



## Natural Science Collections Alliance 2012 Accomplishments

- Conducted a Congressional briefing on digitization of natural science collections. The event was well attended by policymakers from Capitol Hill, federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.



- Coordinated a joint society letter to the National Science Foundation (NSF) to express concerns with a proposal to alter the Collections in Support of Biological Research program.

- Provided testimony to House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of increased funding for the NSF and the Department of the Interior.

- Four NSC Alliance board members participated in an NSF-sponsored workshop to develop the *Implementation Plan for the Network Integrated Biocollections Alliance*. The draft report was circulated to NSC Alliance members for input.



- Sponsored the 4th Annual Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits event. Several NSC Alliance member organizations participated.

- Rallied the collections community to influence pressing science policy issues, including the threat of budget sequestration to federal research funding and legislation that would have implemented burdensome reporting requirements for federal grantees.

- Wrote to the Executive Office of the President regarding the need for federal agencies to conduct a cost-benefit analysis prior to establishing new federal scientific collections.

- Requested that the US government pursue a discussion of how to improve the permit validation process for scientific specimens at the sixteenth regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

- Participated in the USGS Coalition, an alliance of more than 70 organizations dedicated to the continued vitality of the US Geological Survey and its programs.

- Provided regular policy and news updates to NSC Alliance members via the NSC Alliance Washington Report.

- Developed two issue briefs that help to articulate the importance of scientific collections, which are available at [http://nscalliance.org/?page\\_id=10](http://nscalliance.org/?page_id=10).



- Initiated planning with iDigBio and AIBS for a jointly sponsored workshop to be held at the 2013 Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections annual meeting.