

**Subject:** FW: CBD Forum update

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**CC:** Isabelle Coche <Isabelle@emergingag.com>, "Delphine Thizy (d.thizy@imperial.ac.uk)" <d.thizy@imperial.ac.uk>

Hi all,

As a reminder, please note that discussion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> topic of the forum ("Further analysis of evidence of benefits and adverse effects of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention") will be closed on **Monday July 31<sup>st</sup>**. Any final points you would like to make must therefore be submitted today, or over the weekend.

The forum will take a break in August, and then resume on **September 4<sup>th</sup>** with the topic 3: "Identifying 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".

**Points you may wish to address:**

- **As mentioned in the last update, it might be useful for someone to respond to the below comment, keeping in mind that this must be done before the forum closes on Monday.**
  - Rainer Breitling, University of Manchester: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8598#8669>
  - Suggests that gene drive LMOs introduced into the wild could lead to the propagation of their genetic material throughout an entire species, rather than a localized population or specifically targeted sub-species. Although this may not be beyond the realm of possibility, **it might be good for those able, to provide nuance to this argument, with reference to the actual risks and limitations related to gene flow/transfer through populations.**
- Delphine Thizy, Imperial College London: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8598#8674>
  - Provides a detailed run-down of the published research available on the benefits and adverse affects of gene drives as a vector control technique, highlighting that they studied comprehensively and in a case by case manner before any eventual field testing, and that in many cases concrete efforts are being made to ensure that the development of these technologies are inclusive of all stakeholders
- Mark Tizard, Australia: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8598#8676>
  - Picks up on Ms. Thizy's comments, emphasizing that these examples are emblematic of a "precautionary approach" that avoids stifling technological development, and pointing towards resources displaying the efforts of the scientific community to self-monitor and navigate issues related to unforeseen risks and stakeholder involvement.

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)