BIODIVERSITY LAW AND GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

COP17 GREEN ZONE | MAIN STAGE

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

Wednesday, 28 October 2026 • 11:45–13:15 (Yerevan time)
Main Stage, COP17 Green Zone, Yerevan, Armenia

Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) are an important component of Target 3 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Drawing on the WWF–CISDL global study on OECM legal and policy frameworks, this session examines how countries can move from legal recognition to effective implementation. It explores legal and governance pathways, participation, ecological connectivity and durable conservation outcomes. Bringing together comparative findings and implementation experiences from Mexico and Armenia, the session will identify common challenges, transferable lessons and priorities for advancing Target 3.

Hosted by WWF, the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) and the Biodiversity Law and Governance Initiative (BLGI)

11:45–11:52 Welcome and Opening Framing: OECMs, Target 3 and the Implementation Challenge

Opening remarks: **Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger WIJA FRSC FRSA** (Chair, BLGI; Senior Director, CISDL; Chair in Sustainable Development Law and Policy, University of Cambridge) and **Dr Harry Jonas** (Director, Conservation Areas, WWF-US)

11:52–12:07 From Global Evidence to Legal Pathways: Key Findings from the WWF–CISDL Global Study

Dr Tejas Rao (Research Director, CISDL; Postdoctoral Researcher and Programme Coordinator, University of Cambridge) and **Dr Daniel Ruiz de Garibay** (Senior Lecturer, Asia Pacific University; Associate Fellow and BLGI Programme Coordinator, CISDL)

12:07–12:15 OECM Recognition and Implementation in Mexico: Practical Experiences and Lessons

Pilar Jacobo (Director of Conservation, WWF Mexico)

12:15–12:23 Armenia: Ecological Connectivity and Target 3 Implementation

Armen Shahbazyan (National Coordinator, Programme for the Promotion of Eco-Corridors in the Southern Caucasus, WWF Armenia)

12:23–12:47 Expert Discussion: Connecting Global Evidence and Practice – Challenges and Transferable Lessons

12:47–13:07 Audience Discussion and Questions

13:07–13:15 Closing Keynote: Future Directions for OECMs – Priorities for Credible and Effective Target 3 Implementation

Dr Harry D. Jonas (Director, Conservation Areas, WWF-US)