

SAVE THE DATE

INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVES (TBR) IN EUROPE

Instruments, methods, governance

During the last 20 years, 14 TBR have been designated by UNESCO all around the World, each one gathering 2 or 3 countries in Europe, Africa and Latin America. Other projects are under preparation. TBR are cooperation projects, concerning management of socio-ecological systems over borders. To be designated by UNESCO, they have to follow specific requirements (see Pamplona recommendations, UNESCO 2000).

In 2004, an international conference followed by an expert workshop took place in the German part of the German/French TBR Pfälzerwald/Vosges du Nord, in Fischbach and Edesheim. This provided an opportunity to discuss large range of issues regarding TBR establishment and functioning, including sharing of a common vision, building a cooperation programme, establishing a common zonation, funding, management and cooperation, benefits for local populations, contribution to regional development, conflict resolution, networking...

Ten years after, it appears that it would be very useful to assess the situation and progress achieved regarding the TBR approach and its development in Europe as well as experiences made. It also appears that recognition of the approach should be improved outside the UNESCO/MAB area.

In this context, the feasibility of a resource centre for transboundary cooperation in Europe in order to better collect and share information should be looked at.

The Vosges du Nord/Pfälzerwald TBR, together with the French and German MAB National committees, organise an international meeting in June 2015.

Date

3-5 June 2015

Location

Château de Liebfrauenberg (Goersdorf, Vosges du Nord, France)
<http://www.chateau-du-liebfrauenberg.com>

Languages

French and English

Participants

A number of 60-70 participants is foreseen.

Managers/representatives of TBR in Europe, persons in charge of TBR in project in Europe, representatives of other transboundary European sites.

Representatives of UNESCO National Commissions and MAB National Committees;

Representatives of the European Union, other cooperation programs and Conventions in Europe

Representatives of IUCN, WWF, Europarc federation, Europarc D/F

UNESCO (headquarters and Venice Office)

Key stakeholders of Pfälzeward-Vosges du Nord TBR

Objectives

- To strengthen every day management and governance in TBR, involving local people in transboundary sustainable development projects
- To enhance institutional and funding mechanisms in TBR
- To promote TBR, improve their visibility and recognition/acknowledgement by authorities, at regional, national and international levels, including the EU.
- To promote TBR as a tool for cooperation in Europe

Expected outputs

- Operational guidelines on the establishment and management of TBR, based on the Pamplona recommendations, in order to strengthen the TBR implementation
- Improved recognition of the TBR tool and its integration in existing cooperation programmes in Europe
- Improved funding for and visibility of TBR
- Discussion on the feasibility and usefulness of a resource centre/network on transboundary cooperation in the field of conservation and land use planning in Europe
- Inputs for Lima action Plan

Organisation of the meeting

It is proposed that 3 participatory workshops take place and a field trip be organized.

2 June: Welcome, workshop objectives and challenges. Ice breaking evening.

3-4 June: Three workshops

- **Workshop 1: management of a TBR**
Common program and vision, building and implementing projects, involvement of local population and institutions, evaluation of results, difficulties.
- **Workshop 2: institutional mechanisms and governance**
Coordination of the TBR, staff devoted to the TBR, composition and functioning of the structures in place, participation of institutions, actors and NGOs in the coordination, projects of reinforcement of structures, support from national authorities to the TBR
- **Workshop 3: Promotion of the TBR, visibility, funding and recognition**
Communication policy, budget and source of funding, improvement of long term funding and diversification of sources, integration of the TBR in cooperation agreements and international programmes

Afternoon: Field trip

5 June: open session: restitution of workshops, round table on cooperation in Europe in the field of conservation/land use, synthesis and elements for draft guidelines.

A questionnaire will be sent prior to the meeting to focal points of TBR in Europe and members of EUROMAB interested by the meeting in order to collect information and prepare discussions in the 3 workshops.