

Science & Collections Funding

- Secured passage of the historic CHIPS and Science Act, which not only authorized critical new investments in our nation's science and technology enterprise, but also formalized support for U.S. biological collections by supporting key recommendations from the National Academies' report on biological collections. NSC Alliance worked with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) to ensure that the collections-related provisions were included in the final bill.
- Provided congressional testimony in support of increased fiscal year 2023 federal funding for NSF, programs that curate natural history collections within the Department of the Interior, and the Smithsonian Institution.
- Joined the broader scientific community, through membership in the Coalition for National Science Funding, in urging appropriators to provide robust support for NSF in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

Collections Policy and Advocacy

- Provided input on proposed revisions to the rules governing the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The letter expressed strong support for the mission of NAGPRA, and urged that any finalized rule account for staffing and resource limitations of museums and tribal partners and provide clear guidelines to enable timely and efficient compliance.
 - Helped secure a critical one-time investment in biorepositories and orphan collections under California's Budget Act of 2022.
 - Endorsed the One Health Security Act, a new legislative initiative from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) that aims to create a mechanism to enhance interagency coordination, streamline funding, and strengthen our early warning and detection networks to rapidly respond to emerging biological threats.
 - Joined AIBS and 16 other scientific organizations in urging Senator Gillibrand to strengthen the One Health Security Act by expanding it to include biodiversity infrastructure, including natural history collections, as a critical component of our national research infrastructure for pathogen prediction, surveillance, and mitigation.
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- Through the USA Nagoya Protocol Action Group, provided input to the State Department and United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) stakeholders on policy options for access and benefit sharing of digital sequence information.
- Sponsored the 2022 Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits, an annual event organized by AIBS that enables scientists, curators, museum professionals, and graduate students to meet with their federal or state elected officials in their home state to help inform science policy.

Outreach

- In the fall of 2021, NSC Alliance partnered with AIBS and 17 other sibling societies to organize an NSF-funded international workshop series to raise awareness about international policies that guide how we share and benefit from the study of biodiversity and sequence data. In March, recommendations from these workshops were published in BioScience and shared with UN CBD negotiators in a research community letter signed by an international coalition of 26 scientific societies and 122 researchers and professionals. The letter urged continued open access to genetic sequence data and robust support for the development, operations, and maintenance of biorepositories, which are important facilitators of access and benefit sharing.
 - Assisted the U.S. Department of State, the Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections (IWGSC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) in raising awareness about their effort to save and protect Ukrainian archival, cultural, and scientific collections.
 - Engaged with GBIF, BCoN, DiSCCo, iDigBio, Atlas of Living Australia, and other international partners in coordinating a path forward to realizing the Digital Extended Specimen Network.
 - Partnered with SPNHC to promote their Natural History Collections Education DemoCamp, which was designed to provide materials and resources to educators to engage students with the natural world.
 - Promoted National Fossil Day on October 12, which is organized by the National Park Service.
 - Provided regular policy and news updates via the NSC Alliance Washington Report. The newsletter is freely available. Subscribe at www.nscalliance.org.
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ABOUT US

The NSC Alliance is a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our institutional members are part of an international community of institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

Visit our website to learn more:

www.nscalliance.org

