



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & GLOBAL PROGRAMS



**7 CONTINENTS.
140+ COUNTRIES.
PROGRAMS AS DIVERSE AS
OUR PLANET.**

The Smithsonian has been a global organization since 1846 and today works to conserve our natural and cultural heritage all around the world.

A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR MOLLY FANNON

In 1850, Joseph Henry wrote, "the worth and importance of the Institution is not to be estimated by what it accumulates within the walls of its building, but by what it sends forth to the world." These words from our first Secretary ring true today. The Smithsonian has always been a global institution. Our role in the Office of International Relations is to continue to fulfill Henry's vision, to 'send forth' Smithsonian creativity and knowledge to the world. We also strive to form strong collaborations that bring the world to us in meaningful ways. In our first annual report, we share some highlights from the past year and our vision for 2017 and beyond.

In 2016, our office formed new partnerships with foreign countries, global institutions and non-profit organizations that we hope will prove fruitful for the Institution. We expanded the services we provide, with an eye toward keeping us all safer in a changing world.

The joy of our work is partnering with dedicated Smithsonian staff to bring all of our units' expertise to address the world's most pressing challenges. In doing so, we rely on strong relationships with colleagues from across the Smithsonian. We often call our office the 'front door' of the Smithsonian for international activities, and our door is always open to new and creative ideas. We look forward to learning from and working with our colleagues in 2017.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly".

OUR MISSION & VISION

To advance the Smithsonian's mission, 'the increase and diffusion of knowledge,' by leveraging the research, creativity, and expertise of the entire Institution to promote meaningful change in the world.

We achieve this by:

COORDINATING SMITHSONIAN **GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

PROMOTING SMITHSONIAN **GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

SUPPORTING SMITHSONIAN **GLOBAL PROGRAMS**

COORDINATING SMITHSONIAN **GLOBAL OPERATIONS AND RISK
MANAGEMENT**

COORDINATING SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

We analyze Smithsonian aspirations around the world, build and manage relationships with key global partners, and lead information sharing to ensure all in the Institution are aware of major global programs and priorities.

Through coordinated global engagement, we ensure that we speak as **one Smithsonian voice** and bolster each other's goals.

115

COUNTRY INVENTORIES

OIR inventoried Smithsonian partnerships, programs, publications, collections, and research in **115 countries**. These materials provide critical background information on Smithsonian activities around the world and are **available to all Smithsonian units**.

Highlights from 2016 include:

CHINA OIR led a trip in August to Beijing with colleagues from the **Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage** and **Smithsonian Enterprises** to deepen our relationships with our **Ministry of Culture** counterparts.

MYANMAR OIR worked with the **Conservation Biology Institute** and the **National Museum for Natural History** to expand our presence in one of the Smithsonian's legacy countries by providing support to multiple grants, partner units and experts.

AROUND THE WORLD OIR and our in-office **U.S. Department of State liaison** coordinated diplomatic visits to the Smithsonian and of Smithsonian experts abroad. OIR supported activities involving the diplomatic community across our museums, especially the opening of the **National Museum of African American History and Culture**.

OIR coordinates international visits to the Smithsonian from foreign governments, international partner organizations, and the U.S. Department of State. In 2016, we coordinated

80+

OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP AND DELEGATION VISITS

**VISITORS MOST FREQUENTLY
VISITED THESE UNITS:**

NMAH
NASM
NMNH
NMAI
NMAAHC

**VISITORS CAME FROM MANY
COUNTRIES, INCLUDING:**

SINGAPORE
JAPAN
OMAN
COLOMBIA
CHINA

PROMOTING SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

We communicate our collective impact and elevate the Smithsonian's standing on a global stage. We raise the profile of international programs and we work closely with unit and program leadership to share our exhibitions and programs with a growing global audience.

GLOBAL.SI.EDU

In 2016, OIR launched **Smithsonian Global**, a new website that weaves together a cohesive, pan-institutional story about the global breadth and depth of Smithsonian's work, driving key audiences to Smithsonian units.

OIR led the Smithsonian Global communications strategy with **support from more than 100 Smithsonian colleagues.**

The site has a **database and reporting tool** to document and share information about international Smithsonian activities, and is available in **five languages, with 10 video features, and stories from 21 Smithsonian units.**

GLOBAL.SI.EDU

AVAILABLE IN **5** DIFFERENT LANGUAGES,
WITH **10** INTERNATIONAL VIDEO FEATURES.
THE SITE FEATURES **64** SMITHSONIAN
STAFF, FELLOWS, AND RESEARCHERS FROM
21 UNITS.

A GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADER

In 2016, OIR worked with multilateral organizations and governments around the world to enhance the Smithsonian's international standing, including:

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

OIR established a new relationship with the **World Economic Forum** to feature Smithsonian scientists and cultural experts on an ongoing basis at global gatherings in China and Europe – **a major platform for building strategic institutional relationships.**

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

OIR addressed the annual gathering of world customs officials and built a new partnership with the **World Customs Organization** to **combat and prevent the illicit traffic of cultural objects.** We signed an MOU in July 2016, and are developing a set of trainings for 2017.

UNESCO

OIR presented the Smithsonian to cultural leaders from Europe and the Middle East at **UNESCO** headquarters in October 2016, highlighting Smithsonian engagements across our units to **preserve and sustain cultural heritage** in times of crisis and peace.

SUPPORTING SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL PROGRAMS

We are an opportunity incubator for global programs at the Smithsonian.

OIR partners with units across the Institution to craft successful strategies and proposals for new initiatives and programs, and secure new opportunities to amplify our impact in the world. We encourage new ideas and ways of working, and support the management and execution of global programs.

AMERICAN SPACES ASSESSMENT AND REDESIGN

Under a **2012 institutional MOU** with the **U.S. Department of State**, OIR has worked with the **Bureau of International Information Programs** over the past **4 years** to support the enhancement of **700+ cultural outreach venues** called “American Spaces” around the world.

Through this partnership, we connected **16 million new people**, many of them youth, with Smithsonian content. OIR coordinates this long-term partnership, providing Smithsonian expertise in programs, space and exhibition design to increase visitor engagement.

[Click here to to learn more on global.si.edu!](https://global.si.edu/)

BAGH: BENGAL TIGER CONSERVATION ACTIVITY

The Smithsonian leads all research activities for the **Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (BAGH)**, a **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** and **Government of Bangladesh** project to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh.

OIR works with the **Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center**, and our local partner, **WildTeam**, to support priority research on management interventions for targeted landscapes, activities that support our units' missions to conserve global biodiversity. OIR supports overall program management and capacity building.

Photo ©WildTeam 2016

MY ARMENIA: THE ARMENIA CULTURAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Building on our **2013 institutional MOU with USAID**, My Armenia is a five-year USAID-funded program to support cultural tourism development in Armenia. This new program puts the 'culture' back in cultural tourism.

OIR works closely with the **Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage**, sustainable tourism firm **Solimar International**, and local organizations to research and document Armenian cultural heritage; assess and strengthen museums, local festivals and cultural activities in Armenia; and support local capacity building.

Photo Sossi Madzounian / My Armenia Project, Smithsonian Institution.

IRAQI INSTITUTE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTIQUITIES AND HERITAGE (IICAH) CULTURAL HERITAGE TRAININGS

With support from the **U.S. Department of State**, the **Museum Conservation Institute** and **Cultural Rescue Initiative** are offering short-term education programs for heritage professionals from across Iraq to develop improved skills to document, protect, and recover from the current threats to cultural heritage. OIR is providing coordination with the U.S. Department of State, and management and logistical support throughout the development and implementation of this training program.

Photo courtesy of Jessica Johnson, MCI.

Pursuing our vision to incubate new ideas for the Smithsonian and amplify our global impact, in 2016 OIR provided advisory services, planning, management and logistical support to

18 global programs and program proposals,
across **31** Smithsonian units in **30** countries.

GLOBAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OIR works with our units and peer institutions around the world to coordinate and deliver professional development trainings, building global peer networks and strengthening Smithsonian's cultural and natural conservation efforts.

The following pages summarize some of our recent efforts.

GLOBAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TUNISIA: Smithsonian experts from the **Office of Public Affairs, Office of Protection Services**, and OIR conducted a week-long training for Tunisian cultural and tourism professionals from the **Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, and the Bardo Museum**.

COLOMBIA: With **USAID** support, OIR led two research trips to support a new **National Museum of Memory**. Experts from the **Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Facilities**, and OIR led discussions on museum planning, education, and programming, and produced recommendation reports for Colombian teams working on the Museum.

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA: Experts from the **Museum Conservation Institute, the National Museum of the American Indian**, and OIR consulted for the **National Museum in Sarajevo**. The team jointly assessed the museum with local staff and discussed best practices in collections management.

GLOBAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Service Institute Trainings: Since 2012, OIR has established a standardized approach to briefing foreign and U.S. ambassadors on Smithsonian projects of interest in their respective countries and a regular course for the **U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute**. In 2016, OIR delivered trainings to **164** outgoing Foreign Service Officers, making Smithsonian resources accessible for U.S. diplomats overseas.

Training for Customs and Border Patrol Officers: Since 2009, the Smithsonian's **Museum Conservation Institute** has worked with the **U.S. Department of State** – with support from OIR – to deliver trainings on Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Antiquities and Other Cultural Property, primarily for personnel from the **Department of Homeland Security**. The **12th** training occurred in **Fall 2016**.

COORDINATING SMITHSONIAN GLOBAL OPERATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

We work with fellow units to advise and coordinate development of new protocols for international programs, keeping our staff safe, maximizing efficiencies, and mitigating risks to the Institution.

International Travel Task Force: In 2016 OIR and the **Travel Management Office** led a new approach to increase Smithsonian traveler safety and security evaluations of overseas programs.

Visas: OIR provides comprehensive immigration support to enable the Institution to host a variety of types of international visitors, including scientists, researchers, fellows, interns, employees and others. In 2016 OIR sponsored **223 J-1 Exchange Visitors, 6 H-1B Employees**, and advised on **dozens of cases**.

International Services Brown Bags: OIR launched its first brown bag series of workshops for SI staff to learn more about updated and upgraded support services OIR offers for passport, visa categories, travel issues and more.

250+

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR VISAS FACILITATED BY OIR

TOP 5 UNITS

SCBI
NMNH
NZP
SAAM
SERC

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

BRAZIL
CANADA
AUSTRALIA
UNITED KINGDOM
CHINA

WHAT'S NEXT IN 2017?

**Cultivating New
Partnerships**

**Expanding Opportunities
for Global Programs**

**Improving Safety
Protocols for
International Travel**

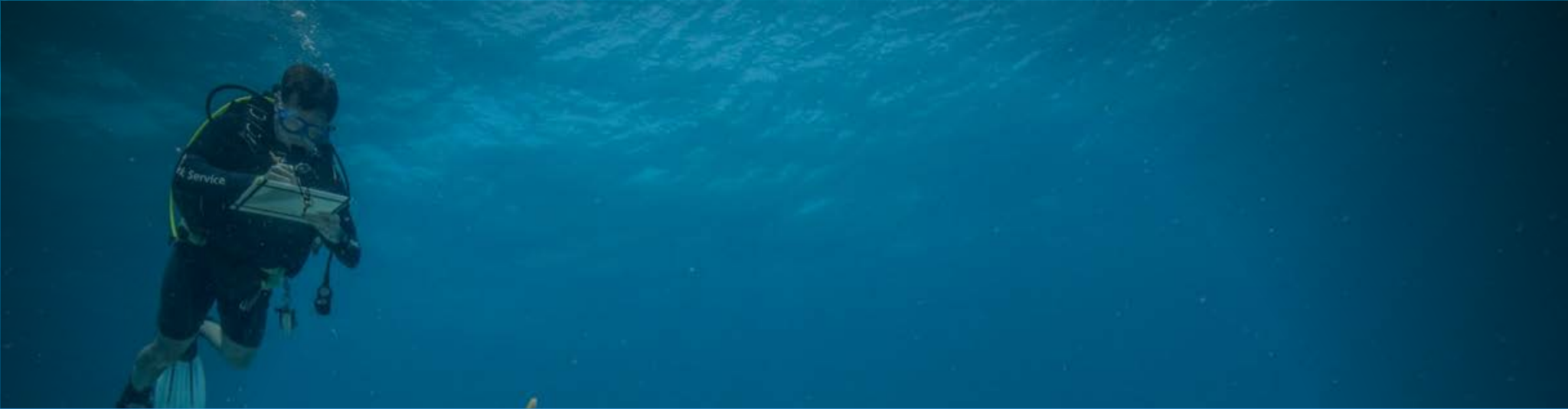
**Promoting
Smithsonian
Thought Leadership**

We want to work with you.

Over the past two years, our office has worked to 'reimagine' the Smithsonian's global strategy and global engagements.

Contact us today to discuss how we can work together to fulfill our mission and drive meaningful change in the world.

global@si.edu



LEARN MORE

AT GLOBAL.SI.EDU

Front Cover Image: The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's Agua Salud Program. [Click here to learn more.](#)
Back Cover Image: The National Museum of African American History's Slave Wrecks Project. [Click here to learn more.](#)

