

A culturally grounded method for dialogue between Indigenous Peoples & researchers on emerging technologies

A three-year facilitated dialogue that built trust & two-way knowledge exchange between gene drive researchers & Indigenous Peoples on the science and rights involved.

Optional theme(s) highlighted — select one or more

☐ Governance

☐ Portal / website

☐ Content assets

☐ Interoperability

☒ X Engagement

☒ Innovation

1. Challenge or opportunity

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LC) engaging in CBD negotiations on synthetic biology expressed a need for capacity development, as they lacked accessible, culturally appropriate information to participate meaningfully.

Researchers had no structured channel to share knowledge about the technology with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities engaged in CBD negotiations or to hear their perspectives on rights, and traditional knowledge systems.

2. Approach / solution

A culturally grounded, iterative dialogue methodology (2021–2024):

- co-developed rules of engagement
- a jointly appointed independent facilitator
- multi-format two-way knowledge exchange (webinars, in-person workshops, a laboratory visit, dedicated training).

This resulted in a shared, peer-reviewed account of the method and its lessons, co-authored by both groups.

4. Implementation partners

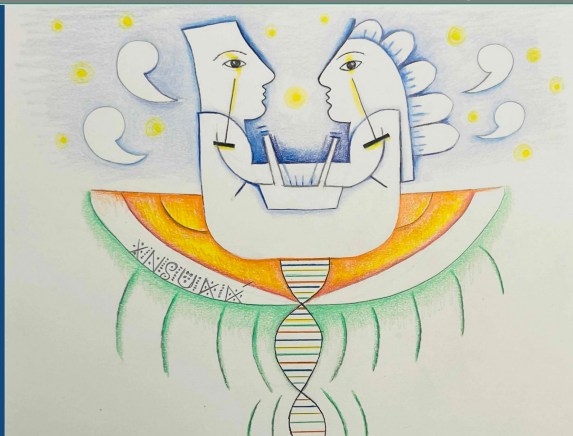
OUTREACH NETWORK FOR
GENE DRIVE RESEARCH



Supporting partners for specific activities:

- Pan-African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA)
- Keystone Policy Centre
- Genomic Genetic and Biology Innovation Pole (Polo GGB)

3. Main visual: show the CHM example



Recommendations from Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities Participants

Capacity development

- Seek educational & economic support for young representatives of IP&LC to study this new technology at local or international universities
- Encourage young people from IP&LC communities to venture into this new field
- Create training programmes for IP&LC & researchers to facilitate a deeper understanding & ensure more informed participation

Dialogue

- Dialogue between IP&LC & non-indigenous research communities should be sustainable over time and financially
- Emphasize the priorities & contexts of the use of gene drive
- Establish an advisory council
- Improve IP&LC participation to enhance feedback
- Consider creating a permanent platform for dialogue and cooperation
- Meetings should be frequent to ensure active participation in research & health issues

IPLCs' rights

- Work on creating a consent framework that can be applied to the lands, waters and territories of IP&LC
- Reach any cooperation agreement with respect to human rights of indigenous & traditional knowledge, customs & principles
- Establish a clear ethical framework to guide interactions
- Develop prior agreements with IP&LC on using and disseminating their knowledge

5. Evidence of use / impact

- 3-year dialogue process (2021–2024) across 7 formats/events
- 19 co-authors from 18 institutions across 6 world regions (Latin America & Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania) co-produced the joint paper.
- Dialogue was conducted in 3 languages, with interpretation provided throughout.

6. Useful resources / links

Paper



Blog



Key message for other Participants

Meaningful capacity building development relies on a continuous engagement and needs dedicated, resourced process and time.
Treat dialogue as infrastructure, not an event.

COMPULSORY SECTION — Results, lessons and replication potential

What changed because of the CHM?

CHM allows partners to share the results with Parties and other interested observers.

What was learned?

What worked?
Co-developed rules and experiential formats built trust.

What was difficult?
Online-only limits.
Funding asymmetry.

What to do differently?
Longer sessions.
Sustained funding.

What could other Parties adapt?

A reusable five-phase template for scientist-rightsholder dialogue:

- partnership formation,
- engagement principles,
- cultural adaptation,
- multi-format activities,
- iterative feedback.

What support or partnerships are needed next?

- Institutionalize a permanent platform for dialogue.
- Capacity-building support: scholarships/study grants, longer and better-adapted curricula.
- Fund capacity-building and interpretation/participation costs.

The authors extend their deepest gratitude to all Indigenous Peoples and local community representatives and researchers who placed their trust in this process

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Secretariat use