

**Subject:** FW: CBD Online Forum Update

**From:** Heath Packard <heath.packard@islandconservation.org>

**Date:** 7/11/2017 9:28 AM

**To:** Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>

**CC:** Karl Campbell <karl.campbell@islandconservation.org>, Gregg Howald <gregg.howald@islandconservation.org>, Ray Nias <ray.nias@islandconservation.org>, Nick Holmes <nick.holmes@islandconservation.org>, Karen Poiani <karen.poiani@islandconservation.org>, "Ingrid Parker (imparker@ucsc.edu)" <imparker@ucsc.edu>, Carol Schimke <carol.schimke@islandconservation.org>, Todd Kuiken <tkuiken@ncsu.edu>

Hi Royden,

I've copied here a specific recommendation for our (GBIRd/Island Conservation) engagement in the CBD Online Forum. The recommendation is excerpted from the update below from Ben (from the gene drive research sponsors/supporters coalition), who is helping staff us for the forum. I've attached his initial introductory email as I think you'll find it helpful.

Given that I'm traveling in a conference all week and starting PTO on Saturday, I'm hoping you could take a lead on developing and submitting a response along the lines recommended by Ben. This segment of the forum closes on the 17<sup>th</sup>, so I presume that's our drop deadline.

***Suggested Actions:***

1. *As much of the discussion up to this point has focused on the unknown dangers and potential negative consequences of gene drive for ecosystems and biodiversity, it may be good for **those working in conservation (particularly those affiliated with Island Conservation) to provide some comments related to the moderator's request to "capture positive impacts of synbio organisms on biodiversity", which can be found in the following comment: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8365#8442>***

***Summary of new developments:*** *so far in the discussions, gene drive has mostly come up in the context of hypothetical deleterious effects on ecosystems. In response to this, some participants (e.g. <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8410>) have asked that discussions be limited to concrete examples and specific situations and problems, avoiding sweeping and vague generalizations. This may be a useful message to pick up on. Sub-groups have also been mobilized to address concerns about the likelihood of horizontal gene transfer, and to clarify that vector control strategies (even those making use of synthetic biology) do not intend to cause the extinction of vector organisms, only to reduce their numbers. With regards to general tenor, the discussions have tended to placed more emphasis on the risks and unknowns associated with novel uses of synthetic biology, although several members of this group have attempted to redress this balance.*

**Heath Packard**

Director of Marketing & Communications

[Island Conservation](#)

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**From:** Benjamin Robinson [mailto:Ben@emergingag.com]

**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 8:40 AM

**To:** npiediab@gmail.com; ana.atanassova@bayer.com; a.drcrianti@imperial.ac.uk; l.collyns@imperial.ac.uk; toni.j.piaggio@aphis.usda.gov; bdass@fnih.org; a.badolo@gmail.com; a.burt@imperial.ac.uk; cbloss@ucsd.edu; dtompkins@landcareresearch.co.nz; dobrocht@umd.edu; d.thizy@imperial.ac.uk; dwatuku@yahoo.com; ebier@ucsd.edu; fred\_gould@ncsu.edu; f.tripet@keele.ac.uk; fredros@ihi.or.tz; Gregg Howald <gregg.howald@islandconservation.org>; g.immobile@pologgb.com; Heath Packard <heath.packard@islandconservation.org>; hquemada@danforthcenter.org; Jason Delborne <jadelbor@ncsu.edu>; Jeff.Chertack@gatesfoundation.org; j.mumford@imperial.ac.uk; jkayondo@uvri.go.ug; jkayondo@gmail.com; Karl Campbell <karl.campbell@islandconservation.org>; kele.lekoape@bayer.com; kent@archipelagoconsulting.com; l.cinti@pologgb.com; luciadesouza100@gmail.com; luke.alphey@pirbright.ac.uk; lydia.slobodian@iucn.org; doudou@icermali.org; mrbenites2002@yahoo.es; mqbenedict@yahoo.com; michael.bonsall@zoo.ox.ac.uk; nachee@nd.edu; nbesansk@nd.edu; p.freemont@imperial.ac.uk; adrade@ufpe.br; filipposaris.papathanos@unipg.it; pietvandermeer@gmail.com; monnat@uw.edu; renee.wegrzyn@darpa.mil; rfriedman@jcvl.org; roberta.spaccapelo@unipg.it; Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>; r.muller@pologgb.com; ryan@longnow.org; slwerner@UCSD.EDU; carter@sciencepolicyconsulting.com; sarah.lukie@croplife.org; scott@shorebiotech.com; sjames@fnih.org; sr120@hermes.cam.ac.uk; ssubramani@ucsd.edu; tkuiken@ncsu.edu; aajames@uci.edu; t.nolan@imperial.ac.uk; zachadel@tamu.edu; sentelle@uci.edu

**Cc:** Morgane Danielou <Morgane@emergingag.com>; Delphine Thizy <d.thizy@imperial.ac.uk>

**Subject:** CBD Online Forum Update

Hi all,

There continues to be a high-volume of activity on the forum, with many raising concerns about horizontal gene transfer and the ecological effects of deployment of synthetic biotech, and with the first explicit mention of gene drive.

#### Points you may wish to address:

1. Edward Hammond, Third World Network: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8431>
  - He questions whether appropriate facilities and expertise for safe containment are in place in many developing countries. Although his concerns focus on one project in particular, they can be applied more broadly to the entire gene drive research community.
  - **Please note that a sub-group is currently drafting a response outlining some of the containment procedures used, and clarifying which are appropriate to which types of projects and what the risks involved are.**

#### Suggested Actions:

1. As much of the discussion up to this point has focused on the unknown dangers and potential negative consequences of gene drive for ecosystems and biodiversity, it may be good for **those working in conservation (particularly those affiliated with Island Conservation) to provide some comments related to the moderator's request to "capture positive impacts of synbio organisms on biodiversity"**, which can be found in the following comment: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8365#8442>

**Summary of new developments:** so far in the discussions, gene drive has mostly come up in the context of hypothetical deleterious effects on ecosystems. In response to this, some participants (e.g. <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8410>) have asked that discussions be limited to concrete examples and specific situations and problems, avoiding sweeping and vague generalizations. This may be a useful message to pick up on. Sub-groups have also been mobilized to address concerns about the likelihood of horizontal gene transfer, and to clarify that vector control strategies (even those making use of synthetic biology) do not intend to cause the extinction of vector organisms, only to reduce their numbers. With regards to general tenor, the discussions have tended to place more emphasis on the risks and unknowns associated with novel uses of synthetic biology, although several members of this group have attempted to redress this balance.

Regards,  
Ben



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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](http://www.manyinga.org)

—ForwardedMessage.eml—

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**Subject:** CBD Online Forum on Synthetic Biology

**From:** Benjamin Robinson <Ben@emergingag.com>

**Date:** 6/30/2017 7:08 AM

**To:** "npiediab@gmail.com" <npiediab@gmail.com>, "ana.atanassova@bayer.com" <ana.atanassova@bayer.com>, "a.drcrianti@imperial.ac.uk" <a.drcrianti@imperial.ac.uk>, "l.collyns@imperial.ac.uk" <l.collyns@imperial.ac.uk>, "toni.j.piaggio@aphis.usda.gov" <toni.j.piaggio@aphis.usda.gov>, "a.badolo@gmail.com" <a.badolo@gmail.com>, "a.burt@imperial.ac.uk" <a.burt@imperial.ac.uk>, "cbloss@ucsd.edu" <cbloss@ucsd.edu>, "dtompkins@landcareresearch.co.nz" <dtompkins@landcareresearch.co.nz>, "dobrocht@umd.edu" <dobrocht@umd.edu>, "d.thizy@imperial.ac.uk" <d.thizy@imperial.ac.uk>, "dwatuku@yahoo.com" <dwatuku@yahoo.com>, "ebier@ucsd.edu" <ebier@ucsd.edu>, "fred\_gould@ncsu.edu" <fred\_gould@ncsu.edu>, "f.tripet@keele.ac.uk" <f.tripet@keele.ac.uk>, "fredros@ihi.or.tz" <fredros@ihi.or.tz>, Gregg Howald <gregg.howald@islandconservation.org>, "g.immobile@pologgb.com" <g.immobile@pologgb.com>, Heath Packard <heath.packard@islandconservation.org>, "hquemada@danforthcenter.org" <hquemada@danforthcenter.org>, Jason Delborne <jadelbor@ncsu.edu>, "Jeff.Chertack@gatesfoundation.org" <Jeff.Chertack@gatesfoundation.org>, "j.mumford@imperial.ac.uk" <j.mumford@imperial.ac.uk>, "jkayondo@uvri.go.ug" <jkayondo@uvri.go.ug>, "jkayondo@gmail.com" <jkayondo@gmail.com>, Karl Campbell <karl.campbell@islandconservation.org>, "kele.lekoape@bayer.com" <kele.lekoape@bayer.com>, "kent@archipelagoconsulting.com" <kent@archipelagoconsulting.com>, "l.cinti@pologgb.com" <l.cinti@pologgb.com>, "luciadesouza100@gmail.com" <luciadesouza100@gmail.com>,

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**CC:** Morgane Danielou <Morgane@emergingag.com>, Isabelle Coche <Isabelle@emergingag.com>

Hi all,

My name is Ben Robinson, I work with Isabelle Coche & Delphine Thizy, and I will be sending you regular updates on the discussions taking place in the context of the CBD's Open-Ended Online Forum on synthetic biology. I will monitor contributions and provide you with brief summaries of the content and tenor of conversations, while highlighting topics and posts you may wish to address. Should you feel that a topic needs to be addressed but you do not have the relevant resources or expertise, I can also help identify and coordinate those best suited among the group to respond to particular issues.

The Forum will open on **July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. From **July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>** the topic under discussion will be *"Reviewing 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"*. The discussion page is here: <http://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/>

In order to facilitate your engagement with the forum, a **guide to participating** and a collection of **key terms and definitions** have been prepared. Please find them attached.

An updated list of participants in the forum has been published online by the CBD. You can see the full list and check whether you registered successfully here: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/participants/>

If you are not yet registered, the forum secretariat is still accepting applications for participants. Instructions on how to apply can be found here: [https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/nomination\\_natl\\_experts/](https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/nomination_natl_experts/)

**Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!**

Regards,  
Ben



Ben Robinson

Policy Coordinator

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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](http://www.manyinga.org)

— Attachments: —

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| ForwardedMessage.eml                                            | 417 KB |
| A Guide to Participating in the CBD Online Forum on SynBio.docx | 137 KB |
| Key terms and reference for the online forum.docx               | 147 KB |