



THE SMITHSONIAN CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO A SUSTAINABLE PLANET AT COP16

The Smithsonian is sending a delegation to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Smithsonian Under Secretary for Science and Research, Ellen Stofan, will lead a group of scientists to COP16 in Cali, Colombia, reflecting the Institution's ongoing commitment to "Our Shared Future."

Dedicated to fostering a sustainable balance between humanity and nature, the Smithsonian partners worldwide to deepen our collective understanding of their interplay and advocates for nature-based solutions. The Institution will focus on broadening and deepening its scientific partnerships and continuing to generate and steward validated data to inform climate action.

The Smithsonian's participation will further emphasize several core components of the Life on a Sustainable Planet Initiative supported by the throughlines of Global Education, Socio-Economic Resilience, and Accessible Standardized Data and Collections.

Assessing and Safeguarding Biodiversity through Innovative Technology. The Smithsonian, in collaboration with U.S. partners like NOAA and various international conservation organizations, pioneers technologies such as non-invasive DNA sampling, environmental DNA detection, and advanced movement data analysis to track more than 1,000 animals across changing land and seascapes to reveal the role that animal movement plays in sustaining planetary biodiversity. The Smithsonian's Ocean DNA Program has \$2.4 million in pledged philanthropic support, IAAAs, and grants to create reference libraries and environmental sample analyses. Unlocking this collections-based knowledge will allow a new map of life, encourage participation, and create catalysts of change for a significant positive impact for conservation, industry, and coastal communities.

Empowering Communities to Reimagine the Sustainable Use of Land and Seascapes. By implementing OECM frameworks in 54 coffee plantations across 11 countries and assisting in the assessment of carbon stocks of mangroves in Latin America, the Smithsonian empowers global partners through innovative knowledge and resource sharing. This collaborative approach ensures communities worldwide can sustainably steward their natural resources, fostering resilience and sustainability for future generations. Closer to home, the Smithsonian launched the Center for Environmental Justice in Anacostia, D.C, which supports community-based, environmental action to raise awareness of systemic injustice and craft community-driven solutions for environmental issues.

Supporting the Health of People, Animals, and our Shared Environment. The Shared Health platform recognizes that the health of all species—human and nonhuman animal—are inextricably linked to one another and to the environments they share. Through global capacity building and training programs, emerging infectious disease research and wildlife health projects, and community research guides that empower students to initiate positive changes in their own communities, the Smithsonian helps to drive this Shared Health vision for a sustainable and thriving world.

Nurturing Strong Partnerships and Valued Collaborations. The Smithsonian prioritizes our long-term support of ecosystem-level investigations, ensuring our commitment to local communities and regional action remains steadfast. By forging lasting partnerships with community advocates, government offices, and global conservation leaders, we serve as a conduit through which individual successes can be shared.

Learn more at: science.si.edu