



GREENPEACE

PRESS KIT

CBD COP17

HALFWAY TO 2030

**Time to close the
implementation gap**

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

19–30 OCTOBER 2026

A GLOBAL PLAN. A NARROWING WINDOW.

In December 2022, nearly 200 governments came together at the UN Biodiversity Conference COP15 in Montreal and adopted a global plan to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) set four goals for 2050 and 23 targets to be achieved by 2030, including conserving at least 30% of the world's land and sea, restoring degraded ecosystems and mobilising a lot more finance for biodiversity.

Four years later, we are midway to the 2030 deadline, but the world remains off track to meet its biodiversity goals.

By August 2026, almost 90% of Parties (172) had submitted national targets, translating the global framework into commitments at the national level. More than 70% (130 Parties) had also submitted their seventh National Reports, detailing the actions taken and progress made towards those commitments. Despite there being other relevant sources of information which the secretariat wasn't mandated to take into account at the same level - such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reports, and data from Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other non-state actors -, these submissions provide a clear picture of where implementation stands halfway to 2030. And the picture is concerning: taken together, countries' national commitments still fall short of the ambition of the KM-GBF, while implementation is not happening at the pace and scale needed to achieve its targets.

23

GLOBAL TARGETS
to deliver by 2030

4

YEARS LEFT
to close the gap

THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP

All of this is happening while the planet faces accelerating biodiversity and ecosystem loss and a worsening climate crisis. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization¹ (FAO), between 2015 and 2025, the world lost an average of 10.9 million hectares of forest to deforestation every year. In the ocean, 44%² of warm-water reef-building coral species are now threatened with extinction. Meanwhile, 2023, 2024 and 2025 were the three warmest years on record, averaging around 1.48°C³ above pre-industrial levels. These interconnected crises are already disrupting ecosystems and the lives that depend on them, while harmful extractive practices continue to drive destruction and degradation.

This year, for the first time since the KM-GBF was adopted, governments will conduct a Global Review to collectively assess what has actually been delivered against what they committed to. This is what makes CBD COP17 in Yerevan a critical moment: halfway to the 2030 deadline, the Review should identify the biggest implementation gaps and show where progress needs to accelerate.

But identifying the gaps is not enough. COP17 must turn that diagnosis into action. Governments need to agree on concrete measures to close the biodiversity finance gap, tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss and policy incoherence, and fully respect and support the roles and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

With only four years left to deliver the KM-GBF, the gap between ambition and action must close – and fast. Any further delay means more destruction and degradation of vital ecosystems and a growing threat to life on Earth.

1 FAO (2025). *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025*.

2 IUCN (2024). *Over 40% of coral species face extinction – IUCN Red List*.

3 WMO (2026). *WMO confirms 2025 was one of warmest years on record*.

WHAT GREENPEACE IS CALLING FOR AT COP17

- 01** Address gaps in the implementation of the KM-GBF with concrete action **05**

- 02** Close the biodiversity finance gap **06**

- 03** Ensure quality of 30x30, from forests to the high seas, by safeguarding ecosystem integrity and respecting rights **08**

- 04** Maximise synergies between climate and biodiversity action **13**



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ADDRESS GAPS WITH CONCRETE ACTION

The Global Review must be more than a diagnosis of where implementation is falling short. COP17 must turn its findings into concrete action for the four years ahead.

That means addressing not only the lack of progress towards individual targets, but some of the structural barriers holding implementation back. Governments need to tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss and address policy incoherence, including policies in other sectors that continue to undermine biodiversity goals.

This will require stronger coordination across governments. Biodiversity protection cannot remain the responsibility of environment ministries alone while decisions taken elsewhere continue to drive ecosystem destruction. Governments should mandate cross-ministerial cooperation to mainstream rights-based nature protection across sectors and ensure that implementation of the KM-GBF is reflected in wider government policy and decision-making.

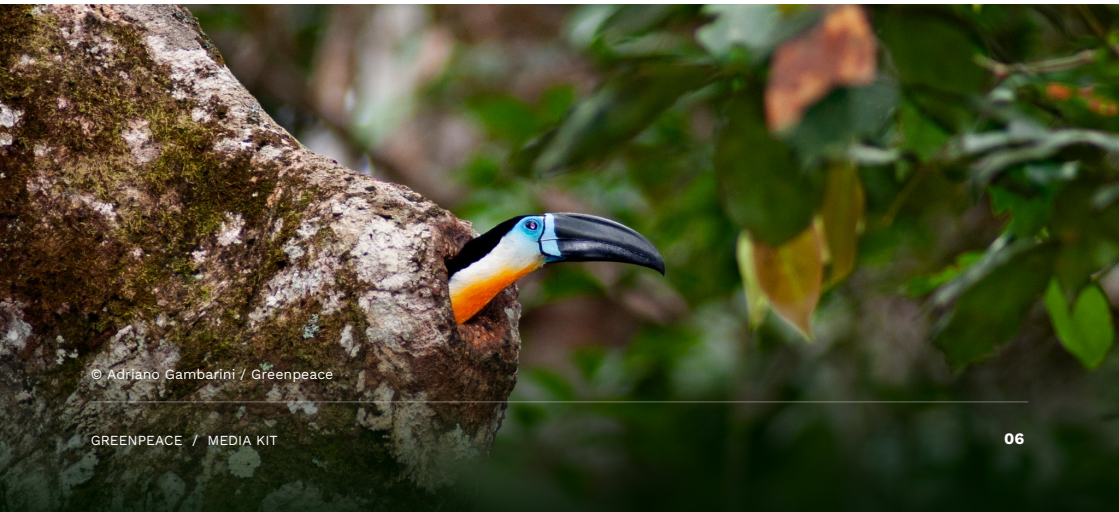
COP17 must therefore agree on a strong, action-oriented and forward-looking decision that responds to the key gaps and challenges identified through the Global Review and countries' National Reports, and sets a clear direction for accelerated implementation through 2030.

CLOSE THE BIODIVERSITY FINANCE GAP

Finance remains one of the biggest barriers to implementing the KM-GBF. One of its most immediate milestones was to mobilise at least US\$20 billion per year in international biodiversity finance by 2025. While definitive figures are not yet available, all estimates remain below that milestone. Wealthy countries must deliver on their commitments and rebuild trust with developing countries.

Biodiversity credits and offset schemes are not the answer to unmet finance commitments - they are merely a risky distraction. These approaches cannot replace the public finance needed to implement the KM-GBF or the structural changes required to tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss. Sufficient public finance remains key.

Closing the finance gap also means confronting the public money that continues to support biodiversity destruction. Governments must eliminate, phase out or reform harmful subsidies, particularly those benefiting sectors such as fossil fuels, mining, industrial agriculture, industrial fishing and harmful forestry, and redirect resources towards biodiversity protection, including initiatives led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

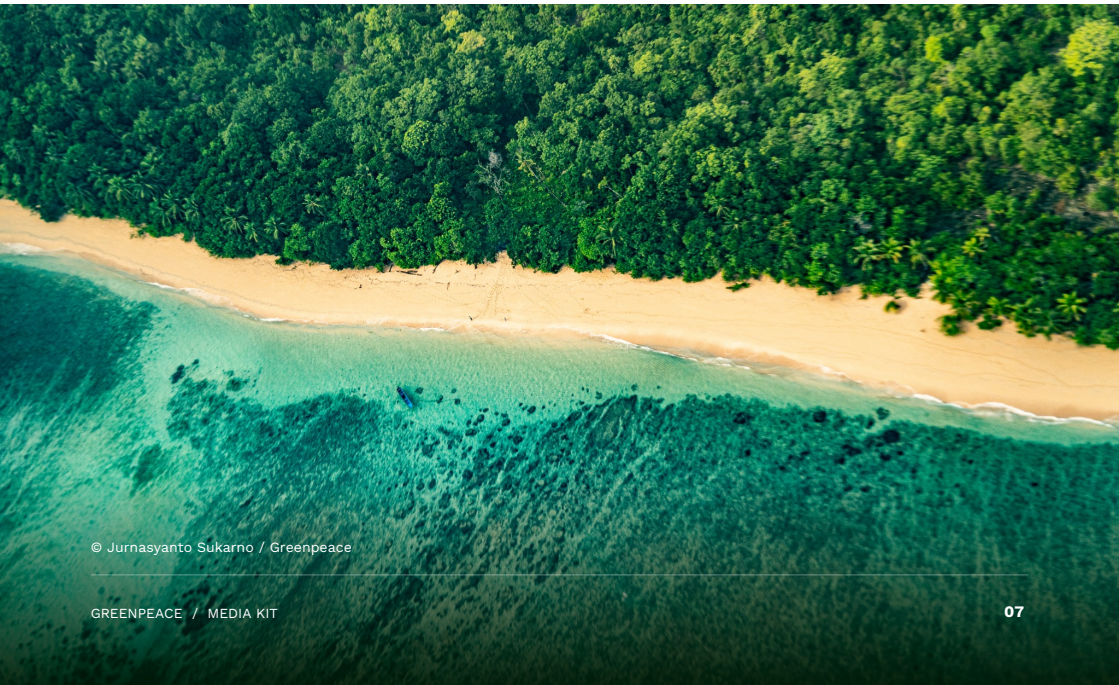


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REDIRECT RESOURCES. REMOVE BARRIERS.

The same principle should apply to taxation. Extractive industries are major drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem loss, yet fiscal regimes can provide tax breaks and exemptions that incentivise extraction while depriving countries of public revenues. Governments should apply the polluter pays principle, increase transparency in tax systems and tackle illicit financial flows associated with extractive and natural-resource sectors.

For countries facing unsustainable debt, debt cancellation can help expand domestic fiscal space, reducing pressure to depend on extraction to service debt while increasing countries' ability to invest in biodiversity and ecosystem protection. These structural issues should be prioritised in the dialogue between Finance and Environment ministers requested at COP16, alongside stronger synergies with the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.



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30X30: SAFEGUARD INTEGRITY AND RESPECT RIGHTS

Protecting and conserving at least 30% of the world's land and sea by 2030 is one of the best-known targets of the KM-GBF. But reaching 30x30 is not simply about putting more areas under protection. How those areas are protected, whether ecosystems remain healthy and functioning, and whose rights are respected are just as important as how much area is covered.

This means putting ecosystem integrity and human rights at the heart of 30x30. Protected, conserved and restored areas must be effectively managed and protected from habitat loss, degradation and conversion. At the same time, conservation must recognise and respect the rights, territories, knowledge and leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Indigenous Peoples and local communities are already leading solutions to protect biodiversity, often without adequate recognition or resources. Governments must formally recognise Indigenous and Traditional Territories (ITTs) as distinct systems of protected and conserved areas, legally secure community-led protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and support community leadership and co-governance.





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RECOGNITION MUST COME WITH RESOURCES

This also means securing customary tenure rights, ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for development and protecting environmental human rights defenders. And recognition must come with resources. As part of this broader package, Greenpeace is calling for dedicated global finance streams with at least 20% directly accessible to Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

COP17 is an important moment to turn recognition into practice. The establishment of SB8j at COP16, a permanent CBD body dedicated to issues related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, was a landmark step. At COP17, governments need to make it fully operational in a way that ensures meaningful participation and respects self-determination.

WHAT QUALITY MEANS FOR FORESTS

Delivering the 2030 targets to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation requires looking beyond whether forests are simply still standing. The question is whether they are still functioning as healthy ecosystems. Industrial exploitation can leave forest cover in place while progressively degrading biodiversity and ecological functions. Greenpeace is therefore calling for forest degradation to be recognised as a major driver of forest ecosystem loss, and for ecosystem integrity to be at the heart of forest protection.

The Greenpeace briefing *Beyond Deforestation: Ecosystem Integrity and the Emerging Legal Paradigm* argues that existing legal and policy frameworks fail to adequately address the loss of ecosystem integrity caused by logging, extractive activity, and global commodity supply chains.

Beyond Deforestation



The Greenpeace Restricted Areas Map and Framework shows why high-integrity ecosystems need to be protected from mining and other extractive pressures.

Restricted Areas Map





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COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS IN PRACTICE

Indigenous Peoples and local communities are already protecting biodiversity through solutions rooted in their rights, knowledge and territories. Greenpeace's Real Community Solutions Map brings together examples from different regions, showing what community-led conservation looks like in practice and why recognising rights, territories and community leadership must be at the heart of delivering 30x30.

Real Community Solutions Map ↗

WHAT QUALITY MEANS FOR OCEANS

Accelerated action to deliver global ocean commitments - including towards the 30x30 conservation target - must shift beyond “paper parks” to real ocean protection grounded in rights, equity and effective management. Greenpeace urges leaders to recognise Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ expertise and conservation initiatives to close the implementation gap through a human rights-based approach to protected and conserved areas, while enhancing synergies between the CBD and the Global Ocean Treaty to drive a seamless network of fully and highly protected ocean sanctuaries across the blue planet, from coastal waters to the high seas.

Greenpeace’s *Global Ocean Justice Now* report shows how rights-based, community-led conservation can deliver more just and effective ocean protection, and why coastal communities must be at the heart of delivering 30x30.

Global Ocean Justice Now ➤



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MAXIMISING CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY SYNERGIES

The climate and biodiversity crises cannot be solved separately. Climate change is accelerating ecosystem loss, while the destruction and degradation of forests and other ecosystems further intensifies the climate crisis.

In 2026, the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification all hold COPs, creating a unique opportunity for governments to better align their action across these interconnected crises. They already share critical 2030 goals, including protecting 30% of the world's land and sea and halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation.

At COP17, governments must ensure that action on biodiversity and climate reinforces, rather than undermines, each other. This means putting ecosystem integrity and human rights-based approaches at the heart of implementation, with particular attention to primary forests, which are critical for both climate and biodiversity.

Governments must also accelerate action to protect and restore forests and halt deforestation and degradation. This includes confronting the impacts of industrial exploitation on ecosystems and recognising the critical role of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' tenure rights in protecting and managing them.

Greenpeace's briefing *Maximising synergies to address the climate and biodiversity crises* walks through the legal foundation for joint work between the UNFCCC and CBD.

Maximising synergies



SPOKESPEOPLE & INTERVIEWS

Greenpeace International political experts and campaigners, as well as Indigenous partners from different regions, will be available during CBD COP17 for interviews, background briefings and analysis.

Indigenous partners can provide first-hand perspectives on Indigenous-led conservation, territorial rights, threats to their lands and ecosystems, and community-led solutions, while Greenpeace experts can offer analysis of the negotiations, key political debates and COP17 outcomes.

For interview requests and information on available speakers, please contact the Greenpeace Media Team.

PRESS CONTACTS

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PRESS RESOURCES

Greenpeace will publish media releases, reactive statements and political analysis throughout CBD COP17, responding to key developments and outcomes from the negotiations. All the latest Greenpeace International press materials will be available through the Greenpeace International Press Centre and/or Greenpeace WhatsApp group.

Greenpeace International Press Centre ↗

Greenpeace WhatsApp group ↗

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Greenpeace Media Library ↗

NEED MORE BACKGROUND?

Our CBD COP17 Q&A explains the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 30x30, what happened at previous biodiversity COPs and what to watch at COP17.

Further Reading ↗

A large flock of white birds, possibly egrets or herons, is captured in mid-flight over a lush green field. The birds are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others further back. The background features a dense line of green trees under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of nature and environmental harmony.

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