

23 NEW SITES JOIN IN 2017 THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

The International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme has added [23 new sites to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves](#), including four that straddle national boundaries.

These additions were made during the MAB Council's annual meeting at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris from 12 to 15 June 2017. The Council also approved extensions to 11 reserves and the renaming of another, as well as the request by Bulgaria and the United States of America to withdraw some of their reserves from the World Network.

The new Biosphere Reserves are located in Benin, Benin/Togo, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic/Haiti, Ecuador/Peru, Ethiopia, Germany, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Niger, Paraguay, Portugal, Russian Federation, Russian Federation/Republic of Kazakhstan, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan and Togo.

Currently composed of 669 Biosphere Reserves in 120 countries, including 20 trans-boundary sites, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the MAB Programme consists of an interactive network of sites of excellence. It works to foster the harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development. New sites are designated every year by the MAB Council which is composed of representatives of 34 elected UNESCO Members.

Launched in the early 1970s, the [Man and the Biosphere \(MAB\) Programme](#) proposes an interdisciplinary research agenda and capacity building that target the ecological, social and economic dimensions of biodiversity loss and the reduction of this loss. [Biosphere reserves](#) harmonize conservation of biological and cultural diversity, and economic and social development, through partnerships between people and nature. They also contribute to the transition to green societies by experimenting with green development options such as sustainable tourism and training for eco-jobs.

The World Network of the MAB Programme promotes North-South and South-South co-operation through sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences, building capacity and promoting best practices.

To know more

[23 new sites of the MAB Program](#)



[Photo gallery of the new biospheres](#)

[List of MAB Reserves by world regions](#)

[Man and the Biosphere \(MAB\) Programme](#)

[UNESCO MAB Brand and toolkit](#)

[2017 MAB Youth Forum](#)

[MAB Awards](#)

