

IW Mardi Gras: Saturday 30 June 2018

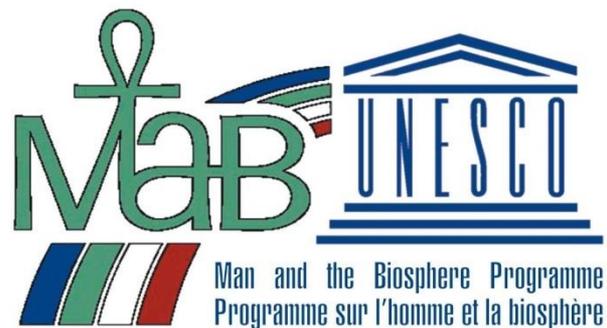
Global Biospheres theme launch



The Concept

A global network of biosphere reserves exists to establish a working, balanced relationship between people and the natural world.

It works to foster the harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue, knowledge sharing, poverty reduction, human well-being improvements, respect for cultural values and by improving society's ability to cope with climate change.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gkzaro7grKI&t=86s>

The 2018 Mardi Gras Global Biosphere Collection

Introducing the sections in our parade

- Unique Places
- Culture and Communities
- Sustainable Futures

Unique places

Conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems



Brazil: Mata Atlantica B.R.

Endangered Tropical Rain Forest.
93% of the original Atlantic Forest has already been destroyed by humans.

The remnants contain significant portions of the Atlantic Forest's biological diversity, which is among the richest in the world.

Home to 171 of the 202 threatened species in Brazil, including golden lion tamarins and several near-extinct forest cats.

Links to Afro Brazilian gods and folk lore e.g. Oxossi - Protector of the Forest, and Gaia , Mother Earth.



Mongolia: Great Gobi B.R.

Rare desert and mountain steppe environment. One of the largest biospheres in the world.

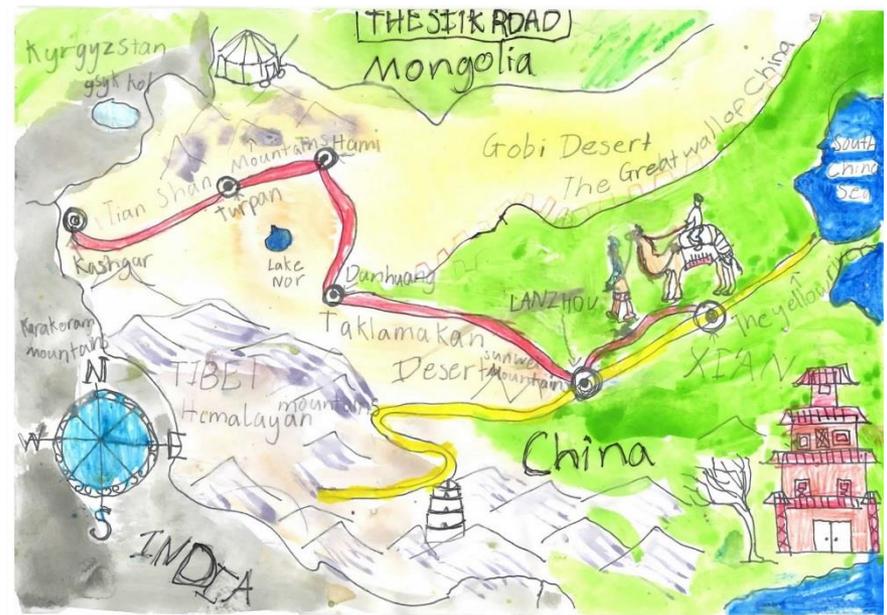
Rocky, sandy and arid landscape with harsh summer and winter weather.

Endangered species include the snow leopard, the Bactrian camel and the Gobi bear.

Vast fossil beds, especially those of dinosaurs.

The Silk Road crossed here connecting Asia with Europe. Silk, spices, perfumes, glass.

Associations with Marco Polo and Genghis Kahn.



Canary Islands, Spain: Lanzarote B.R.

A unique volcanic landscape
marked by stunning
geological formations

Lava and volcanic ash from
eruptions which took place
between the 18th and 19th
centuries are still visible

Locals use the geothermal heat
from the volcano to cook food

Excellent model of how to
integrate tourist infrastructure
with the natural environment
for sustainable development



Maldives: Baa Atoll B.R.

One of the richest coral reef systems on earth

Home to the world's biggest known population of manta rays

Nesting site for green and hawksbill turtles

Comprises 75 islands, only 13 are inhabited

Tourism is the main economic driver, with handicrafts and fishing all important



Indonesia: Komodo Island B.R.

Home to the Komodo 'Dragon' - the worlds largest reptile.

The giant carnivorous lizards reach 3 meters long and weigh over 70kg. They are fierce and aggressive.

They are of great interest to scientists studying the theory of evolution

Komodo island is volcanic, located at the juncture of two continental plates, a global conservation priority area.

The main threat to the Komodo lizard is illegal fishing and poaching of their prey.



UK: Isle of Man B.S.

World's first entire jurisdiction to become a Biosphere Reserve, (includes its territorial waters)

Celtic and Viking heritage including own spoken language

Popular tourist destination with 'outdoor gym' lifestyles

Good for sighting basking shark, dolphins and whales

Shell fish industry, including King and Queen Scallops

Traditional farming including sheep and cattle livestock

Community driven B.R. campaign, involving hundreds of volunteers



Costa Rica: Savegre B.R.

The Savegre River is a
'wonder of nature'.

It is home to 20% of Costa Rican flora, 54% of mammals and 59% of the country's bird species.

Dams are banned and the locals are engaged in tree planting schemes

It is a main attraction to biologists and scientists and promotes ecotourism and sustainable aquaculture



Alaska: Glacier Bay B.R.

A vast tundra wilderness, where glacier retreat, as a result of climate change, has caused plant and animal recolonisation (called post glacial rebound)

Ice at Glacier Bay has withdrawn 95 km in the last 200 years.

Tidewater glaciers are actively carving icebergs into the bay – some up to 200 feet high

Main activities are conservation, scientific research and tourism (80% arrive on cruise ships)



Bulgaria: Srebarna Lake B.R.

A freshwater lake and wetland ecosystem near the Danube which is the breeding ground of almost 100 species of birds, many of whom are rare or endangered.

These include pelicans, egrets, herons, ibis and spoonbill

Reed bed islands and flooded willow woodlands provide important breeding areas

The reserve is strictly protected and only controlled research and conservation management are allowed to take place within it

Recent extension to town of Silistra, which hosts many traditional cultural activities.



Culture and communities

Where culture and traditions are key to regional identity



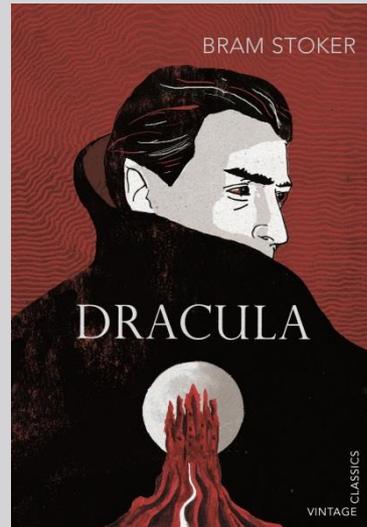
Poland, Slovakia & Ukraine: East Carpathian B.R.

Europe's last truly wild mountainous region, rich in myths and legends, with a long tradition of storytelling

90% is virgin forest with well preserved eco systems

Home to any rare and vanishing plant & animal species

Folk tales of witches, werewolves and vampires inspired the Irish writer Bram Stoker to write his Gothic novel Dracula



Greece: Mount Olympus B.R.

Legendary home of the Gods

Comprises the foothills and summit of highest mountain in Greece at 2914 meters

The twelve Olympians that resided at Mount Olympus were Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Hestia, Demeter, Hermes, Aphrodite, Ares and Hephaestus.

Tourism is the main economic activity in the Biosphere Reserve

Visitor Centre hosts seminars and classes on environmental issues.



Peru: Manu B.R.

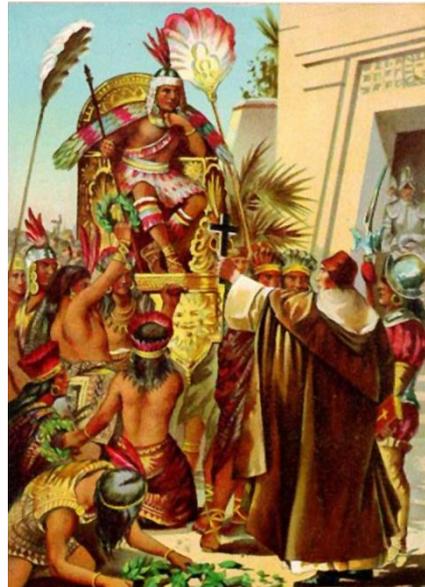
The Lost City of the Incas (the legend of Paititi) is said to be here, evidenced by Inca and pre-Inca ruins and finds

Located where the tropical Andes Forest meets the Amazon Basin.

A huge biodiversity range across varied and remote habitats with species still being discovered today

Inhabited by indigenous tribes, some of whom live in voluntary isolation with little contact with the modern world.

Tourism is restricted in the area to protect the environment and the peoples who live here



Vietnam: Cat Ba B.R.

Heritage and folklore mingle with spectacular scenery on the legendary 'Women's Island'

Limestone karst landscape, invaded by the sea, has given rise to 366 islands and cave systems

Mangroves and seagrasses act as nurseries for 119 types of fish and rare seahorses

Golden headed Langur lives here

People have lived here for at least 6,000 years, remains of temples and ancient citadels of the Mac dynasty discovered

Traditional festivals celebrated like the Sea God Ceremony and Dragon Boat racing



India: Agasthya Mala B.R

Protection for one of the oldest surviving ancient tribes in the world – the Kanikaran

Home to several endangered animals including the Tiger and Asian Elephant

125 species of Orchids have been recorded here

Over 2000 medicinal plants are found here

The Agasthya mountain is a holy shrine for Hindu pilgrims

The Kanikaran are heavily reliant on nature for their survival and recent projects have been set up successfully to reduce their dependence on the forests



Mexico: Monarch Butterfly B.R.

The Biosphere's mission is to protect the Monarch Butterfly and its habitat

From October to March the butterfly over-winters here from East North America.

A bright flurry of orange is seen in the skies, as millions arrive around the time of Day of the Dead (Nov 1 & 2)

Local people believe the monarchs are the returning spirits of their deceased relatives.



Tanzania: Serengeti & Ngorongoro B.R.

Home to the Big Five and the colourful Maasai people.

Vast herds of migrating buffalo plus zebra, gazelle and accompanying predators - lion, leopard, cheetah, jackal and of course the black rhinoceros

One of the most important areas of the world for study of evolution. Fossils and evidence of early man found here

Maasai pastoralists use the reserve for hunting and for livestock raising.

Over-grazing and poaching are the main problems in the Reserve.



Japan: Sobo, Katamuki & Okue B. R.

Culturally enriched mountain area, features the cult of Mount Sobo and Shinto music and dance

Characterised by precipitous cliffs and dense forests.

A variety of plants and animals including Japanese serows and other rare species, seen here

The community makes sustainable use of forest resources for wood production, charcoal and shitake mushroom cultivation.



Sustainable futures

Learning, cooperating and taking innovative actions



UK: Brighton & Lewes Downs B.R.

Case Study: Rain Gardens - a sustainable drainage scheme to address flood risk and groundwater quality

Brighton and Hove is one of top
ten Flood Risk Areas in the UK

New drainage channels store
storm water run-off and filter
out urban pollutants like oil
before soaking into the chalk
aquifer which supplies the
Brighton's drinking water

Replanting schemes with
native wetland plants and chalk
wildflowers (e.g. wild marjoram
and ragged robin)

Provides valuable wildlife and
recreational resource



Russian Federation: Altaisky B.R

Case Study: Solar Power Station bringing energy to remote villages in Altaisky

The only power station to use
solar energy in the country

Supplies a large village with
electricity 24 hours a day

50% reduction of diesel fuel in
the village

The power plant serves as an
educational and demonstration
resource for students about the
use of renewable energy
resources



Australia: Fitzgerald River B.R.

Case Study: Working through the arts to create changed minds

European settlers cleared land in the 1950s and 60s for farming

The climate and soils were not suitable, and salt built up, causing erosion. Farmers lost money and left.

New initiatives began for protection and replanting of native species and for new tourism industries e.g. fishing, hiking and scuba diving

An arts competition on the theme of Biosphere Reserve engaged the local community in understanding the issues and challenges ahead, bringing renewed pride and ownership to the region



Gulf of Guinea: Island of Principe B.R

Case Study: No Plastic -
reduction of plastic waste
affecting the oceans and
putting marine life at risk

300,000 Plastic bottles
collected and exchanged for
reusable stainless steel bottles

13 safe freshwater fountains
installed in public places

Plastic shipped off island for
recycling

Children targeted as future
advocates for a healthy
environment



South Korea: Seoul Urban B.R

Case Study: Green Rooftops benefiting the environment and quality of life in urban areas

42% of Seoul is covered with
buildings meaning open land
and wildlife is scarce

The Green Up scheme funds up
to 70% of building and
maintenance costs for roof top
gardens

Green rooftops keep buildings
cool, saving energy

Benefits citizen's health and
well being

Has a positive impact on native
plant and insect re-colonisation



Germany: The Rhon B.R.

Case Study: Gastronomic Ambassadors. Using the region's strengths and assets to shape a regional identity.

A traditionally managed cultural landscape

Agro-biodiversity supported by public grant schemes

Organic farming, regional dishes and Rhon Quality Label products

Renewable energy for production and marketing

- Asset for tourism
- Pride in the Region
- A socio-economic success!



Cambodia: Tonle Sap Lake B.R

Case Study: Environmental Education in Action. Working with young people to protect their natural resources.

SE Asia's largest lake. Most productive inland fishery in the world. Supplies 70% of all Cambodia's protein

In wet season it quadruples its size, drowning the swamp forest.

Most people live in floating villages or stilt houses.

Growing population, damming for hydroelectric power, deforestation and overfishing all threaten the ecosystem.

Children are actively involved in conservation projects and influence their parents against the exploitation of natural resources



St Kitts and Nevis: St Mary's B.R.

Case study: The Slave Route project. How high historic and heritage values can contribute to a Biosphere Reserve's identity

First Biosphere Reserve in the English speaking Caribbean

Island of immense natural beauty and bio-diversity

Home to one of the finest carnivals in the Caribbean

The Slave Route project has raised awareness of African heritage and has resulted in more people expressing interest and pride in their cultural identity



Reprise: Global Biospheres

Unique Places

1. **BRAZIL:** Mata Atlantica
2. **MONGOLIA:** Great Gobi
3. **SPAIN:** Lanzarote
4. **MALDIVES:** Baa Atoll
5. **INDONESIA:** Komodo
6. **UK:** Isle of Man
7. **COSTA RICA:** Savegre
8. **ALASKA:** Glacier Bay
9. **BULGARIA:** Srebana Lake

Culture & Communities

1. **EUROPE:** East Carpathian
2. **GREECE:** Mount Olympus
3. **PERU:** Manu River
4. **VIETNAM:** Cat Ba
5. **INDIA:** Agasthya Mala
6. **MEXICO:** Mnch.Butterfly
7. **TANZANIA:** Serengeti
8. **JAPAN:** Sobo, Katamuki

Sustainable Futures

1. **UK:** Brighton & Lewes
2. **RUSSIA:** Altaisky
3. **AUSTRALIA:** Fitzgerald River
4. **GULF OF GUINEA:** Principe
5. **S. KOREA:** Seoul
6. **GERMANY:** Rhon
7. **CAMBODIA:** Tonle Sap
8. **ST KITTS NEVIS:** St Mary's

Thankyou!

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