COP17 YEREVAN ARMENIA 19-30 OCTOBER 2026 | TAKING ACTION FOR NATURE

# Side event

## Ecosystem Accounting – new information basis for decision-making on nature-friendly policies, with examples from Armenia and Germany

**23.10.2026**

**Green Zone - Workshop Room 1, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM**

Location: Karen Demirtchian Sports and Concert Complex
Tsitsernakaberdi zbosaygi 1, Yerevan 0028

**Host:** BCC Armenia (Biodiversity Conservation Center, NGO), IOER Dresden (Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development), Germany, Takhtajyan Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NAS)

**Local contact person:** Ani Bayburdjan, bayburdyan.ani@gmail.com

**Workshop Schedule**

**4:30 pm – Welcome/Introduction by the moderators**

Rafael Grigoryan, BCC Armenia and Wolfgang Wende, IOER Germany

**4:35 pm - From concept to impact – experiences with implementing the ecosystem accounting approach in Germany**

Karsten Grunewald and Ralf-Uwe Syrbe (IOER, Germany)

**5:00 pm - Ecosystem Accounting Prototype and Digital Ecosystem Map of Armenia**

Elena Bukvareva (BCC Armenia)

**5:25 pm - Significance and importance of Ecosystem Accounting project for Armenia and the scientific community**

Alla Alexanyan (Institute of Botany, NAS Armenia)

**5:35 pm - Discussion, wrap-up**

**6:00 pm End**

**Description of the Workshop:**

Strategic decisions on land use should be linked to considerations of nature and landscape conservation, and in particular biodiversity, as the foundation for functioning ecosystems. This includes a sustainable supply of ecosystem services.

The implementation of the KMGBF and related strategies within the international framework requires increased efforts, and in some cases even systemic reorientations, to record, monitor and, where possible, provide an aggregated overview of biodiversity and ecosystem parameters. Ecosystem accounts following the SEEA-EA (System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting) standard serve as a powerful basis for deriving ecosystem indicators and

can provide a range of indicators for national planning, decision-making and monitoring. They can thus play an important role in the calculation of several headline indicators of the KMGBF.

This side-event will introduce elements of a national ecosystem accounting study in support of the implementation of the KMGBF, presenting the outcomes of the Armenian-German research project "Ecosystem Accounting in Armenia — Setting the Scene", funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union and supervised by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the German Environment Agency (UBA). . This initiative undertakes the mapping, evaluation, and valuation of ecosystem services across Armenian landscapes, strengthens national scientific and institutional capacities, and provides evidence-based tools to support Armenia's efforts to align national policies with the KMGBF (https://biodiversity-armenia.am/en/).

The side-event will focus on two major outputs of the project:

1. The prototype of national ecosystem accounting in Armenia – providing technical details (e.g. modelling regulating ecosystem services via INVEST); demonstrating the operational value of ecosystem accounting as a practical tool for integrating ecological datasets into national public policy and economic planning; presentation of a short film showcasing spatial tools and ecosystem dynamics to policymakers.
2. The new detailed ecosystem map of Armenia and its integration into the Global Ecosystem Atlas – presenting Armenia as a localized model for the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Global Ecosystems Atlas launched at COP16, conducting a live Web GIS demo displaying the data.

The side-event is of particular relevance for international delegates studying the scalable deployment of the UN SEEA-EA guidelines in developing economies.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development

Institute of Botany NAS

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Umwelt Bundesamt

BfN Federal Agency for Nature Conservation