



# BIOSPHERE RESERVES

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR MAB FRANCE

TERRITORIES COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY



# OUR AIMS

## TO SUPPORT FRANCE IN THE 2030 AGENDA AND ITS COMMITMENTS TO UNESCO

### Reinforcing the implementation of all the Sustainable Development Goals in the Biosphere Reserves

- Continuing to promote new adaptive governances,
- Supporting and accompanying local exemplary initiatives,
- Promoting and expanding the Biosphere Reserve trophies,
- Strengthening the network of eco-players, in France and beyond,
- Contributing to ambitious research programmes in the territories, in order to evaluate social interdependencies and the contribution of nature to human well-being.

### Multiplying and disseminating our knowledge and practices for the social and ecological transition

- Establishing a wide-reaching and effective communication strategy, based on the worldwide MAB strategy,
- Invigorating and developing the current Biosphere Reserves network in metropolitan and overseas France, as well as across the borders,
- Helping to exchange experiences between model territo-

ries in France and throughout the world

- Supporting new international projects with our expertise,
- Summarising, publishing and sharing our knowledge through introductory and professional training.

### Finding the appropriate resources to work effectively for nature and the future generations

- Reinforcing the national coordinating team of MAB France,
- Strengthening the coordination resources of the Biosphere Reserves. They lead the MAB programme on their territories, interacting with researchers, facilitating dialogue and broadening the scope of participation, and create links between their territories and the national and worldwide network,
- Reinforcing, diversifying and expanding our technical and financial partnerships: elected representatives, national institutions, public and private companies, French and international NGOs.



Since the 1970s, UNESCO's scientific MAB (Man and Biosphere) programme has been working « in a responsible way towards building prosperous societies in harmony with the biosphere » (MAB strategy 2015-2025). It now works with The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the UN and relies on its worldwide network of Biosphere Reserves to spread its experience, approaches and skills.



## THE INTERNATIONAL MAB PROGRAMME

- A worldwide network of 686 Biosphere Reserves in 122 countries in 2018
- Shared peace, solidarity and equity values, for humans and also for nature
- A common strategy and a statutory framework for all the Biosphere Reserves with operation modes adapted to the legislation and context of each country
- A 10-year designation, after the international validation of the Biosphere Reserve project

## BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN FRANCE

- Legal recognition of the restoration of biodiversity: "the national biodiversity strategy promotes the development of Biosphere Reserves (...) a Biosphere Reserve contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals" (article 66)
- Diverse governance structures (national parks, regional nature parks, joint associations, associations..)
- A network led by the MAB France Association. It includes the Biosphere Reserves, scientists, research institutions, administrations, companies, associations, friends of MAB.

## WE ARE ALREADY ACTIVE

- We encourage dialogue between inhabitants, elected representatives, associations, public and private sector socio-economic players.
- We promote permanent interactions between researchers, managers and users of territories and the education sphere.
- We develop and diffuse methods of governance and participative management for the territories.
- We encourage players to make positive changes and to adopt progress-making approaches: Biosphere Reserve trophies, eco-player charters...
- We facilitate and support interdisciplinary research in conjunction with the challenges faced by the territories, through the joint construction of projects between research and management teams, and the diffusion and promotion of the results.
- We participate in civic education and training, in particular through the MAB Master's degree (Toulouse University), we promote MAB abroad under the auspices of a UNESCO chair and we participate in many university courses.
- We bring our skills to international projects creating or reinforcing Biosphere Reserves.



**TOTAL SURFACE**  
OF THE FRENCH BIOSPHERE  
RESERVES

**60,000 km<sup>2</sup>**  
including

**2,100 km<sup>2</sup> of sea**

**TOTAL POPULATION**

**2,750,000 inhabitants**



# OUR QUALITIES

## TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Adapting the Biosphere Reserves' governance modes to local social, economic and ecological contexts.
- Looking for local solutions to worldwide issues, through dialogue and participation, based on the understanding and respect of cultures.
- Working with researchers in sustainable sciences.
- Mobilizing socio-economic players who can bring about change.
- Involving the young generation in our governance, as they are the driving force behind the ecological and social transition, through the Co'MAB association.
- Drawing on skills from other countries through exchanges in the worldwide network.



# BIOSPHERE RESERVES MAP

- Archipel de Guadeloupe
- Îles et mer d'Iroise
- Marais Audomarois
- Fontainebleau et Gâtinais
- Vosges du Nord-Pfälzerwald
- Bassin de la Dordogne
- Cévennes
- Gorges du Gardon
- Camargue (delta du Rhône)
- Luberon-Lure
- Mont Ventoux
- Mont Viso
- Vallée du Fango
- Commune de Fakarava

