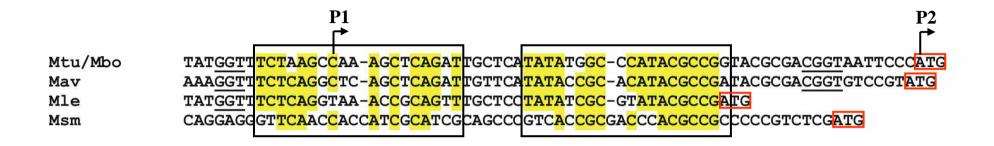


Figure 1S. Single nucleotide mutagenesis by overlap extention PCR (10) (see text for explanation).



**Figure 2S.** Sequence of the *sigE* upstream region in *M. tuberculosis* (Mtb), *M. bovis* (Mbo), *M. avium* (Mav), *M. leprae* (Mle), and *M. smegmatis* (Msm). Putative MprA binding sites are boxed. Transcription initiation points of P1 and P2 are shown and their –10 are underlined. Nucleotides conserved in at least three out of the four sequences are marked in yellow. Putative translation start point are red boxed.