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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

Success of the argan tree reforestation project in the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve

For almost 18 months, the Tamounte project aiming to plant the argan tree and train the inhabitants in Sousse (southwest Morocco) to its development has continued to be promising. It is hoped that the growing popularity of the argan oil on the international market, coupled with increased efforts in the field of conservation, will contribute to the development of the sustainable growing of the Moroccan olive tree.

[More](#)

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Grants for sustainable development in Sierra Nevada and Doñana Biosphere Reserves

The Spanish Government has allocated 208 grants to foster sustainable development in the transition areas of the Sierra Nevada and Doñana Biosphere Reserves (Spain). These grants are estimated at 3,82 million euros in support to organizations, individuals, city councils and companies in these protected territories, and aimed at socio-economic development and protection of natural heritage. [More](#) (Spanish)

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Reforestation strategy in the Luki Biosphere Reserve

Two reforestation strategies have recently been developed in the framework of a project aiming to sustainably manage and conserve forest ecosystems in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The first strategy consists in a reforestation project in the Luki Biosphere Reserve.

[More](#) (French)

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Positive results of environmental awareness campaigns in Sunderban

Awareness campaigns, including the creation of 22 nature clubs and the latest World Wildlife Week (1-7 October) campaign called 'Bagh Bachao' (Save the tiger) have proven to be a powerful tool for the conservation of tiger populations in the Sunderban Biosphere Reserve (India), where tigers live close to human dwellings. [More](#)

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Saving the Yasuni rainforest from oil exploitation through oil 'compensation'

A recent Ecuadorian initiative proposes not to exploit the most important oil reserves in the country, the Ishpingo Tambococha Tiputini (ITT) oil fields, located in Yasuni Biosphere Reserve. The idea is to stimulate the national and international society to contribute to this expensive national decision. The government expects, through this mechanism, to recover 50% of the income it would have obtained by extracting the crude oil. [More](#)

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More news on the [MABNet](#)



Events

MAB Bureau meeting - Main outcomes

The MAB Bureau met on 18-20 September 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. With twenty-three new sites included in the UNESCO-MAB World Network of Biosphere Reserves, there are now 529 sites in 105 countries. The Bureau also selected the winners of the MAB Young Scientists and discussed the preparations for the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 20th session of the MAB ICC (Madrid, 4-9 February 2008). [More](#)

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Twinning between Branton Burrows and Malindi-Watamu Biosphere Reserves

Branton Burrows (North Devon) Biosphere Reserve (UK) has just entered into a twinning arrangement with Malindi-Watamu Biosphere Reserve in Kenya. In September, the delegation from Malindi visited North Devon to experience the work and governance arrangements of this biosphere reserve. [More](#)

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Launch of an agreement addressing social and ecological challenges for the Biosphere

A five-year cooperative agreement between the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University and UNESCO, addressing social and ecological challenges for the Biosphere, was launched at the General Conference in Paris, France, on 19 October 2007. [More](#)

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EuroMAB Webplatform: Doing together - Learning together

The EuroMAB Web platform aims to facilitate exchanges and cooperation activities within the EuroMAB Network and to serve as a forum for MAB Coordinators and National Committees for posting their offers of partnerships and cooperation amongst various biosphere reserves.

[More](#)

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AfriMAB - Way forward

AfriMAB Network met in Cape Town, South Africa from 10 to 15 September 2007. The numerous participants discussed zonation of biosphere reserves and land management in the region, the new AfriMAB Charter and the network structure, as well as the main activities of AfriMAB in the forthcoming two years. [More](#)

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Future events on the [MABNet](#)



Publications

- [The Future of Arid Lands – Revisited](#)
- [UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: Model Regions with a Global Reputation](#)
- [Biodiversity of Southernmost Forests and Tundra Ecosystems - Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve](#)
- [Geochemistry & the Biosphere](#)

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

www.unesco.org/mab

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