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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

Guatemala's Biosphere Reserves will Benefit from Debt-for-Nature Swap

The Maya Biosphere Reserve and the Sierra de Las Minas Biosphere Reserve are among priority forest areas in Guatemala that will receive funding through a debt-for-nature swap under the U.S. Tropical Forest Conservation Act. [More](#)

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Lac Saint-Pierre Biosphere Reserve Label

The Coopérative de solidarité of the Lac Saint-Pierre Biosphere Reserve will be given an aid of the ministry for Tourism to develop and implement a labelling programme for the companies that are present in the biosphere reserve and deal with lodging, restoration, ecotourism, nautical tourism and agrotourism. [More](#)

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Research Library and Archive for the Rhön Biosphere Reserve

The Fulda University of Applied Sciences (Hesse, Germany) is building up a research library and archive for the Rhön Biosphere Reserve. Supported by the Hessian Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, the project aims at developing an academic infrastructure and service institution for research purposes in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve and widening the basis for research and science within the WNBR. [More](#)

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Important Bird Areas in Red River Delta Defined

BirdLife International Vietnam has recently released a report on the results of a study to reassess the biodiversity status of six important coastal bird areas in the Hong (Red) River Delta, and included suggestions on how to better protect these areas. [More](#)

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More news on the [MABNet](#)

Events

Pacific MAB Network Created

The first Pacific MAB Network Meeting took place in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. The meeting consisted of presentations and discussions among the new and emerging Biosphere reserves in the Pacific. The participants agreed on the Pacific MAB Network meeting statement which officially launched the Pacific MAB Network (PacMAB) and its work agenda for the next two years was decided. [More](#)

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STARLIGHT Initiative

The STARLIGHT Initiative and the MAB Programme bring a new element into the biosphere reserves' management effort to forge specific relationships between conservation, development and knowledge/learning functions. After the successful meeting held in La Palma (Spain) 23-24 November, the scientific committee of the Initiative has decided to meet in April 2007 for the International Conference in Defence of the Quality of the Night Skies and the Right to Observe the Stars. [More](#)

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Biosphère - The Success of the New TV Series

A new TV series promotes the 13 Canadian Biosphere Reserves and the MAB Programme on Quebec's Canal Évasion. This TV channel also gives the possibility of voting for favourite new TV series: Biosphère has captured 51% of the votes and is at the moment the most popular new show in Canada. [More](#)

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Future events on the [MABNet](#)

Publications

[Mapping the Economic Costs and Benefits of Conservation in Mbaracayu Biosphere Reserve, Eastern Paraguay](#)
[Relationship Between Biodiversity and Material Culture in Al-Chouf Cedar Biosphere Reserve](#)

Policy Perspectives for Ecosystem and Water Management in the Arabian Peninsula

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

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