



Australian Microbiome initiative Collaboration Agreement

BACKGROUND

The Australian Microbiome Initiative is a continental-scale collaborative initiative to create a public resource containing microbial genomic datasets and associated site specific comprehensive metadata from a range of Australian environments including soils, coastal, marine and freshwater locations, with the goal of engaging a broad base of end users to maximise translation of data to applied outcomes.

The initiative aims to develop an Australian microbial diversity and genomics resource for management, monitoring, and R&D purposes. The Initiative efforts will:

- Sustain and strengthen the Australian environmental microbial diversity and genomic resource
- Engage a broad range of end users and improve collaboration between researchers in different research fields
- Enhance functionality to allow translation of the resource to applied outcomes for a broad range of end-users and uses, and foster innovative research

The Initiative activities will:

- Build a continental-scale reference map of highly accessible microbial diversity and genomic data across a variety of ecosystems, to advance our understanding and management of Australia's environments;
- Augment the resource to house a broader array of available data from other national initiatives;
- Establish microbial genomics as a key capacity across a broad range of end users from researchers, industries and governmental agencies and government agencies, and build the community to sustain this;
- Increase awareness of the vital functions supported by microbial diversity within Australian environments, as well as how highlighting the ways that microbial genomics can contribute to environmental monitoring/management strategies and become a valuable resource for R&D.

The initiative operates by employing a non-exclusive collaborative approach involving researchers from over 40 different Australian and international organisations¹.

Bioplatforms Australia Ltd (Bioplatforms), the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), Parks Australia through the Bush Blitz program, and CSIRO provide oversight and significant resources to support the initiative.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. The initiative is run using a collaborative approach with collective decisions made by the Steering Committee through recommendations by relevant working groups. The Steering Committee oversees the Initiative and is made up of individuals representing the founding partners and the interests of the initiative.
2. Collaborators will provide environmental samples or DNA/RNA extracts for sequence analysis. The sample metadata required by the Australian Microbiome will be provided with the samples upon submission (samples will not be processed prior to receipt of sample metadata). Collaborators will cover the costs of sample submission, including sample shipment.

¹ <https://www.australianmicrobiome.com/consortium-members/>

3. Data will be made publicly available through the Bioplatforms Data Portal² (managed by Bioplatforms). Data will also be included through relevant international data repositories, as per the Consortium Data Policy (schedule 1).
4. Sensitive data or metadata (such as GPS coordinates that may be linked to biosecurity or conservation sensitivity) will be handled using the approach applied by the Sensitive Data Service developed by the Atlas of Living Australia³.
5. Communications (scientific or general publications and presentations) that arise from this work will appropriately acknowledge collaborators' and investors' contributions as outlined in the Consortium Communications Policy (schedule 2).
6. Bioplatforms is to be included in Australian Microbiome related correspondence with collaborative organisations both locally and internationally to ensure consistency in communication.

OTHER MATTERS

This agreement is not intended to create any partnership, agency or other relationship between the parties under which any of them may be taken to be responsible for the acts, omissions or debts of the other.

Nothing in this agreement shall preclude any party from entering into other arrangements or collaborations with other persons or organisations in the areas covered by this agreement.

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

This is a collaborative agreement between the Australian Microbiome Initiative, signed by Bioplatforms Australia on behalf of the Initiative and the core funding partners,
 and
 from

Collaborator

Signed

Print name

Date

Bioplatforms Australia Ltd on behalf the Australian Microbiome Initiative and the core funding partners

Signed

Print name

Date

Schedule 1 Australian Microbiome Initiative data policy v1.1

Schedule 2 Australian Microbiome Initiative communications policy v1.1

² <https://data.bioplatforms.com/organization/about/australian-microbiome>

³ <https://www.ala.org.au/faq/data-sensitivity/>