

Public Benefit Sharing Declaration

The aim of this *Public Benefit Sharing Declaration* is to:

- Facilitate the transfer of genetic resources with unknown provenance;
- Recognise Indigenous Australians' historical and ongoing stewardship of genetic resources;
- Ensure compliance with relevant international, national, and local laws and regulations;
- Minimise the administrative and legal burdens of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) measures; and
- Create a predictable environment for the collection, use, and transfer of genetic resources.

When dealing with genetic resources that are *not* ABS Compliant (that is, genetic resources that were not collected with prior informed consent *and* under a Benefit Sharing Agreement/Standard Material Transfer Agreement), researchers/users should:

- (i) Make reasonable best efforts to identify who has the authority to grant access.
- (ii) Where the *access provider is identified* you should (i) obtain consent to use the resources and (ii) enter into a Benefit Sharing Agreement with them. Where the access provider is not willing to provide their retrospective consent to access the resources or the parties are unable to finalise a Benefit Sharing Agreement, you should *not* use the resources.
- (iii) Where after reasonable best efforts the access provider *cannot be identified*, the collection and use of the genetic resources will be governed by this *Public Benefit Sharing Declaration*. This provides that in recognition of the custodianship of Indigenous Australians and of the importance of genetic resources that the Centre commits to undertake the following public benefit sharing activities:
 - Share research outputs widely and openly;
 - Acknowledge Indigenous Australians' historical and ongoing stewardship of genetic resources in publications and other communications;
 - Deposit samples of the genetic resources at relevant *ex situ* collections for conservation and sustainable use, if the genetic resources are not already publicly available;
 - Commit to share a reasonable percentage of any profits arising from the use of the genetic resources with relevant organisations, such as Indigenous Australian groups, environmental conservation organisations, or community organisations; and
 - Where possible, provide annual scholarships and other education and training programs for Indigenous Australian students.

If the access provider is subsequently identified, reasonable best efforts should be made to conclude a Benefit Sharing Agreement with them.

Name:

Position:

Institution:

Date: