



“German Biosphere Reserves and Partners Addressing Climate Change, Water and Sustainability”

15 November 2017. 15h00-16h00
UNESCO COP23 Pavilion (Bonn zone, E09)

Speakers:

Ms Flavia Schlegel

Assistant Director-General, Natural Sciences, UNESCO

Mr Lutz Möller

Deputy Secretary-General, German Commission for
UNESCO

Ms Nadine Küster

General Secretary, Danone Germany, Austria &
Switzerland

Mr Gerhard Mörsch

Director, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau, Germany

Mitigating climate change and using the water resources of our planet sustainably are among the central challenges for sustainable development today and captured in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 (Ensure access to

water and sanitation for all) and SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) the streamlining across Agenda 2030. Climate change has massive impacts on the water system, not only in the Global South and arid regions of the globe, but also in Central Europe. Managing water resources sustainably and protecting water quality is crucial for human beings and society.

UNESCO is a key organization in the field of freshwater research, management and training. Among UNESCO’s key assets are the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and Biosphere Reserves as model regions for sustainable development. Established under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Biosphere Reserves are particularly appropriate places to test, evaluate and implement innovative strategies in freshwater. In order to facilitate new approaches and also in order to mobilize financial resources, the German UNESCO Biosphere Reserves have several partnerships with the private sector, with a particularly longstanding partnership with Danone Waters Germany.

This side event will present the action of the 16 German UNESCO Biosphere Reserves to address climate change in mitigation and adaptation, and their role in balancing SDGs 13 and 15. The side event will also present the results of the 18 projects implemented by them with support from Danone Waters Germany.