



NEWS from the Biosphere World Network

[Version française](#)

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

Regional Partnership for Manu Biosphere Reserve

The regional governments of Cusco and Madre de Dios have created an alliance to jointly protect the Manu Biosphere Reserve (Peru) and encourage people from these localities to develop sustainable development activities and environmentally friendly projects. [More](#)

Radio France International reports on Biosphere Reserves

Radio France International (RFI) has reported on three of the six biosphere reserves in West Africa: Mare aux Hippopotames in Burkina Faso, Pendjari in Benin, and the transboundary W Region, in both countries. These news reports have been made possible through the partnership between RFI, the MAB Programme, the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO and the French Fund for Global Environment. [More](#)

Contact: m.bouamrane@unesco.org

New Visitor Centre in the Peninsula de Guanahacabibes Biosphere Reserve

A modern visitor's centre will soon be inaugurated in the Guanahacabibes Biosphere Reserve in Cuba. This centre, composed of an exhibition area and conference hall, is aimed at expounding on the significance of the site with a view of contributing to the work of raising the environmental awareness of the thousand or so people who live in this area. [More](#)

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Danone Waters supports Biosphere Reserves in Germany

Danone Waters Deutschland GmbH, UNESCO and the German Commission for UNESCO recently signed a partnership agreement which aims at promoting and supporting biosphere reserves in Germany. Through the partnership, Danone Waters Deutschland will provide considerable financial support to selected projects aiming at improving or safeguarding the quality of water and water bodies (lakes, rivers and groundwater) in Germany's 13 biosphere reserves. [More](#)

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Preserving the Yahgan language in Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve

The University of Texas in conjunction with the University of Magallanes are working together to preserve the Yahgan language and environmental knowledge in the Omora Ethno-botanical Park, part of the Chilean Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve. [More](#)

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More news on the [MABNet](#)



Events

Winners of the MAB Young Scientists and Michel Batisse Awards

The winners of the 2009 MAB Young Scientists Awards and the Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management have been announced by the Bureau of the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, following its meeting on 12 and 13 February at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris). [More](#)

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New Website of Mesoamerican Biosphere Reserves

The objective of this recently launched web-site is to improve communication and exchange of information between biosphere reserve stakeholders in the Mesoamerican region. [More](#)

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Biosphere Reserves at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

A workshop on 'UNESCO Biosphere Reserves as learning sites for integrating local and global sustainability issues' will be organized in the context of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to be held in Bonn, Germany from 31 March to 2 April 2009. The workshop will focus on the role of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves for building key partnerships for ESD. [More](#)

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Planet Action will support more projects this year

Planet Action provides satellite imagery, geographic information and technology support to local projects that investigate and assess climate change issues focusing on human issues & habitation, drought, desertification & water resources, vegetation, biodiversity & ecosystems, oceans, ice & snow cover. This year, Planet Action will support an additional 100 projects while following up on current projects and their results on the ground. New project proposals can be submitted on-line in the [Planet Action web site.](#)

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New ERAIFT Graduates

ERAIFT is a vanguard school serving human and sustainable development in Africa. It trains specialists (Master and PhD degrees) in the Planning and Management of Tropical Forests and Territories, through an interdisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach. With this 4th promotion of graduates, ERAIFT now comprises 83 Masters and 3 PhD graduates. [More](#)

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Future events on the [MABNet](#)



Publications

- [New Bulletin of the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves](#)
- [Towards Environmentally Friendly Tourism in Arabian Biosphere Reserves](#)
- [Biosphere reserves—An attempt to form sustainable landscapes - A case study of three biosphere reserves in the Czech Republic](#)
- [Kigali MAB Workshop Report](#)
- [The Future of Drylands](#)

More publications on the [MABNet](#)
[National and regional newsletters](#)

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