

ALA Education Investment Fund (EIF)

Governance provisions

(extracted from project plan)

5. OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

5.1 Relation of ALA-SS to the Biodiversity Community and the Role of Participants
ALA-SS is an extension of the work of the Atlas of Living Australia, which is a collaboration between CSIRO, DEWHA (Australian Biological Resources Study), DAFF (Australian Plant Pest Database), state museums (Australian Museum, Museum Victoria, Queensland Museum, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery), universities (University of Adelaide, Southern Cross University) and the peak bodies for Australian natural history collections (Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria, Council of Heads of Australian Faunal Collections, Council of Heads of Australian Entomological Collections, Council of Heads of Australian Collections of Microorganisms, Council of Australasian Museum Directors), thereby including representation from throughout the country's collections.

These Participants provide technical direction for the ALA-SS project and have made significant in-kind contributions of content and expertise as part of their commitment to the overall ALA activity.

5.2 Governance Framework

- The ALA-SS project will be governed through the same framework as the NCRIS ALA project: The existing ALA Management Committee consists of representatives from CSIRO, the peak bodies representing Australian natural history collections, DEWHA and three related NCRIS capabilities (TERN, ABIN, APN), currently under the chairmanship of Frank Howarth (Council of Australian Museum Directors). This committee acts in an advisory role providing high level direction, strategy and guidance to CSIRO and the ALA Director.
- CSIRO has responsibility to manage the ALA project and EIF funds and ensure that the project is carried out in accordance with the obligations under the DIISR Funding Agreement. Following the allocation of the EIF funding, a new ALA Steering Committee is being established with representation from CSIRO, the ALA Management Committee, DIISR and DEWHA (as a key



stakeholder with interest in the products from the ALA). The existing Management Committee will continue in its existing role.

5.3 Specific Roles

5.3.1 CSIRO (Lead Agency)

The role of CSIRO is to:

- (a) enter into the Commonwealth Agreement as head contractor for the ALA-SS Project and to receive and administer Commonwealth funds and ensure appropriate reporting and liaison with the Commonwealth
- (b) collaborate with the ALA Management Committee to ensure proper management and implementation of the ALA-SS Project, acknowledging that CSIRO will adhere to ALA Management Committee decisions unless such decisions are contrary to its obligations under the Commonwealth Agreement, this agreement or conflict with relevant CSIRO internal policies and procedures
- (c) employ or contract, in accordance with its policies and procedures, project management staff for the ALA-SS Project including an ALA Director and project officer
- (d) coordinate interactions, and act as legal representative where appropriate, with international initiatives and other NCRIS Projects
- (e) contract with third parties to develop and provide infrastructure and tools required for the ALA-SS Project.

5.3.2 ALA Steering Committee

The ALA Steering Committee meets four times annually, and will ensure that CSIRO's responsibilities as Lead Agency are managed appropriately.

The committee comprises the following:

- (a) CSIRO Group Executive, Environment (Chair)
- (b) Chair of ALA Management Committee
- (c) DEWHA representative
- (d) CSIRO Group Executive, Agribusiness
- (e) CSIRO Finance Manager, Environment
- (f) CSIRO Portfolio Leader, Biodiversity
- (g) DIISR representative as observer.



5.3.3 ALA Management Committee

The ALA Management Committee meets four times annually. Its role is to:

(a) operate pursuant to its agreed terms of reference and the roles and responsibilities outlined therein such as:

- i. advise on ALA Project priorities
- ii. develop strategic directions and policies for the ALA
- iii. review Annual Business Plans, Reports, performance indicators and the annual budget.

(b) represent and engage with key partners, data providers and the overall collection and User community by providing transparency and accountability.

(c) direct and assist CSIRO (as head contractor to the Commonwealth) and the ALA Director to develop and implement the ALA Project, acknowledging that it will formulate policy and or work plans consistent as far as practicable with CSIRO requirements, roles and legal responsibilities with due regard for the aims of the ALA and the expectations of the collection community it will service.

The committee comprises representatives nominated by ALA participants and other stakeholder organisations:

(a) One representative from each of the four peak organisations that speak for the biological collections community in Australia:

- Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH);
- Council of Heads of Australian Faunal Collections (CHAFC);
- Australian Microbial Resources Research Network (AMRRN); and
- Council of Australian Museum Directors (CAMD)

(b) a representative from CSIRO as the lead agency (eg Chief of Entomology or the Agribusiness Group Executive)

(c) a representative from the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS)

(d) a representative from the Australian Phenomics Network (NCRIS APN) or the Australian Plant Phenomics Network (NCRIS APPF)

(e) a representative from the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (NCRIS TERN)

(f) a representative from the Australian Biosecurity Intelligence Network (NCRIS ABIN)

(g) the ALA Director



ALA Governance



- **Management Committee**
 - Advise on ALA Project priorities
 - Develop strategic directions and policies
 - Review plans, reports and budgets
 - Engage with broader community
 - Direct and assist CSIRO and ALA Director to develop and implement the ALA Project
- **Project Steering Committee**
 - Foster cooperation and collaboration to deliver ALA
 - Support interaction between ALA Government and other stakeholders
 - Consider options for future after 2012
 - Ensure delivery on time, on budget and within scope

