**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**Reopened: Smithsonian Institution Barcode Network Awards FY2021 – Rolling Call**

The Smithsonian Barcode Network (SIBN) Awards Program provides funding for DNA-based identification/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).

**SIBN is reopening the FY21 awards program, utilizing a rolling submission deadline until all awards funds are allocated.** At this stage, consideration will only be given to proposals that can be completed under our enhanced telework operations and restricted access to SI facilities. This includes proposals for digital projects such as completing barcode sequence QC and upload to public databases, digitization of SI voucher specimen information with the view of barcoding these specimens at a later date, and data generation projects that may be out sourced to external sequencing centers. As access to SI facilities opens up, a new Call will be announced and consideration will be given to proposals with work based on site.

**Project PIs must contact Niamh Redmond (**[**SIBN@si.edu**](mailto:SIBN@si.edu)**) to discuss proposed projects prior to proposal submission.** Following discussion, an Estimated Budget will be provided by SIBN for you to include with your proposal. SIBN will consider requests for up to $25,000 with clearly articulated budget justifications and realistic completion timelines. SIBN financial support can cover contractor costs associated with the completion of specific project tasks. SIBN does not provide funding for travel, new field collections, salaries, or stipends.

**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 Process and Format**:

In preparation for your proposal submission, you are required to do the following:

* **Submit a species list** to [SIBN@si.edu](mailto:SIBN@si.edu) to allow GenBank Gap Analysis.
* **Discuss the project and estimated costs** with Niamh Redmond ([redmondn@si.edu](mailto:redmondn@si.edu)). An Estimated Budget will be provided by SIBN following your consultation and should be included in your proposal.

Proposals should include the following components:

* **SIBN Cover Sheet**, which includes a title and 100-word project summary. The SIBN Cover Sheet is located under “Resources for Smithsonian and Associated Researchers” here: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/research/global-genome-initiative/opportunities>).
* **Estimated Budget** provided by SIBN following consultation with Niamh Redmond.
* **Body of the application**, which should be no more than three single-spaced pages, addressing Smithsonian Impact, Taxonomic Novelty, Impact on SI Collections and Units, Timeline, PI Past Performance and Matching Funds (see Ranking Criteria below).
* The PI and all co-PIs must submit a **two-page CV** (NSF format).

You will also be required to have your **supervisor email** [SIBN@si.edu](mailto:SIBN@si.edu) indicating the PI’s name, project title, and approval of the submission of the proposal. Applications that do not conform to the guidelines will be rejected.

**Submission**: Submit the proposal as a single PDF to [SIBN@si.edu](mailto:SIBN@si.edu). Documentation should be submitted in the following order: SIBN Award Cover Sheet, Estimated Budget provided by SIBN, your proposal text, CVs. A short email should also be sent from your supervisor to [SIBN@si.edu](mailto:SIBN@si.edu) indicating the PI’s name, project title, and approval of the submission of the proposal.

**Selection and Notification**: Proposals will be evaluated on a rolling basis within a month of submission, based on reviewer recommendations. PIs may be asked to provide further information, clarification or answer other questions prior to final approval. Please contact Niamh Redmond ([SIBN@si.edu](mailto: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-based identification/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;
  + 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;
  + 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.