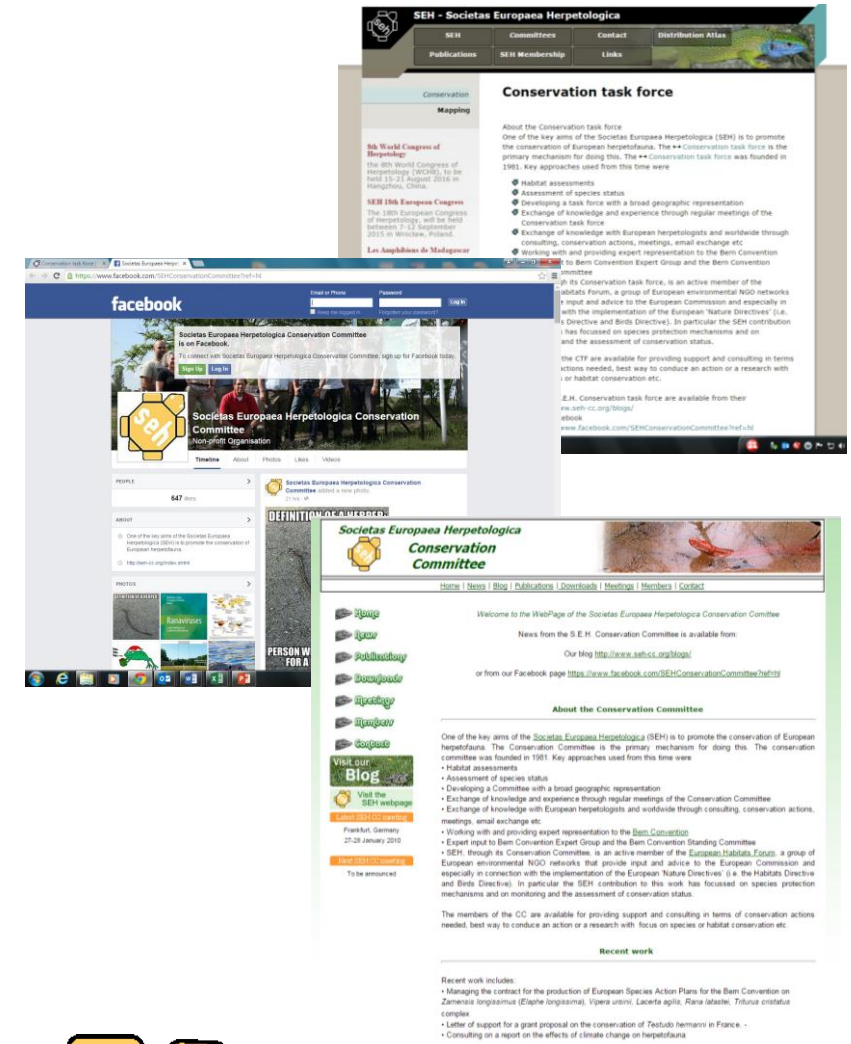
SEHCC Leads: Tony / Katja



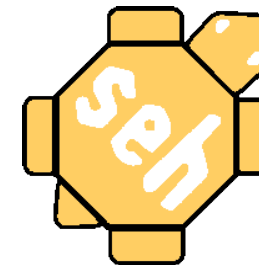
Conservation Committee

Communication

- Public/ networking
 - Facebook
 - Website: SEH & SEHCC
 - <http://www.seh-herpetology.org/Committees/Conservation>
 - <http://www.seh-cc.org/>
- Specialist - Congresses: conservation focused workshops
 - Monitoring / conservation status assessment
 - Red-listing



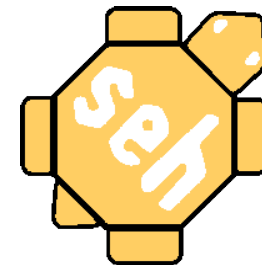
SEHCC Leads: Beni/ Tom/ Yannis/ Katja/ Jelka



Conservation Committee

Future

- Identify and communicate issues
 - Suggest solutions
- Focus on Society's needs
 - Widen geographic representation
 - New members
- Conservation grants
- Collaborative research
- Bern/ EHF
- Communication
- Network across countries



Conservation Committee

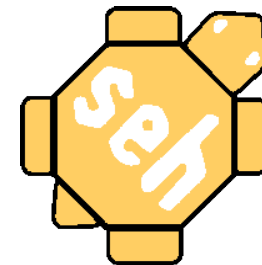
Contact

Dr Tony Gent
Chair SEH CC

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www.arc-trust.org



Conservation Committee