

CBD COP17 | YEREVAN, ARMENIA

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Financing Nature with Integrity: Building High-Integrity Biodiversity Credit Markets for the Global South

DATE	TIME	VENUE	FORMAT
22 October 2026	17:45–19:15	Main Stage, COP17 Green Zone	90-minute high-level dialogue

Full information about speakers and session roles

ROLE	NAME	TITLE, POSITION & ORGANISATION	SESSION FOCUS
Opening Remarks & Strategic Framing	Dr J. V. Sharma, IFS	Senior Director, Land Resources Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India	Why Biodiversity Finance Needs an Implementation Architecture
Technical Context Setting	Sayanta Ghosh	Senior Associate Fellow, Land Resources Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India	Making Biodiversity Finance Investable: Connecting Ecological Outcomes, People, Capital and MRV
Presenter: Financing Outcomes Panel Moderator	Shreya Dutta	Head – Programs, Value Network Ventures (VNV)	Nature that Delivers: Creating a Results-Based Financing Mechanism
Chair, High-Level Panel	Dr B. Balaji, IFS	Member-Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India	Chairing the high-level dialogue on governance, safeguards, finance, integrity and scale
Panellist 1	Gaurav Gupta	Senior Advisor and Blended Finance Lead, UNDP BIOFIN	Blended finance for biodiverse landscapes, including perspectives from the Resilient Landscapes Facility

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Panellist 2	Smitthi Harueanphuech	Chief Nature Based Solutions Officer Mae Fah Luang Foundation, Thailand	Beyond Carbon: Scaling Community-Led Nature Finance for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods
Panellist 3	Vishaish Uppal,	Senior Director, Governance Law and Policy, World Wide Fund for Nature, India	From Claims to Credibility: Governance, Safeguards and Verifiable Biodiversity Outcomes
Panellist 4	Jasmine Khatri	Public Policy Associate, Finance for Biodiversity Foundation	From Nature Commitments to Capital: Making Biodiversity Finance Work Through Policy and Financial-Sector Action
Panellist 5	Dr Joe Huddart	Lead Nature Consultant, Okala	What Counts as Biodiversity Gain? Making Nature Credits Measurable, Verifiable and Credible
Vote of Thanks & Closing	Rachit Kumar	Senior Associate Fellow, Land Resources Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India	Key takeaways and acknowledgements

Panel focus: Translate biodiversity ambition into financeable, verifiable and people-centred action, connecting governance, blended finance, MRV, community participation, benefit-sharing and implementation at landscape scale.