

# Biodiversity Law & Governance Legal Specialisation Course 2026

*During CBD COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia*

**Final Draft Programme**

09:00–14:30 Yerevan AMT / 05:00–10:30 London GMT | Sunday, 25 October 2026

IN-PERSON | ACADEMIC COUNCIL ROOM, MAIN BUILDING, YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY | #BLGI @BLGInitiative

With appreciation for the support of the CBD COP17 Presidency and community



With warmest of thanks for the contributions of experts from leading international organisations:



International Treaty  
on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture



IITIO

and Government Partners



# Biodiversity Law & Governance Legal Specialisation Course 2026

09:00–14:30 Yerevan AMT (GMT+4) / 05:00–10:30 London GMT on Sunday, 25 October 2026

*During CBD COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia*

**In-Person at Academic Council Room, Main Building, Yerevan State University**

#BLGI | @BLGInitiative | biodiversitylawgovernance.org

## Programme

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### 09:00–10:00 **Registration and Technical Confirmations**

**AMT**

*Facilitator:* **Dr Daniel Ruiz de Garibay** (Senior Lecturer, Asia Pacific Univ / Associate Fellow & BLGI Programme Coordinator, CISDL)

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### 10:00–10:30 **Opening and Introductions**

**AMT**

*Chairs:* **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA** (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge); **Dr Yeghishe Kirakosyan** (Faculty of Law, Yerevan State Univ YSU)

*Opening Address:* **Dr Grethel Aguilar** (Director General, IUCN)\* *by video address*

*Welcome of Partners:* **Dr Mikayel Hovhannisyan** (Vice-Rector, YSU); **H.E. Aram Meymaryan** (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Armenia)\*; **Prof Markus W. Gehring** (Lead Counsel, CISDL / Professor in European and International Law, Univ Cambridge)

*Facilitators:* **Dr Tejas Rao** (Research Director, CISDL / Postdoctoral Researcher & Programme Coordinator, Univ Cambridge); **Prof Olympia Geghamyan** (Faculty of Law, YSU)

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### 10:30–10:50 **Foundations: Understanding the Global Biodiversity Regime under the CBD – Introduction to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

**AMT**

*Chairs:* **Prof Markus W. Gehring** (Lead Counsel, CISDL / Professor in European and International Law, Univ Cambridge); **Dr Yeghishe Kirakosyan** (Faculty of Law, YSU)

*10:30–10:50 Lecturer:* **Adv Maria-Goreti Muavesi** (Chair, Biodiversity Law Specialist Group, IUCN WCEL) & **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA** (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge)

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**10:50–11:40 AMT      Session 1: Law, Governance & the 30x30 Target (OECMs & Protected Areas)**

*Chairs:* **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA** (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge); **Dr Yeghishe Kirakosyan** (Faculty of Law, YSU)

10:50–11:05 *Lecturer:* **Prof Markus W. Gehring** (Lead Counsel, CISDL / Professor in European and International Law, Univ Cambridge) / **Dr Daniel Ruiz de Garibay** (Coordinator, BLGI)

11:05–11:25 Group Assignment: Solving a Hypothetical Problem

11:25–11:40 Reporting Back

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**11:40–12:05 AMT      Break, with warmest thanks to Yerevan State University and local partners**

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**12:05–12:55 AMT      Session 2: Biodiversity Law & Governance on Access and Benefit-Sharing & Biosafety**

*Chairs:* **Prof Markus W. Gehring** (Lead Counsel, CISDL / Professor in European and International Law, Univ Cambridge); **Dr Yeghishe Kirakosyan** (Faculty of Law, YSU)

12:05–12:20 *Lecturers:* **Prof Jorge Cabrera Medaglia** (Chair, BLGI & Lead Counsel, CISDL / Professor of Law, Univ Costa Rica) / **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA** (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge)

12:20–12:40 Group Assignment: Solving a Hypothetical Problem

12:40–12:55 Reporting Back

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**12:55–13:45 AMT      Session 3: The Wider Biodiversity Law & Governance Regime – Convention on Migratory Species, CITES, Ramsar and BBNJ**

*Chairs:* **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA** (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge); **Dr Yeghishe Kirakosyan** (Faculty of Law, YSU)

12:55–13:10 *Lecturer:* **Tim Scott** (Senior Policy Advisor on Environmental Governance, UNDP) / **Dr Tejas Rao** (Research Director, CISDL)

13:10–13:30 Group Assignment: Solving a Hypothetical Problem

13:30–13:45 Reporting Back

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**13:45–14:30**  
**AMT**

## **Closing Ceremony / Announcement of Certificates for Participants / Biodiversity Law & Governance Awards**

*Chairs:* **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA** (Chair, BLGI & Senior Director, CISDL / Chair in Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Univ Cambridge); **Dr Yeghishe Kirakosyan** (Faculty of Law, YSU)

*Congratulations & Closing Remarks:* **Prof Hovhannes Hovhannisyan** (Rector, YSU)

*Closing Keynote:* **Hon Ivonne Higuero** (Executive Secretary, CITES)

**Presentation of 2026 Biodiversity Law & Governance Global Leadership Awards in Practice, Leadership, and Education**

### **Awarding and Celebration of Certificates**

*Facilitators:* **Dr Tejas Rao** (Research Director, CISDL / Postdoctoral Researcher & Programme Coordinator, Univ Cambridge); **Dr Daniel Ruiz de Garibay** (Senior Lecturer, Asia Pacific Univ / Associate Fellow & BLGI Programme Coordinator, CISDL)

*Photos to be taken at the conclusion of the ceremony*

*\* Invited; subject to confirmation*

## **Venue for In-Person Participants**

**Academic Council Hall, Main Building, Yerevan State University**

1 Alek Manukyan Street, Yerevan 0025, Armenia