

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Thirty-fourth session

UNESCO Headquarters
Paris, France (hybrid meeting)
13-17 June 2022

ITEM 16 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Celebration of the First International Day for Biosphere Reserves

1. Launched in 1971, the MAB Programme is UNESCO's oldest running intergovernmental scientific programme. In 2021, celebrated its 50th anniversary, highlighting its pioneering work in sustainable development and designing a holistic area-based approach to ecosystem management and community empowerment and development through the biosphere reserve designation.
2. At the initiative of Spain and Uruguay, and in the light of existing celebrations in several countries, the 41st session of the General Conference of UNESCO proclaimed 3 November each year as International Biosphere Reserve Day. At the adoption of this resolution, 38 Member States took the floor to welcome this decision.
3. The proclamation of the International Day for Biosphere Reserves marked MAB's renewed relevance and engagement in the global agendas for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and scientific research.
4. The purpose of this proclamation is to raise awareness and publicly celebrate on an annual basis the role of biosphere reserves in building a harmonious relationship between people and their natural environment.
5. In particular, the International Day will present a dedicated opportunity for Member States, UN agencies, academia, biosphere reserve communities, indigenous peoples and youth to rally around the biosphere reserve model and act resolutely to meet global agendas on biodiversity conservation, climate change and sustainable development.
6. **The MAB Council is invited to discuss the theme for the first and second editions of the International Day for Biosphere Reserves, and to provide any guidance and recommendations regarding partners, side-events and communication strategy.**