



African Genetic
Biocontrol
Consortium

GenBioNews

African Genetic Biocontrol News

A newsletter published by the African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium

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14-29 MARCH 2022, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

GENEVA MEETINGS



Convention on
Biological Diversity



GENEVA MEETINGS:

RESUMED SESSIONS OF CBD SBSTTA 24, SBI 3 AND WG2020-3

On 13-29 March 2022, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) resumed sessions of the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) and the 3rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as the third Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-3) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The purpose of these meeting is to prepare for the UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15), which is expected to take place in Kunming, China from 25th April to 8th May. However, the dates of the COP15 are yet to be confirmed owing to the uncertainties caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

The two subsidiary bodies (SBSTTA & SBI) and Open-ended Working Group were tasked with developing Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework whose mandate is to safeguard nature and health of the planet. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity reiterated that:

“The world is clearly eager for urgent action to protect nature and we have no time to spare.”

The purpose of the SBSTTA is to provide the Conference of Parties (COP) essential advice on implementation of the Convention. As such, it is the mandate of the

subsidiary body to report on the nature of its work. The SBSTTA members consists of government representatives with their respective competencies and are tasked with assessing status of biological diversity, offer assessment of measures to be taken according to provisions of the Convention and responding to questions put forth by the Convention.

During the Geneva Meetings, SBSSTA 24 will continue with discussions on a monitoring approach for the post-2020 framework namely marine and coastal biodiversity, biodiversity and agriculture, biodiversity and health, and invasive alien species. Important issues also in discussion very much relevant to the purpose of the African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium are synthetic biology, risk assessment and management of living modified organisms.

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) is looking to complete its work on key inputs to the post 2020 framework

and form a basis for its adoption and implementation. The above mentioned framework serves to boost finance for biodiversity and related investments towards protection of nature. In addition, the delegates during these meetings will strive to enhance countries’ capacity to conserve their respective biodiversity resources. Further, the meetings seek to improve outreach and public awareness in support of biodiversity action. Finally, SBI-3 will continue with its mandate of implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. Also during these meetings, the open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-3) will determine the required action needed to reach the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature.

Source: <https://www.cbd.int/article/GenevaMeetings2022-PressRelease-13March2022>

AFRICAN GENETIC BIOCONTROL CONSORTIUM HEAD OF SECRETARIAT PRESENTATION

A PRESENTATION ON DEVELOPING GUIDANCE FOR AFRICAN CONTEXTS OF NEW GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES DURING CBD SBSTTA 24



Dr. Willy Kiprotich Tonui, the head of the secretariat, African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium did a side event during the CBD SBSTTA 24 meeting held in Geneva Switzerland whereby he gave a presentation on “Developing guidance for African contexts of new genetic technologies.” The overall theme for this side event

was “Building capacity for risk assessment and management of new genetic technologies: ethical and policy perspectives.” The side event provided an opportunity for experts working in organizations and regions already actively engaged with the question of gene drive research risk assessment and management to highlight the

guidance and good practices that are available, as well as any current gaps. The side event was organized by Imperial College London (UK), Malaria Research and Training Center (Mali), Ifakara Health Institute (Tanzania), and Institute on Ethics and Policy for Innovation (Canada).

Dr. Tonui started off by

indicating that the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is the lead agency on developing guidance in Africa. AUDA-NEPAD provides support to emerging biotechnologies in Africa by implementation of The African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET) recommendations on gene drive technology, supporting both in-country and regional interventions, engage in international meetings (COP/MOP), and building partnerships.

There is regional harmonization in Africa regarding new genetic technologies. For instance, the African Union High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies 2018 Report on Gene Drives for Malaria Control recommends that Africa should invest in the development and regulation of gene drive technology whose greatest and most urgent application will be in malaria control and elimination, promote interaction between different agencies mandated to regulate emerging technologies, and have a regional approach to the harmonization of policies across African countries. On the other hand, the 2020 AUDA-NEPAD Position Paper on Integrated Vector Management emphasizes that complementary tools are urgently needed to ensure effective elimination of malaria and importance of commitment to supporting Member States in building necessary regulatory systems. The West African Integrated Vector Management program points out that five IVM guidelines have been

so far developed and validated and the next steps are now to consolidate progress in West Africa and scale up the initiative to continental process.

Dr. Tonui then gave a brief on GeneConvene goals which include:

- Advance best practices and informed decision making for development of genetic biocontrol technologies to improve public health.
- Offer technical information, advice, training and coordination for research on gene drive and other genetic biocontrol technologies.

Dr. Tonui concluded his talk by introducing the African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium as well as a summary of its achievements:

- Website www.genbioconsortium.africa translated into French, Portuguese, Arabic and Swahili.
- Monthly Newsletter and Weekly News Translated into French and Portuguese
- Mentorship program in place.
- Working towards A Certification program for GenBio Professionals.
- Active on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Gene Convene Activities



The overall theme for this side event was “Building capacity for risk assessment and management of new genetic technologies: ethical and policy perspectives.” ”

PAMCA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

8TH ANNUAL PAMCA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION



8TH PAMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Theme

Harnessing local institutional & community support for the elimination of vector-borne diseases (VBDs)

Important Dates

Abstract submission begins: **February 1, 2022**
Abstract submission ends: **April 30, 2022**
Abstract acceptance notification: **July 31, 2022**

Registration

Early-Bird registration starts: **May 1, 2022**
Early-Bird registration ends: **August 31, 2022**
Late/on-site registration: **From September 1, 2022**

Sub - themes

- Vector surveillance, epidemiology, disease control programs and global health
- Precision public health and innovations for VBD elimination: AI, entomological databases, modelling and genomic surveillance
- LLINS, IRS and insecticide resistance management
- Larval source management and integrated vector
- Vector biology, ecology, taxonomy and population genetics
- New and re-emerging arthropod-borne viruses, climate change
- Social sciences and gender inclusivity for VBDs

Registration Rates

Early-Bird Rates

Regular member: \$ 150
Student member: \$ 70
Student, non member: \$ 100
Non member: \$ 250

Late/Onsite Rates

Regular member: \$ 200
Student member: \$ 100
Non member: \$ 350
Daily rates: \$ 100

Submit your abstract on the link:

<https://conference.pamca.org/abstract>

For enquiries about sponsorship packages and exhibition please get in touch with **Linda Wanjiru** at linda.wanjiru@pamca.org or on Phone **+254 757 355 491**

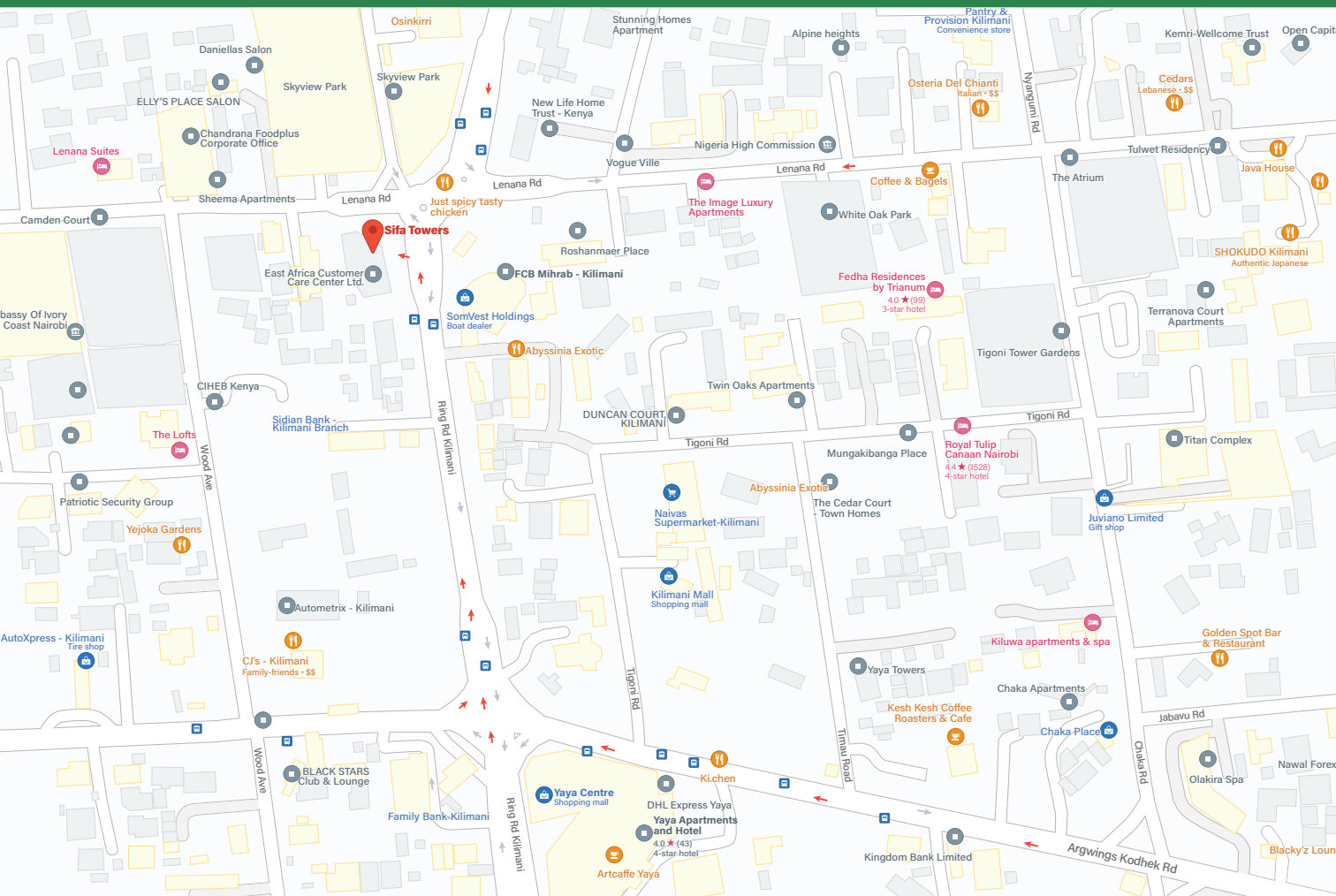
 **Location:** Rwanda Convention Centre

 **Date:** September 26th-28th, 2022

 www.pamca.org

The PAMCA 2022 Annual Conference & Exhibition scheduled for September 26-28, 2022, Kigali, Rwanda. Theme of the conference and exhibition will be 'Harnessing local institutional and community support for the elimination of vector-borne diseases (VBDs).' In preparation for the conference, the

PAMCA Secretariat in partnership with the PAMCA Rwanda Chapter Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has announced the onset of the abstract submission period. Interested participants should submit their abstracts on the link <https://conference.pamca.org/abstract>



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