

18 NEW SITES JOIN THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN 2019

The International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) has added [18 new sites in 12 countries to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves](#) during its meeting in Paris held from 17 to 21 June 2019. New Reserves are designated every year by the MAB International Co-ordinating Council, a body with a rotating elected membership of 34 UNESCO Member States.

[Biosphere Reserves](#) are areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each reserve promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Their objective is to give rise to [innovative sustainable development practices](#) and combatting the loss of biodiversity by accompanying communities and Member States in their work to appreciate and safeguard the living environment.

The 18 new Biosphere Reserves joining the MAB World Network in 2019 are located in Austria, Eswatini, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

The MAB network now numbers [701 Biosphere Reserves in 124 countries](#) around the globe, including 21 transboundary sites.

Established by UNESCO in the early 1970s, the [Man and the Biosphere](#) is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that aims to improve relations between people and their natural environment. It is a pioneering initiative at the origin of the notion of sustainable development. UNESCO Biosphere Reserves harmonize conservation of biological and cultural diversity with economic and social development. 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.

UNESCO's MAB Programme and the UNESCO Beijing Office have announced that the [2nd MAB Youth Forum](#) will take place from 15 to 18 September 2019 in the Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve, China.



To know more

[News in UNESCO website](#)

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

[2019 MAB Youth Forum website](#)

[Photo gallery new Reserves 2019](#)

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

[UNESCO MAB Brand and toolkit](#)

