

## **Consortium for the Barcode of Life**

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to register our interest in the sustainable wildlife management and the work of the Liaison Group on Bushmeat. We are the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) and we have been involved in many CBD activities over the past decade, including the Global Taxonomy Initiative, SBSTTA, and the development of the Nagoya Protocol. The Executive Secretary signed an MOU with the International Barcode of Life Project during COP-10 in Nagoya.

CBOL is an international initiative dedicated to developing and promoting 'DNA barcoding' as a global standard for the identification of species. One of the most important applications of barcoding is the identification of plant and animal material to determine if they are derived from endangered or protected species. CBOL has been working with colleagues in many developing countries to build a reference barcode library that can be used to identify samples (e.g., food products, clothing, jewelry, medicinal powders). Several publications resulting from this work are attached.

The following are our responses to the questionnaire distributed with your Notification:

### **Questionnaire for the expression of interest for participating in a collaborative partnership on sustainable wildlife management**

1. What are your expectations for a collaborative partnership on sustainable wildlife management (with a focus on supporting developing countries in implementing the recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat)?

We expect and hope that CBD will act as the convenor of stakeholders in this important area, including but not limited to: National CBD and CITES Contact Points; representatives of national and international agencies for nature reserves and law enforcement; representatives of judiciaries, NGOs; scientific researchers with expertise in conservation biology.

2. What are key experiences of your organization in sustainable wildlife management at global, regional and national level?

CBOL has worked with natural history museums and zoos around the world to obtain tissue samples from well-identified voucher specimens of mammals, from which a reference library of standardized DNA barcodes is being constructed. We have also supported training opportunities for students, technicians and researchers from developing countries who want to learn barcoding protocols. This has allowed border inspectors and law enforcement officials to begin using DNA barcodes to test samples that are suspected as being derived from protected species. Laboratories in the US are being established for DNA barcode testing at border inspection sites and CBOL has been involved in that training. We are eager to do the same for enforcement agencies in developing countries.

3. Which organizational format would you suggest for a possible partnership on sustainable wildlife management? (Please cite examples of other international partnerships, if possible).

CBOL is open to many formats for international collaboration. We are particularly eager to become involved in regional partnerships that bring together regulatory agencies (Ministries of Environment), international organizations (CBD, CITES, InterPol), and the research community with which CBOL is most closely associated (through museums, universities and research institutes).

4. Which resources could you contribute to the partnership, if any?

CBOL has more than 200 member organizations from more than 50 countries. We have an excellent track record of: building networks and partnerships; convening planning meetings, workshops and conferences; training; and supporting the development of successful proposals for project funding. Our network of member organizations provides us with access to: taxonomic experts; laboratory facilities; expertise in information technology; and the management of biodiversity data.

Thank you for considering this expression of interest.

*David E. Schindel, Executive Secretary*

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