

Subject: Action requested! CBD Syn Bio Forum

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Date: 5/30/2017 8:39 PM

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Hello GBIRd Steering Committee,

We're writing to again urge you to submit information and experts to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Synthetic Biology Open-Ended Forum.

First, we urge you to review [this notification](#) and consider submitting any relevant 'information and supporting documentation' to secretariat@cbd.int by 16 June 2017. This is essentially, the published and grey literature review that will be made available for consideration by the online forum and the Ad Hoc Tech. Expert Group on Syn Bio. This could be a great exercise for a PhD candidate or other graduate student!

Second, we urge you to get yourself (or a colleague) nominated to the UN SBD Synthetic Biology Open-Ended Forum (July-Sept 2017). It is very important to have experts like yourselves to help balance policy discussions that might otherwise be weighted towards imposing a moratorium on gene drive research as we saw last winter at the CBD Convening of the Parties.

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 we urge you to submit nominations in the next three weeks. Island Conservation's nomination letter is (attached sent to the new CBD Executive Secretary) may serve as a model.

Forum engagement is voluntary, and it can be nominal yet strategic. The Gene Drive Research Sponsors and Supporters coalition will be monitoring the Forum daily and they will alert us to issues of relevance to our work. Experienced folks have indicated that throughout the entire Forum we can expect to spend about 8 hours engaging in responses to relevant issues.

If you or a colleague are unavailable, we'd urge you to consider nominating a highly-qualified and competent PhD candidate or other graduate student. Ensuring that the Parties (Countries/Voters) to the UN CBD hear a balanced dialogue about gene drive science and research.

Please let Royden, Todd Kuiken, and me know if you are submitting 'information and supporting documentation' to the DBC Secretariat, and/or if you or a colleague intend to secure a nomination to the Forum. Note that Todd or I will be following up with each of you one-on-one to further encourage your participation. There is a briefing note attached for further context.

Please let Todd or I know if you have any questions.

Best,

Heath Packard

Director of Marketing & Communications

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— Attachments: —

CBD_SynBio_OnlineForum_IC-Nomination2017.pdf	248 KB
Briefing note Online Forum and AHTEG.DOCX	133 KB