

Project aims to create DNA barcodes for all species

At first glance, the rather grandiose-sounding International Barcode of Life (IBOL) project seems an arcane scientific exercise.

But the database – which aims to create unique DNA identification “barcodes” for more than 5 million specimens, or about 500,000 of the earth’s 1.8 million species by the end of 2015 – could play a role in commercial greentech applications ranging from food labeling to tracking invasive species to bio-monitoring at oil and natural gas facilities.

The project also offers another poignant demonstration of the role that Big Data and mobile apps might play in research into the impact of climate change on endangered species and habits – both Google and Microsoft are also busy at work on environmental and species cataloging initiatives that stand to benefit from their processing might.

Read the full, original story: [Why you should care about the quest to put DNA barcodes on every species](#)