

website and the upcoming Spring IBN. For ease of reference, we have included a list the new email addresses for those volunteers with an IBA email account at the end of this email.

Joint Policy Statement on Use of Radio-Collars in Bear Research Completed: In October of 2017, IBA President was approached by Djuro Huber, Nuria Selva, and Agnieszka Sergiel about a statement on the need and value of research (i.e., capturing bears) for bear conservation. When IBA Council is approached to consider a position statement, we refer to our Policy Guidance Document. This is a set of guidelines that were developed and approved by Council on June 3, 2016 to use as a guideline for assessing when IBA receives a request to address policy issues relevant to bear conservation or management, if the request fits within IBA's mission and maintains our scientific objectivity and credibility as a professional organization. It was determined that this request did meet the Policy Guidance requirements. The idea was shared also at the BSG meeting in Quito, and developed into the IBA and BSG preparing a joint statement on this topic. Agnieszka Sergiel took the lead on this project and over the past year has worked with members of IBA Council and the BSG to develop the joint policy statement. The final statement, "*Use of radio-collars in bear research, management and conservation: Joint position statement by the International Association for Bear Research and Management and the IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group*", was approved by IBA Council and the IUCN/SSC for BSG and is now available on the IBA website under the tab [IBA Publications, IBA Letters & Statements](#).

IBA – BSG Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): In our last update we informed you that committees for IBA and BSG to work Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize, strengthen, and clearly articulate the relationship between the two partnering organizations. At the time of the update, the IBA committee (Frank van Manen, Martyn Obbard, Gordon Stenhouse, and Shyamala Ratnayeke) had sent a draft MoU for the BSG to review and provide their input. Unfortunately, the BSG Co-Chair, Dave Garshelis, responded that the BSG will not be entering into an MoU with IBA for the time being. At the end of March, IBA Council received a report and update from the MoU Committee. The Committee provided a short summary of the process over the past year and offered several hopeful suggestions of how IBA can remain dedicated to the continuing partnership and continue to be of valuable service to BSG members to further bear conservation. IBA Council will put in place policies to help formalize what the IBA committee provided in the draft MoU for the greater purpose of supporting bear conservation worldwide. We will provide updates on how these policies will be formalized.

Printing of IBN for Donors and Institution Members: As is the case with many of the roles that keep IBA successful, we were lucky for several years to have a volunteer, Jim Tomlin, managing this time-consuming task. In 2013 Jim retired and Jennapher Teunissen van Manen took over the logistics of printing and mailing the IBNs. With growing other responsibilities, this is no longer possible, and a decision was made by the IBA Executive Officers and IBN Editor to contract this task out to the current printing company Alpha Graphics. Jennapher will still handle the logistics compiling the mail list for Alpha Graphics but for a nominal charge of \$50.00 (plus the regular postage cost), Alpha Graphics will now carry out the printing and distribution of the IBN hard copies which are sent to donors and anyone with an Institution membership.

2020 IBA Conference: Plans for the 2020 IBA conference in Kalispell, Montana, USA hosted by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks biologist, Lori Roberts continue to unfold. We will provide updates from the organizers as they develop. Please continue to check the website for new information.

We hope many of you can make it to the 2020 conference and welcome your questions and feedback about IBA. Members are what make IBA a success!

Sincerely,

Andreas Zedrosser, President

Jennapher Teunissen van Manen, Director of Transition

Alexander Kopatz, Secretary and Communications Team Co-Chair

Agnieszka Sergiel, Councillor and Communications Team Co-Chair

Council Motions Voted and Passed Since March 2019 Update to Members

- **57-2019:** IBA redirect and use \$3900 of the unused 2018 E&E grant funds be redirected into supplement the special Community Conservation grant, that was initially awarded in 2018, but returned to IBA in January 2019; this enables the R&C committee to re-grant the full amount of funding to a different high-scoring proposal from 2018.
Result: 9 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 3 Council Members Not Voting, Motion is Adopted.
- **58-2019:** The cap for Experience and Exchange Grants Committee is increased from \$ 1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 USD and effective already this year, 2019.
Result: 9 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 3 Council Members Not Voting, Motion is Adopted.
- **59-2019:** IBA Council reallocates \$20,000 from the general treasury, where it was being held for transition costs, to the BCF for R&C grants during the 2019 grant cycle.
Result: 10 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 2 Council Members Not Voting, Motion is Adopted.
- **60-2019:** Starting in 2019 URSUS is going online only and charges for publication will no longer be assessed per page, but will be assessed as a two-tiered flat fee: articles 10 pages or less will be charged \$500 and those longer than 10 pages will be charged \$700, with a one year embargo for availability on the IBA website. This length cut-off corresponds to the median number of pages (10.5) of papers published in the journal in 2017 – 2018. If authors wish to have articles published immediately on the IBA website, without the embargo, there will be an additional open access charge of \$400.00; the extra charge helps replace revenue that will be lost from citation services (e.g. BioOne) during the first year after publication. The Short Communications category will be retained for authors who want to signal that their article is just that; any article labelled as such must be 10 pages or less in length. This change in fee structure for Ursus articles is to be evaluated for its impact on IBA revenue and on authors after one year.
Result: 11 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 1 Council Members Not Voting, Motion is Adopted.
- **61-2019:** This is an extension of Vote Item 38-2017 which occurred in October 2017 to amend Article VI Section 1 of the bylaws, Elections. The intent of the bylaw amendment was to create a more balanced turnover of Council members during the two election cycles. The Vote Item

passed, and interim bylaws were posted on the IBA website for a 30-day comment period from members. The vote by the IBA membership to ratify the interim bylaws was included on the ballot of the 2017 election cycle. Ratification of the interim bylaws passed, and the new election cycle required that the Secretary and one council position with terms ending on January 9, 2020, be extended for one year. Four Council members are eligible for extending the term an additional year. Of the four Council members, Gordon Stenhouse and Nishith Dharaiya were willing to stay on for the additional year. This required Council to vote on which Council member will extend their term to January 9, 2021.

Result: With 10 of 12 Council members voting, Council has voted that Gordon Stenhouse is extending his term at Council to January 9, 2021.

New IBA Email Addresses:

Executive Council:

President, Andreas Zedrosser: andreas.zedrosser@bearbiology.org

Vice President, Americas, Martyn Obbard: martyn.obbard@bearbiology.org

Vice President, Eurasia, Mei-Hsui Hwang: meihswi.hwang@bearbiology.org

Past President, Karen Noyce: karen.noyce@bearbiology.org

Secretary, Alexander Kopatz: alexander.kopatz@bearbiology.org

Treasurer, Jennifer Fortin-Noreus: jennifer.fortinnoreus@bearbiology.org

Councilors:

Agnieszka Sergiel: agnieszka.sergiel@bearbiology.org

Gordon Stenhouse: gordon.stenhouse@bearbiology.org

Marta De Barba: marta.debarba@bearbiology.org

Nishith Dharaiya: nishith.dharaiya@bearbiology.org

Shyamala Ratnayeke: shyamala.ratnayeke@bearbiology.org

Yoshikazu Sato: yoshikazu.sato@bearbiology.org

Employees, Publication Editors, and Committee Chairs:

Amy MacLeod, Student Representative & IBN Layout Editor: amy.macleod@bearbiology.org

Carl Lackey, Management Committee Chair: carl.lackey@bearbiology.org

Frank T. van Manen, Conference Committee Co-Chair: frank.vanmanen@bearbiology.org

Jack Beardsley, Website Manager: website@bearbiology.org

Jennapher Teunissen van Manen, Director of Transition: jennapher.teunissenvanmanen@bearbiology.org

Jon Swenson, URSUS Managing Editor & Publication Committee Chair: jon.swenson@bearbiology.org

Julia Bevins, Bear Conservation Fund Committee Chair: julia.bevins@bearbiology.org

Mark Edwards, International Bear News Managing Editor: mark.edwards@bearbiology.org

Mike Gibeau, Experience & Exchange Grants Committee Chair: mike.gibeau@bearbiology.org

Nadine Bechstein, Website Editor: nadine.bechstein@bearbiology.org

Paolo Ciucci, Research & Conservation Grants Committee Chair: paolo.ciucci@bearbiology.org

[Visit the IBA website](#) for more information on your elected council members and how to contact them if you have questions or suggestions.

You currently have a <<Membership Description>> membership with IBA which is current until: <<Membership Due Date>>. If you have any questions about your IBA membership, [contact Jennapher Teunissen van Manen](#). You can [renew your membership online here](#).