

10 NEW SITES JOIN THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN 2023

In June 2023 [UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere \(MAB\) Programme](#) has approved the [designation of 10 new biospheres reserves in 9 countries](#), and one transboundary biosphere reserve across 2 countries. With these new designations, the World Network now totals 748 sites in 134 countries, including 23 transboundary sites.



These additions were decided by the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's [Man and the Biosphere \(MAB\) programme](#), the governing body composed of 34 UNESCO Member States. It met from 12 to 15 June at UNESCO's Headquarters.

[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 2023, the MAB World Network numbers 748 Biosphere Reserves in 134 countries, including 23 transboundary sites.](#)

They are distributed as follows:

- [93 sites in 33 countries in Africa](#)
- [36 sites in 14 countries in the Arab States](#)
- [176 sites in 24 countries in Asia and the Pacific](#)
- [309 sites in 41 countries in Europe and North America](#)
- [134 sites in 22 countries Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)

The 10 new Biosphere Reserves having joined the MAB World Network in 2023 are located in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Uganda, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru y Tanzania.

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.

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 2023](#)

[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](#)

