



United Nations
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UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Working Group on Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of
UNESCO, 30 September 2019, Room XI





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SUMMARY



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The MAB Programme

Our Vision

A world where people are conscious of their common future and their interactions with the planet, and act collectively and responsibly to build thriving societies in harmony within the biosphere.

Our Mission

- **Develop and strengthen models of sustainable development through the World Network of Biosphere Reserves**
- **Communicate experiences and lessons learned, and facilitate the global diffusion and application of these models**





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The MAB Programme

Biosphere Reserves: learning places for sustainable development

Sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

Biosphere reserves are places that provide local solutions to global challenges.





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The 3 Functions of Biosphere Reserves are pursued through their 3 zones



**Conservation of biodiversity
and cultural diversity**



**Economic development in a
socio-culturally and
environmentally sustainable**



**“Logistic” support,
underpinning development
through research and training**



- Core area**
Conservation and monitoring
- Buffer zones**
Activities with sound ecological practices
- Transition areas**
Stakeholders work to sustainably manage resources



The World Network of Biosphere Reserves

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WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES
RÉSEAU MONDIAL DES RÉSERVES DE BIOSPHERE
RED MUNDIAL DE RESERVAS DE BIOSFERA
WELTNETZ DER BIOSPHÄRENRESERVATE
2019-2020



National Commissions for UNESCO
of Germany, Austria,
Switzerland and Luxembourg

701 Biosphere Reserves
Réserve de biosphère
Reservas de Biosfera
Biosphärenreservate

124 countries
pays
países
Staaten



World Network of Biosphere Reserves



The MAB Programme

30/09//2019



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The World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Facts & Figures

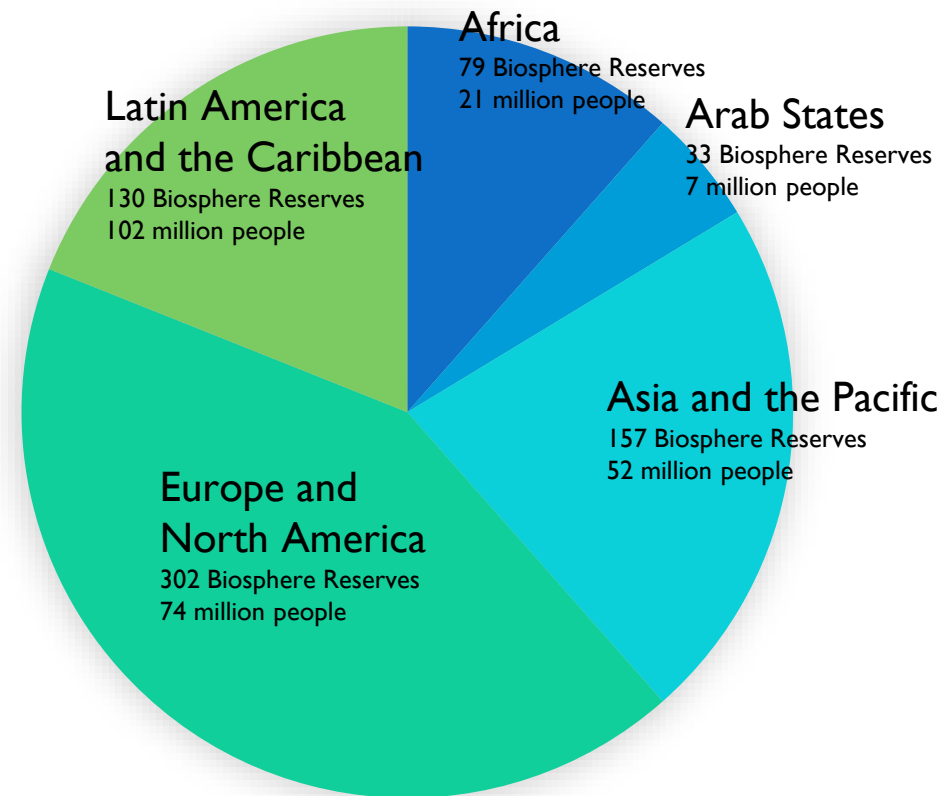
701 Biosphere Reserves

124 countries

21 Transboundary Biosphere Reserves

2 Transcontinental Biosphere Reserves

Home to over 250 million people





Statutory duties and procedures related to MAB and its WNBR

31st Session of the MAB - ICC

2019 Seven MAB Young Scientists Awards

- **Andrea SANTOS GARCIA (Brazil):** Mapping and assessing land degradation in biosphere reserves: towards sustainable development through governance opportunities,
- **Miguel David BARRIOS (Colombia):** Ecological and population genetics approach for the conservation of seagrass ecosystems in the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve,
- **Isaac Yaw BARNES (Ghana):** Using story telling through a geo-story map to highlight Bia River Biosphere Reserve's anthropogenic effect on community livelihood and adaptation,
- **Fenny Clara ARDIATI (Indonesia):** Isolation, screening, and assessment of White Rot Fungi in Berbak and Sembilang Biosphere Reserve for their potency in wastewater treatment,
- **Aida MAMMADOVA (Japan):** The role of Biosphere Reserves in creating international eco-entrepreneurship possibilities for youth in micro-financed transition areas of Russian and Japanese biosphere reserves,
- **Ihssane TOUJGANI (Morocco):** Characterization and enhancement of local genetic resources of the common chestnut tree (*Castanea sativa* Mill.) in the Mediterranean Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve,
- **Kazeem JIMOH (Nigeria):** Impact of green economy in biosphere reserve project (GEBR) as an alternative livelihood source on the poverty status of Omo Biosphere Reserve communities.





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Statutory duties and procedures related to MAB and its WNBR

31st Session of the MAB - ICC

Process of Excellence and Enhancement

The MAB international Coordinating Council (ICC) decided to finalize the exit strategy by 2020 and to institute a *'Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network'* to ensure that they serve as models for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

It defines a path towards improvement for the **44** biosphere reserves that still do not meet the criteria, or have not provided comprehensive information to enable the Council to assess and monitor their progress. The Process takes into consideration the varying situations of the sites concerned, and defines paths to resolve outstanding issues over the next two years, one for each type of situation. All biosphere reserves have until September **2019** at the latest to become fully functional and report to the Council if they wish to remain in the Network.

An exception is made for Biosphere Reserves in **conflict zones**.





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Highlights of MAB Activities

LVMH partnership



UNESCO signed a five year partnership with Louis Vuitton Moët Henessy (LVMH) group to support the work of the MAB Programme on biodiversity.



Key activities undertaken in 'priority Africa'

- **BIOPALT - BIOSphere and Heritage of Lake Chad project**
- **TWAS – the World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries**
- **Train my Generation (TMG)**
- **SAGA - STEM and Gender Advancement**
- **Nubian & Stampriet Aquifers**
- **Green economies in the Biosphere reserves**
- **NEPAD Centres of Excellence**
- **Partnerships with AfDB, IDB, UN Technology Bank for LDCs, Fonds Inde-ONU pour le partenariat au développement**
- **Category 2 Centres such as AIMS, ERAIFT, EAIFR, ARCE, AFRIMAB**





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THE MAB PROGRAMME

The Way Forward

The World Network of Biosphere Reserves

- (i) Increase the number of sites world-wide;**
- (ii) Expand to all Member States from currently 124 to 195;**
- (iii) Increase to total size to possible 10% of land on earth, and;**
- (iv) Implement the Lima Action Plan by 2025.**

Upcoming main events:

Next 32nd MAB/ICC in Abuja, Nigeria in 2020;

In 2021, the MAB Programme will celebrate its 50th Anniversary!





ISSUES AT BRs LEVEL

- Sustainable livelihoods → for the poor and marginal groups → application of technology and innovation
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **ACTIONS at local level** to deal with livelihoods improvement of the poors and marginal groups
- Synergy among sustainable development actors (***government/university and research institutions/private sector/community***)



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Highlights of MAB Activities

Biosphere Reserves as a Tool for Coastal and Island Management in the South-East Pacific Region (BRESEP)



Results:

- First transboundary biosphere reserve in South America. Bosques de Paz (Ecuador-Peru)
- Extension of four biosphere reserves to include coastal or marine area
- Six BR improved their governance by creating a management committee/plan
- Over 15 training courses and meetings
- First forest fire workshop for BR
- First IberoMAB Youth Forum
- Joint work with IOC to improve marine social planning





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Highlights of MAB Activities

Restoration of ecosystems in Haiti



La Selle Biosphere Reserve, Haiti



Since 2018



- Goals:**
- contribute to sustainable human and economic development
 - recovery of forest resources
 - rehabilitation of ecosystem services
 - promotion of actions that imply a socioeconomic benefit



- Results:**
- Creation of plant nurseries in three locations in the Biosphere Reserve
 - Distribution of agroforestry seedlings, such as coffee, papaya and fruits
 - The children of people engaged in the reforestation receive free education with focus on sustainability





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Highlights of MAB Activities

Exhibition “Our Biosphere, Our Future: Local Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals”

- 📍 UNESCO Headquarters – Paris, France
- 🕒 June 17th – 21st 2019 (during the 31st MAB ICC)
- ❓ **Goals:** • Raise awareness about projects in Biosphere Reserves that address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)





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Highlights of MAB Activities

• 2nd MAB Youth Forum | September – Chiangbaishan, China



Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve, China,



15-18 September 2019



Goals: UNESCO's strong engagement with youth aims to give them a voice and drive social innovation and change, to enable them to participate fully in the policies defining their future.

The 2nd MAB Youth Forum brought together 176 young people from 83 countries, to give youth a voice and an active role towards the 15th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) and the the post-2020 agenda for biodiversity.

50 youth engaged in climate action from Biosphere Reserves from around the world participated at the Youth Climate Summit that took place on 21 September 2019 at UN Headquarters in New York.





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Upcoming Events

2019

- **UNESCO General Conference** | November – Paris, France
- **UNFCCC COP 25** | December – Santiago, Chile

2020

- **MAB ICC in Abuja, Nigeria** | 1-5 June
- **IUCN Congress** | June 2020 – Marseille, France
- **COP 15** | October – China





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Stay up to date of all our activities

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/>



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THE MAB PROGRAMME



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Prof. Enny Sudarmonowati Chairperson MAB/ICC

**Thank you! Merci !
Terima kasih!**

