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# 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

### Sustainable Management of the Dominican Republic's Only Biosphere Reserve

The Government of the Dominican Republic and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development extended the project "Araucaria" in the Dominican Republic for four years; this project sets out actions to ensure the sustainable management of the unique biosphere reserve in the country, the Jaragua-Bahoruca-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve. [More](#)

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#### **Building Capacity in Dryland Biosphere Reserves in West Africa**

The UNESCO-MAB/UNEP-GEF regional programme, which includes six biosphere reserves in West Africa, aims to improve the understanding of the interactions between societies and savannas in order to facilitate dialogue between the various stakeholders intervening in biosphere reserves. The closing meeting of the project, held in Paris in June 2008, highlighted the major achievements and constraints of the project. [More](#)

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#### **International Cooperation Between Biosphere Reserves Strengthened**

A memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the South African Kruger to Canyon and German Rhön Biosphere Reserve was signed during the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity, held in Bonn, Germany in May 2008. [More](#)

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#### **Sound Tourism Development in Biosphere Reserves in Central and Eastern Europe**

A recent project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Sound Tourism Development in Biosphere Reserves in Central and Eastern Europe" demonstrates the ways in which local development related to tourism can contribute to both conservation and development goals in three biosphere reserves: Babia Gora (Poland), Aggtelek (Hungary) and Šumava (Czech Republic). [More](#)

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#### **Education Kit on Combating Desertification**

The web-based and interactive Education Kit on Combating Desertification principally targets primary school teachers and their pupils, aged 10-12 years, in desertification-affected countries. It explains that desertification is not inevitable and that everyone has a role to play in sustainably managing the world's drylands. [More](#)

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More news on the [MABNet](#)



## Events

#### **Towards Joint Transboundary Management of the Marín Lagoon**

Laguna Merín shares 18% of its surface with Uruguay and 82% with Brazil. Each country has incorporated the lagoon in its biosphere reserve: Bañados del Este in Uruguay and Mata Atlântica in Brazil. In a recent meeting, the two countries discussed the directions of a joint transboundary management of the lagoon. [More](#)

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#### **Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Reserve Celebrates the International Biodiversity Day**

A video on Biodiversity Day in this South African biosphere reserve was exclusively screened at the meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the context of the Biodiversity day celebrations to link the level of local action with global decision making. [More](#)

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#### **VIII Meeting of the East Atlantic Biosphere Reserve Network (REDBIOS)**

The VIII REDBIOS Meeting is to take place from 22 to 25 July 2008 in Azores, Portugal. Its aim is to focus on the

implementation of the Madrid Action Plan and the Madrid Declaration, adopted during the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves. **More**

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### Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance

Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance will be held in Malta from 16 November to 19 December 2008. Some scholarships are available for suitable applicants from the course target countries (especially developing countries around the Mediterranean, Black, Caspian and Baltic Seas). The deadline for applications is 15 September 2008. **More**

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Future events on the [MABNet](#)

### Publications

- [Global Change Research Network for African Mountains - Workshop Report](#)
- [Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands - Using Science to Promote Sustainable Development](#)
- [GAIA's Special Issue - Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation](#)
- [IJESD Special Issue on Biosphere Reserves](#)
- [Managing the social aspects of environmental management - On line Resources](#)
- [Man and Nature - Making the Relationship Last](#)
- [Réserves de biosphère en Afrique de l'Ouest : vers des modèles de développement durables](#)

### 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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