

# OUTREACH NETWORK FOR GENE DRIVE RESEARCH

## Gene Drive Outreach Network Statement: UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP

The Gene Drive Outreach Network welcomes the agreement reached at the UN Biodiversity talks in Sharm el Sheikh on November 29, which applies a cautious but supportive approach to the development of gene drive technology.

The [outcome](#) demonstrates that 196 countries recognise the value of research on gene drive for public good, and have held open the opportunity for researchers to proceed in exploring this potentially transformative technology.

Ongoing research on gene drive is exploring whether it is possible and appropriate to harness this emerging technology to address global challenges such as vector-borne diseases like malaria, and invasive species on islands.

The approved text incorporates the existing principles and best practices of responsible research already adhered to by scientists worldwide. The CBD reaffirms the important principle of case-by-case risk assessment and stakeholder consultation, but does not create any new or special requirements or limitations.

The text does not restrict or limit experimental field releases of gene drive organisms, which is a crucial stage in the research that will provide more evidence as to the potential benefits and risks of gene drive.

Research must continue to fully evaluate what this technology may or may not be able to accomplish and to best inform the post-2020 framework. As such, the provisions made by the UN CBD to allow this are an endorsement of the value of gene drive research.