

11 NEW SITES JOIN THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN 2022

In June 2022 the International Co-ordinating Council of the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme MAB added [11 new sites in 9 countries to the World Network of Biospheres Reserves](#). These additions have been decided by the 34th Session of the Council held from 13 to 17 June at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris. New Reserves are designated every year by the [International Co-ordinating Council](#), the governing body of the MAB Programme, which is composed of 34 representatives of 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. Biosphere Reserves are a pillar of UNESCO's mandate as the United Nations sciences agency. They are central to research and awareness-raising work to foster innovative sustainable development practices and support communities' and UNESCO Member States' understanding, valuing and safeguarding of the living environment.



[In 2022, the MAB World Network numbers 738 Biosphere Reserves in 134 countries, including 22 transboundary sites.](#)

They are distributed as follows:

- [90 sites in 33 countries in Africa](#)
- [36 sites in 14 countries in the Arab States](#)
- [172 sites in 24 countries in Asia and the Pacific](#)
- [308 sites in 41 countries in Europe and North America](#)
- [132 sites in 22 countries Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)



The 11 new Biosphere Reserves having joined the MAB World Network in 2022 are located in Australia, Cameroon, Chad, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Zambia, Zimbabwe. These additions included three countries for the first time in Chad, Georgia and Zambia. Two existing Biosphere Reserves in Spain have also been extended.



Established by UNESCO in the early 1970s, the Man and the Biosphere MAB Programme is a pioneering initiative at the origin of the notion of sustainable development, aiming to improve relations between people and their natural environment. Biosphere Reserves involve local communities and all interested stakeholders in planning and management. [They integrate three main functions](#): Conservation of biodiversity and cultural diversity; Economic development that is socio-culturally and environmentally sustainable; Logistic support, underpinning development through research, monitoring, education and training.



In 2015, after the establishment of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves have fully committed not only with the achievement of the Goals within Biosphere Reserves, but also to give a meaningful contribution to the global efforts. In order to do so, the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme adopted the [MAB Strategy y el Lima Action Plan \(2016-2025\)](#).

In fact, Biosphere Reserves are natural 'learning places for sustainable development' and in their own contexts, they have been implementing projects that address each goal and target of the Agenda 2030 in a creative and innovative way. Covering emblematic natural and semi-natural ecosystems, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves spans over a surface of 6,812,000 km² in 134 countries and there are about 257 million people living in Biosphere Reserves worldwide.

The World Network of Biosphere Reserves promotes North-South and South-South collaboration and represents a tool for international co-operation through sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences, building capacity and promoting best practices. A particular priority of the MAB Programme is to implement initiatives that involve young people, who represent the future of sustainable development strategies into the Biosphere Reserves. Furthermore, in collaboration with various partners, the MAB Programme carries out specific thematic initiatives in the Reserves, such as the [Women for Bees](#) project or the [World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves](#) initiative.

For the communities and actors already engaged in the management of sustainable development local practices in many countries, the UNESCO MAB Programme represents an important opportunity to become part of an international network that can support and enhance their results. The procedure requires an active role of the respective Governments in the proposal of the candidacy to the MAB International Co-ordinating Council. The MAB Programme website presents the process adopted to [designate new territories in the international list of Biosphere Reserves](#).

[The MAB Programme has also made a call for stories, projects and initiatives from Biosphere Reserves](#), hoping these good practices, experiences and lessons learned can inspire other members of the Network, as well as other actors.

To know more

[News in UNESCO website on new MAB Reserves 2022](#)

[Man and the Biosphere MAB Programme](#)

[Video of the New Biosphere Reserves 2022](#)

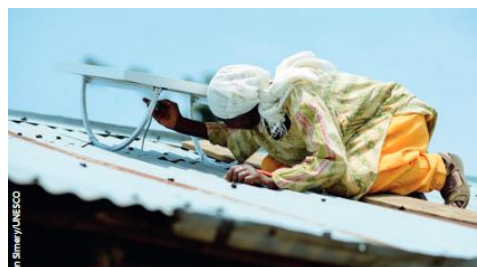
[World Network of Biosphere Reserves](#)

[Designation for new Biosphere Reserves](#)

[MAB Programme good practices](#)

[MAB Publication 2020 - Our Biosphere our future](#)

[MAB Publication 2021 - Technical Guidelines](#)



[MAB Strategy y el Lima Action Plan \(2016-2025\)](#)

[World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves](#)

[Building our future: youth entrepreneurs in biosphere reserves in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

