



## Workshop 9

# UNESCO Biosphere Reserves as learning sites for integrating local and global sustainability issues

**Time :** 31 March: 15.00 - 18.00h (first part), 1 April: 11.00 - 13.00h (second part)

**Organizer:** Natarajan Ishwaran, UNESCO

### 1. Background

Biosphere reserves, nominated by national governments and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme since 1976, are areas of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems established to promote and demonstrate harmonious and sustainable interactions between biodiversity conservation and socio-economic well being of people, through research, education, monitoring, capacity building and participatory management. There are 531 biosphere reserves in 105 countries in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Education, training and learning are key elements of biosphere reserves involving various stakeholders, from public administrators, local communities, businesses, scientists to children. During the next 5 years of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD), the MAB Programme aims at enhancing the role of *biosphere reserves as learning sites for sustainable development* and build partnerships that will demonstrate that deliberation and dialogue among stakeholders is a necessary condition for sustainable development judgements and decisions aimed at harmonizing between the often conflicting needs of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation and socio-economic and cultural well being of communities.

### 2. Objective

The objective of the workshop is to bring together various stakeholders, including biosphere reserve managers, decision-makers, researchers, universities

and UNESCO Chairs, who have succeeded in using the biosphere reserve as a platform for mobilizing local, national and global partnerships for sustainable development. The workshop aims at enhancing sharing of experience and practices of local involvement and engagement from a variety of actors who found innovative and creative ways for working together. These experiences and processes are source of learning, in involving key actors and for building partnerships and social networks critical for sustainability thinking and action.

On Day 1, the international partnerships between two or more biosphere reserves will be presented to share the experiences and knowledge in contributing towards sustainability issues and addressing problems through collaboration at local, national and global levels. On Day 2, participants will discuss and generate a draft strategy for demonstrating the role of biosphere reserves as learning sites for sustainable development in the context of DESD (2009-2014), taking into consideration ESD implementation plan for UNESCO where the MAB Secretariat takes the leadership for issues linked to ecosystems and livelihood, the Madrid Action Plan (MAP) for biosphere reserves (2008-2013) and UNESCO Medium Term Strategy.

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# UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

31 March – 2 April 2009  
Bonn, Germany

## 3. Programme

Day 1: Tuesday, 31 March, 15:00-18:00		Day 2 : Wednesday, 1 April, 11:00-13 :00	
15:00-15:05 (5 min)	<b>Opening by Facilitator</b> Mr Eduard Müller (Costa Rica)	11:00-11:05 (5 min)	<b>Opening by the Facilitator</b> Ms Dominique Potvin
15:05-15:20 (15 min)	<b>Workshop purpose and objectives</b> Mr Natarajan Ishwaran (UNESCO-MAB)	11:05 -11:15 (10 min)	<b>Synthesis of Day 1 discussions</b> Mr Eduard Müller
15:20-15:40 (20 min)	<b>Presentation 1:</b> <i>Rhön (Germany) and Kruger to Canyon (South Africa) Biosphere Reserves</i> Ms Doris Pokorny (Germany) Ms Mirjam de Koning (South Africa)	11:15-11:25 (10 min)	<b>Lessons learnt and future prospect</b> Mr Natarajan Ishwaran
15:40-16:00 (20 min)	<b>Presentation 2:</b> <i>Building biosphere reserve partnerships and learning from each other</i> Mr Djaffarou Tiomoko (Benin) Ms Dominique Potvin (Canada) Ms Valérie Meyer (France)	11:25-11:40 (15 min)	<b>MAB and WNBR – African links to Global Agendas</b> H.E. Mr Henri Djombo, Chair, MAB/ ICC Minister, Forest Economy, Republic of Congo
16:00-16:20 (20 min)	<b>Presentation 3:</b> <i>Cat Ba Biosphere Reserve (Vietnam) and the School of Integrative Systems, University of Queensland (Australia)</i> Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri (Vietnam) Mr Ockie Bosch (Australia)	11:40-11:55 (15 min)	<b>Environmental Education and Education for Sustainability</b> Mr Kartikeya Sarabhai, CEE, India
16:20-16:40 (20 min)	<b>Presentation 4:</b> <i>University of Belem (Brazil) and Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve (Spain)</i> Mr Luis Aragon (Brazil) Ms Miren Onaindia (Spain)	11:55-12:30 (35 min)	<b>Working Group Session</b>
16:40-16:55 (15 min)	<b>Break</b>	12:30-13:00 (30 min)	<b>Conclusions, recommendations and the way forward</b>
16:55-18:00 (65 min)	<b>Working Group Session</b>		



#### 4. Output

The workshop will generate a strategic outline for generating case studies and other pedagogic and learning materials for demonstrating the role of biosphere reserves as learning sites for sustainable development during the last five years of UNDESD (2009-2014), in co-operation with the ESD Secretariat, UNESCO and a range of public and private sector partners in all parts of the world. The strategic outline and other conclusions and recommendations of the workshop will be used to develop proposals to the UNESCO Executive Board and the General Conference scheduled to meet in UNESCO, Paris, during September-October 2009 for using the World Network of Biosphere Reserves as a learning platform for sustainable development.

#### 5. List of coordinator and resource persons

##### Workshop coordinator

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