

*Austrian MAB-Committee at the
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Chair: Univ.-Prof.Mag.Dr. Georg Grabherr
Secretary: Mag.Dr. Günter Köck*

*c/o Österreichische Akademie der
Wissenschaften
Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2
A-1010 Wien
Tel: +43 1 51581 1271
Fax: +43 1 51581 1275
E-mail: guenter.koeck@oeaw.ac.at
WWW: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at>*



NATIONALE UND
INTERNATIONALE
FORSCHUNGSPROGRAMME

REPORT ON AUSTRIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MAB PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2008 – 2009

1. NATIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING:

In the period from 2008 to 2009 five meetings of the Austrian National Committee for MAB took place. The managers of the Austrian BRs joined the meetings and reported about activities in their area and discussed future research strategies with the committee members.

For the period from 2008 to 2009 (two years) the total funding for MAB, provided by the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research, is

EURO 680.000,- = US\$ 838.100,-¹

This funding is entirely used for research projects.

At the 35th Session of the UNESCO General Conference 2009 Austria (represented by the head of the international research programmes Dr. Günter Köck) was re-elected into the MAB- International Co-ordinating Council (MAB-ICC).

2. FUNDING CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO

- MAB Young Scientist Awards: In response to the need expressed by the MAB International Co-ordinating Council (MAB-ICC) regarding mobilization of extra-budgetary funding in context of the MAB Young Scientist Award Scheme, particularly to raise the number of awards the Austrian National Committee for MAB

¹ Exchange rate per 27/05/2010

decided to contribute the amount of US\$ 20,000 to finance four additional MAB Young Scientists Research Awards for the UNESCO biennium 2010-2011. The two grants for 2010 will be awarded for research in UNESCO designated biosphere reserves in less developed countries focusing on "The best scientific work in the field biodiversity" and "Scientific support for translating the Seville Strategy into practice".

- UNESCO Venice Office: The Austrian National Committee for MAB decided to contribute the amount of EURO 20,500 to support the preparation for kicking off a new biosphere reserve on the island of Samothraki (Greece) and for supporting the Municipality in formulating an application to UNESCO-MAB.

3. CURRENT STATUS OF BIORESERVES (BRs) IN AUSTRIA:

The implementation of the BR Wienerwald in June 2005 has triggered a current boom of the biosphere reserve idea in Austria. Both the National Committee and the biosphere reserve managers have actively contributed to implement the Madrid Action Plan.

Approved: 6 areas	
<i>Lobau</i>	Alluvial area of the Danube near Vienna, now part of the "Nationalpark Donauauen". Since decades this "first generation" BR is a very active research site. Triggered by plans of the City of Vienna to build a new housing area for thousands of people in the vicinity of the area discussions about a re-design of the BR Lobau have just started.
<i>Neusiedlersee</i>	An extensive cross-border lake shared by Austria and Hungary. Two research projects dedicated to the re-design of this "first generation" BR are currently undertaken. The national committee hopes that all political decisions to transfer the area into a "post-Seville" BR will follow soonly.
<i>Gossenköllesee</i>	Small lake in the high alpine region of the Tyrolean Stubai Alps. "First generation" BR.
<i>Gurgler Kamm</i>	A transect zone in the Ötztaler Alps, reaching from timberline to the nival zone. Triggered by discussion in the MAB committee to drop the BR Gurgler Kamm from the WNBR the management has launched a feasibility study for a re-zonation of the BR. There are quite realistic plans to create a new transboundary BR with Italy.
<i>Großes Walsertal</i>	In Western Austria, reaching from mountain river alluvia, mountain farmlands to high alpine peaks; this parks is designed and implemented according to the Seville Strategy
<i>Wienerwald</i>	A forest area in close vicinity to the city of Vienna; planning far advanced; implemented according to the Seville Strategy

In planning stage (planning along the requirements of the Seville Strategy): three areas	
<i>Lungau</i>	A mountain valley with alpine character
<i>Danube/Drava/Mura</i>	Drava alluvia; transboundary biosphere reserve (Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary)
<i>March-Thaya (= Moravia)</i>	Ancluding alluvial forests, sand dunes and halophyte communities along the rivers March (= Morava) and Thaya (= Dyje) in Austria, Czechia, and Slovakia; planning dropped for the moment

Planning in <i>statu nascendi</i> (Regions suitable for implementation of a biosphere reserve: six areas)	
<i>Dürrenstein/Ötscherland</i>	These areas are mountain regions of „Alpine“ character in different parts of Austria (like <i>Großes Walsertal</i> these are regions without good opportunities for winter tourism).
<i>Nockberge</i>	
<i>Koralpe</i>	
<i>Tennengebirge</i>	
<i>Karwendel</i>	
<i>Wachau</i>	Part of the Danube valley; important wine-making region

4. CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF MAB:

According to the new research agenda for the Austrian MAB Programme, and in response to the priorities set by the International MAB Council, the Austrian National MAB-Committee has focused its future research predominantly on the needs of the biosphere reserves in Austria, but also to benefit from BRs as “living laboratories” for studying, testing out and demonstrating integrated management of land, water, and biodiversity. In 2009, to deepen the involvement of Austrian expertise in international MAB research, the MAB national committee started to fund international research cooperations with biosphere reserve projects in six foreign countries (Greece, Germany, Czech Republic, Chile, Ethiopia, Mexico).

At present 11 research projects are funded by the Austrian MAB Programme.

Project Title	Coordinator
Perspective LOBAU 2020: Exploring management options of a heavily used urban biosphere reserve confronted with new urban developments in its neighbourhood considering a restricted potential for ecosystem development	A. Arnberger
Towards integrated ecological spatial planning on multiple scales for the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve and its functional environment: a new approach to the management of conflicts between humans and wildlife	F. Reimoser
Monitoring of biocultural diversity in the Biosphere Reserve "Großes Walsertal": The use and management of biodiversity of crops, cultivars and wild gathered species	C.R. Vogl
Participation Processes in Biosphere Reserves - Development of an Intervention Theory, Analysis of Strategies and Procedural Ethics by example of BRs Nockberge, Vienna Forest and Großes Walsertal (Austria)	E.C.O.
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as scientific foundation for the sustainable implementation of the redesigned Biosphere Reserve “Neusiedler See”	T. Wrbka
<i>International cooperation</i>	
Advanced Geophysics for the Protection of the Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve	K. Motschka
Feasibility study for creating a new MAB-park on the island of Samothraki, Greece	UNESCO-BRESCE Venice/Singh
White Book on Chilean Biosphere Reserves	Borsdorf/Munoz
Kids explore the core area	Reutz/Lange
Transboundary information exchange for revision and functional improvement of zonation in the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve (Czech Republic)	Kirchmeir/Cupa/Koch/ Diry
Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia - Preliminary study	E.C.O.

Further details can be found at the homepage of the Austrian MAB Programme (<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/english/forschung/programme/mab.html>).

4. PUBLICATIONS:

Based on a successful cooperation with the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press (AASP) all Austrian MAB project reports are now published online at the AASP homepage. At present 13 documents can be downloaded from <http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/Projektberichte>.

Erhalt der biologischen und kulturellen Vielfalt. Modelle für nachhaltige Entwicklungsstrategien im 21. Jahrhundert. Orte der Forschung, Bildung und Umweltbeobachtung (doi: 10.1553/ibk; ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3742-9)

Biosphere Reserves in Austria - Grundlagenerhebung und Stand der Forschung (ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3599-9)

Nachhaltiges Waldbiomassenmanagement im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald (doi: 10.1553/wald, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3839-6, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3839-6)

EUROMAB AUSTRIA 2005 Meeting of the Euromab Biosphere Reserve Coordinators and Managers (doi: 10.1553/euromab_austria2005, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3715-3)

Leben in Vielfalt (doi: 10.1553/3-7001-3337-5; ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3337-7 ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3374-2)

Inspired by diversity (ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3596-8 ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3612-5)

Leitfaden für Forschung und Monitoring im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald (doi: 10.1553/lfmbw)

Leitfaden für Forschung und Monitoring im Biosphärenpark Großes Walsertal (doi: 10.1553/lfmbgw, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3717-7)

Re-designing the Research Agenda of MAB-Austria, in special consideration of BRIM: A Feasibility Study Final Report (doi: 10.1553/rra_mab)

Monitoring von Luftschadstoffen (NO_x und SO₂, Schwermetall-, Stickstoff-, Schwefel- und PAH-Depositionen) mittels Moosen im "Biosphärenpark Wienerwald" (doi: 10.1553/luft, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3852-5, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3852-5)

Integrated Sustainable Wildlife Management in the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald (doi: 10.1553/ISWIMAB, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6626-9)

Redesigning the Biosphere Reserve Neusiedler See (doi: 10.1553/rbrns, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-6692-4, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6692-4)

Ökologische und soziale Tragfähigkeiten als Managementherausforderungen für suburbane Biosphärenparke am Beispiel Untere Lobau (doi: 10.1553/MAB-OEST ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6781-5)

Planet Austria – Stein, Wasser, Leben (eds.: G. Köck, L. Lammerhuber, W.E. Piller; Edition Lammerhuber and Austrian Academy of Sciences Press; 408 pages, ISBN 978-3-901753-13-8)

The book project “Planet Austria – rock, water, life” presents the seven international research programmes administered at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Including Man and the Biosphere-MAB, International Geoscience Programme-IGCP and International Hydrological Programme-IHP) through 33 research topics and 58 research projects. The wide range of these “earth system sciences” serves to highlight the international context of the studies as well as the significance of the individual research projects for scientists and practitioners alike. The book is also available online at <http://www.planet-austria.at/>. The book has officially been introduced to the public in the course of the ceremonial meeting of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, May 13, 2009, in presence of the Federal President of Austria, Heinz Fischer, and the Minister of Science and Research, Johannes Hahn. This book has also been presented at the Austrian Embassy in Paris in presence of UNESCO representatives. According to the goal of the book to get students and non-experts enthusiastic about science the book has been delivered to all Austrian schools providing general qualification for university entrance.

Vienna, 27/05/2010