

Celebration of the
1st International Day for Biosphere Reserves
3rd November 2022
11 AM to 1:00 PM
UNESCO New Delhi
Hybrid

Background

In accordance with the decision of the 41st session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the 3rd November has been designated as the ***International Day for Biosphere Reserves***. The purpose of this international day is to provide a wake-up call on the importance of caring for the environment and achieving a balance between human activities and the conservation of natural resources - and on the leading role that the World Network of Biosphere Reserves play in this regard.

The International Day for Biosphere Reserves is to be commemorated at national and local levels through activities and events that contribute to a better knowledge of the role and impact of biosphere reserves. It is intended to mobilise and acknowledge the commitment, actions and solutions by the entire Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) family - the people, institutions and partners that make up the global network.

Proposal

The Maritime Research Centre (MRC), Pune, India in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), New Delhi, is celebrating this day through webinar focusing on Biosphere Reserve in India and South - South Cooperation with support from the UNESCO Liaison Office in Addis Ababa with the African Union and UNECA. The event will bring together experts to present and discuss cooperation and synergy opportunities based on UNESCO designated sites, and science-education.

Programme

Convenor: Dr. (Cdr) Arnab Das; Founder & Director, Maritime Research Centre (MRC), Pune

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| 11:00 | Welcome Remarks by Dr. Benno Boer, Officer in Charge, UNESCO New Delhi |
| 11:05 | Opening Remarks by Dr. Rita Bissoonauth, Director at UNESCO Liaison Office in Addis Ababa with the African Union and UNECA. |
| 11:10 | Introductory Remarks in support of coastal and marine Biosphere Reserve management by Dr.(Cdr) Arnab Das, Founder & Director MRC, Pune, India. |

- 11:20 Achievements and Prospects of Biosphere Reserves in India by Mr Bharat Singh, Director, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and Secretary, UNESCO MaB National Committee in India.
- 11:30 Achievements and Prospects of Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia by Dr. Samuel Partey, UNESCO Natural Sciences Specialist, UNESCO Addis Ababa
- 11:40 Illustrated Presentation of Biosphere Reserves in India by Dr. Neha Midha, Program Officer for Natural Sciences, UNESCO New Delhi
- 11:50 Biodiversity Challenges & Opportunities in Tropical Waters by Dr. Swayamprabha Das, Deputy Regional Vice Chair South & East Asia, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.
- 12:00 Strategic Blue Economic Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) by Dr. Sandip Mukhopadhyay, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India
- 12:10 Possibilities of Regional Cooperation in Capacity & Capability Building for Marine Sustainability and Good Governance by Dr. Shalia Shah IFS, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- 12:20 Marine Spatial Planning - Challenges and Opportunities in the IOR by Mr. Anup Mudgal, Former Diplomat and Member of the Blue Economic Committee at FICCI, India
- 12:30 Remarks by the Dignitaries
- 12:45 Summing Up and Way Ahead – Dr. Benno Boer, Chief of Natural Sciences, UNESCO New Delhi.
- 12:55 Vote of Thanks by Ms. Nishtha Vishwakarma, MRC Communication Head.
- 13:00 Refreshments and departure.