



Welcome to Swamperia

The International Network for Government Science Advice



Swamperia

A case study on future technology in
the fight against malaria

10 Minutes Reading Time



Group Discussion



What issues does the science advisor need to consider in preparing a response?

15 minutes



Considerations



Communication of complex science

- What audiences to consider?
- How to communicate about vaccines and vaccination schedules?
- How to communicate about gene-editing, inheritance, risk of horizontal transfer

Considerations



How secure is the evidence?

- What elements should form part of a review? Who should undertake it? What process should be applied?
- Should the science advisor meet with the mosquito study proponents? What are the key considerations in such a discussion?

Considerations



How secure is the evidence?

What are the elements of knowledge brokerage that come into play?

- What we know
- What we do not know
- Risks of action or inaction
- Alternate approaches
- Trade-offs

Considerations



Science advice vs. advocacy

- Two very different public health interventions are arising (gene-editing, with full deployment still a way off in the future and pursuing the latest vaccine iteration). What is the role of the science advisor in comparing the options?
- On what basis should they be compared?

Considerations



Issue of ethics and social license

- Is the science stronger or more uncertain for one public health intervention option or any other (including low tech options of bed net use and draining standing water)?
- What role might the social sciences play in addressing Swamperia's dilemma?

Considerations



Issue of ethics and social license

- Potential societal ethical issues could be quite different for the options outlined (e.g. comparing vaccine interventions to genomic interventions within an ecosystem)? Should this be a consideration for the science advisor? If so, what are the ethical drivers and how should these be analysed and communicated?

Before the Meeting



Divide yourselves into the following groups (colour indicator at the back of your tag):

- Science Advisor
- Media
- GAMF
- Swamperia University Researchers
- Anti GE Advocacy Group
- Public Health Officials
- Politicians

The Science Advisor has invited all of you to a meeting to provide your perspectives.

Before the meeting:

- Spend some time on your own (individual) developing your arguments/suggestions
- Share your perspectives amongst your group.
- List down all the your group's thoughts/suggestions on the flip-chart.

15 minutes



The Meeting



- Form new groups based on the number at the back of your name tag. This group will be made of up of all stakeholders.
- The Science Advisor has invited all of you to a meeting to provide your perspectives within your new groups.
- Convene the meeting and share all your perspectives.
- The science advisor will report back to the workshop group and make a recommendation.

30 minutes group
10 minutes plenary



Post Meeting Reflections

- What is the role of the science advisor in this situation?
- What perspectives and considerations should be reflected in any advice given?