Legal Pathways for OECMs: Advancing Target 3 from Recognition to Implementation

Side Event during CBD COP17 | Monday 26 October 2026, 09:00-10:30 Yerevan time (AMT)
Academia & Research Organisations Hub, COP17, Yerevan, Armenia
Hosted by the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) and the Biodiversity Law and Governance Initiative (BLGI), with WWF

09:00-09:10 Session Welcome & Openings

Co-Chairs: ***Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA*** *(Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge) &* ***Adv Maria-Goreti Muavesi*** *(Chair, IUCN WCEL Biodiversity Law Specialist Group)**

09:10-09:40 OECMs and the WWF-CISDL Global Study - From Recognition to Results

How can legal and policy frameworks move OECMs from recognition to credible and durable conservation outcomes? What governance arrangements, rights safeguards and participation mechanisms are needed to ensure legitimacy and effectiveness? How can monitoring, reporting and review strengthen OECM implementation under Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

Prof Jorge Cabrera Medaglia *(Prof, Univ Costa Rica / Lead Counsel, Biodiversity & Biosafety, CISDL);* **Dr Harry D. Jonas** *(Director, Conservation Areas, WWF-US) &* **Dr Daniel Ruiz de Garibay** *(Senior Lecturer, Asia Pacific Univ / Associate Fellow & BLGI Programme Coordinator, CISDL)*

09:40-10:10 The Importance of Capacity-Building and Communities of Practice to Enable OECMs

What were the principal outcomes of Biodiversity Law and Governance Day 2026, and what did they show about the legal capacity that governments, communities and practitioners need to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework, including Target 3 and OECMs? How did the Day's roundtables and the Legal Specialisation Course at Yerevan State University build knowledge, skills and new partnerships, and what should the BLGI community of practice do next to sustain them? What commitments, collaborations and follow-up actions can this audience take forward after COP17?

Prof Yeghishe Kirakosyan *(Professor of Law & Director LLM Intl Courts & Arbitration, YSU),* **Dr Tejas Rao** *(Research Director, CISDL / Univ Cambridge) &* **Prof Markus Gehring** *(Professor of Law, Univ Cambridge / Senior Law Fellow, Hughes Hall)*

10:10-10:25 Questions & Answers

Moderated by: ***Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA*** *(Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge) &* ***Adv Maria-Goreti Muavesi*** *(Chair, IUCN WCEL Biodiversity Law Specialist Group)**

10:25-10:30 Closing

Co-Chairs: ***Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA*** *(Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge) &* ***Adv Maria-Goreti Muavesi*** *(Chair, IUCN WCEL Biodiversity Law Specialist Group)*

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