

N° 1 October 2006



NEWS from the Biosphere World Network

En Français

Welcome to the electronic newsletter of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves!

Biosphere reserves are sites which seek to reconcile socioeconomic development, and conservation of biodiversity based on local community efforts and sound science. They constitute ideal places to test and demonstrate new approaches to sustainable development at a regional scale providing lessons which can be applied elsewhere.

This newsletter provides a regular overview of new initiatives, events and publications related to the biosphere reserve activities and scientific achievements of the MAB Programme.

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News

Carbon Neutral Operations in Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve

The United Nations Foundation invests in reforestation projects in Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico. Besides the sequestration of greenhouse gases, this project also has significant sustainable development benefits by enhancing biodiversity in this area, and by providing local landowners with an income to replace farming or herding. [More](#)

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Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve: Combating Poverty by Sustainable Forestry

Community foresters in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, Honduras, are filling a rapidly growing order for mahogany from world class guitar manufacturer Gibson. But the consequences of their industry are not seen in felled forests and fields of stumps; the woodsmen in this protected area cut and extract the wood sustainably, minimizing their impact on the forest and adhering to a management plan which allows controlled logging in buffer zones in the biosphere reserve. [More](#)

[More](#)

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Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve is Taking the Lead in an Exciting New Initiative

Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve, Canada, has been awarded a substantial grant to undertake the Redberry Lake Watershed Agri-Environmental Project. It entails watershed assessment and active community outreach aimed at connecting individual farm producers with existing programs and funding already set up by the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Plan. [More](#)

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Documenting Marine Species in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve

The process of documenting marine species in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, India, has begun. The idea is to capture the images of marine ecosystems of 21 islands and other parts of the Gulf of Mannar by using underwater cameras. Services of experts will be used to properly document these underwater treasures for further research and educational purposes. [More](#)

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Other news on the [MABNet](#)

Events

West African Biosphere Reserves: Institutional, Legal and Statutory Framework

During this sub-regional workshop, thirty delegates of 11 countries assessed the institutional, legal and statutory frameworks of the West African biosphere reserves and provided recommendations for improving the management of Biosphere reserves in the region and implementing the Seville strategy. [Read the report](#)

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International Workshop on Ecosystem Services: Products and Markets in Development

Organised by the Sierra Gorda Earth Center, the objective of this event was to explore the possibilities of developing products and access to ecosystem service markets which permit the generation of new mechanisms and tools for conservation, particularly regarding biodiversity, water and carbon. [Read the report](#)

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The Future of Drylands Conference – Outcomes

'The Future of Drylands' Conference provided a highly visible international forum for discussing major dryland issues and disseminating practical solutions for combating desertification as well as conserving and sustainably managing dryland ecosystems. [More](#)

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Future events on the [MABNet](#)

Publications

[Social Monitoring in Mountain Biosphere Reserves](#) - Conclusions from the EU GLOCHAMORE Project

[Proceedings of the EUROMAB AUSTRIA 2005](#) - Meeting of the EuroMAB Biosphere Reserve Coordinators and Managers

[Nordic Biosphere Reserves](#) - Experiences and Co-operation

[Biodiversity and Stakeholders](#) - Itineraries for Concertation

More publications on the [MABNet](#)

We appreciate your comments and contributions to next issues of the newsletter!

Contact us at mab@unesco.org

www.unesco.org/mab

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the UNESCO MAB Programme