



Cooperation for the Convention on Biological Diversity

CO-OP4CBD Training session on engaging and improving capacity-building for civil society in view of UN CBD COP17

22-23 April 2026, Paris (France)

Programme

Date: 22-23 April 2026	Meeting Time: 22 April: 09:00 – 16:45 23 April: 09:00 – 18:00	Meeting Location: <i>Amphithéâtre Rouelle</i> French Museum of Natural History 57 rue Cuvier, 75 005, Paris
Type of Meeting:	In-person with hybrid option <i>Link to the hybrid meeting: CO-OP4CBD Paris Workshop Réunion-Joindre / Microsoft Teams</i> Meeting ID: 366 313 617 577 9 Password: CC27WE9d	
Attendees:	Traditional ecological knowledge holders, civil society organizations, youth organizations, women organizations and scientists.	
Meeting Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strengthen the participation of civil society and rights-holder groups to the CBD- Improve capacities of civil society organisations to engage at COP17 (with a focus on Youth, TEK holders and Women organisations)- Strengthen the knowledge and understanding of CBD processes for Armenian and CEE Countries civil society organisations- Enable networking and exchange of good practices from civil society organisations that wish to engage in CBD processes	
Organiser: Co-organiser: With the support of:	Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle (MNHN), France HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research (HUN-REN CER), Hungary <i>The CO-OP4CBD project is funded by the European Union as part of the Horizon Europe programme.</i>	



Funded by
the European Union

Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission.

Neither the EU nor the EC can be held responsible for them.

Wednesday, 22 April 2026

An introduction to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes and engagement of Major stakeholder groups and civil society organizations

Amphithéâtre Rouelle
French Museum of Natural History, 57 rue Cuvier – 75 005, Paris

08:45 – 09:00 – **Venue opening**

09:00 – 09:20 – **Welcoming words**

Emmanuelle Matras-Swynghedauw
Deputy to the French Ambassador for the Environment
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Ani Hakobyan
Head of Public Relations Division/Press Secretary to the Minister of Environment
Republic of Armenia Ministry of Environment

Ani Kirakosyan
Assistant to the Minister of Environment
Republic of Armenia Ministry of Environment

09:20 – 09:30

Isabella Livertout and Baptiste Albisson
CO-OP4CBD/MNHN

**Ice-breaker
&
Introduction of the day**

MORNING SESSION: Major stakeholder groups and civil society organizations involvement in the CBD
Facilitator: Isabella Livertout, MNHN

09:30 – 09:50

Laureen Calcat
French CBD National Focal Point
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Pierre Spielewoy
Researcher
Multilateral Policies Project Officer
MNHN/CO-OP4CBD

An introduction to the CBD and Major stakeholder groups' participation.
Brief history, context and specificities for Major stakeholder groups and civil society involvement.

09:50 – 10:10	<p>The whole-of-society approach in the context of the CBD. <i>Concepts and challenges at stake.</i></p> <p>Marcel Kok <i>Programme leader</i> <i>International Biodiversity Policy</i> PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency</p>
10:10 – 10:20	Q&A
10:20 – 10:40 Break	
10:40 – 11:00	<p>Advancing integration of Traditional ecological knowledge holders and Women in CBD processes: a researcher’s perspective.</p> <p>Kinga Öllerer <i>Senior Researcher</i> HUN-REN CER/CO-OP4CBD</p>
11:00 – 11:20	<p>Major stakeholder groups involvement in the CBD. Perspectives from two organizations working on the field. Intervention from CBD Women’s Caucus and GYBN.</p> <p>Sharon Ruthia CBD Women’s Caucus Ronja Fischer <i>Coordinator of GYBN Europe</i> Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)</p>
11:20 - 11:30	Q&A
11:30 – 11:50	<p>Strengthening the inclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge in national biodiversity policies.</p> <p>Joseph Karanja <i>BES-Net ILK Project Officer</i> UNESCO</p>
11:50 – 12:00	Q&A
12:00 – 13:20 Group photo and Lunch	
AFTERNOON SESSION – An overview of COP17 priorities and related challenges Facilitator: Pierre Spielwoy, MNHN	
13:20 – 13:30	Introduction of the afternoon

<p>Pierre Spielwoy CO-OP4CBD/MNHN</p>	
<p>13:30 – 13:50 Adèle Fardoux <i>French CBD National Focal Point</i> French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Introduction to CBD implementation mechanisms: key challenges.</p>
<p>13:50 – 14:10 Vincent Hulin <i>Senior Advisor</i> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (online)</p>	<p>Global Review during COP17 and stakeholders' contributions.</p>
<p>14:10 – 14:30 Chantal Robichaud <i>Stakeholder engagement and cooperation Unit - Implementation Support Division,</i> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (online)</p>	<p>CBD mechanisms available for stakeholders' engagement and ways to prepare for COP17. Key things to know, and advice from the CBD Secretariat.</p>
<p>14:30 – 14:40</p>	<p>Q&A</p>
<p>14:40 – 15:00</p> <p>Ani Hakobyan <i>Head of Public Relations Division/Press Secretary to the Minister of Environment</i> Republic of Armenia Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Ani Kirakosyan <i>Assistant to the Minister of Environment</i> Republic of Armenia Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>COP17 agenda items and priorities.</p>
<p>15:00 – 15:10</p>	<p>Q&A</p>
<p>15:10 – 15:30 Break</p>	

15:30 – 15:50 Nadja Steinfort <i>EU 8(j) Focal Point</i> European Commission	Preparing for COP17: Article 8(j) agenda items and how to engage? Establishment of SB8(j), 8(j) related agenda items at COP17 and how to engage with Parties as civil society organizations.
15:50 – 16:40 Sirarpi Khojabaghyan <i>President</i> Carota NGO Yolanda López-Maldonado <i>President</i> Indigenous Science Silje Heldt-Zaltzman <i>Senior Advisor</i> International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs Christine Myrseth <i>Project Coordinator</i> Forum for Natur Norway Facilitation: Kinga Öllerer HUN-REN CER/CO-OP4CBD	PANEL - Experience from traditional ecological knowledge holders' organizations in engaging in CBD processes and meetings.
16:40 – 16:50	Conclusion of the day
16:50 – 18:00	Visit of the French Museum of Natural History " <i>Grande Galerie de l'Evolution</i> ".
19:30 – 21:00 Dinner	

Thursday, 23 April 2026

Preparing for COP17 in Armenia: concrete tools to get involved as a civil society organization

Amphitheatre Rouelle
French Museum of Natural History, 57 rue Cuvier – 75 005, Paris

08:45 – 09:00 – **Venue opening**

09:00 – 09:10 <i>Isabella Livertout and Baptiste Albisson</i> <i>CO-OP4CBD/MNHN</i>	Introduction & Objectives of the day
MORNING SESSION - Ways to strengthen engagement in the CBD Facilitator: Constance Laureau (FRB)	
09:10 – 09:30 <i>Isabella Livertout & Baptiste Albisson</i> <i>CO-OP4CBD/MNHN</i>	Capacity building tools available to engage with the CBD
09:30 - 09:50 <i>Jorge L. Ventocilla</i> <i>Senior Science-Policy Officer</i> <i>CO-OP4CBD/RBINS</i>	The CBD's Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Landscape and the (sub)regional TSC Centres.
09:50 – 10:00	Q&A
10:00 – 10:30 Break	
10:30 - 11h20 <i>Cristina Eghenter</i> <i>Member of CBD WC Board of Directors</i> <i>CBD Women's Caucus</i> <i>Mkrtich Grigoryan</i> <i>Executive Manager</i> <i>Maqoor NGO – Armenia</i> <i>Anna Shakhnazarian</i> <i>Coordinator of GYBN Armenia</i> <i>Global Youth Biodiversity Network</i> <i>Maine Monteiro</i> <i>Coordinator of NYBN</i> <i>Nordic Youth Biodiversity Network</i> <i>Facilitation: Brooke Wilkerson</i> <i>Alternet/Norce and CO-OP4CBD</i>	PANEL – Experiences from Women and Youth organizations in engaging in CBD processes and meetings.
11:20 – 11:40	Q&A

11:40 – 13:00 Lunch	
AFTERNOON SESSION - Concrete steps towards Youth, Traditional Ecological Knowledge holders and Women contribution during COP17 - Practical exercises Facilitator: CO-OP4CBD team and participants' organizations	
13:00 – 13:15 Baptiste Albisson CO-OP4CBD/MNHN	Introduction of the afternoon
13:15– 14:30 Facilitation: <i>CO-OP4CBD Team and participating organisations.</i>	Parallel participatory workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Organizing a side-event - Co-facilitated by the CBD Women's Caucus</i> - <i>Building a statement and preparing for negotiation</i> - <i>How to survive a COP? - Co-facilitated by Ani Paltajyan from GYBN</i> - <i>How to meet a delegation and practice networking? - Co-facilitated with Generation Climate Europe</i> - <i>Awareness-raising for biodiversity, with focus on COP17 - Co-facilitated by Ornela Essohinou from GYBN</i>
14:30 – 15:00 Break	
15:00 – 16:45 Facilitation: <i>CO-OP4CBD team</i> <i>With the support of the Youth negotiators academy</i>	From the workshops to the practice: simulation session
16:45 – 17:00 Ronja Fischer <i>GYBN Europe Coordinator</i> Global Youth Biodiversity Network	Some tips to go forward <i>What can the participants do until COP17?</i>
17:00 – 17:15 Isabella Livertout CO-OP4CBD/MNHN	Collective reflection on the training and conclusion
17:15 – 17:30 Baptiste Albisson	Training assessment

CO-OP4CBD/MNHN	
17:30 – 17:45 Nirmala Séon-Massin <i>Director of Expertise</i> MNHN & Kinga Öllerer <i>Senior Researcher</i> HUN-REN CER	Concluding remarks and end of the meeting

