

Following-up on 'Seville +5'

Transboundary Biosphere Reserves - joint action, best practice and the challenges of the future

How can we reconcile with one another our wish to protect biological diversity, our efforts towards economic and social development and the preservation of cultural values? Or, to put it more simply, how can we achieve true sustainability? Finding an answer to this question is no simple matter, but it is encouraging to realise that pioneers in all the countries of the world, each in his or her own context, have set out along this road and are seeking practical solutions.

UNESCO's 'Man and the Biosphere Programme' (MAB) also forms part of this tradition. There are at present 440 biosphere reserves worldwide, and in these internationally recognised model regions for sustainable development, the chances for effective solutions are especially good. Some of these areas extend beyond national borders. They have become important trial areas for the improvement of international cooperation and the surmounting of barriers posed by overemphasis on national interests and bureaucratic constraints.

In Pamplona in October 2000, representatives of these Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBRs) formed an ad hoc Task Force within the framework of UNESCO's international meeting of experts 'Seville + 5', and drew up recommendations on how the work should be continued. In

accordance with the wish expressed by many TBRs and TBR initiatives for a continuation of the exchange of information which began in Pamplona, the two institutions which manage the TBR Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord, the non-profit association Naturpark Pfälzerwald and the SYCOPARC, have now grasped the initiative. With the vital support of the Landeszentrale für Umweltaufklärung and the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry in the Rhineland-Palatinate, and of UNESCO, specialists from 30 nations are now coming together once again, four years after Pamplona and one year before 'Seville +10', in the heart of the German-French Biosphere Reserve Pfälzerwald - Vosges du Nord. The object of their meeting is to discuss, within the framework of the Wasgauer Gespräche, to what extent the recommendations made were helpful, which of them have been implemented in the meantime, what success stories can now be presented, and in which fields of work there is an urgent need for action in the future.

This event is, at the same time, the prelude to an expert-workshop, in the course of which recommendations for future development are to be adopted. We also cordially invite to the Wasgauer Gespräche all those who are committed at regional level, those actively involved in work in the protected areas, and all interested citizens.



FRIDAY – 12 NOVEMBER 2004

from 8 a.m. **Registration in the conference office** at the Biosphärenhaus Pfälzerwald - Nordvogesen

9 a.m. **Opening of the exhibition 'The Transboundary Biosphere Reserves of the World'** in the Biosphärenhaus and the adjacent nature experience centre known as the Wappenschmiede: Tour of audio-visual presentations from 30 countries on 18 transfrontier biosphere reserves in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe which have either already been recognised or whose recognition is forthcoming.

11.15 a.m. **Welcome to participants**
Rolf Künne, Chairman of the association Naturpark Pfälzerwald
Jean Westphal, President of the Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord

11.30 a.m. **Keynotes**
Mireille Jardin, UNESCO MAB-Programme, Paris
Margit Conrad, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Rhineland-Palatinate, Mainz
Representative of the Region of Alsace, Strasbourg
Gertrud Sahler, Chairwoman of the German National MAB Committee, Bonn
Robert Barbault, Chairman of the French National MAB Committee, Paris

1.30 p.m. Lunch

Presentation on officially recognised Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBRs)

3 p.m. **East Carpathians TBR**
The implementation of joint zonation and the long-term financial safeguarding of cooperation between Poland, Slovakia and the Ukraine
Zbigniew Niewiadomski, Bieszczady National Park, Ustrzyki Górne, Poland
Marian Gic, Poloniny National Park, Snina, Republic of Slovakia

Dr. Oksana Maryskevych, Uzhansky National Nature Park, Lviv, Ukraine

4.30 p.m. Coffee Break

5 p.m. **Danube Delta TBR**
The elaboration of a transfrontier management plan and the harmonising of the various national legal frameworks
Grigore Baboianu, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, Tulcea, Romania
Alexander Voloshkevich, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Vilkovo, Ukraine

6 p.m. Dinner

8 p.m. **Evening entertainment**

SATURDAY - 13 NOVEMBER 2004

Continuation of the presentations on officially recognised Transboundary Biosphere Reserves

9 a.m. **Tatra TBR**
Key-Results of the long-term transfrontier cooperation between the Czech Republic and Poland, in the fields of nature conservation, research/monitoring and visitor management
Zbigniew Krzan, Tatrzanski Park Narodowy, Zakopane, Poland
Július Oszlányi, Slovakian Academy of Science, Bratislava, Republic of Slovakia

10 a.m. Coffee Break

10.30 a.m. **Région W TBR**
The historical development of the TBR, the development of cooperation with the local population and the transfrontier management structures of the 3 institutions from Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin, which are in charge of the TBR
Bonaventure D. Guedegbe, Agence Béninoise de L'Environnement, Cotonou, Bénin
Jean-Noël Poda, Ministère des Enseignements secondaire, supérieur et de

la recherche scientifique, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Ali Harouna, *Direction de la Faune, de la Pêche et de la Pisciculture, Niamey, Niger*

12.15 p.m. Lunch

2 p.m. **TBR Krkonose/Karkonosze**

The development of a joint vision for the future development of the TBR that reflects the public interest and the successful presentation of this Czech-Polish landscape to the outside world

Hana Petrikova, *Krkonose National Park, Vrchlabi, Czech Republic*

Andrzej Raj, *Karkonosze National Park, Jelenia Góra, Poland*

3 p.m. **TBR Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord**

Joint work programmes, crosscultural training for the staff and transfrontier coordination with focal points as important instruments for the improvement of Transboundary cooperation

Werner Dexheimer, *from the Association Naturpark Pfälzerwald, Lambrecht, Germany*

Marc Hoffsess, *Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord, La Petite Pierre, France*

4 p.m. Visit to the exhibition '**The Transboundary Biosphere Reserves of the world**', discussions and informal talks

6.30 p.m. **Closing of the Wasgauer Gespräche**

SUNDAY – 14 NOVEMBER 2004

10 a.m. **Field-trip:**

The medieval rock castles of the Wasgau
A transfrontier autumnal walk in the heart of the Biosphere Reserve

Venue: Biosphärenhaus, Am Königsbruch 1, D-66996 Fischbach near Dahn

Registration: If possible, please use the registration card attached, or send us a fax (+49-(0)6393-921019) or an e-mail (info@biosphaerenhaus.de)

Conference languages: English, with simultaneous translation into German, French and Spanish

Conference fee: The conference fee is Euro 15. Please transfer the amount to the following account: account holder VG-Kasse Dahn; name of bank Raiffeisen- und Volksbank Dahn; account number 1009281; bank code 542 912 00, IBAN: DE71 5429 1200 0001 0092 81, BIC: GENODE61DAH, quoting the reference 'Wasgauer Gespräche' and your full name. It will however also be possible to pay your fee upon registration in the conference office at the Biosphärenhaus, where you will also receive the conference reader (a booklet containing the presentations scheduled to be given at the conference).

Accommodation: There are a number of hotels available in Fischbach and the vicinity. Reservations can be made via the following information centres:

Tourist Information Dahner Felsenland
Tel.: +49-(0)6391-5811, Fax: +49-(0)6391-1362,
info@dahner-felsenland.de
Office de Tourisme de Lembach
Tel.: +33-38 89 44 316, Fax: +33-38 89 42 004,
info@ot-lembach.com

How to get there by train: We will be offering a free bus transfer from and to Hinterweidenthal station. Information and reservation: +49-(0)6393-92100

How to get there by car: See access map.

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