

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL  
RESEARCH ORGANISATION  
(CSIRO)**

**AND**

**AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
(AusAID)**

## **Introduction**

1. The Australian Government has expressed its strong support for enhanced coordination between Commonwealth agencies. This Strategic Partnership is designed to advance the Government's policies of promoting climate security, economic development, good governance and stability. It recognises the inter-linkages between environmental and development challenges and the need for clear, shared objectives across the Australian Government to guide planning and response. CSIRO and AusAID are natural partners in this endeavour, sharing common interests in fostering a secure and prosperous region by assisting developing country partners in areas of sectoral expertise including climate change, food security, water and urban development.
2. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a cooperative framework between CSIRO and AusAID by articulating shared strategic goals, acknowledging agency strengths and establishing partnership principles.

## **Strategic Partnership Principles**

3. The Strategic Partnership is governed by the following principles:
  - a) Policy coherence and program effectiveness are enhanced by shared commitment to strategic goals.
  - b) The relationship between CSIRO and AusAID is one of equal partnership, in which the skills, attributes and strengths of each agency are valued by the other.
  - c) The partnership is underpinned by mutual respect, professionalism, honesty, cooperation, the sharing of ideas and open, two-way communication at all levels.
  - d) Recognition that the roles and functions of each agency are guided by their respective responsibilities within the Australian Government.
  - e) A commitment to liaison and early and on-going consultation and cooperation in relation to policies and programs in which they have shared interests, underpinned by a desire to optimise the impact of Australian assistance. Consultation in relation to shared interests encompasses the provision of advice to Ministers, dealing with other government agencies, and the public handling of issues.
  - f) The agencies will engage on performance issues, accountability and risk management by drawing the other's attention to matters likely to impact on their respective policies or program delivery.
  - g) The agencies will assist the other with building their capacity in specified and agreed areas of mutual interest.
4. CSIRO and AusAID will work together to promote Australia's strategic interests and to improve development prospects in countries of mutual interest, including through sustainable capacity building and through enhancing cooperation in planning and delivery of development responses.
5. CSIRO and AusAID will work cooperatively to:
  - a) leverage each agency's specialist capacities and strategic international engagements to achieve whole of government outcomes in pursuit of broader Government policies;
  - b) deliver high quality and strategic assistance in complex environments through shared analysis, policy advice, priority setting, and engagement of appropriate partners;

- c) build partner capacity to effectively mitigate and manage the risk of disasters, including natural and industrial disasters;
  - d) contribute to broader Australian international development policy including in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, food security, water security and urban development; and
  - e) facilitate shared learning among research institutions and leaders in the region.
6. Specialist advice will be shared between CSIRO and AusAID in order to facilitate seamless and effective collaboration in accordance with existing obligations and standards.

### **Shared Strategic Partnership Goals**

7. The agencies will work together to promote Australia's strategic interests and to improve security and development prospects in countries of mutual interest, including through supporting sustainable development and responding to the challenges of climate change, food security, water security and urbanisation.
8. More specifically, CSIRO and AusAID will work cooperatively in relevant countries and regions to:
- a) leverage each agency's specialist capacities and strategic international engagements to achieve whole-of-government outcomes in pursuit of broader Government policies;
  - b) build partner country capacity to develop responses to sustainable development challenges; and
  - c) identify principles for broad-based growth and reduction of rural poverty, including through advancing agricultural productivity, food and water security, sustainable management of natural resources and through other means as agreed by the parties.

### **Agency Skills, Attributes and Strengths**

9. Each agency brings different skills, attributes and strengths to the Strategic Partnership.
10. AusAID's strengths include:
- a) providing development policy and program advice in complex operating environments, drawing on an understanding of longer-term development objectives;
  - b) managing Australian development cooperation programs focused on achieving sustainable development paths, including through strong partnerships with international and multilateral organisations; and
  - c) well-established networks and relationships with partner governments and other key partners and extensive overseas infrastructure and delivery systems.
11. CSIRO's strengths include:
- a) the provision of focused and/or multidisciplinary research teams to address key development problems;
  - b) the generation and dissemination of new knowledge to meet development agenda challenges with AusAID and/or in-country partners;
  - c) capacity building of researchers in-country;
  - d) well-established research agency networks and relationships within the global research community; and

- e) strong partnering capacity with ACIAR and the contribution of technical advice to related agencies such as the World Bank.
12. To achieve the Strategic Partnership goals, CSIRO will look to AusAID to provide assistance in its areas of strength including:
- a) expert advice on development policy and program development for developing countries in the region; and
  - b) expertise on program design, monitoring and evaluation and capacity-building.
13. AusAID will look to CSIRO to provide assistance in its areas of strength including:
- a) research and analysis of sustainable development issues, including on climate change adaptation and mitigation, food security, water security, and urbanisation;
  - b) research and analysis of sustainable production systems – including agriculture, aquaculture and forestry;
  - c) information and communication technologies to address the digital divide and associated economic development constraints;
  - d) emerging infectious diseases, the control and study of zoonotic diseases, animal health, and plant and animal biosecurity;
  - e) research and analysis to support disaster risk reduction and synergies with climate change adaptation, including sharing of environmental information, systems architectures and system interoperability; and
  - f) others as agreed.

### **Coordination Arrangements**

14. The Chief Executive of CSIRO and the Director General of AusAID will have overall responsibility for maintaining the Strategic Partnership. A senior executive officer will be the designated point of contact in each agency for relationship issues. In CSIRO's case this will be the Group Executive, Agribusiness and in AusAID's case, it will be the Assistant Director General, Economics, Rural Development and Infrastructure Branch.
15. On a day-to-day basis, dialogue will continue at an operational level between officers of both agencies who are responsible for program design, delivery and implementation and policy advice.
16. CSIRO and AusAID will meet at least annually at a senior executive level to review the Strategic Partnership and set priorities for cooperation and joint work. These formal cooperation arrangements will support enhanced engagement at all levels in areas of shared strategic interest.
17. Senior engagement on work priorities will provide opportunities for more strategic and efficient programming approaches. Subsidiary agreements will govern the actual operation of specific assistance programs being delivered by CSIRO and AusAID. These agreements will be cooperatively developed at the working level as required. Subsidiary agreements will recognise the different governance and due diligence obligations of each organisation and resolve issues of intellectual property.

18. Dialogue at a senior and operational level will identify opportunities for broader cooperation, including joint research and analysis in areas of shared interest and deepening staff links through exchanges or collaborative work processes.



**Peter Baxter**  
**Director General**  
**Australian Agency for**  
**International Development**  
**Date: 24-6-10**



**Megan Clark**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial**  
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