

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Smithsonian Institution DNA Barcode Network Awards FY2020

The Smithsonian DNA Barcode Network (SIBN) Awards Program provides funding for DNA barcoding projects that further the SIBN mission. This includes supporting projects that

- leverage the world-class Smithsonian collections to generate high quality barcode sequence records which are publicly available in GenBank within a short timespan;
- target high-priority taxonomic groups or geographical locations that are under-represented in GenBank; and
- expand the Smithsonian's capacity for DNA barcoding by embracing new technologies and applications.

SIBN supports all Smithsonian units and science initiatives (e.g. ForestGEO, MarineGEO).

The submission deadline for proposals in this awards cycle is December 15th, 2019. The Proposal Review Committee will consider requests for up to \$12,000. Budget requests are for consumables/reagents; SIBN **does not** provide funding for travel, new field collections, salaries, or stipends. SIBN can provide in-kind technical support for lab processing and sequence QC and analyses. Project PIs should contact Niamh Redmond (SIBN@si.edu) to discuss budget calculations prior to final proposal submission.

Proposals will only be considered for 'Shovel-ready' projects, where samples are already collected and accessioned into an SI collection. Proposals may be considered if the specimens are in line for accessioning in the very near future, and the PI provides correspondence from relevant collections staff supporting the timeline. If your project proposal involves new collecting, funding may be available through the Global Genome Initiative award opportunities (<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/global-genome-initiative/opportunities>). Katie Barker (barkerk@si.edu) is point of contact for this awards program.

Eligibility:

All SI staff, affiliated agency staff, resident research associates, and fellows (fellows' advisors required as co-PI's), who are pursuing science-related scholarship or seek to build and improve the DNA barcode reference library, are eligible to apply. Multiple proposals per PI will be accepted. Other Smithsonian personnel and non-Smithsonian colleagues may be included as co-PIs.

Proposal Format:

The review panel expects to see well-designed and rigorous research projects. Please provide a title and project summary (100 words). The body of the application should be no more than five single-spaced pages and address Smithsonian Impact, Taxonomic Novelty, Impact on SI Collections and Units, Timeline, PI Past Performance and Matching Funds (see Ranking Criteria below). Applicants should fill out the SIBN Awards Application Form (under Resources for Smithsonian and Associated Researchers here: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/global-genome-initiative/opportunities>). Use 'N/A' for fields that do not apply. A species list should also be emailed to SIBN@si.edu to allow GenBank Gap Analysis. The PI and all co-PIs must submit a two-page CV (NSF format). Applications that do not conform to the guidelines will be rejected.

Submission:

The submission deadline for proposals this year is December 15th, 2019. Submit the proposal as a single PDF to SIBN@si.edu. Documentation should be submitted in the following order: Cover sheet, Appendix A through D, proposal text, CVs. A short email should also be sent from your supervisor to SIBN@si.edu indicating the PI's name, project title, and approval of the submission of the proposal.

Selection and Notification: All proposals will be evaluated at the beginning of 2020 by a committee composed of Smithsonian researchers appointed by SIBN. PIs may be asked to provide further information, clarification or answer other questions prior to final approval. Final decisions should be announced in February 2020. Please contact Niamh Redmond (SIBN@si.edu) with any questions regarding the scientific scope, ranking criteria, or clarifications for this proposal call.

RANKING CRITERIA

- Smithsonian Impact:
 - Expands SI's involvement in DNA barcoding to new research areas, departments, affiliated agencies, taxonomic groups, geographic regions, habitat type and applications;
 - Strengthens SI and US contribution to international barcoding activities;
 - Advances individual and institutional research goals.
- Taxonomic Novelty:
 - Contributes BARCODE-compliant records that expand the public reference library. Further information on the BARCODE Data standard is found here: https://sibarcodenetwork.readthedocs.io/en/latest/rapid_data_release.html;
- Impact on SI Collections and Units:
 - Enhances existing SI collections by adding barcode data to accession records;
 - Expanding SI collections with deposition of DNA and tissue samples into Smithsonian Biorepositories.
 - Increases the visibility of SI specimens and SI-generated barcode records in publications and public databases (especially GenBank and GGBN).
- Timeline:
 - Specimen identifications status to facilitate submission of species level GenBank records at the end of the project;
 - Specimen data and tissue plates must be available within a reasonable time period to allow completion of lab processing by March 2021;
 - If applicable, accessioning into SI collections must be complete by end of 2020;
 - All projects must result in timely release of genetic sequence data on GenBank (within less than one year of sequence generation). See Rapid Data Release Policy (https://sibarcodenetwork.readthedocs.io/en/latest/rapid_data_release.html).
- PI Past Performance:
 - Past productivity and timeliness of previous SIBN and/or GGI funded projects (where relevant).
- Matching funds and/or additional resources:
 - Leverage of external funding and/or resources, for example, providing a technician for tissue subsampling; cost sharing etc. See Appendix D for more details.