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Research and Conservation Activities

Invitation to BAT1K Genome Consortium

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BAT1K is an new initiative aimed to sequence the genomes of all extant species of bats to chromosome level assemblies. Our goal as a consortium is to uncover the genes and genetic mechanisms behind the unique adaptations of bats, mining their genomes to uncover their secrets. This consortium is only possible by uniting bat researchers, field biologists, conservation organisations and lay people across the world to identify all bat species, so that we can uncover their secrets. We aim to form an active community of individuals with a common goal to conserve, better understand and promote bats.

BAT1K is currently in the initial stages, actively searching for funding to sequence every genera in a 5 year time span. While this is underway, we would like to ask you to join BAT1K and help us collect the samples required to make this a reality. In order to make the highest quality genomes possible, we need ideally flash frozen tissue, high molecular weight DNA, tissue cultures or access to living individuals. If you have access to any of these resources for any bat species, you can sign up at our website (bat1k.com), committing to BAT1K and pledging these resources to the project. If you want to pledge other resources (i.e. computational time, bioinformatics expertise etc.) or simply just want to be informed about the project, sign up and we will keep up to date with the progress of BAT1K.

As we are still in the initial stages, we would like anyone who is donating tissue sources to keep them frozen at <-80 degrees until funding is acquired to initiate the first phase of BAT1K. By signing up, you will be kept up to date through a regular newsletter and will be contacted as soon as Phase 1 begins.

By showing interest in this project and signing up, you can help us convince funding agencies to provide the resources required to make this project a reality. Together we will generate an unrivaled 'genomic ark' of bat genomes, preserving their genomic diversity for eternity. This will enable us to develop better conservation plans and ultimately stimulate global interest and appreciation of bats.