

Atlas of Living Australia

The Atlas of Living Australia is a national database that will enable researchers and other users to find, access, combine and visualise data on Australian plants and animals.

Existing information about Australian species is distributed across countless databases, specimen catalogues and websites. The Atlas brings together distribution data for Australian plants, animals and microorganisms, and combines it with images, literature, maps, identification tools and molecular data. Researchers and the public will be able to explore and analyse this information in novel ways.

Key facts

- State: ACT
- Lead institute: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Project status: In progress
- Australian Government contribution:
 - \$8.5 million from the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy program;
 - \$30 million under the Super Science Initiative (*link to SSI landing page*)
 - \$2.8 million from the Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme (CRIS) (*link to CRIS landing page*)
 - \$5,764,900 from the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy 2013 program

Project deliverables

The Atlas is a database that contains information on all the known species in Australia aggregated from a wide range of data providers:

- museums
- herbaria
- community groups
- government departments
- individuals
- universities.

Biodiversity information includes:

- reference lists of species in different groups
- databases of information on specimens held in natural history collections
- databases of field observations from ecologists, naturalists and others
- images and other multimedia
- published literature
- molecular data sets
- identification keys
- and a wide range of other databases and web sites.

Access

Access to the database is free on the [Atlas website](#).

Participating organisations

The Atlas of Living Australia is a collaboration between CSIRO, the administrative lead agency, and the:

- Australian Museum (AM)
 - Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory (MAGNT)
 - Museum Victoria (MV)
 - Queensland Museum (QM)
 - South Australian Museum (SAMA)
 - Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG)
 - Western Australian Museum (WAM)
 - Australian Virtual Herbarium
 - Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD)
 - Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH)
 - Council of Heads of Australian Collections of Microorganisms (CHACM)
 - Council of Heads of Australian Entomological Collections (CHAECE)
 - Council of Heads of Australian Faunal Collections (CHAFC)
 - Southern Cross University
 - The University of Adelaide
 - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
 - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC)
 - Victoria Department of Primary Industry
- To share knowledge and expertise and to provide access to major research resources, the Atlas is developing close collaborations with other related national research infrastructure projects, in particular:
- Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN)
 - Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS)
 - Australian Biosecurity Intelligence Network (ABIN)
 - Australian Phenomics Network (APN)
 - Australian Plant Phenomics Facility (APPF)

The Atlas is also the Australian node of the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#), a global network which was established by governments in 2001 to encourage free and open access to global biodiversity data via the internet.

More information

For more information about the project, go to the [Atlas of Living Australia website](#).