

N° 6 April 2008



# 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

### Positive impacts of forest certification in the Maya Biosphere Reserve

A new Rainforest Alliance study has found that forest concessions managed in compliance with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standards have seen fewer wildfires and less deforestation compared with protected and other areas within the Maya Biosphere Reserve. [More](#)

Contact: [fercastro@conap.qob.gt](mailto:fercastro@conap.qob.gt)

### **Regeneration of dune ecosystems in the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve**

A successful EU-LIFE funded project has recovered the dune system of Laida beach at Urdaibai BR (Basque Autonomous Region, Spain). Based on previous research in close relation with the University of the Basque Country, the regeneration work has included ecosystem restoration and environmental education campaigns in order to conserve this unique ecosystem and promote its responsible recreational use. This strategy has raised awareness in the inhabitants of Urdaibai of their important role in preserving this ecosystem. [More](#)

**Contact:** k-alvarez@ej-gv.es

### **Rare Water Birds Recovering in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve**

The populations of seven species of rare water birds have recovered significantly in Cambodia's Tonle Sap lake due to a program that employs former hunters as park rangers in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. [More](#)

**Contact :** secretariat@tsbr-ed.org

### **Creative tourism in the Transcontinental Biosphere Reserve**

An innovative experience called "Chaouen rural" was launched with the support of Spanish donors, using culture as a lever for local economic development. Tourist activities include participation to food preparation in rural communities using traditional and local crops, introduction to the use of traditional herbs and medicinal plants, visiting culinary fairs during festivities and purchasing of food products prepared by the local community. [More](#)

**Contact:** g.calvo@unesco.org

### **School of Kaydara - a model for an equitable development in the heart of Sambia Dia**

The school of Kaydara, a model for an equitable development in the heart of Sambia Dia The proposed farm-school in agro-biology "Kaydara" rose as an alternative to the expropriation of land and the rural exodus, and the preservation of the most important forest heritage in the region located in the Samba Dia Biosphere Reserve in Senegal. [More](#)

**Contact:** jardins.afrique@free.it

More news on the [MABNet](#)



## Events

### **3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves - Main outcomes**

The 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 20th session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB Programme were held from 4 to 8 February 2008 in Madrid, Spain. The Congress and the MAB-ICC adopted the "Madrid Declaration" and the "Madrid Action Plan" mapping out the strategy for 2008-2013 of the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves. [More](#)

**Contact:** mab@unesco.org

### **Ensuring the Future of Drylands - Results of the International workshop**

The workshop, held from 12 to 15 November 2007 in Jodhpur, India, identified specific MAB research priorities for Asian and adjacent dryland context, based on the results of the UNESCO international scientific conference on "The Future of Drylands". Participants from 12 countries adopted the "Jodhpur Declaration" which will facilitate international cooperation on drylands. [More](#)

**Contact:** t.schaaf@unesco.org or r.boojh@unesco.org

### **New website of the IBEROMAB Network**

The IBEROMAB Network recently launched its new website in order to improve the communication and exchange of information between the Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese biosphere reserves. [More](#)

**Contact:** [sergio.guevara@inecol.edu.mx](mailto:sergio.guevara@inecol.edu.mx)

### Results of the International Assessment on Agricultural Science and Technology

The experts have revealed the results of the unique three-year international effort that evaluated the relevance, quality and effectiveness of agricultural knowledge, science, and technology (AKST); and effectiveness of public and private sector policies as well as institutional arrangements in relation to AKST. [More](#)

**Contact:** [s.arico@unesco.org](mailto:s.arico@unesco.org)

Future events on the [MABNet](#)

### Publications

- [Entre l'homme et la nature, une démarche pour des relations durables](#)
- [Dialogue in biosphere reserves - References, practices and experiences](#)
- [CBD Technical Series: Protected Areas in Today's World: Their Values and Benefits for the Welfare of the Planet](#)
- [The value of nature - Ecological, economic, cultural and social benefits of protected areas](#)
- [Visions for a sea change - Marine Spatial Planning](#)

National and regional newsletters

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)

[www.unesco.org/mab](http://www.unesco.org/mab)

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

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