SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2010 AWARDS

Washington, D.C.: The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) is honoring five individuals and one organization for their outstanding contributions to advancing the science and practice of conserving Earth’s biological diversity. Recipients of the 2010 awards were nominated by members of SCB, selected by the Awards Committee, and approved by the Board of Governors. The awards will be presented on **July 03, 2010** during the 24th annual meeting of SCB in Edmonton, Canada. Steve Beissinger, Chair of the Awards Committee, noted that all of the 2010 awardees are recognized “not only for their extraordinary contributions to conservation biology research, but also for applying scientific findings to improved conservation management and policy.”

The **Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award** recognizes the innovative application of science to resource management and policy by scientists. The 2010 LaRoe awardee is Professor **David Schindler**, Killam Memorial Chair and Professor of Ecology in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta. He is honored for his extraordinary scientific contributions to the understanding of aquatic ecosystems, biogeochemistry, water security, and climate change, and for inspiring education and engagement of the public. Prof. Schindler's pioneering approach to whole-lake manipulation identified the role of phosphorus in eutrophication to cause the elimination of phosphates in laundry detergent.

SCB selected four recipients of its **Distinguished Service Award**:

**Idelisa Bonnelly de Calventi** is a retired professor at Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, and is honored for her extraordinary contributions to the development of policy and management strategies that promote marine conservation in the Caribbean region. Prof. Idelisa Bonnelly is the mother of marine conservation for the Dominican Republic. She has made strong contributions to the advancement of science-based conservation in this country by helping to usher through environmental laws, designate several protected areas, and teach two generations of conservation biologists within the country. She has also been an avid promoter for women in sciences and has been a role model for hundreds of young Latin American researchers.

**Muhammad Mumtaz Malik** is the Chief Conservator of Wildlife, Pakistan Forestry Dept. and is being recognized for his 40 years of dedicated commitment to conserving biodiversity in Pakistan. As a career Government Officer since 1967, Dr. Malik has served his country in a number of capacities from Forest Ranger at the Pakistan National Forest Institute to various Divisional Forest Officer positions in the Northwest Frontier Province to his current position as Chief Conservator of Wildlife. He has built an effective conservation program that has expanded the traditional role of the Forest Department to encompass a more comprehensive inclusion of biological diversity issues by creating an expanded series of protected areas, new areas of research, better trained personnel and innovative programs of public awareness.

**John Paul Rodríguez** is an Associate Investigator, Centro de Ecología, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (IVIC), in Venezuela. He is being recognized for using science to solve conservation challenges faced by threatened species and ecosystems in Venezuela, for work on policy and capacity building in Latin America, and for his contributions to SCB, IUCN, and international conservation. Dr. Rodriguez coauthored the Red Book of Venezuelan Fauna, which was followed by governmental decrees designating Venezuelan threatened species and banning their hunting.
**Marine Mammal Commission** is an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the U.S. government, and is being recognized for providing important leadership on the use of science in conservation policy that has had a profound impact on marine mammal and marine ecosystem science. The Commission has shaped marine conservation by using innovative, anticipatory analysis of problems, and by developing creative solutions that interweave biological and social sciences. The Commission’s contributions reflect the proactive approach and critical judgments and analyses of its staff, commissioners, and advisors in the face of scientific and social complexity for nearly four decades.

The **Early Career Conservationist Award** is for achievement by professionals early in their careers (no more than 10 years since leaving school). **Julian Olden**, an Assistant Professor in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington is the 2010 winner. He is being recognized for extraordinary scientific contributions to global conservation ecology at an early career stage, and for leadership in the field. Within the five years after completing his Ph.D. at Colorado State University, Dr. Olden published over 85 papers and has become internationally recognized for developing a quantitative framework for investigating biotic homogenization. He has made important contributions to the study of the establishment and spread of invasive aquatic species. He was a David H. Smith Post-Doctoral Fellow with SCB before assuming his current position.

The Society for Conservation Biology has over 10,000 members in 128 countries and publishes both the internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals *Conservation Biology* and *Conservation Letters*, and the magazine *Conservation*. SCB is regarded as the leading professional society for conservation biologists and others seeking to conserve biological diversity.

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