

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

to develop a

CONSORTIUM AND SECRETARIAT FOR THE BARCODE OF LIFE

Definition of the barcode of life: A short DNA sequence from standardized portions of the genome, used as an aid in identifying species.

The Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) is an international collaboration of natural history museums, herbaria, biological repositories, research agencies and biodiversity inventory sites, together with academic and commercial experts in genomics, electronics, taxonomy, and computer science.¹

Mission:

To rapidly accelerate compiling of DNA barcodes of known and newly discovered plant and animal species; establish a public database of sequences linked to vouchered specimens and associated biological information; promote technology development for efficient methods for DNA barcode determinations, including low cost, portable devices for field use; and promote the technical and intellectual development of DNA barcoding, including fostering communication within the academic community and among diverse users throughout society. CBOL intends to work closely and inclusively with the entire global taxonomic community.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is to establish an international framework of cooperation amongst the members to develop, continuously improve, and maintain a CBOL. The MOC provides a foundation for the members to work together on issues of common interest and upon which the members can jointly plan and carry out mutually beneficial programs, projects, and activities, including the operations of the Secretariat. The members agree that it is in their common interest and to their mutual benefit to work cooperatively through CBOL in a manner consistent with each member's mission and objectives. Coordinated activity allows the members to share expertise, facilities, equipment, and data, and make efficient use of funds and provide consistent information to the public. The members see CBOL as contributing to the goals of the Global Taxonomy Initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

¹ Sloan Foundation has provided a grant (starting 1st May 2004 for 30 months) to establish the CBOL structure and function.

Membership:

The membership is expected to be international. Members of the CBOL will be organizations or programs that have an interest in actively contributing to the advancement of the barcoding of life. Members will support and promote the goals of CBOL and will be able to offer investment of resources. Contributions may be via existing or new projects funded from core institutional sources, existing or new externally funded projects and/or access to specimens or other resources.

Executive Committee:

To promote timely and efficient management, an Executive Committee of the members will oversee the operations of the Secretariat.

Secretariat:

A Secretariat will be the day-to-day operating mechanism for CBOL. Primary functions of the Secretariat will include representation of stakeholders' interests to funding agencies, beneficiaries and other partners, promotion of communication among members, recruitment of members and encouragement of development of "best practices." Subject to funding becoming available, the Secretariat may disburse small grants for targeted projects directly linked to the stated objectives of CBOL.

Any reimbursement or contribution of funds by one signatory of the MOC to another will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures.

This MOC may be modified or amended upon the request of any signatory party with the concurrence of all others. Any signatory party may terminate its participation in this MOC with written notice to the Secretariat 60 days prior to such withdrawal.

This MOC will be effective from 1st September 2004 for a period of five years at which point it will be subject to review by the Executive Committee and re-commitment by the signatories.

Date of signature:

Signature:

Printed Name:

Position:

On behalf of (name the institution/organization):

Designated contact person to represent the Member Organization to CBOL:

Contact person's email address: