



NOTIFICATION

Peer review of the draft literature review of trends and issues in synthetic biology (2012–2023)

Dear Sir or Madam,

In [decision 15/31](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent developments in synthetic biology. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties established a multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology (AHTEG) to support the process.

The multidisciplinary AHTEG held its first meeting in July 2023 and agreed on a process for the first cycle of broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology, which consists of expert-driven submissions by members of the multidisciplinary AHTEG and a literature review to be conducted by the Secretariat. Further information on the process can be found in Annex I of the report of the meeting of the multidisciplinary AHTEG: [CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2023/1/3](#).

Accordingly, the Secretariat has conducted a literature review based on a revised list of trends and issues in synthetic biology. The basis of the revised list of trends and issues was the 2019 report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology, the submissions of information, and the publication “Technical Series No. 100: Synthetic Biology”. This literature review aims to assess the provided list and explore trends and issues in synthetic biology during the period 2012 to 2023.

In light of the above, I invite Parties and observers to participate in this peer review process. The draft literature review can be accessed from https://www.cbd.int/synbio/current_activities/peer_review/ and the peer review process is **open until 15 February 2024**. Please note that the document is a draft, for comments only, and not for citation or other uses.

Kindly send your comments to the Secretariat by e-mail to: secretariat@cbd.int using the spreadsheet template for peer review comments, which is accessible on the peer review webpage indicated above. Only submissions in electronic format using this template will be considered. In addition, all spreadsheets must be accompanied by an official letter endorsing the submission of the spreadsheet, signed by the relevant CBD national focal point or head of organization, as appropriate.

Parties and observers are kindly requested to include any supporting information related to their comments and/or provide a complete reference or hyperlink for it.

Please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary

To: To: CBD national focal points, SBSTTA national focal points, Cartagena Protocol national focal points, ABS national focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations

