

**Subject:** Gene drive engagement

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**To:** Todd Kuiken <tkuiken@ncsu.edu>, Fred Gould <fgould@ncsu.edu>, Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>, Heath Packard <heath.packard@islandconservation.org>

**CC:** Sara Kaiser <sara.kaiser@islandconservation.org>

Dear all

As you know we (Emerging) have been facilitating calls and coordination around CBD and related activities for a group of interested parties for the past few months. This started in December because of the CBD COP-MOP and continued afterwards as it seemed there was a growing group of people interested in sharing information and coordinating activities. Island Conservation and GBIRD, along with FNIH, Target Malaria and the Danforth Center were 'early joiners'. Target Malaria (whom as you know we've worked with for the past few years) offered to 'donate' some of the time we provide to them so that we would facilitate the calls and follow up. Thanks to different people's contacts, we now have a broader group of people participating, including yourselves, which is great and adds a lot of value.

Target Malaria had flagged that while they were happy to have us spend some of our time on this, this was not a long-term solution for a variety of reasons, and so we (Emerging) have been in talks with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation about securing longer term resources to enable and support advocacy and engagement activities on gene drive - in particular information sharing, collaboration and coordination on advocacy between different groups involved in this field.

As I mentioned on the call of our group last Monday, the Foundation has now offered to put up some seed funding to ensure this effort continues. It is in the hope that others may join to support activities, either through funding or 'in kind' by contributing time and effort on advocacy and engagement. It is also not prescriptive funding, in the sense that there isn't a list of deliverables attached to it, but it is meant rather as a resource if people are willing to get together and work jointly on this.

As you have been actively engaged in the calls for the past few months, I am reaching out to you to hear your thoughts on this proposal. Assuming this is of interest, the idea is that I will speak to everyone who's been active to date and try to collate the views and suggestions into a proposal of sort for an activity plan that then could be discussed by everyone. It would encompass what you think is useful for a coordinated group to do (or not), what would be complementary to your own activities and add value, and how you'd like to see this work. Of course there is no obligation to continue to join the calls or participate in whatever emerges from this effort.

If that makes sense, I'd be happy to have a call with you to discuss this further.

Best,

Isabelle



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**CBD Online Forum on Synthetic Biology will take place soon!** Experts should [register online](#) to participate.

Contact us if you require assistance.

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