

Subject: Re: [Geneticrescue] Participation in CBD process
From: Heath Packard <heath.packard@islandconservation.org>
Date: 6/1/2017 4:28 PM
To: Genetics Listserve <geneticrescue@list.longnow.org>

Greetings Genetic Rescue Community,

We're writing today to reiterate Dr. Todd Kuiken's encouragements one month ago to engage in the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) synthetic biology policy making process.

You may have vested interests in ensuring that the CBD secretariat and staff, and Parties (signatory-countries) to the CBD make well-informed synthetic biology policies. These processes are an important and influential global aspect of the societal dialogues requisite to potential synthetic biology conservation tools many of us are exploring. Balanced and well-informed discourse can help all involved. Here are some tips on the two next immediate opportunities to engage.

First, you can review [this notification](#) (pertinent elements extracted in the attached) and consider submitting any relevant 'information and supporting documentation' to secretariat@cbd.int by **16 June 2017**. This will essentially become the published and grey literature review the Secretariat will synthesize to inform discussions in the Online Forum and the Ad Hoc Tech. Expert Group (AHTEG) on Syn Bio.

Second, you may get yourself nominated to the UN CBD Synthetic Biology Open-Ended Forum (July-Sept 2017). It is important to have experts like yourselves to inform these discussions. Nomination is simple, and requires only a nomination letter submitted to synbio@cbd.int from your organization's President/Dean/Director expressing you and your institutions qualifications. The deadline is rolling, but you'll want to submit nominations soon if you want to monitor the full forum. Address your letters to:

Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413 St. Jacques Street West, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec
H2Y 1N9, Canada

Forum engagement is voluntary, and it can be nominal yet strategic. Working with your colleagues with similar interests can spread out the needs for monitoring the discussions and engaging in the issues that are of most relevance/importance to your research.

Let us know if your plugging in, so we can coordinate if it's appropriate. If you'd like to learn more let Todd and I know. We'd be happy to provide you with a more detailed briefing.

Best,

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From: geneticrescue-bounces@list.longnow.org [mailto:geneticrescue-bounces@list.longnow.org] **On Behalf Of** Todd Kuiken

Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 7:30 AM

To: Genetics Listserv <geneticrescue@list.longnow.org>

Subject: [Geneticrescue] Participation in CBD process

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone had a good weekend.

I wanted to draw your attention to the The UN Convention on Biological Diversity. It has begun (again) its process of examining the impacts of synthetic biology and now also gene drives. There are a few steps in the process, the first of which is the call for submissions of research/data/reports etc. that focus on certain topics (attached word document).

The deadline for these submissions is June 16th. The next step in the process will be an open-online forum which begins in July. Both of these require you to be "formally" recognized inside the CBD. This can be accomplished by having the head of your organization or dean sending a letter recommending you to the process and stating that you are an expert.

<https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/calendar.shtml>

I can't stress enough how important it is that scientists and members of the conservation community participate in this process. I sit on the AHTEG, which is a fancy acronym for the advisory committee on synthetic biology for the CBD and basically we are only allowed to utilize information that is submitted through this process to develop our recommendations for the Treaty. And the last round was lacking input from this community.

I am happy to talk in more detail with anyone who has questions/concerns. I can also share with you the letter of recommendation that I have used in the past to become recognized in the process.

Todd

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Geneticrescue mailing list

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<http://list.longnow.org/mailman/listinfo/geneticrescue>

— Attachments: —

CBD_Onlineforum_2017.docx

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