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Biosphere Reserves

PRESERVING NATURE FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS



Biosphere reserves are areas encompassing terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, or a combination thereof, which are internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO's Programme on Man & the Biosphere (MAB).

Biosphere reserves are 'learning places for sustainable development', where interdisciplinary approaches are tested and applied to enhance human well-being while protecting both natural and managed ecosystems. These sites promote innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. Their status is internationally recognized.



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Functions of BR

- Biosphere Reserves involve local communities and all interested stakeholders in planning and management.
- It integrates **three** main functions.

Economic development that is socio-culturally and environmentally sustainable



Logistic support underpinning development through research, monitoring, education and training

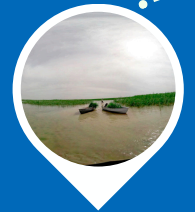
Conservation of biodiversity and cultural diversity



Zones of BR

These functions are pursued through the Biosphere Reserves' **three** main zones

- **Core:** Strictly protected zone that contributes to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.
- **Buffer:** Surround or adjoin the core area(s), and are used for activities compatible with sound ecological practices that can reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education.
- **Transition:** Where communities foster socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable economic and human activities.



World Network of Biosphere Reserve

A dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence. It promotes North-South, South-South and South-North-South international cooperation through the exchange of experiences and know-how, capacity-building and the promotion of best practices among Biosphere Reserves.

There are **759 Biosphere reserves** across **136 countries** in the world including **25 transboundary sites** covering a total area of **7,667,281 km²**

South and Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM)

This regional network was established in 2002 and covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

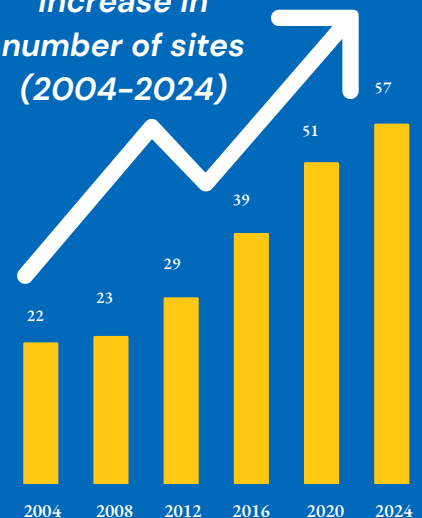
14 Countries with BR covering a total of **261,877 km²**

56 Biosphere Reserves including **01** transboundary biosphere reserves

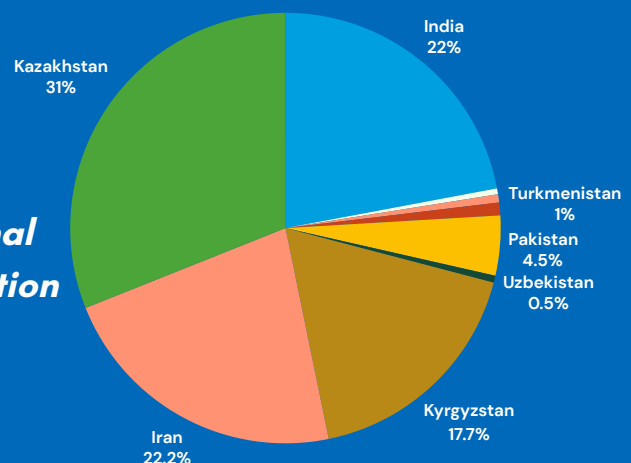


Home to **15** million people

Increase in number of sites (2004–2024)



Regional Distribution



International Day for Biosphere Reserves

Nov 3

China
2025

5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves



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Benefits of Biosphere Reserves

International Recognition by UN – International designation by UNESCO with 194 member states as a model for sustainable development

Scientific Contribution – Serves as a research and monitoring site, providing data and insights for environmental management and policy decisions

Sustainable Economy – Creates local economic opportunities for local communities by giving competitive advantage in tourism and marketing while minimizing environmental impact

Cultural Integration – Incorporates local traditions and knowledge into conservation, preserving heritage while promoting eco-friendly practices

Environmental Education – Provides learning opportunities for communities, students, and visitors on sustainability, conservation, and natural resource protection

Global Development Commitment – Supports achieving targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, SDGs, and Paris Agreement by protecting and restoring ecosystems

Provides Framework – Balance conservation with economic and social development, ensuring that local communities can thrive without compromising the environment

Biodiversity Conservation – Protects ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity through habitat preservation and sustainable land use

Funding opportunities – Enhances visibility and attracts international funding, partnerships, and support for conservation and sustainable development

Peacebuilding & Cooperation – Promotes cross-border collaboration to address shared environmental challenges and foster peace

WNBR Membership – Support towards global cooperation, knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and best practice sharing

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