

Plain Language Statement

School of BioSciences – Faculty of Science



Project: Open-source acoustic monitoring technology needs and priorities survey

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

The aim of the research is to understand what **acoustic monitoring technology the bioacoustics/ecoacoustics community wish they had available, what features would help them to do their job, and their relative priorities**. By pooling the responses from many users of acoustic monitoring technology across the bioacoustics/ecoacoustics community, we aim to get the big picture about what functionalities are the highest priority to develop. We will use this information to create a publicly-available *technology roadmap* for acoustic monitoring technology which we hope will help focus current and future efforts in developing this technology, particularly as open-source.

This survey was designed in collaboration with Open Acoustic Devices (the creators of the open-source AudioMoth acoustic device), however only José Lahoz-Monfort and Ashton Dickerson will have access to the raw data. Survey results (pooled summarised responses) will be made publicly available for the benefit of the whole community, including anyone interested in developing acoustic monitoring technology.

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a short online multiple-choice survey (20 questions). This should take about 10 minutes.

What are the possible benefits?

By participating in this survey, you will directly contribute to creating a technology roadmap which may guide future direction and developments in the acoustic

monitoring field. This roadmap could become a powerful tool for the discipline, inspiring and attracting technologists around the world to contribute in a focused way, and even helping obtaining funding for technology development. We believe the roadmap would be particularly useful to promote the development of open-source hardware for acoustic monitoring that responds to real needs of the bioacoustics and ecoacoustics communities. Open-source hardware and software allow the collaborative development of low-cost devices for ecology and conservation. This option has great potential to become a game-changer in how we collect data on wildlife and ecosystems, and how we tackle conservation threats.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You can withdraw (quit) at any time. You are also welcome to leave some of the questions unanswered, or contact me if you have any concern or require clarification for any specific question.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

The results of this study will be used in a scientific publication and will be disseminated through other non-specialist channels (e.g. freely-available roadmap document, blog post). The Responsible Researcher will provide the results to all participants in the survey that have voluntarily chosen to share their email with us.

What will happen to information about me?

The Responsible Researcher will be aware of your identity. The main reason for this is in case the Responsible Researcher would like to follow up or clarify particular points with you, as well as to be able to deliver the research results back to the respondents. In any case, data will then be pooled for analysis and publication. We aim to protect your anonymity to the fullest possible extent within the limits of the law. Your identity will never be revealed outside the document that summarises the responses to the survey. This document will be stored in a password protected computer in the School of BioSciences at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Data will be retained for five years and then destroyed in line with University of Melbourne Records & Disposal Authority requirements.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the Responsible Researcher Dr José Lahoz-Monfort (see contact above).

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne HREC Project Number: 20543. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.