

Subject: CBD online forum on synthetic biology
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Apologies for any cross-posting

Dear all

We have been working for the past few months with an informal group of organisations interested in gene drive, which includes Target Malaria, GBIRd, TIGS, FNIH, the Danforth Center and others. They have reached out to you about registering as experts for the online forum on synthetic biology organised by the CBD. The dates for the online forum have just been announced (see below) so we are helping organise briefing calls for those interested in learning more about how the online forum will be organised and how it will work and to introduce this expert group to each other.

As [the online forum begins July 3rd](#), we have a short window of opportunity to do the briefing calls. I have listed below a few different times in the hope that it enables most of you to join if you wish. The calls should last about half an hour and we will cover the context and purpose of the online forum, where the topic of gene drive might come up and share some insights about what maybe the most productive way to participate. If some of you have joined online forum in the past and you are willing to share your views, that would be welcome too.

BRIEFING CALLS

If possible, let me know if you wish to join any of these calls by responding to the doodle poll: <http://doodle.com/poll/3hrr56fkv7aq2vqz>

- Tuesday 27 June: 10 am UK
- Tuesday 27 June: 5 pm UK
- Wednesday 28 June: 1pm UK
- Wednesday 28 June: 10 pm UK
- Friday 30 June: 5pm UK

CALL IN DETAILS

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://www.gotomeet.me/EmergingAg_Isabelle

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 227-318-693

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[TOPICS & SCHEDULE of the online forum](#)

3-17 July Topic 1: **Review recent technological developments within the field of synthetic biology** to assess if the developments could lead to impacts on biodiversity and the three objectives of the Convention, including unexpected and significant impacts

17-31 July Topic 2: Identify any living organisms already developed or currently under research and development through techniques of synthetic biology which do not fall under the definition of living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol;

4-18 Sept Topic 3: Further **analyse evidence of benefits and adverse effects of organisms**, components and products of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention, and **gather information on risk management measures, safe use and best practices for safe handling** of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology

AND topic 4: In order to avoid or minimize any potential negative effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, **evaluate the availability of tools to detect and monitor** the organisms, components and products of synthetic biology;

18 Sept-2 Oct Topic 5: provide recommendations on the basis of its deliberations to facilitate future discussions and actions on synthetic biology under the Convention, as well as an analysis against the criteria set out in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29 to contribute to the completion of the assessment requested in paragraph 2 of decision XII/24 by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

Best

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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.

Supporter of the Manyinga orphan schools project – find out more at www.manyinga.org