

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN:**     **INTERNATIONAL BARCODE OF LIFE (iBOL) PROJECT**,  
corporation having its head office at 150, Metcalfe Street,  
#2100, Ottawa (Ontario) K2P 1P1

hereinafter called “*iBOL*”

**AND:**           **[NODE OR INTERNATIONAL NAME]**

hereinafter called “*◆*”

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WHEREAS the International Barcode of Life Project (iBOL) Project (“*iBOL*”) is a Canadian not-for-profit corporation, having its head office at 150, Metcalfe Street, #2100, Ottawa (Ontario) K2P 1P1;

WHEREAS the purpose of iBOL is to coordinate an international network of scientists and funding agencies focused on (a) sample acquisition and DNA barcoding of eukaryotic species, (b) development of a reference library of barcode sequences, and (c) development of analytical technologies and bioinformatics resources for DNA barcoding;

WHEREAS the Parties signatory to this document is / are co-ordinating <country / region name> involvement in iBOL through the <Node Name>, composed of leading researchers involved in DNA Barcoding and representatives of the key organizations charged with advancing the discovery of organisms in <Country / Region name>; and

WHEREAS the Parties wish to collaborate for the mutual benefit of their programs;

## **IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

### **1.     SCOPE**

This document outlines the intended role of countries and regions participating as “Nodes” in the International Barcode of Life Project (“iBOL”).

### **2.     BACKGROUND**

DNA barcoding is a strategy for rapidly and accurately identifying species by sequencing a short region of the same gene and comparing the sequence across a

broad reference database of similar sequences, and which database will enable inventorying and assessment of biodiversity for all nations.

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

#### **3.1 iBOL**

'iBOL' refers to the International Barcode of Life Project and includes its Board of Directors, Advisory Committees, coordinating Secretariat and participating 'Nodes'.

#### **3.2 iBOL Nodes**

iBOL Nodes are networks of leading researchers and key organizations affiliated to iBOL and engaged in DNA barcoding and/or in funding and advancing biodiversity science in a country or region of the world.

#### **3.3 iBOL National Nodes**

National Nodes are those countries and regions whose activities are focused primarily on collection and curation of specimens for DNA barcoding.

#### **3.4 iBOL Regional Nodes**

Regional Nodes are those countries and regions which have the additional capacity to expand partnerships and establish core facilities for DNA barcoding and related research on a regional basis that extends beyond their national boundaries.

#### **3.5 iBOL Central Nodes**

Central Nodes are those countries and regions which commit to (a) establish large sequencing facilities that will barcode samples from diverse sources and geographies, and (b) act as leaders in knowledge and technology transfer across (other) Central, Regional and National Nodes.

#### **3.6 iBOL Core Facilities**

iBOL Core Facilities are laboratories and technology platforms established by, or affiliated to, iBOL Regional and Central Nodes. These core facilities provide the DNA barcoding community with the sequencing, analysis, bio-informatics, bio-repository, training and/or knowledge mobilization resources appropriate to a project of iBOL's scale.

### **4. UNDERTAKING**

The Parties will, subject to future funding commitments and evolving institutional priorities, maintain <<iBOL Node Name>> as a <<Central / Regional / National Node>> within iBOL, follow and benefit from the "Participation Guidelines for iBOL Nodes", as described in Appendix I, and will work through the <<iBOL Node

**Name>>** Steering Committee to participate in its programs, and contribute to its success.

**5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The parties will maintain, update, share and report information on the Node's participating groups, projects, resources, activities and funding status, as outlined in the "*Node Profile Template*" in Appendix II hereof, and will report annually on the Node's financial status, progress and accomplishments.

**6. DATA RELEASE**

The parties will share information and support iBOL's Data and Resource Sharing Policies, in accordance with Appendix III hereof.

**7. PRESS RELEASE**

The Parties will jointly decide whether or not to issue any press releases and other forms of publicity covering this MoU or the activities associated with it, but this provision will not limit public disclosure legally required of any of the Parties individually.

**8. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This MoU has an Effective Date when all the Parties have executed this agreement.

**9. TERM**

The term of this MoU shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue in effect until December 2015, or any other date mutually agreed in the event of an extension in funding.

Any party to this MoU may terminate the present agreement at any time upon a ninety (90) day prior notice.

**10. LIABILITY**

This MoU does not create any liability between the parties nor any binding or legal partnership or association and each party remains a legally independent party. None of the parties shall be liable for any act of the other party, and such latter party shall hold the other party harmless for any claim to such effect.

**11. EXECUTION**

CONSEQUENTLY THE PARTIES HAVE EXECUTED THE PRESENT MoU ON THE RESPECTIVE DATES MENTIONED BELOW.

**INTERNATIONAL BARCODE OF  
LIFE (iBOL) PROJECT**

**[NODE OR INTERNATIONAL NAME]**

Per: \_\_\_\_\_

Per: \_\_\_\_\_

Per: \_\_\_\_\_

Per: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

international  
BARCODE  
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