

Special Issue - December 2006



news from the Biosphere World Network

SPECIAL MAB-ICC

Version française

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

Biosphere reserves are sites that 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.

This special issue is dedicated to the main results of the 19th session of the MAB International Coordinating Council (23-27 October 2006)

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Highlight

19th Session of MAB-ICC: Main Results

The 19th session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 23-27 October 2006. The main objective was to review progress made in programme implementation in the past two years, and to decide on the future of MAB and its WNBR. [More](#)

25 New Biosphere Reserves Joined WNBR

During its 19th session, MAB-ICC approved twenty-five new sites to be included in the UNESCO-MAB World Network of Biosphere Reserves. With one transboundary reserve straddling Spain and Morocco, eighteen new biosphere reserves in Mexico, three in Spain, one each in the Russian Federation, Viet Nam and Malawi, the World Network now includes 507 sites in 102 countries. [More](#)

Madrid 2008: Spain to host the 3rd World Biosphere Reserve Congress

Ms Cristina Narbona Ruiz, Minister of Environment of the Kingdom of Spain, announced at the 19th session of MAB-ICC that Spain was offering to host the 3rd World Biosphere Reserve Congress entitled "Biosphere Futures, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development", in Madrid on 4-8 February 2008. On this occasion, Spain will also host the 20th Session of MAB-ICC. [More](#)

Special Session: Panels on Biosphere Reserves

Discussion panels on "Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use", "Socio-economic, human and institutional development", and "Science and knowledge networks for sustainable development" were convened during the 19th session of the MAB-ICC. The objective of the three panels was to provide an appraisal of key features of biosphere reserves, and the integration of their three functions, with a view to taking stock of experiences and practices, and discussing major challenges of WNBR in the forthcoming years. As a result of the discussions, a five-point agenda to guide the work of the MAB Programme was adopted by the Council. [More](#)

Country Reports and Working Documents

To consult the country reports, as well as the working documents presented at the 19th session of MAB-ICC, please [click here](#).



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

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

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