



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

Assessment of the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves

The MAB National Committees, focal points and managers of biosphere reserves are invited to participate in the Survey on the Assessment of the Seville Strategy, (Madrid Action Plan Target No. 1, Actions 1.1 to 1.4) by filling the survey questionnaire by 30 November 2008. [More](#)

Contact: m.bouamrane@unesco.org; s.arico@unesco.org

Development of Homestay Tourism in the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve

In addition to the flagship attraction, the Pendjari National Park, Tanongou village has a great potential for homestay tourism that should be further developed. Eco-Benin and the Park Pendjari have recently initiated activities in support of eco-tourism for the local micro-entrepreneurs, including interpretation, accommodation, catering and transportation services, as well as sale of local handicrafts. [More](#)

Contact: ecobenin@yahoo.fr

International Support to Conservation and Development in the Kien Giang

Provincial People's Committee of the Kien Giang Province and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) recently signed the Implementation Agreement for the Conservation and Development of the Kien Giang Biosphere Reserve. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is providing substantial funds for implementation of the first three-year phase of the project. [More](#)

Contact: tri19512005@gmail.com

Clayoquot Biosphere Immersion: Hands-on Learning in a Field School

An intensive seven-day course included exploration and analysis of the ecosystems within and around the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve, Canada. Students used field-sampling techniques to examine ecosystem functioning and also gained an understanding of the biological and social implications, including from a First Nations perspective, of the UNESCO designation of a biosphere reserve. [More](#)

Contact : curtis.cook@clayoquotbiosphere.org

New Biodiversity Centre in the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve

The Madariaga Tower, the new Biodiversity Centre of the Basque Country aims at promoting biodiversity research and collecting

and disseminating biodiversity knowledge. The main objective of the Centre is to provide the science base to foster the dialogue between scientists and policy-makers so as to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the future. [More](#)
Contact : kiko.alvarez@ihobe.net

AI-Reem Biosphere Reserve and Biodiversity Credits

Royal Dutch Shell is seeking to compensate for adverse environmental consequences of its activities in Qatar by safeguarding similar ecosystems in the country. It provided both financial and human resources for the establishment of the Qatar AI-Reem Biosphere Reserve and is now considering further investments in this unique site through creation of an education centre and biodiversity off-set projects. [More on AI-Reem establishment](#) ; [More on Shell Qatar](#); [Other Information](#)
Contact: baha2@internetegypt.com

More news on the [MABNet](#)



Events

The World Bank's Development Marketplace Awards Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda

GEF, World Bank and Partners awarded innovative projects in the field of sustainable agriculture for development. Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda was selected as one of the 22 winners with the project "Reducing the Impacts of Livestock Ranching on Biodiversity," including the modernization of livestock breeding on five pilot demonstration ranches in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico. [More](#)
Contact: gesqiap@prodigy.net.mx

Relevance of Biosphere Reserves for Testing Sustainable Development Approach

Within the framework of the One UN reform in Rwanda, this international workshop to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 4 to 7 November 2008 is intended to share experiences of the WNBR in the area of sustainable development and to provide inputs for the development of the foreseen MAB Action Plan for Rwanda. [More](#)
Contact: noeline.raondry-rakotoarisoa@unesco.unon.org

Training Workshop on Effective Management of Biosphere Reserves in India

The workshop, organized jointly by UNESCO-MAB and the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests will be held from 24 to 26 November 2008 in the Sunderban Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal. It will focus on building the capacity of Indian biosphere reserve managers for using these unique sites as learning sites for sustainable development. [More](#)
Contact: r.boojh@unesco.org

International Mountain Biodiversity Conference and GLOCHAMORE Follow-up

An International Mountain Biodiversity Conference will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 16 to 18 November 2008 and will focus on biodiversity conservation and management for enhanced ecosystem services: responding to the challenges of global change. Organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development with support from IUCN and UNESCO-MAB, the conference will bring together specialists and representatives of global institutions concerned with mountain issues. [More](#)
The conference will be followed by the one-day workshop aiming at the **implementation of the Global Change in Mountain Regions (GLOCHAMORE) Research Strategy** in mountain biosphere reserves and other mountain protected areas. [More](#)
Contact: t.schaaf@unesco.org

Future events on the [MABNet](#)



Publications

- [Madrid Action Plan \(MAP\) for biosphere reserves](#)
- [Instrumental Learning and Sustainability Indicators: Outputs from Co-Construction](#)
- [The engagement of stakeholders in the marine spatial planning process - with examples from 'W' Biosphere Reserve](#)
- [Fishing for social realities-Challenges to sustainable fisheries management in the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve](#)
- [Achieving sustainability by introducing alternative livelihoods](#)
- [Climate change-induced water stress and its impacts on natural and managed ecosystems](#)
- [Methodology for Estimating Reductions of GHG Emissions from Mosaic deforestation](#)

More publications on the [MABNet](#)
[National and regional newsletters](#)

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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