

# Australia: the right environment for Biodiscovery



## **Genetic Resources Information Database— an alternative to paper-based permit or certification systems**

Confidence by parties in the biodiscovery commercialisation chain is essential for investment in natural product discovery.

The Australian Government has developed a system of online verification of permits and collection records to assist the biotechnology industry and capital providers.

The database provides a free, publicly accessible means to verify details of legal provenance of genetic resources obtained from 1 Commonwealth areas while protecting the commercial interests of permit holders.

For more information about the Genetic Resources Information Database:

<http://www.deh.gov.au/grid/public/perrep.jsp>

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**Pages** Inside page: Director of National Parks; David Harasti; Director of National Parks; Kevin Sheridan, Australian Government Antarctic Division © Commonwealth of Australia.

1 Commonwealth areas are defined by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and generally means areas of land, sea and airspace owned or managed by the Australian Government.

## **Further information**

Management of genetic resources in Australia

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/science/access/national-contacts.html>

*The Nationally Consistent Approach for Access to and the Utilisation of Australia's Native Genetic and Biochemical Resources*

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/access/nca/index.html>

## **Contacts**

For a list of state, territory and Australian Government contacts:

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/science/access/national-contacts.html>

Or contact the Competent National Authority for the Australian Government:

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Genetic Resources Management Policy  
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**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment and Heritage**



## Megadiversity

### Biological environment

Australia is one of 19 megadiverse countries. Australia's biodiversity covers ecosystems from the deep sea to tropical rainforests to deserts and the Antarctic.

The diversity of habitat types and Australia's biological isolation have combined to give Australia approximately 10 per cent of the total biodiversity of the planet. More than 80 per cent of this extremely rich array of species are found nowhere else.



## Business certainty

### Genetic resource access environment

Australia's governments provide facilitated access to genetic resources following world's best practice, the Convention on Biological Diversity's Bonn Guidelines. Access to Australia's genetic resources is managed according to environmentally sustainable principles.

### Research and collaboration environment

Australia has a strong scientific and research base and an increasing number of companies focusing on biodiscovery and the commercialisation of biodiscovery products.

Australia's scientific and research community is committed to productive collaborations with Australian and international companies to deliver benefits for all parties.

### Public administration environment

Public administration in Australia is delivered in a stable political environment, with governments that support the open exchange of ideas, good practices and innovation.

Australian governments are committed to reducing unnecessary time and cost burdens on industry.

### Legal environment

Australia is a developed country with a well-respected and long established system of commercial and intellectual property law that offers security to investors.

