



NEWS from the Biosphere World Network

Version française

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 biosphere reserve activities and scientific achievements of the MAB Programme.

We appreciate your comments and contributions to future issues of the newsletter!

In this issue

- [GEF Supports Biodiversity Conservation in Guembeul](#)
- [GPS Guided Eco-Tours in the Great Sandy Biosphere Reserve](#)
- [New Source for Economic Development in the Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve?](#)
- [Middle Zambezi Valley Biosphere Reserve at the Heart of a Promising Regional Initiative](#)
- [Torres del Paine Biosphere Reserve Project Wins the Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant](#)
- [MAB Celebrates 40 Years](#)
- [Positive Visions for Biodiversity](#)
- [Agricultural Biodiversity in Biosphere Reserves in Cuba](#)
- [Outcomes of the first Ibero-American Biosphere Reserves Congress](#)
- [Shanghai Declaration on Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Well-being](#)
- [30 Students Join ERAIFT](#)
- [Call for Proposals for the 2011 African Union Research Grant](#)
- [New Publications](#)

News

GEF Supports Biodiversity Conservation in Guembeul

A community based biodiversity conservation project has been granted 17 million CFA francs in the framework of the Compact Programme. Aiming to benefit the people living around the wildlife reserve of Guembeul, this two-year project is part of the GEF/Small Grants Programme which collaborates with the United Nations Foundation in support of the local initiatives for conservation of biodiversity in the Senegal River Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. [More](#)

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GPS Guided Eco-Tours in the Great Sandy Biosphere Reserve

At the recent Global Eco Tourism Conference held in Noosa Biosphere Reserve, Australia, announcements relating to GPS (Global Positioning System) guided tourism were made. The first GPS walk has now been released on Carlo Sandblow situated on Rainbow Beach, gateway to World Heritage listed Fraser Island, in the Great Sandy Biosphere. [More](#)

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New Source for Economic Development in the Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve?

A team of scientists researching on microbial biodiversity in the Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve, India, has discovered a new bacteria category that has immense potential for use in the pharmaceutical and chemicals industry. The possibility of a project initiated by the Department of Biotechnology aiming at transforming such scientific findings into commercially viable projects with benefits for local communities is currently being evaluated. [More](#)

Contact: joydeep_envstu@school.idvu.ac.in

Middle Zambezi Valley Biosphere Reserve at the Heart of a Promising Regional Initiative

The launch of the Green Zambezi Alliance is a significant milestone in regional environmental collaborative relationships that aim to mobilise funds for the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources in the SADC region. This alliance strives to promote public private community partnerships to empower local communities and ensure the more sustainable utilization of natural resources to benefit the poor who depend on natural resources for food and their livelihoods. [More](#)
Contact: cmagadza@science.uz.ac.zw

Torres del Paine Biosphere Reserve Project Wins The Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant

The US-base non-profit Conservation Volunteers International Program is one of the winners of the Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant Programme for their project in the Chilean Torres del Paine Biosphere Reserve. [More](#)
Contact: info@tourismcares.org

More news on the [MABNet](#)

Events

MAB Celebrates 40 Years

Already 40 years of research, experience and practice! As MAB turns 40 this year, the Secretariat is inviting partners and Member states to participate in the celebration by showcasing accomplishments, looking to the future and proposing new initiatives, and disseminating findings and best practices. [More](#)
Contact: m.bouamrane@unesco.org

Positive Visions for Biodiversity

On 16-17 November 2010, over 200 participants from 43 countries gathered in Brussels to create a Positive Vision of how to build a sustainable society. The Conference was organized by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform in partnership with the MAB Programme and other national and international partners. [More](#)
Contact: m.bouamrane@unesco.org

Agricultural Biodiversity in Biosphere Reserves in Cuba

The first stakeholders meeting and launch of the UNEP/GEF funded project, "Agricultural biodiversity conservation and Biosphere Reserves in Cuba: Bridging managed and natural landscapes" will take place in Havana from 7 to 8 February 2011. National implementers, stakeholders, and international partners will review project objectives, activities, and identify areas where they may implement, support or participate in the project. [More](#)
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Outcomes of the first Ibero-American Biosphere Reserves Congress

This first congress, entitled "Biosphere Reserves: All Hands, All Voices", was organized in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, by the MAB Programme with the Ibero MAB Secretariat and the Mexican and Spanish authorities on 9-14 November 2010. The resulting Puerto Morelos Declaration calls for the Biosphere Reserves to be incorporated into the financing systems for studies on the effect of measures for adaptation to, and mitigation of global climate change. [More](#)
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Shanghai Declaration on Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Well-being

The International Symposium on Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Well-being was held in Shanghai, China on 26-30 October 2010. The symposium was jointly sponsored by the UNESCO-MAB Programme, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE). The participants to the symposium recognized the need to further strengthen and support interdisciplinary and international cooperation on sustainable urban development in existing, new, and rapidly expanding cities. [More](#)
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30 Students Join ERAIFT

The Academic and Research Board of ERAIFT met in Kisumu (DRC) to select students for the 5th promotion of the 2010-2011 ERAIFT DESS (Master II) course. Among 336 candidates from 20 African countries and Colombia, 30 students, including 10 women were selected. To date ERAIFT counts 116 students from 15 African countries, including four new countries, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Gabon and Rwanda. [More](#) and [More](#)
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Call for Proposals for the 2011 African Union Research Grant

The African Union Commission is seeking proposals for research focusing on the following thematic priorities articulated in Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action and its Flagship Projects. The

programme is financed through the Financing Agreement between the European Commission and the Plan of Action Group of States under the Plan of Action Research for Sustainable Development Program of the 10th EDF Intra-ACP Envelope. The deadline for submission of proposals is April 30, 2011. [More](#)

Future events on the [MABNet](#)

Publications

- [Challenges to conservation: land use change and local participation in the Al Reem Biosphere Reserve, West Qatar](#)
- [Systems Thinking Approach as a Unique Tool for Sustainable Tourism Development : A Case Study in the Cat Ba Biosphere Reserve of Viet Nam](#)
- [Sabkha Ecosystems; Volume III: Africa and Southern Europe](#)
- [A to Z of areas of biodiversity importance](#)
- [Manual for practitioners for assessing ecosystem services](#)
- [Online learning: Hands-On Field Activities for Community Based Adaptation](#)

More publications on the [MABNet](#)

See [National and regional newsletters](#)

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Contact us at mab@unesco.org
www.unesco.org/mab

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