

**CBD COP17 PRESIDENCY VISION:
Gender Equality &
Whole-of-Society Engagement**

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COP17 Comes at a Critical Moment

- The gap between GBF ambition and action has never been more consequential – the 2030 targets are a near-term deadline, not a distant aspiration
- The midterm review is clear: we are not on track
- Armenia holds the Presidency at a biodiversity crossroads – literally: the Caucasus and Irano-Anatolian hotspots meet here
- With 17,700+ animal species and 3,800+ plant species, biodiversity is enshrined in Armenia's National Security Strategy as a national value

-73%

Wildlife populations in 5 decades

1 Million+

Species threatened with extinction

2030 deadline is NOW

The Presidency Vision: Three Pillars



Inclusive & Participatory

- All stakeholders meaningfully engaged: governments, IPLCs, civil society, private sector, women, youth
- Not diplomatic language – a prerequisite for durable solutions
- Biodiversity cannot be saved by negotiators alone



Biodiversity as Foundation

- Armenia's NBSAP 2026–2030: 30 national targets spanning restoration, finance, gender, community governance
- Cuts across agriculture, urban planning, education, finance – not siloed in one ministry
- A model: biodiversity woven into national development fabric



Commitments into Delivery

- COP17 must close gaps on resource mobilisation and mainstreaming biodiversity across economies
- National strategies must be funded and implemented – not shelved
- Measure of success: what changes on the ground

Gender Equality: Non-Negotiable for the GBF

- Gender-responsive GBF implementation is essential – not an add-on – for achieving all targets, especially those on equitable participation and resource mobilisation
- Women are the world's most important biodiversity stewards: they hold irreplaceable traditional knowledge on plant species, land management, and resource use
- Women bear a disproportionate burden when ecosystems degrade and livelihoods collapse
- Yet they remain systematically underrepresented in biodiversity decision-making at every level

“Gender equality is not a side event – it is a central thread of COP17.”



Gender Plan of Action 2023–2030

Adopted COP15

Midterm review: progress on integration, but critical gaps remain in leadership, capacity & financing

ARM T30 & What COP17 Must Deliver

Armenia's ARM T30 | A concrete, time-bound, monitored commitment:

- Gender-balanced decision-making in biodiversity governance
- Incentives for women's participation in protected area and eco-patrol management
- Preservation and sharing of traditional biodiversity knowledge held primarily by women

Gaps the midterm review flags

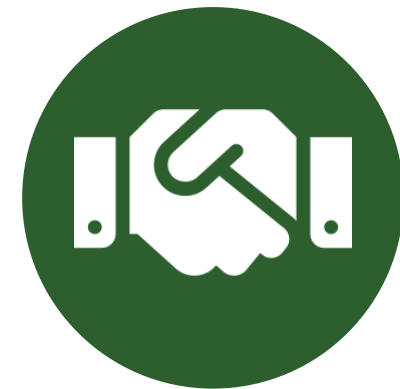
- Women's ownership and leadership in biodiversity governance remains insufficient
- Capacity building for women – particularly in developing countries – underfunded
- Dedicated financial and technical support still largely absent

What the Presidency is doing

- Women's Forum at COP17: high-profile platform for governments, civil society & women's organisations
- High-level side event at 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70): linking gender equality to biodiversity, livelihoods, food security & health
- Mainstreaming gender across UN fora – not siloed in CBD

Whole-of-Society: Operational, Not Rhetorical

Gender equality is inseparable from whole-of-society engagement. Strategies built with all stakeholders are more ambitious, better resourced, and better implemented.



Communities

Advisory bodies for all protected area directors with mandatory representation from civil society, communities, youth & women – barriers to participation identified and addressed



Youth

Citizen science in schools, eco-education near protected areas, and awareness campaigns – genuine investment in the next generation of biodiversity stewards



Private Sector

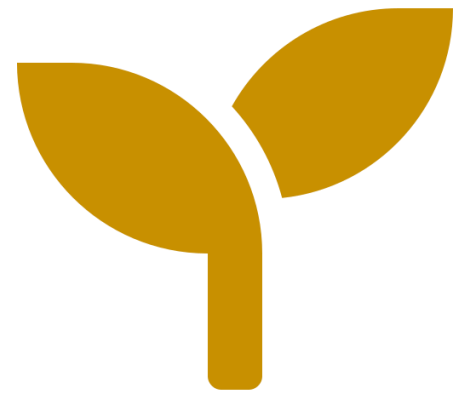
ESG frameworks built into legislation; capacity programmes so businesses account for biodiversity impacts and contribute to nature-positive outcomes



Science

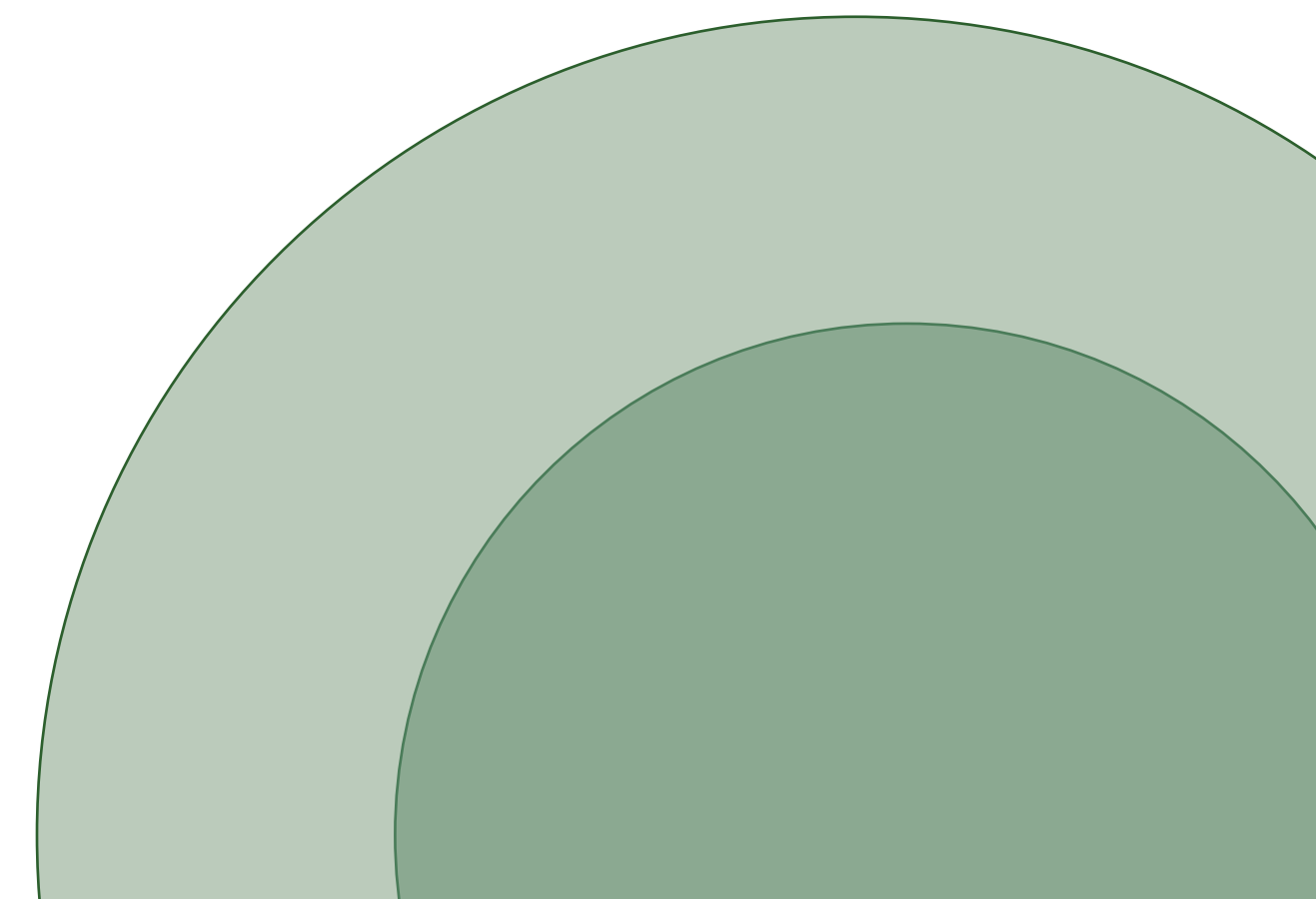
Strengthened national monitoring, research within protected areas, international research partnerships – credible science must underpin every policy decision

Not aspirations on paper – these are budgeted, time-bound, assigned to implementing agencies, and tied to monitoring indicators.



The Stakes Are Clear. The Path Is There.

- The Armenian Presidency has set an inclusive, action-oriented, gender-responsive vision – grounded in national commitment
- COP17 must translate that vision into measurable outcomes: on financing, mainstreaming, and the meaningful participation of women and communities
- The question is not what is agreed in the negotiating rooms – but what changes in ecosystems and lives around the world





THANK YOU!



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