

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 730

To establish a National Center for Biological Resources (Research and Development) to facilitate the collection, synthesis, and dissemination of information relating to the sustainable use, research, development, and conservation of biological resources.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 1993

Mrs. MORELLA introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To establish a National Center for Biological Resources (Research and Development) to facilitate the collection, synthesis, and dissemination of information relating to the sustainable use, research, development, and conservation of biological resources.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Biological
5 Resources Research and Development Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) existing information regarding the abun-
2 dance and distribution of biological resources is in-
3 adequate and often inaccessible;

4 (2) the loss of biological resources may have se-
5 rious consequences for human welfare as raw mate-
6 rial for research and agricultural, medicinal, and in-
7 dustrial development are irretrievably lost;

8 (3) existing laws and programs relevant to the
9 loss of indigenous biological resources in the United
10 States are largely uncoordinated and inadequate,
11 and sometimes result in duplication of efforts, con-
12 flicts in goals, and gaps in geographic and taxo-
13 nomic coverage; and,

14 (4) increased research in biological resources is
15 needed to provide adequate knowledge to maintain
16 and to ensure the sustainable use of natural re-
17 sources.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 For purposes of this Act—

20 (1) the term “biological resources” means the
21 full range of variety and variability within and
22 among living organisms (including both terrestrial
23 and aquatic) and the ecological complexes in which
24 they occur, and encompasses ecosystem or commu-
25 nity diversity, species diversity, and genetic diversity;

1 (2) the term “genetic diversity” means the dif-
2 ferences in genetic composition within and among
3 populations of a given species;

4 (3) the term “species diversity” means the rich-
5 ness and variety of indigenous species in a particular
6 location of the world;

7 (4) the term “community diversity” means the
8 variety between different integrated assemblages of
9 species inhabiting different locales; and

10 (5) the term “United States” means all of the
11 several States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
12 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
13 Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern
14 Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and any other
15 commonwealth, territory, possession, or area of legal
16 or economic jurisdiction of the United States.

17 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES.**

18 It is the purpose of this Act—

19 (1) to undertake a nationally coordinated effort
20 to survey, collect, inventory, synthesize, and dissemi-
21 nate adequate data and information for—

22 (A) the understanding of the full range of
23 biological resources;

24 (B) assessing the rate and scale of change
25 in biological resources;

1 (C) developing tests and making available
2 cost effective methodologies for scientific and
3 economic inventories of biological resources; and

4 (D) evaluating the potential economic im-
5 plications of the sustainable use of biological re-
6 sources.

7 (2) to support basic and applied research nec-
8 essary for a full understanding of the nation's bio-
9 logical resources; and

10 (3) to promote better understanding of the im-
11 portance of biological resources and foster actions
12 that prevent biological impoverishment and
13 sustainably preserve biological resources.

14 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**
15 **(RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT).**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—There is es-
17 tablished within the Smithsonian Institution, in coopera-
18 tion with the Environmental Protection Agency and the
19 National Science Foundation, a National Center for Bio-
20 logical Resources (Research and Development) (the Cen-
21 ter), whose purpose shall be to set research priorities, to
22 provide leadership and coordination for the understanding
23 and promotion of knowledge of the biota within the United
24 States with respect to its composition, systematics, dis-
25 tribution, status, biological properties, ecological relation-

1 ships (including environmental significance), and economic
2 value, and the effect of human activities on the biota, and
3 to make this knowledge accessible to the people of the
4 United States and others working on research and devel-
5 opment in biological resources throughout the world. The
6 Center shall be administered by a Director.

7 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Center shall
8 be—

9 (1) to summarize and enhance the knowledge of
10 the distribution, status, and characteristics of the
11 biota in a manner that can be used in the sustain-
12 able development of natural products;

13 (2) to prepare, with the assistance of agencies
14 and other sources, lists and, where appropriate,
15 maps of—

16 (A) indigenous biotic communities, species,
17 and populations that appear to be in significant
18 decline or in imminent danger of loss of viabil-
19 ity;

20 (B) areas of outstanding indigenous biotic
21 importance; and,

22 (C) factors, including the legal status and
23 applicable laws, affecting the potential develop-
24 ment of such communities, species, and popu-
25 lations;

1 (3) to publish information, such as floral and
2 faunal treatises, resource inventories, vegetation
3 maps, atlases, and guides for practical use of biological
4 information, and especially publications that syn-
5 thesize information relevant to national goals of un-
6 derstanding biological resource use and its sustain-
7 able development;

8 (4) to identify taxonomic groups, ecological
9 communities, and geographical areas in need of
10 study, and to develop a strategic plan for, initiate,
11 and provide financial support toward an ongoing
12 survey of the biota;

13 (5) to provide for the conducting of research,
14 through grants, contracts, or otherwise, by Federal,
15 State, and private agencies, institutions, organiza-
16 tions, and individuals;

17 (6) to make recommendations to Federal agen-
18 cies and others on the technical management of data
19 collection, storage, and retrieval;

20 (7) to provide training and technical assistance
21 to Federal agencies and others regarding collection
22 and interpretation of biological data;

23 (8) to raise additional funds through grants
24 and contracts as necessary to support the activities
25 of the Center; and

1 (9) to research and explore the development of
2 natural products.

3 (c) STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—There is established
5 in the Smithsonian Institution a Board of Trustees
6 to be known as the Trustees of the National Center
7 for Biological Resources (Research and Develop-
8 ment), which shall provide advice and assistance to
9 the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution
10 on all matters relating to the policies, administra-
11 tion, and operation of the Center.

12 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—(A) The Board of Trustees
13 shall consist of 19 members, including—

14 (i) one representative of the Smithsonian
15 Institution;

16 (ii) one representative of the Fish and
17 Wildlife Service;

18 (iii) one representative of the National
19 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

20 (iv) one representative of the National
21 Park Service;

22 (v) one representative of the Department
23 of Energy;

24 (vi) one representative of the National
25 Science Foundation;

1 (vii) one representative of the Agricultural
2 Research Service;

3 (viii) one representative of the Environ-
4 mental Protection Agency;

5 (ix) one representative of the Forest Serv-
6 ice;

7 (x) one representative of the Bureau of
8 Land Management;

9 (xi) one representative of the Department
10 of Defense;

11 (xii) one representative of State biological
12 surveys;

13 (xiii) one representative of private organi-
14 zations that maintain large data bases oriented
15 toward biological resource inventories;

16 (xiv) two scientists from nonprofit research
17 institutions or universities; and

18 (xv) two representatives from institutions
19 with collections of biological specimens; and

20 (xvi) two representatives from companies
21 that develop products from biotic resources.

22 (B) Members listed under clauses (xii) through
23 (xv) of subparagraph (A) shall be appointed by the
24 President from a list of nominees recommended by
25 the National Academy of Sciences.

1 (3) TERMS.—Members of the Board of Trust-
2 ees shall serve for terms of five years, and may serve
3 more than one term.

4 (4) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

5 (A) NONGOVERNMENT MEMBERS.—Each
6 member of the advisory board that is not other-
7 wise in the service of the Federal Government
8 shall, to the extent provided for in advance in
9 appropriations Acts, be paid actual travel ex-
10 penses and per diem in lieu of subsistence ex-
11 penses in accordance with section 5703 of title
12 5, United States Code, when such member is
13 away from the member's usual place of resi-
14 dence.

15 (B) GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.—Each mem-
16 ber of the advisory board that is otherwise in
17 the service of the Federal Government shall
18 serve without compensation in addition to that
19 received for such other service, but while en-
20 gaged in the work of the Board of Trustees,
21 such member shall, to the extent provided for in
22 advance in appropriations Acts, be paid actual
23 travel expenses, and per diem in lieu of subsist-
24 ence expenses in accordance with subchapter I
25 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code,

1 when away from the member's usual place of
2 residence.

3 (5) CHAIRMAN.—The members of the Board of
4 Trustees shall select one member to serve as Chair-
5 man.

6 (6) FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS.—The Director
7 of the Center shall make appropriate arrangements
8 for necessary administrative and clerical support of
9 the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the
10 Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

11 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1994, \$10,000,000 for fiscal
14 year 1995, and \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1996, to re-
15 main available until expended as specified in appropria-
16 tions Acts.

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