



**UN CBD COP17
Presidency Event**

Launch of the Yerevan Global OECM Action Hub

28 October 2026, 15:00-16:30
Womens' Caucus Room, Blue Zone,
Yerevan, Armenia

Format: Stakeholder dialogue followed by a High-Level Launch Event

Date and time: 28 October 2026 15:00-16:30

Location: CBD COP17 Blue Zone, Womens' Caucus Room

Partners: COP17 Presidency, CBD Secretariat, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Relevant KMGBF goals and targets: Target 3, PMRR, Global Review of collective progress

Description

Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) have become an important mechanism for implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which calls for at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, marine and coastal areas to be effectively conserved and managed by 2030 through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and OECMs, while recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

OECMs expand recognition of conservation outcomes beyond protected areas, acknowledging a wide range of governance systems and management approaches. They offer Parties a way to meet Target 3 where the expansion of traditional protected areas is not suitable. OECMs are also increasingly being recognized as a powerful tool for promoting both sustainable use and biodiversity conservation. However, the identification, assessment and reporting of OECMs remain uneven across regions and sectors. Many Parties continue to face conceptual, technical and institutional challenges in applying the definition and criteria adopted under CBD Decision 14/8. Without adequate support and coordination there is a significant risk of inconsistent or incompatible national OECM frameworks.

CBD Decision 14/8 invited the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other relevant expert bodies to support Parties in the identification and application of OECMs. A growing community of organizations and initiatives has since developed guidance, methodologies and capacity-building activities to support their implementation. Rather than creating new institutional arrangements or technical processes, there is an opportunity to strengthen coordination and collaboration among these existing

efforts, improve the visibility of available support and facilitate exchanges of knowledge and practical experience among Parties.

Against this background, the COP17 Presidency, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD, FAO and IUCN, is launching a Flagship Initiative, ***the Yerevan Global OECM Action Hub***, a global mechanism to translate the ambition of KMGBF Target 3 into practical support for Parties.

The Action Hub is structured around three components: political leadership and advocacy; enhanced global coordination on guidance and methodologies, with particular attention to productive landscapes and seascapes; and enhanced technical support to Parties through promoting matchmaking, regional working groups and a repository of case studies and good practices. Through these components, the COP17 Flagship Initiative aims to raise the political attention to OECMs while building on existing CBD decisions, guidance, implementation mechanisms and partnerships to better support Parties in advancing the implementation of KMGBF Target 3.

Objectives of the Initiative

The COP17 Presidency Flagship Initiative will:

- **Bring together OECM partners and technical organizations under a shared platform:** Facilitate the coordinated engagement of organizations, expert bodies, sectoral institutions and initiatives supporting OECM implementation, promoting the consistent application of the existing OECM criteria;
- **Connect country needs with available technical expertise:** Provide and promote matchmaking and support mechanisms that help Parties access relevant expertise, technical assistance and peer networks, while promoting the sharing of experiences, lessons learned, good practices and case studies among countries, regions and sectors;
- **Strengthen national capacities for the recognition and reporting of OECMs:** Support Parties in building the institutional and technical capacities required for the identification, assessment and reporting of OECMs under Target 3, enabling credible, transparent and harmonized progress towards the achievement of 30x30.

Purpose of the Event and expected outcomes

The high-level event will bring together Heads of Delegation, Ministers, senior government representatives, international organizations, development partners and other key stakeholders to:

- Officially launch the Yerevan Global OECM Action Hub as a COP17 Presidency Flagship Initiative;
- Increase the political visibility of OECMs as an integral component of KMGBF Target 3;
- Form a coalition of Champion Parties and technical partners committed to supporting the development and operationalization of the Action Hub;
- Generate momentum for national and regional implementation of OECMs towards 2030, with a shared pathway from Yerevan to COP18.

Programme (90 min)

The event will be moderated by: Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Assistant Director-General and Director of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB), FAO.

10 min.	Opening remarks	
15:00-15:10	H.E. Mr. Hambardzum Matevosyan, President of COP17	
30 min.	Statements from co-conveners	
15:10-15:20	Ms. Astrid Schomaker (tbc) Executive Secretary	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
15:20 - 15:30	Mr. Godfrey Magwenzi Deputy Director-General	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
15:30-15:40	Ms. Grethel Aguilar Director General	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
10 min.	Presentation of the Initiative	
15:40-15:50	Presentation of the Yerevan Global OECM Action Hub, main objectives and high-level roadmap towards 2030	Mr. Tim Badman, Director of Protected, Conserved and Heritage Areas, IUCN
35 min.	Ministerial statements followed by interventions from partner organizations (3-minute statements)	
16:50-16:25	Statements from Champion Parties and partners confirming interest in contributing to and taking part in the Initiative	
5 min.	Closing call to action	
16:25-16:30	Closing remarks. Summary of commitments and next steps: invitation to countries and partners to engage with the Action Hub	COP17 Presidency Robert Abisoghomonyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Armenia