



November 2012  
Oceania Biodiscovery Forum

**19 - 23 November 2012, Eskitis Institute, Brisbane, Australia**

*Organised by the Australian Government, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, hosted by Griffith University.*

**Download the outline and the agenda [here](#).**

Since 2009 the Australian Government organises the National Biodiscovery Forum series, providing biodiscovery stakeholders with opportunities to exchange ideas, understanding and experiences.

In 2012 Pacific nations are invited to join their Australian counterparts at the first-ever Oceania Biodiscovery Forum. This has been made possible through support from GIZ and the Access and Benefit Sharing Capacity Building Initiative.

The forums aim to foster mutual understanding and collaboration between all participants – whether from state or federal government bodies, academic or research institutions or industry. These forums are designed to encourage all parties involved to realise the potential of biodiversity research and create a thriving, global industry.

The signing of the Nagoya Protocol marks a new era in the global relationship between providers and subsequent users of genetic resources. The challenge is for researchers, industry and all levels of government to develop, adopt and begin to use global standards for the use of genetic resources.

With the framework of the Protocol in place, we need a simple, consistent and efficient system that provides certainty for users and providers of genetic resources and any associated traditional knowledge. We need a system that encourages biodiversity research, investment and innovation that will benefit everyone.

The second National Biodiscovery Forum in 2011 revealed that participating research scientists had a strong interest in the commercialisation of their work, but at the same time had a lack of knowledge on how to pursue this – and what companies and investors were really looking for.

The first Oceania Biodiscovery Forum will focus on these questions.

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