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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

### **Increase in the hippopotamus population in the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve**

According to the most recent results of hippopotamus monitoring, the number of hippopotamus has significantly increased in the Pendjari biosphere reserve, Benin, in the last six years. This increase in hippopotamus population reflects the efficiency of the conservation efforts and the measures against poaching implemented in the Pendjari Park. [More](#) (French)

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### **Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve benefits from community-based ecotourism**

An ingenious ecotourism project funded by the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Development Program has focused on educating and training the local community of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, Cambodia. The changes have improved life for many people. [More](#)

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### **Exemplary cooperation between two European biosphere reserves**

For several years, the Vosges du Nord-Pfälzerwald, transboundary biosphere reserve between France and Germany, has actively collaborated with the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve in Belarus. This co-operation has brought about numerous exchanges of information and experiences, meetings and joint studies, namely with regard to forestry management and the geographic information systems. [More](#) (French)

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### **Creation of the Caribbean Biological Corridor**

The Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba have recently signed a joint agreement to form an ecological corridor in the Caribbean. The 1,600-kilometer-long Caribbean Biological Corridor includes Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve in Dominican Republic and represents a successful example of South-South cooperation aimed at protecting the environment and human development and coping with climate change. [More](#)

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More news on the [MABNet](#)



## Events

### **Recognition for the environmental efforts in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**

Ms Jyotsna Sitling, director of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, India, has received the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puskar, the highest national award in the field of environment. Ms Sitling has been awarded in recognition of her outstanding contribution to environmental conservation, her initiatives such as cleaning up the Nanda Devi buffer zone of non-biodegradable waste through community participation. [More](#)

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### **A new voluntary market for poverty alleviation and environmental services**

The Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico, is the world's leading laboratory for the two emerging trends in the social capital marketplace: Social and Environmental Return on Investment Analysis and the markets for Environmental Services, which build on carbon credit markets. Their experiences have recently been presented at a panel discussion hosted by the Salesforce.com in San Francisco. [More](#)

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### **AfriMAB E-Forum**

The objective of the E-forum is to provide biosphere reserve stakeholders (managers, coordinators, representatives of local communities, private sector, scientists) and their partners, with a platform for discussions, exchanging information and sharing knowledge and experience in preparation of the next AfriMAB meeting and the 2008 Madrid Congress on Biosphere Reserves. [Join the forum](#)

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Future events on the [MABNet](#)



## Publications

Reservas de la Biosfera: un espacio para la integración de conservación y desarrollo

Identification of ecological indicators for monitoring ecosystem health in the transboundary W Regional park: A pilot study

More publications on the [MABNet](#)



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

Contact us at [mab@unesco.org](mailto:mab@unesco.org)

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

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