

Nagoya Protocol Policy for the FunDive Project

1. Introduction

The FunDive project is committed to adhering to the principles and regulations set forth by the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), in Regulation No 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, which governs access to genetic resources and ensures the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. As a project focused on fungal diversity, the collection, exchange, and research of genetic materials are integral to our activities. We recognize the importance of complying with national and international regulations regarding access to genetic resources.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all project partners and collaborators involved in the FunDive project, specifically concerning the collection, exchange, and utilization of fungal specimens, environmental samples, and DNA extracts for non-commercial research purposes. The research activities under this project include DNA sequencing (barcoding and meta-barcoding) and taxonomic work, but do not extend to functional genomics, useful metabolites, or other commercial applications.

3. Compliance with ABS Regulations

FunDive recognizes that each participating country may have specific ABS regulations that align with the Nagoya Protocol, particularly concerning the use of genetic resources for research. Therefore, the following measures will be implemented:

1. **National ABS Measures:** All project partners will ensure compliance with the national ABS measures of the countries from which samples and DNA extracts are collected or exchanged. This includes adhering to local laws on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and obtaining Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) when necessary.
2. **Access to Genetic Resources:** Before any samples or genetic material are accessed or transferred between countries, the project will:
 - Verify the legal requirements in the provider country for obtaining genetic resources.
 - Obtain PIC from the appropriate authorities, where applicable.

- Establish MAT with the provider country to ensure that the utilization of the genetic resources aligns with the agreed terms.
- 3. **Utilization of Genetic Resources:** The genetic materials collected will be used solely for non-commercial research purposes, focusing on the identification and taxonomy of fungal species. Data generated, such as DNA sequences, will be shared among consortium members and submitted to public databases for further scientific research and conservation purposes, ensuring transparency and collaboration. Detailed Data Management Plan governs data sharing policies, ensuring full compliance with FAIR principles.
- 4. **Documentation and Reporting:** The FunDive project will maintain thorough documentation of all PIC and MAT agreements, ensuring that all legal obligations are met. Project members will also be responsible for submitting relevant reports to the national authorities in accordance with ABS regulations.

4. Benefit Sharing

The FunDive project is committed to sharing the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources with the provider countries. This includes the sharing of non-monetary benefits, such as research results, publications, and capacity-building activities that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

5. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

FunDive aims to promote capacity building and knowledge sharing between European and national stakeholders. The project will work closely with local citizen scientists, conservationists, and authorities to enhance local expertise in fungal diversity research and contribute to biodiversity conservation efforts.

6. Data Management and Intellectual Property

The project will ensure that any data derived from the research is managed in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and relevant national regulations. This includes making data publicly accessible through appropriate channels, such as open-access databases, while respecting the intellectual property rights and legal agreements established under ABS.

7. Monitoring and Compliance

The FunDive project will continuously monitor compliance with ABS regulations and protocols throughout the project's duration. The FunDive Management Team will be

responsible for overseeing legal and ethical adherence to the Nagoya Protocol and national ABS measures.

Users of genetic resources involved in the FunDive project will maintain thorough records and store the following information:

- The name and address of the user.
- A detailed description of the genetic resource or the subject-matter and its utilization.
- The date and place of access to the genetic resource.
- If the genetic resource was acquired from a third party, the name and address of that person, along with the date of acquisition.
- In the event of transferring the genetic resource to another user, the name and address of the subsequent user and the date of transfer will be recorded.

Should the genetic resource be passed on to a third party, all of this information will also be handed over to ensure ongoing compliance with ABS regulations.

Conclusion

By implementing this policy, the FunDive project commits to ensuring that all activities related to the access and use of genetic resources are conducted ethically, legally, and in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and relevant national ABS regulations. This policy reflects our dedication to supporting biodiversity research while promoting fair and equitable benefit sharing with provider countries.