



Synthetic biology:

Where are we now and
where are we going?

UN Convention on Biological Diversity
COP 14 side event

Wednesday 21 November 2018, 1.15pm – 2.45pm

Luxor – Asia and the Pacific room, Building 2

Lunch will be available

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 The African
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Above:
Horned lark nest
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Front:
Brown rat
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Synthetic biology opens up new possibilities for the design and redesign of biological components. Synthetic biology is being developed for many applications, some of which will help address the causes of biodiversity loss. These include improving carbon sequestration and combatting invasive species. Other applications will help combat disease. There are however concerns about unintended consequences from the deliberate release of synthetic organisms.

This event will help delegates better understand synthetic biology now and in the future. Key questions to be addressed:

- What is synthetic biology?
- What are the current uses and applications?
- What are the potential future uses, including gene drives?
- What are existing governance and risk assessment frameworks?

The event will feature short talks from scientific experts from European and African institutions followed by a panel question and answer session.

For more information on this event, contact:

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