



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Office of the Director

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)
Smithsonian Institution

Access and Benefit Sharing Policy on Genetic Resources
Effective 23 JUNE 2012

NMNH collecting and research policies have been developed to be compliant with national legal and administrative systems arising from the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and other relevant international instruments on conservation and heritage. We request appropriate prior informed consent (PIC) and mutually agreed terms (MAT) before the collection or transport of genetic resources. We work with indigenous and local communities based on their full and open consent and approval. We recognize that countries organize their legal and regulatory systems in different ways to reflect their interests and needs and NMNH will work to comply with all requirements.

Materials acquired for NMNH collections are used for basic research of the patterns and processes of biological and cultural diversity. We use multiple methods to analyze these materials including descriptive, chemical and molecular approaches. We publish our data in publically accessible databases and reports. Our collections are open for use by researchers from around the world. The vast majority of research is basic research without commercial intent. Requests for material with commercial intent may trigger clauses requiring additional PIC and MAT agreements.

As of the effective date of this policy, NMNH follows these procedures regarding genetic resources that demonstrate our commitment to these Conventions, including:

- Gaining prior written permission to acquire and use genetic resources (PIC and MAT) from the competent national authorities and communities, which may come in the form of permits, and/or material transfer agreements (MTAs);
- Maintaining permissions, consent and use agreements including any restrictions regarding newly acquired genetic resources in permanent records systems;
- Using and supplying genetic resources consistent with the terms and conditions under which they were acquired;
- Adhering to benefit sharing agreements that we make regarding genetic resources;
- Making data and publications publicly available;
- Requesting new PIC and MAT agreements when a new use triggers the need for additional agreements.

APPROVED:

Cristián Samper K.

Cristián Samper K., Sant Director

22 June 2012

Date