

GERMANY

ORIGINAL

National Report

Thank you Chairman.

This is just a quick and brief overview over some selected activities in Germany; in accordance with Madrid Action Plan.

2009 has been kind of a highlight for the MAB-Programme in Germany. Some of you are aware of the fact, that we had the **year of Biosphere Reserves in 2009** under the patronage of our chancellor and the Minister of Environment. Lots of events, for example in the Biosphere Reserves accompanied this jubilee. The main event was a big exhibition at the German Garden Fare in Schwerin. More than one million visitors came to the exhibition and were informed. In addition a lot of high ranking politicians like the German President Horst Köhler, the Chancellor Angela Merkel, several members of her cabinet and others were lead around the displays. To sum it up, the year of Biosphere Reserves 2009 was hard work, but was really worth it and has been a real success story.

To increase the visibility of the MAB-Programme and the Biosphere Reserves in the European Union two German Länder and their Biosphere Reserves together with the MAB NC and our Austrian colleagues from the Wienerwald organised an Event in Brussels: "**Biosphere Reserves – Model Regions of world standing**". Despite the fact, that we reached quite a good audience we feel, that especially EuroMAB families' efforts into this direction should be intensified.

Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges for human being. Madrid Action Plan emphasises the important role Biosphere Reserves could play in that context. The federal Environment Ministry offered support to the national Biosphere Reserves in order to help them in performing their role as model regions for mitigation and adaptation. 10 of our 15 Biosphere reserve take part in that project, which has a budget of more than 1 million Euros, conducting a wide range of measures from technical mitigation to adaptation of biodiversity. But all of them include a broad participation and information for stakeholders.

The German Environment Ministry also supports the development of a German speaking **Clearing House Mechanism** for research in Biosphere Reserves, which should be tightly linked with UNESCO's efforts in this field.

One important benefit for the people in Biosphere Reserves can be tourism. This year we support a research project that will survey the **regional economic effects of Biosphere Reserves**. Having real figures at hand will make it easier to convince decision makers about the benefits of Biosphere reserves.

Informationen zum DBU-Projekt – hier fehlen mir Informationen.

Thank you for your attention.

① To accomplish this successful story, two new Biosphere Reserves, approved at the 21st MAB ICC - Council in Jeju, Republic of South Korea, started their work and are busy to prepare their framework plan in a participative process.