

GENETICS

LOW COST BIOBANKING

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Not all biobanks will need daily access to samples. Here comes a cost effective alternative - storage in permafrost regions. ZEIT magazine has an article about "[Mine 3](#)", a former coal mine in the [Arctic](#). Already the first 10,000 samples have been stored there at -3,5 degree Celsius. [BBC](#) and Wikipedia have also information about Svalbard Global Seed Vault

SGSV will be built by hollowing out a cave in a sandstone mountain on [Spitsbergen](#) Island. The bank will have dual blast-proof doors with motion sensors, two airlocks, and walls of steel-reinforced concrete one metre thick. Seeds will be wrapped in aluminium foil to keep out moisture. There will be no full-time staff, but the vault's relative inaccessibility make it easy to track human activity.



