

Kunming Declaration on the Promotion of DNA Barcoding and Biodiversity Science

关于促进DNA条形码和生物多样性科学的昆明宣言

October 31, 2013

Context

Two large-scale collaborations, the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) and the International Barcode of Life project (iBOL), have created an international scientific community focused on the development and application of short standardised sequences, known as DNA barcoding, to discriminate the world's species.

These collaborations provided the initial organisational structure that built a community of practice through: 1) the promotion of barcoding and biodiversity science; 2) delivery of international training in barcoding and biodiversity research; 3) creation of an informatics platform for barcoding; 4) development of standards; and 5) support for international collaboration, including bi-annual meetings.

Recognition

Recognising the:

- Rapid expansion and diffusion of barcoding;
- Great potential for both scientific and social impacts of barcoding;
- Growth of the international community of practice;
- Need to sustain certain functions provided to date by CBOL and iBOL; and
- Requirement for best practices in governance for the barcoding community;

Declaration

We Declare:

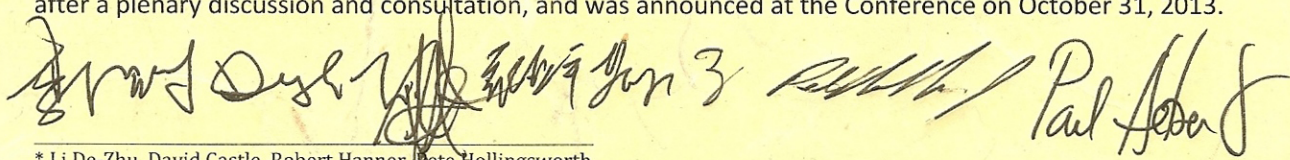
Barcoding is revolutionising how we study and document biodiversity. Advances in barcoding science, its application, and its impacts on society would benefit from having an international coordinating organisation that would promote:

1. Excellence in the science of barcoding of all domains of life;
2. Technological development to maximise the power and efficiency of barcoding techniques;
3. Development and adoption of barcoding applications to meet social challenges through a variety of mechanisms including not-for-profit and commercial activities;
4. Development of a reference library and associated standards including:
 - a. Technical standards for barcoding (markers),
 - b. Interoperability standards (informatics),
 - c. Regulatory standards using barcoding;
5. Accessibility of barcoding data, technologies and publications, recognizing constraints on the use of genetic resources in compliance with international and national laws on access and benefit sharing;
6. Engagement of other partners, including national governments, inter-governmental agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organisations;
7. Expansion of the global barcoding community and international cooperation with particular attention to the developing world;
8. Development and delivery of training programmes to build global capacity, and integrate barcoding into all levels and types of education.

An *ad hoc* governance committee will be formed and will include the originators* of the declaration and representatives of the diversity of the barcoding community. The *ad hoc* committee will be tasked with establishing the structure, governance and management of the proposed organisation within nine months. A period of open consultation will follow for three months, followed by incorporation of stakeholder views. The committee's activities will lead to the formal launch of the organisation at the 2015 Sixth International Barcode of Life Conference.

This Declaration was agreed upon at the Fifth International Barcode of Life Conference in Kunming, China, after a plenary discussion and consultation, and was announced at the Conference on October 31, 2013.

Signed by



* Li De-Zhu, David Castle, Robert Hanner, Pete Hollingsworth