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Man and the Biosphere
Programme



EABRN



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**Together for Biosphere Reserves,
Together for 30 Years**

***Celebrating Our Collective Efforts of the UNESCO Man and
the Biosphere Programme in East Asia (1995-2025)***

Message from Donor of EABRN

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea



On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN), the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea warmly congratulates UNESCO and all member countries.

Following the “Cooperative Scientific Study of East Asian Biosphere Reserves” in 1994 and the official launch of EABRN in 1995, the network has grown into a vital platform for strengthening conservation, advancing sustainable development, and promoting regional cooperation across East Asia.

The Republic of Korea values the achievements of its biosphere reserves, from Mount Sorak to Changnyeong, and deeply appreciates the contributions of all biosphere reserves across the region to knowledge sharing and regional learning.

We look forward to continuing our partnership in line with UNESCO’s global commitments—safeguarding nature, fostering sustainability, and empowering youth—for the benefit of future generations in East Asia.

September 2025

Message from the EABRN Secretariat



For three decades, the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network has embodied cooperation, innovation, and shared stewardship across one of the world’s most diverse regions. From Arctic islands to temperate forests, grasslands, and coastal wetlands, our members have demonstrated how conservation and sustainable development can thrive together. As Secretariat, UNESCO’s Regional Office for East Asia is proud to have supported 16 network meetings, eight regional trainings, and the voices of youth and communities. On this 30th anniversary, we celebrate EABRN’s achievements, look ahead to the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Hangzhou, China, and renew our commitment to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development.

Prof Shahbaz Khan

Director and Representative of UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia

September 2025

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About MAB and EABRN

Origins and Mandate

The East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN) was established in 1995 as a regional platform under the framework of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, in response to the need for enhanced international cooperation in sustainable development and biodiversity conservation across East Asia. Its creation followed the momentum built by the “Cooperative Scientific Study of East Asian Biosphere Reserves,” a landmark regional effort that laid the groundwork for long-term collaboration among biosphere reserves (BRs) in 1994.

The network was initially launched by 5 founding countries: the People’s Republic of China (China), the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea (ROK). Their shared vision of harmonizing conservation with human development marked a new chapter for ecological diplomacy in East Asia. The Russian Federation formally joined EABRN in 1998, bringing Arctic and Pacific Island ecosystems into the fold. In 2011, Kazakhstan became the seventh member of the network, contributing high-altitude and steppe biodiversity systems to this regional cooperation framework.

Since 2003, the EABRN Secretariat has been hosted by the UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia in Beijing, serving as the coordinating body for technical support, policy dialogue, training, and regional reporting. This office also serves as a critical interface between the EABRN and global MAB governance structures, including the International Coordinating Council (ICC) and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

Vision and Mission

The EABRN envisions an interconnected, ecologically resilient East Asia, where nature and human communities thrive together through sustainable resource use, effective governance, and transboundary solidarity. To realize this vision, the EABRN pursues the following seven strategic objectives:

- i. to provide a mechanism for East Asian countries to exchange information on the three main functions of individual biosphere reserves (BRs): i.e. conservation of ecosystems and genetic resources contained therein; socioeconomic development of local communities and people; and logistic support for research, training, environmental education and monitoring;
- ii. to share experience in the management of BRs in East Asia, particularly in relation to zoning and harmonizing BRs’ goal of conserving biodiversity with its function of supporting socioeconomic development of local economies and people;
- iii. to document and review prevailing institutional and administrative arrangements for the management of BRs in East Asia and make recommendations for improvements;
- iv. to identify, design and implement short-term multi- and inter-disciplinary studies that explore and demonstrate links between the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable socioeconomic development of local communities in and around BRs in East Asia;

- v. to provide opportunities for staff of BRs in East Asia to improve their knowledge and skills in implementing Strategies and Action Plans adopted by the MAB International Coordinating Council;
- vi. to promote and strengthen co-operation between EABRN and other UNESCO Member States in the Asia-Pacific Region in the implementation of MAB Strategies and Action Plans; and
- vii. to promote and facilitate information exchange and inter-regional cooperation with similar networks in other parts of the world and with international organizations, such as IUCN.

EABRN's activities and cooperation are guided by three thematic pillars, designed to respond to regional needs and opportunities:

- i. Eco-tourism
- ii. Conservation Policy
- iii. Transboundary Cooperation

EABRN serves a broad and diverse range of stakeholders across sectors, from government institutions to grassroots organizations. The network's programming is designed to engage the following key groups:

- National MAB Committee members
- Biosphere Reserve Managers from East Asian countries
- Ecologists and environmental specialists
- Researchers and scientists
- Planners and policy makers
- Resource managers

MAB in Member States

• China

China is one of the most active participants in the MAB Programme, with 34 biosphere reserves designated under UNESCO's framework. The national MAB agenda is overseen by the Chinese MAB National Committee, supported by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. China has focused on ecological zoning, habitat connectivity, and desertification control.

• Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The DPRK joined the MAB Programme with the designation of the Mount Paektu Biosphere Reserve in 1989 and has 5 BRs currently. The reserve is internationally recognized for its intact forest ecosystems and cultural significance. The national implementation of MAB in DPRK is managed through state-level scientific bodies with cooperation through UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector and regional UNESCO offices.

• Japan

Japan currently hosts 10 biosphere reserves, and MAB implementation is guided by the Japanese National Committee for MAB, coordinated through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Japan is globally recognized for its Satoyama landscape model, integrating biodiversity conservation with traditional agriculture and forest management.

- **Kazakhstan**

Kazakhstan joined the EABRN in 2011 and currently has 15 biosphere reserves related to EABRN, including the Great Altay Biosphere Reserve, which is managed jointly with the Russian Federation. Kazakhstan's MAB-related work is guided by the Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO, alongside the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources. The focus is on transboundary conservation, steppe restoration, and sustainable pastoralism.

- **Mongolia**

Mongolia plays a leading role in grassland and steppe ecosystem conservation through its 11 biosphere reserves, including Hustai Nuruu, Onon-Balj, and Uvs Lake. The national MAB programme is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and has been instrumental in supporting rewilding initiatives, especially the reintroduction of Przewalski's horse, and wetland restoration.

- **Republic of Korea (ROK)**

ROK has developed one of the most robust national BR networks in the region, with 10 biosphere reserves, including Mount Sorak, Jeju Island and Yeoncheon Imjin River. The Korean National MAB Committee, coordinated by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, prioritizes citizen science, community-driven governance, and ecological tourism.

- **Russian Federation**

The Russian Federation operates a vast and diverse BR system, with 22 biosphere reserves related to EABRN as part of its commitment to the global MAB Programme. Russian MAB coordination is handled by the Russian MAB National Committee under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in cooperation with research centres like the Russian Academy of Sciences. The country emphasizes Arctic, island, and taiga ecosystems, exemplified by the Commander Islands BR.

Three Decades of Growth and Regional Cooperation

Since 1995, the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN) has matured into a region-wide knowledge network of over 100 biosphere reserves across seven countries. Through sustained collaboration, training, and research, EABRN has shaped biodiversity management and sustainable development in diverse ecosystems - from Arctic islands to temperate forests, river valleys, and steppes.

EABRN has conducted 16 network meetings in the past 30 years, hosted by network member states on a rotational basis. These have been organized as interactive workshops and have provided opportunities for experts and BR managers to exchange individual experiences in biological diversity conservation - particularly the implementation of MAB strategies and action plans. Since the 2013 meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, EABRN has worked to enhance and consolidate EABRN Member States' input towards the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and the Lima Action Plan.

The EABRN Network directs special attention to the capacity building of BR managers. To date, 8 EABRN training courses have been held with the specific purpose of strengthening management capacity among the BRs covered by the network. These training courses were held in China in 2004, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2015, and in China and the Republic of Korea in 2017. Two online training webinars were also conducted in 2021 and 2023.

Key Milestones and Achievements of EABRN

1995	Formal launch of EABRN with 5 founding members (PRC, DPRK, Japan, Mongolia, ROK)
Partnerships & Expansion	
1998	Russian Federation joins EABRN
2003	Secretariat established at UNESCO Office Beijing
2011	Kazakhstan joins EABRN

Message from the EABRN founding secretariat



I represented UNESCO at the first 2 meetings EABRN in China (Changbaishan and Wolong BRs) and the third in Mt. Sorak BR, Republic of Korea. The discussions were lively and gave me new insights into BR management practice. The coming together of the Republic and DPR of Korea in EABRN is a good example of “Biosphere-diplomacy”. Led by the Republic of Korea and engaging DPR of Korea, China, Japan and Mongolia from the start, EABRN now includes Russia and Kazakhstan. I wish EABRN continuing success and hope its mission will attract more BRs from north, east and central Asia.

Dr Natarajan Ishwaran
(former UNESCO Programme Specialist at the former Regional Science Bureau in Jakarta,
in charge during the establishment of EABRN in 1995)
Paris, 31 July 2025

Network Meetings & Governance



13-23 Mar. 1994

1st Meeting
Cooperative Scientific Study of East Asian Biosphere Reserves
(Beijing & Wolong BR, China)

15-22 Aug. 1994

2nd Meeting
Tourism Management in BRs (Changbaishan BR, China)



29 May - 3 Jun. 1995

3rd Meeting
Establishment of EABRN (Seoul & Mt Sorak BR, ROK)



19-25 Oct. 1996

4th Meeting
Logistic Functions of BRs (Kagushima & Yakushima BR, Japan)



24-28 Aug. 1997

5th Meeting
Ecotourism and Transborder Cooperation (Ulaanbaatar & Bogd Khan BR, Mongolia)



15-20 Sep. 1999

6th Meeting
Ecotourism and Conservation (Jiuzhaigou BR, China)





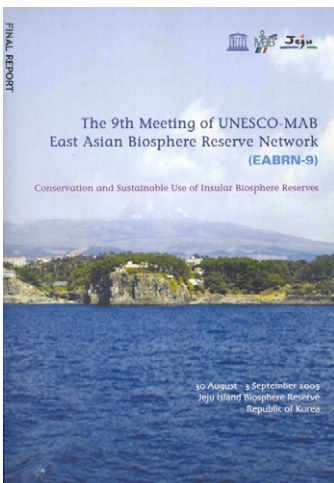
06-13 Sep. 2001

7th Meeting
Capacity Building for BRs (Vladivostock & Sikhote-Alinsky BR, Russia)



18-23 Aug. 2003

8th Meeting
Ecotourism & Transboundary Cooperation (Hustai Nuruu BR, Mongolia)



30 Aug. - 03 Sep. 2005

9th Meeting
Conservation of Insular BRs (Jeju Island BR, ROK)



01-05 Sep. 2007

10th Meeting
Protection of Sacred Sites (Terelj, Bogd Khan BR, Mongolia)





10-15 Nov. 2009

11th Meeting
Seville Strategy and Madrid Action Plan (Wuyishan BR, China)



20-23 Sep. 2011

12th Meeting
Madrid Action Plan Focus on Coastal BRs (Shinan Dadohae BR, ROK)



21-25 Oct. 2013

13th Meeting
Global Change Impacts (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)

06-09 Oct. 2015

14th Meeting
Community Roles in Transition Areas (Shiga Highland BR, Japan)



29 May - 02 Jun. 2018

15th Meeting
Models for Sustainable Development (Altyn Emel BR, Kazakhstan)



03-07 Oct. 2022

16th Meeting
BRs & SDGs Post-pandemic (UB BR, Mongolia)



23 Sep. 2025

Side event at the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves
Celebrating 30 Years of Regional and Intergenerational
Collaboration towards Sustainable BR Management in East
Asia (Hangzhou, China)

Capacity Building & Training

16-21 Aug. 2004	1st Training Course: Application of GIS in the Management of BRs (CAS, Beijing, China)
04-15 Dec. 2006	2nd Training Course: Application of GIS in the Management of BRs (CAS, Beijing, China)
30 Mar. - 10 Apr. 2009	3rd Training Course: Remote Sensing and GIS for BRs (Beijing, China)
11-22 Apr. 2011	4th Training Course: Remote Sensing and GIS (Beijing, China)
10-16 Jul. 2012	5th Training Course: Biological Inventory and Database (Changbaishan BR, China)
20-30 May. 2015	6th Training Course: Sustainable BR Management (Wudalianchi BR, China)
03-14 Sep. 2017	7th Training Course: Ecological Monitoring and Education for Sustainable Development (joint delivery between MAB China and MAB ROK , Beijing and Gwangneung Forest BR and Mt. Sorak BR)
Sep. - Oct. 2021	EABRN-UNESCO Training Webinars (6 sessions on BR monitoring, tourism, Education for Sustainable Development)
Mar. - May 2023	EABRN-UNESCO Training Webinars (6 sessions on BRs and global biodiversity topics)
Feb. - June 2025	8th EABRN Training & Youth as Researchers (YAR) Initiatives (Xingkai Lake BR, China)

Knowledge Production & Publications



2006

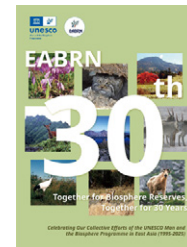
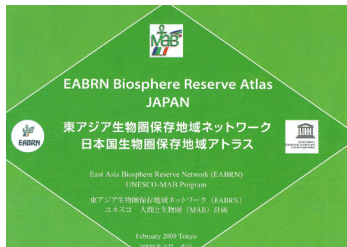
Published *East Asian Biosphere Reserve Atlas – China*

2007

Published *East Asian Biosphere Reserve Atlas – Mongolia*

2007

Published *East Asian Biosphere Reserve Atlas – DPRK*



2009

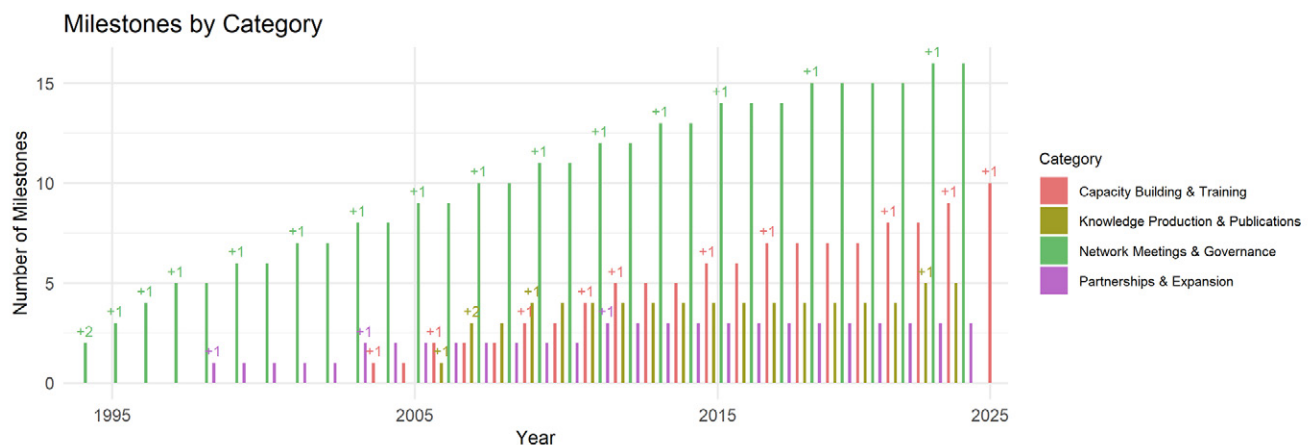
Published *East Asian Biosphere Reserve Atlas – Japan*

2022

Published *the Mongolian version of the Guidelines on Ecotourism Development and Management in EABRN*

2025

Published *Celebrating Our Collective Efforts of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme in East Asia (1995-2025)*



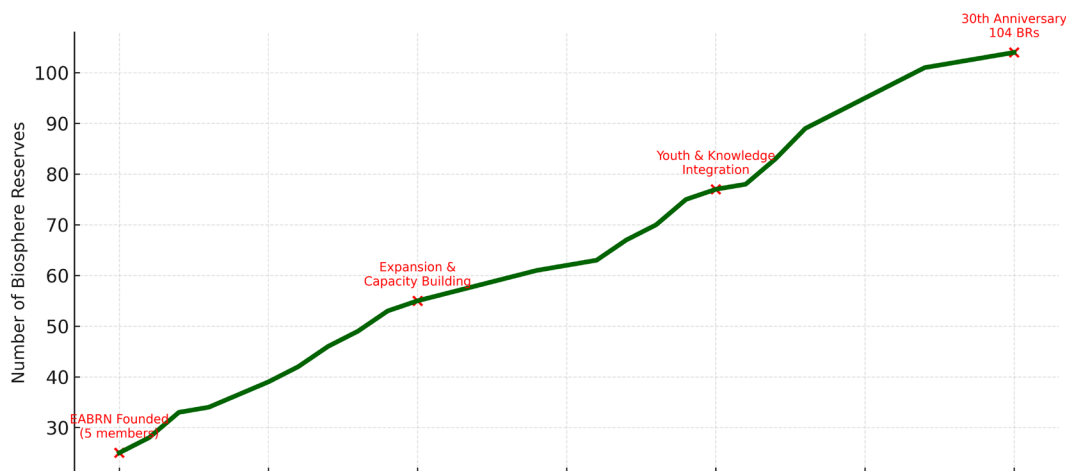
The milestones of EABRN highlight sustained capacity building and collaboration through frequent meetings and trainings.

Visual summary of EABRN expansion

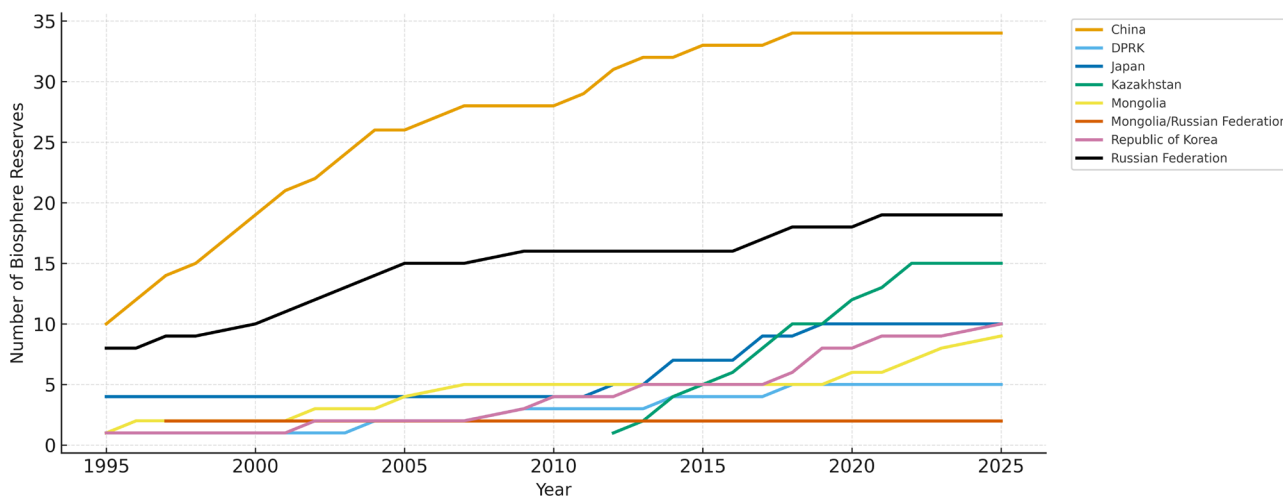
Starting with 25 biosphere reserves across six countries in 1995, the network has grown to encompass more than 100 biosphere reserves by 2025. Between 1995 and 2005*, the network expanded steadily, with significant transboundary cooperation leading to the creation of two flagship biosphere reserves. The network continued to grow in the following years.

Today, the EABRN can look back with pride on decades marked by remarkable growth. The establishment of numerous new reserves has created a strong, interconnected system that safeguards biodiversity while fostering regional collaboration and sustainable development.

Cumulative Number of EABRN Biosphere Reserves (All Members, 1995_2025*)



Cumulative Number of Biosphere Reserves by Country (1995_2025*)



The number of EABRN biosphere reserves has more than quadrupled since 1995.

*: the number of Biosphere Reserves reflects the number as of 25th September 2025, i.e. before the 37th MAB-ICC.

● China

- 1 Bogeda 1990 CN
- 2 Changbaishan 1979 CN
- 3 Dinghushan 1979 CN
- 4 Fanjingshan 1986 CN
- 5 Shennongjia 1990 CN
- 6 Wolong 1979 CN
- 7 Wuyishan 1987 CN
- 8 Xilin Gol 1987 CN
- 9 Xishuangbanna 1993 CN
- 10 Yancheng 1992 CN

● Democratic People's Republic of Korea

- 11 Mount Paektu 1989 KP

● Japan

- 12 Mount Hakusan 1980 JP
- 13 Mount Odaigahara, Mount Omine and Osugidani 1980 JP
- 14 Shiga Highland 1980 JP
- 15 Yakushima and Kuchinoerabu jima 1980 JP

● Mongolia

- 16 Great Gobi 1990 MN

● Republic of Korea

- 17 Mount Sorak 1982 KR

● Russian Federation

- 18 Barguzinskiy 1986 RU
- 19 Baikalskiy 1986 RU
- 20 Kronotskiy 1984 RU
- 21 Sayano-Shushenskiy 1985 RU
- 22 Sikhote-Alin 1978 RU
- 23 Sokhondinskiy 1984 RU
- 24 Taimirskiy 1995 RU
- 25 Tzentrlnosibirskii 1985 RU



Map of Biosphere Reserves in EABRN in 1995

● China

- 1 Baishuijiang 2000 CN
- 2 Baotianman 2001 CN
- 3 Bogeda 1990 CN
- 4 Changbaishan 1979 CN
- 5 Dalai Lake 2002 CN
- 6 Dinghushan 1979 CN
- 7 Fanjingshan 1986 CN
- 8 Fenglin 1997 CN
- 9 Foping 2004 CN
- 10 Gaoligong mountains 2000 CN
- 11 Huanglong 2000 CN
- 12 Jiuzhaigou Valley 1997 CN
- 13 Maolan 1996 CN
- 14 Nanji Islands 1998 CN
- 15 Qomolangma 2004 CN
- 16 Saïhan Wula 2001 CN
- 17 Shennongjia 1990 CN
- 18 Shankou mangrove 2000 CN
- 19 Tianmushan 1996 CN
- 20 Wolong 1979 CN
- 21 Wuyishan 1987 CN
- 22 Wudalanchi 2003 CN
- 23 Xilin Gol 1987 CN
- 24 Xishuangbanna 1993 CN
- 25 Yancheng 1992 CN
- 26 Yading 2003 CN

● Russian Federation

- 39 Barguzinskiy 1986 RU
- 40 Baikalskiy 1986 RU
- 41 Commander Islands 2002 RU
- 42 Daurisy 1997 RU
- 43 Far East Marine 2003 RU
- 44 Kedrovaya Pad 2004 RU
- 45 Khankaiskiy 2005 RU
- 46 Kronotskiy 1984 RU
- 47 Katunsky 2000 RU
- 48 Sayano-Shushenskiy 1985 RU
- 49 Sikhote-Alin 1978 RU
- 50 Sokhondinskiy 1984 RU
- 51 Taimirskiy 1995 RU
- 52 Tzentrlnosibirskii 1985 RU
- 53 Visimskiy 2001 RU

● Transboundary MN/RU

- 54 Uvs Nuur Basin 1997 MN/RU
- 55 Ubsunorskaya Kotlovina 1997 MN/RU

● Democratic People's Republic of Korea

- 27 Mount Paektu 1989 KP
- 28 Mount Kuwol 2004 KP

● Japan

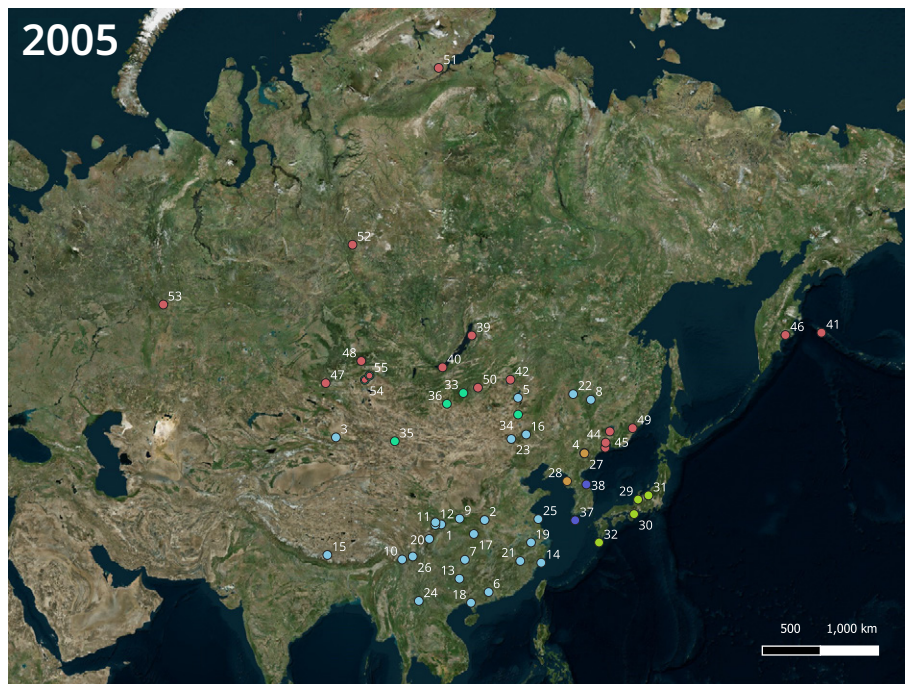
- 29 Mount Hakusan 1980 JP
- 30 Mount Odaigahara, Mount Omine and Osugidani 1980 JP
- 31 Shiga Highland 1980 JP
- 32 Yakushima and Kuchinoerabu jima 1980 JP

● Mongolia

- 33 Boghd Khan Uul 1996 MN
- 34 Dornod Mongol 2005 MN
- 35 Great Gobi 1990 MN
- 36 Hustal Nuruu 2002 MN

● Republic of Korea

- 37 Jeju Island 2002 KR
- 38 Mount Sorak 1982 KR



Map of Biosphere Reserves in EABRN in 2005

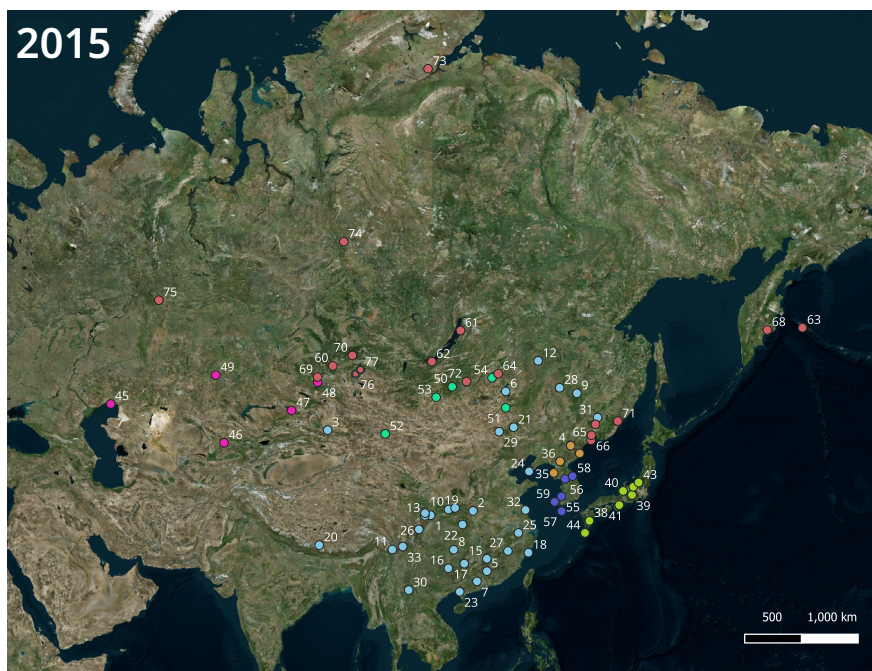
China			Kazakhstan		
1	Baishuijiang	2000 CN	45	Ak-Zhayik	2014 KZ
2	Baotianman	2001 CN	46	Aksu-Zhabagly	2015 KZ
3	Bogeda	1990 CN	47	Alakol	2013 KZ
4	Changbaishan	1979 CN	48	Katon-Karagay	2014 KZ
5	Chebaling	2007 CN	49	Korgalzhyyn	2012 KZ
6	Dalai Lake	2002 CN			
7	Dinghushan	1979 CN			
8	Fanjingshan	1986 CN			
9	Fenglin	1997 CN			
10	Foping	2004 CN			
11	Gaoligong mountains	2000 CN	50	Boghd Khan Uul	1996 MN
12	Hanma	2015 CN	51	Dornod Mongol	2005 MN
13	Huanglong	2000 CN	52	Great Gobi	1990 MN
14	Jiuzhaigou Valley	1997 CN	53	Hustai Nuruu	2002 MN
15	Jinggangshan	2012 CN	54	Mongol Daguur	2007 MN
16	Maolan	1996 CN			
17	Mao'er mountains	2011 CN			
18	Nanji Islands	1998 CN			
19	Niubelliang	2012 CN			
20	Qomolangma	2004 CN	55	Gochang	2013 KR
21	Saiban Wula	2001 CN	56	Gwangneung forests	2010 KR
22	Shennongjia	1990 CN	57	Jeju Island	2002 KR
23	Shankou mangrove	2000 CN	58	Mount Sorak	1982 KR
24	Snake Island, Laotie mountains	2013 CN	59	Shinan Dadohae	2009 KR
25	Tianmushan	1996 CN			
26	Wolong	1979 CN			
27	Wuyishan	1987 CN			
28	Wudalianchi	2003 CN			
29	Xilin Gol	1987 CN			
30	Xishuangbanna	1993 CN			
31	Xingkai Lake	2007 CN			
32	Yancheng	1992 CN			
33	Yading	2003 CN			

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

34	Mount Paektu	1989 KP
35	Mount Kuwol	2004 KP
36	Mount Myohyang	2009 KP
37	Mount Chilbo	2014 KP

Japan

38	Aya	2012 JP
39	Minami Alps	2014 JP
40	Mount Hakusan	1980 JP
41	Mount Odaigahara, Mount Omine and Osugidani	1980 JP
42	Shiga Highland	1980 JP
43	Tadami	2014 JP
44	Yakushima and Kuchinoerabu Jima	1980 JP



Russian Federation

60	Altayskiy	2009 RU	69	Katunsky	2000 RU
61	Barguzinskiy	1986 RU	70	Sayano-Shushenskiy	1985 RU
62	Baikalskiy	1986 RU	71	Sikhote-Alin	1978 RU
63	Commander Islands	2002 RU	72	Sokhondinskiy	1984 RU
64	Dauryskiy	1997 RU	73	Taimyrskiy	1995 RU
65	Far East Marine	2003 RU	74	Tsentralnoibirskiy	1985 RU
66	Kedrovaya Pad'	2004 RU	75	Vismitskiy	2001 RU
67	Khankalskiy	2005 RU			
68	Kronotskiy	1984 RU			

Transboundary MN/RU

76	Uvs Nuur Basin	1997 MN/RU
77	Ubsunorskaya Kotlovina	1997 MN/RU

Map of Biosphere Reserves in EABRN in 2015

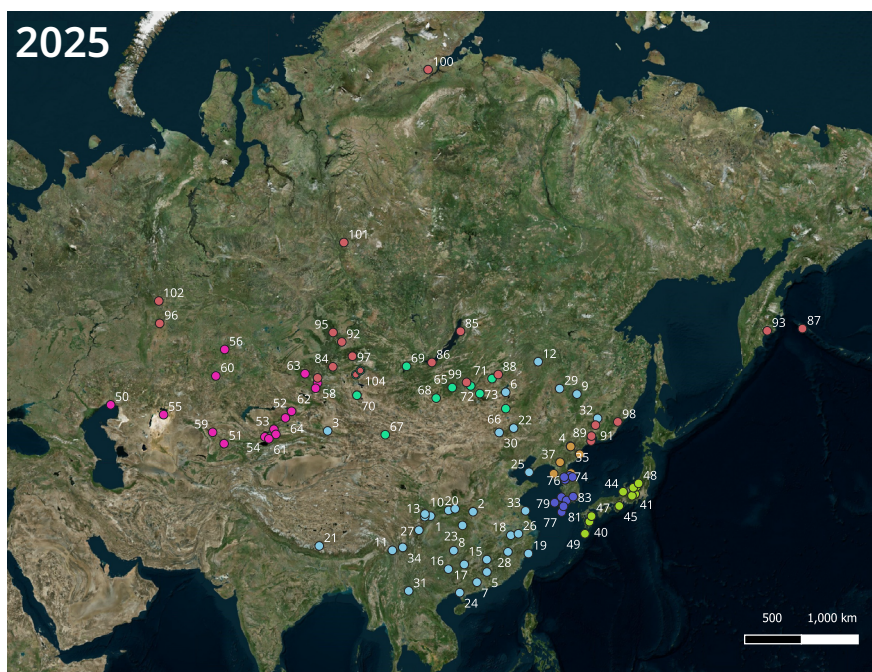
China			Kazakhstan		
1	Baishuijiang	2000 CN	50	Ak-Zhayik	2014 KZ
2	Baotianman	2001 CN	51	Aksu-Zhabagly	2015 KZ
3	Bogeda	1990 CN	52	Alakol	2013 KZ
4	Changbaishan	1979 CN	53	Altyn-Emel	2017 KZ
5	Chebaling	2007 CN	54	Almaty	2020 KZ
6	Dalai Lake	2002 CN	55	Barsakelmes	2016 KZ
7	Dinghushan	1979 CN	56	Burabay	2022 KZ
8	Fanjingshan	1986 CN	57	Charyn	2018 KZ
9	Fenglin	1997 CN	58	Katon-Karagay	2014 KZ
10	Foping	2004 CN	59	Karatau	2017 KZ
11	Gaoligong mountains	2000 CN	60	Korgalzhyyn	2012 KZ
12	Hanma	2015 CN	61	Kolsai Kolderi	2021 KZ
13	Huanglong	2000 CN	62	Markakol	2022 KZ
14	Jiuzhaigou Valley	1997 CN	63	West Altai	2020 KZ
15	Jinggangshan	2012 CN	64	Zhongar	2018 KZ
16	Maolan	1996 CN			
17	Mao'er mountains	2011 CN			
18	Mount Huangshan	2018 CN			
19	Nanji Islands	1998 CN			
20	Niubelliang	2012 CN	65	Boghd Khan Uul	1996 MN
21	Qomolangma	2004 CN	66	Dornod Mongol	2005 MN
22	Saiban Wula	2001 CN	67	Great Gobi	1990 MN
23	Shennongjia	1990 CN	68	Hustai Nuruu	2002 MN
24	Shankou mangrove	2000 CN	69	Khuvsigul Lake	2022 MN
25	Snake Island, Laotie mountains	2013 CN	70	Khar Us Lake	2024 MN
26	Tianmushan	1996 CN	71	Mongol Daguur	2007 MN
27	Wolong	1979 CN	72	Onon Balj	2023 MN
28	Wuyishan	1987 CN	73	Toson-Khulstai	2020 MN
29	Wudalianchi	2003 CN			
30	Xilin Gol	1987 CN			
31	Xishuangbanna	1993 CN			
32	Xingkai Lake	2007 CN			
33	Yancheng	1992 CN			
34	Yading	2003 CN			

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

35	Mount Paektu	1989 KP
36	Mount Kuwol	2004 KP
37	Mount Myohyang	2009 KP
38	Mount Chilbo	2014 KP
39	Mount Kumgang	2018 KP

Japan

40	Aya	2012 JP
41	Minami Alps	2014 JP
42	Mount Hakusan	1980 JP
43	Mount Odaigahara, Mount Omine and Osugidani	1980 JP
44	Shiga Highland	1980 JP
45	Tadami	2014 JP
46	Yakushima and Kuchinoerabu Jima	1980 JP



Republic of Korea

74	Gangwon Eco-Peace	2019 KR
75	Gochang	2013 KR
76	Gwangneung forests	2010 KR
77	Jeju Island	2002 KR
78	Mount Sorak	1982 KR
79	Shinan Dadohae	2009 KR
80	Suncheon	2018 KR
81	Wando Archipelago	2021 KR
82	Yeoncheon Imjin River	2019 KR
83	Changryeong	2024 KR

Russian Federation

84	Altayskiy	2009 RU	94	Katunsky	2000 RU
85	Barguzinskiy	1986 RU	97	Sayano-Shushenskiy	1985 RU
86	Baikalskiy	1986 RU	98	Sikhote-Alin	1978 RU
87	Commander Islands	2002 RU	99	Sokhondinskiy	1984 RU
88	Dauryskiy	1997 RU	100	Taimyrskiy	1995 RU
89	Far East Marine	2003 RU	101	Tsentralnoibirskiy	1985 RU
90	Kedrovaya Pad'	2004 RU	102	Vismitskiy	2001 RU
91	Khankalskiy	2005 RU			
93	Kronotskiy	1984 RU			

Transboundary MN/RU

103	Uvs Nuur Basin	1997 MN/RU
104	Ubsunorskaya Kotlovina	1997 MN/RU

Map of Biosphere Reserves in EABRN in 2025*

*: number of BR as of 25th September 2025, i.e. before the 37th MAB-ICC.

EABRN Efforts for Regional and Global Biosphere & Biodiversity Agenda

Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (1995)

The Seville Strategy redefined biosphere reserves as integrated sites for conservation, sustainable development, and knowledge generation. EABRN's role since 1995 positioned it perfectly to advance these themes through transboundary conservation, sustainable development pilots, training programmes, and policy cooperation in East Asia.

2005 Madrid Action Plan - 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (Madrid, February 2008)

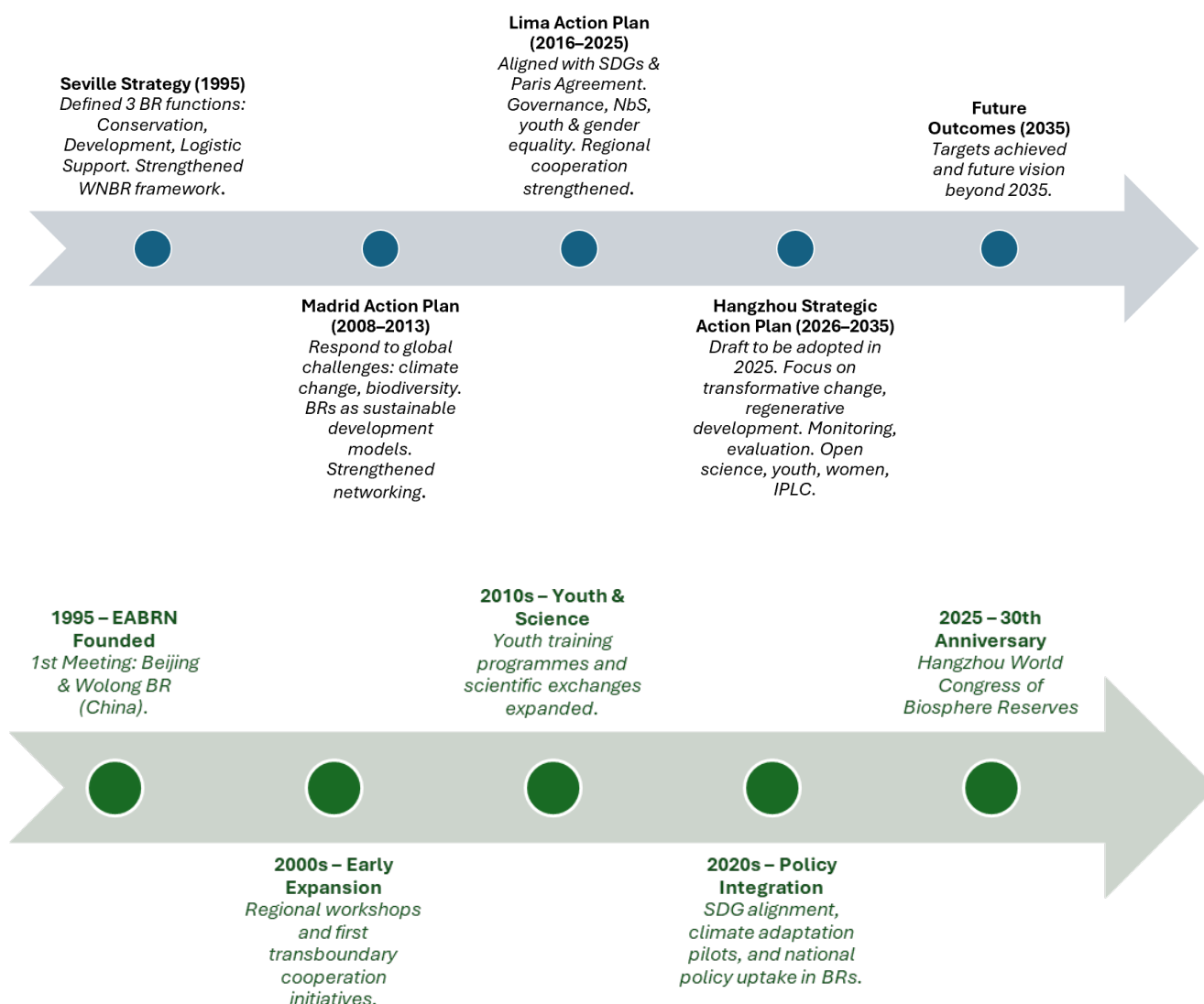
The Madrid Action Plan positioned biosphere reserves as front-line tools for addressing climate change, biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, and global cooperation. EABRN's contributions as the "Implementation of MAB's Seville Strategy and Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves" was the main theme of the 11th EABRN meeting with discussion on future activities which would include eco-tourism models, advancing research and education through trainings, and strengthening regional/transboundary cooperation.

2015 Lima Action Plan-Regional Workshop at the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (Lima, Peru, March 2016)

The Lima Action Plan (2016–2025) made biosphere reserves central to achieving the SDGs, climate commitments, and sustainable development agendas. EABRN's role during this period could be summarized as:

- Policy bridge: integrating BRs into East Asian biodiversity, water, and development policies.
- Living labs: piloting NbS, eco-tourism, and sustainable livelihoods in culturally and ecologically diverse BRs.
- Capacity engine: training youth, researchers, and managers across the region.
- Networking hub: fostering East Asian cooperation, with potential for pioneering transboundary BRs.

The EABRN workshop, held during the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and chaired by Prof. Toshio Iwakuma of Japan, gathered representatives from all seven member countries for the first time since 2013. Over 50 participants attended, including members from across the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Mr. Choi Jongwon of the Republic of Korea gave a keynote reflecting on the network's 20-year history and future direction under the Lima Action Plan. Representatives from China, DPR Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russia shared key achievements or challenges from their Biosphere Reserves. Participants also exchanged local products from their reserves.



This timeline illustrates the evolution of UNESCO's MAB strategies—from the Seville Strategy (1995) to the upcoming draft Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan (2026–2035)—and the parallel milestones of the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN), highlighting its contributions in conservation, sustainable development, capacity building, and regional cooperation.

Asia Pacific Biosphere Reserves Network (APBRN) Strategic Meeting

From 2013 to 2016, APBRN meetings served as key platforms for shaping regional strategies for implementing the MAB Programme and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 1st meeting in Hanoi (2013) evaluated achievements under the Madrid Action Plan and explored integration of sustainability science, with EABRN engaging through regional exchange. The 2nd meeting in Siem Reap (2014) emphasized poverty alleviation via ecosystem services, ecotourism, and sustainability science, where EABRN members contributed national case studies. The 3rd meeting in Bali (2016) focused on implementing the Lima Action Plan and enhancing inter-programme synergies. EABRN highlighted its field evaluations, capacity-building activities, and joint research efforts. EABRN's consistent participation reinforced its leadership role in regional coordination, advancing site-to-site cooperation, and promoting youth involvement and transboundary dialogue.



1st APBRnet meeting 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam



2nd APBRNet meeting 2014, Siem Reap, Cambodia



3rd APBRN meeting in 2016 in conjunction with the regional science retreat "Fostering Collaboration between UNESCO in the Field and Networks towards the Agenda 2030" in Bali, Indonesia.

MAB Youth Forums (Global 2019, Asia Pacific, 2023)



2019 Global MAB Youth Forum (Changbaishan BR, China):

Hosted at an EABRN member site, this global forum engaged youth from 82 countries under the theme “Committed to Biodiversity.” EABRN facilitated participation of youth from its member countries—China, Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea—by coordinating nominations and ensuring regional perspectives were reflected in the final recommendations. The forum’s outcomes fed into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and MAB youth engagement strategies.



2023 Asia-Pacific MAB Youth Forum (Xingkai Lake BR, China):

Held at Xingkai Lake BR in Heilongjiang Province, this first regional forum brought together ~150 youth from 27 countries. With EABRN support, East Asian youth delegates actively shaped the Xingkai Lake Declaration and launched the Transboundary Ecosystem Conservation, Climate Change & Food Security Initiative (TEC₃FSI). EABRN coordinated country inputs and supported continued engagement across its network.

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

EABRN mandate aligns closely with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration by advancing ecological restoration in forests, wetlands, mountains, and coastal ecosystems. Through capacity-building workshops, youth training, scientific exchange, and demonstration projects, EABRN supports nature-based solutions, restores degraded landscapes, and strengthens community resilience. By connecting biosphere reserves across East Asia, EABRN contributes practical models that inspire regional and global action towards restoring ecosystems and achieving the SDGs.

Guidelines on Ecotourism Development and Management in EABRN

The EABRN Secretariat issued regional ecotourism guidelines for sustainable tourism in biosphere reserves, focusing on eco-friendly infrastructure, accommodation, eco-labelling, territorial branding of local products, scientific monitoring of visitor carrying capacity, and mitigation of potential negative impacts. The draft guidelines prepared by DPRK have been distributed to all members and the Mongolian version of the **Guidelines on Ecotourism Development and Management** in East Asian Biosphere Reserves was released on 24 June 2022.

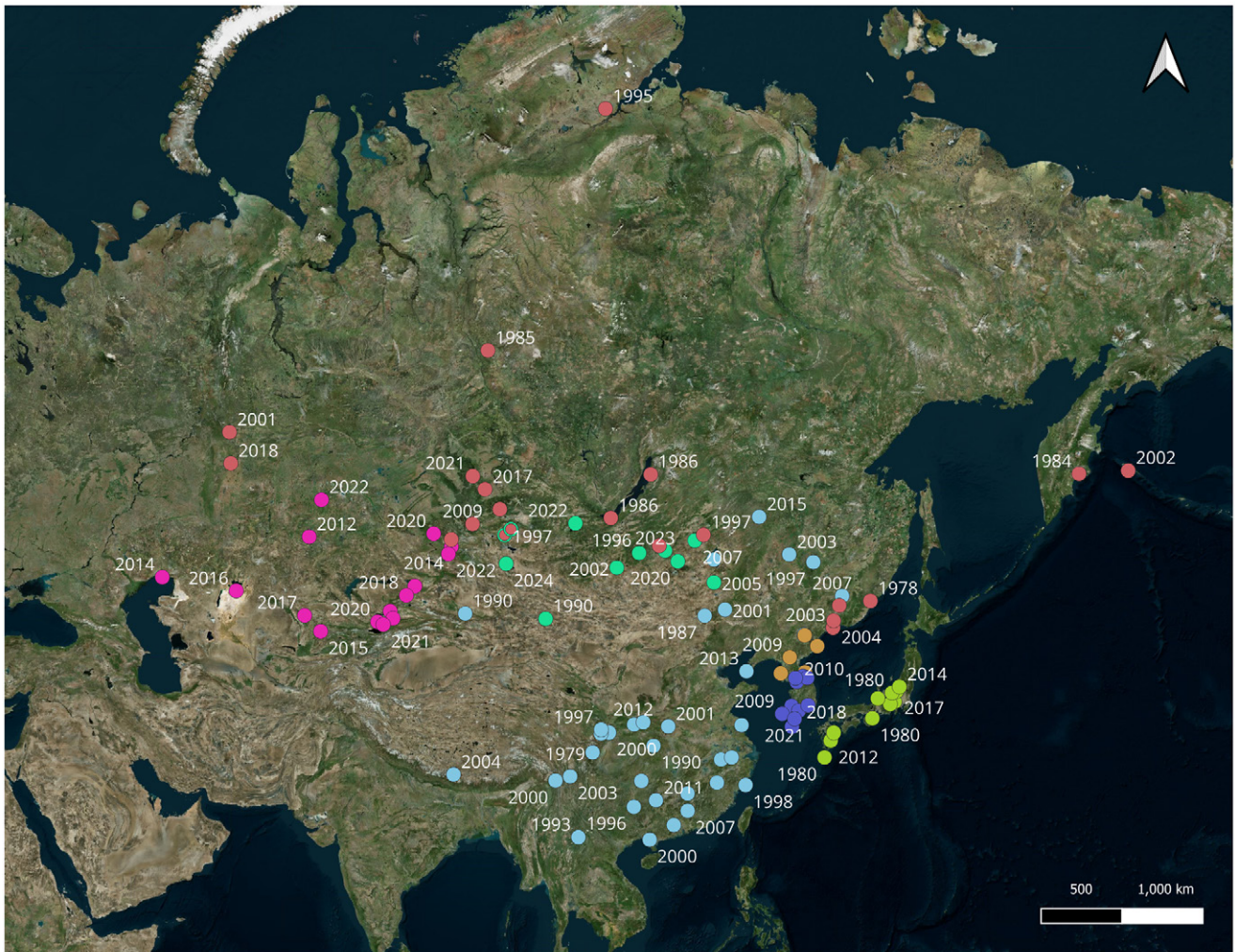
Post-2023 MAB Youth Forum: Advancing Youth Empowerment in Ecosystem Conservation (July 2024, Xingkai Lake BR)

UNESCO Beijing and the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences co-organised a special side event, “Post-2023 MAB Youth Forum”, at the 6th International Conference on Resources, Environment and Regional Sustainable Development in Northeast Asia, the 4th International Conference on Black Soil Conservation and Utilization. This event is a significant follow-up to the First Regional Youth Forum for Asia and the Pacific for Man and the Biosphere (MAB) 2023, which continued the discussions on ecosystem conservation, biodiversity, and food security emphasising the critical role of youth in these areas. It also promoted the implementation of the three outcomes from the 2023 Forum: the Xingkai Lake Declaration, the International Young Professional Network for Biodiversity Conservation and Food Security, and the Transboundary Ecosystem Conservation, Climate Change and Food Security Initiative.

Diverse Landscapes, Shared Vision: Member Biosphere Reserves

EABRN connects more than 100 biosphere reserves across seven countries, representing one of the world's most ecologically and culturally diverse subregional collaborations. These reserves serve as living laboratories for sustainability—integrating science, traditional knowledge, and local innovation.

Regional Distribution Map



A full-page map here would visualize the distribution of EABRN's biosphere reserves across the seven member states. Suggested visual elements:

- Color-coded markers by country, highlighting the location of each reserve
- Labels for reserve names
- Reserve Profiles: Quick Facts (Size, Ecosystem Type, Year Designated)

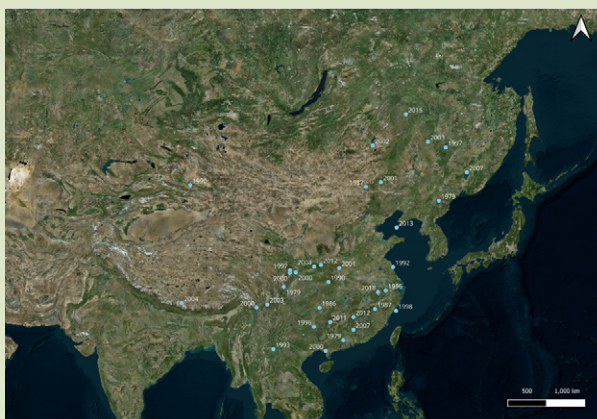
Directory of EABRN Reserves

(alphabetically by Country, as of 2024)

Country	EABRN-Relevant BRs	Remarks
China	34	Largest BR system in Asia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	5	Mountain and forest ecosystems
Japan	10	Mountain, satoyama & island systems
Kazakhstan	15	Mountain-steppe BRs, incl. transboundary
Mongolia	11	Steppe, riverine, rewilding focus
Republic of Korea	10	Mountains, Island, coastal & inland wetlands
Russian Federation	22	Focus on Eastern, Pacific & transboundary reserves

China

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1. Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve
2. Dinghushan Biosphere Reserve
3. Wolong Biosphere Reserve
4. Fanjingshan Biosphere Reserve
5. Xilin Gol Biosphere Reserve
6. Wuyishan Biosphere Reserve
7. Bogeda Biosphere Reserve
8. Shennongjia Biosphere Reserve
9. Yancheng Biosphere Reserve
10. Xishuangbanna Biosphere Reserve
11. Maolan Biosphere Reserve
12. Tianmushan Biosphere Reserve
13. Fenglin Biosphere Reserve
14. Jiuzhaigou Valley Biosphere Reserve
15. Nanji Islands Biosphere Reserve
16. Shankou Mangrove Biosphere Reserve
17. Baishuijiang Biosphere Reserve
18. Gaoligong Mountain Biosphere Reserve
19. Huanglong Biosphere Reserve
20. Baotianman Biosphere Reserve
21. Saihan Wula Biosphere Reserve
22. Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve
23. Wudalianchi Biosphere Reserve
24. Yading Biosphere Reserve
25. Foping Biosphere Reserve
26. Qomolangma Biosphere Reserve
27. Chebaling Biosphere Reserve
28. Xingkai Lake Biosphere Reserve
29. Mao'er Moutian Biosphere Reserve
30. Jinggangshan Biosphere Reserve
31. Niubeiliang Biosphere Reserve
32. Snake Island, Laotie Mountain Biosphere Reserve
33. Hanma Biosphere Reserve
34. Mount Huangshan Biosphere Reserve

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Ri Song Uk

Chairman

Vice president

State Academy of Sciences (SAOS)

DPR Korea



1. Mount Paekdu Biosphere Reserve
2. Mount Kuwol Biosphere Reserve
3. Mount Myohyang Biosphere Reserve
4. Mount Chilbo Biosphere Reserve
5. Mount Kumgang Biosphere Reserve

Japan

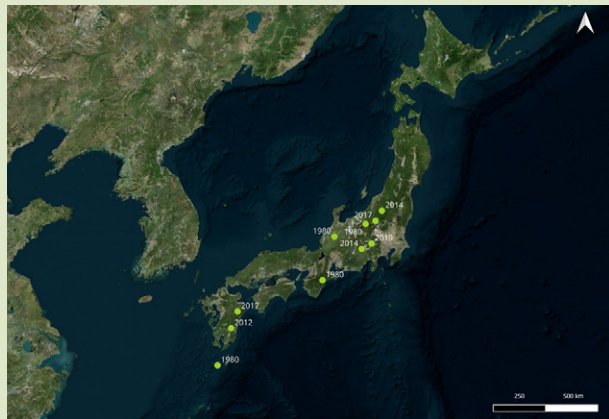
President of the MAB National Committee
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WATANABE Tsunao

Chair

Executive Coordinator, Japan Wildlife
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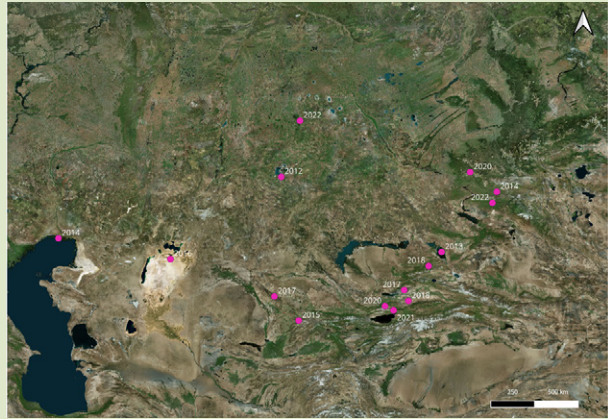
Member of the Japanese National
Commission for UNESCO



1. Mount Hakusan Biosphere Reserve
2. Mount Odaigahara, Mount Omine and Osugidani Biosphere Reserve
3. Shiga Highland Biosphere Reserve
4. Yakushima and Kuchinoerabu Jima Biosphere Reserve
5. Aya Biosphere Reserve
6. Minami-Alps Biosphere Reserve
7. Tadami Biosphere Reserve
8. Minakami Biosphere Reserve
9. Sobo, Katamuki and Okue Biosphere Reserve
10. Kobushi Biosphere Reserve

Kazakhstan

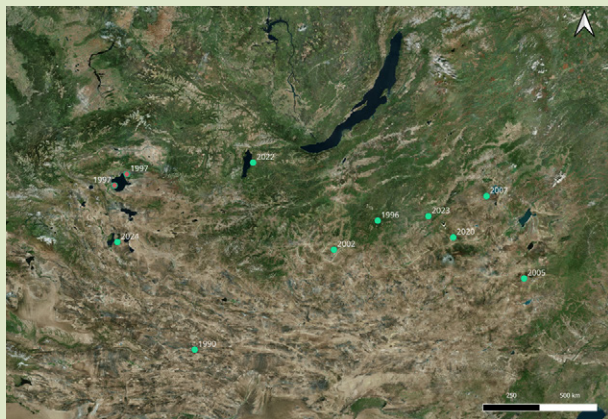
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1. Korgalzhyn Biosphere Reserve
2. Alakol Biosphere Reserve
3. Ak-Zhayik Biosphere Reserve
4. Aksu-Zhabagly Biosphere Reserve
5. Barsakelmes Biosphere Reserve
6. Altyn Emel Biosphere Reserve
7. Karatau Biosphere Reserve
8. Charyn Biosphere Reserve
9. Zhongar Biosphere Reserve
10. Markakol Biosphere Reserve
11. Burabay Biosphere Reserve
12. Kolsai Kolderi Biosphere Reserve
13. West Altai Biosphere Reserve
14. Almaty Biosphere Reserve
15. Katon-Karagay Biosphere Reserve

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1. Great Gobi Biosphere Reserve
2. Bogd Khan Uul Biosphere Reserve
- 3.Uvs Nuur Basin Biosphere Reserve
4. Hustai Nuruu Biosphere Reserve
5. Dornod Mongol Biosphere Reserve
6. Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve

7. Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve
8. Onon Balj Biosphere Reserve
9. Khuvsgul Lake Biosphere Reserve
10. Toson-Khulstai Biosphere Reserve
11. Ubsunorskaya Kotlovina Biosphere Reserve

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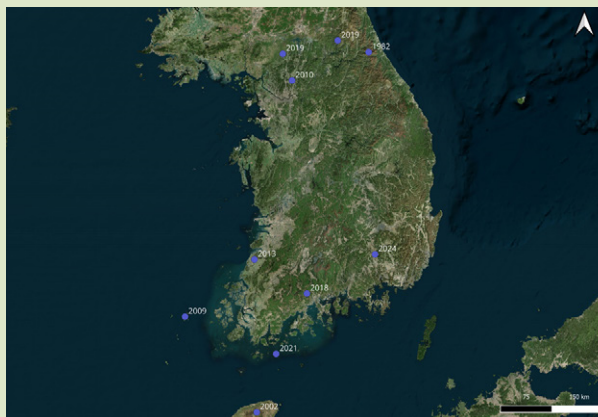
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1. Mount Sorak Biosphere Reserve
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3. Shinan Dadohae Biosphere Reserve
4. Gwangneung Forest Biosphere Reserve
5. Gochang Biosphere Reserve

6. Suncheon Biosphere Reserve
7. Gangwon Eco-Peace Biosphere Reserve
8. Yeoncheon Imjin River Biosphere Reserve
9. Wando Archipelago Biosphere Reserve
10. Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve

Russian Federation

Focal point for biosphere reserves

Dr Valery M. Neronov

Secretariat of the Russian MAB

National Committee

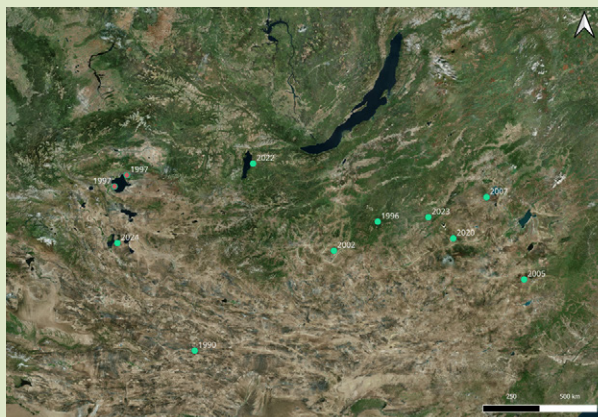
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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Reserve | 12. Far East Marine Biosphere Reserve |
| 2. Tzentralsibirskii Biosphere Reserve | 13. Kedrovaya Pad Biosphere Reserve |
| 3. Kronotskiy Biosphere Reserve | 14. Khankaiskiy Biosphere Reserve |
| 4. Sayano-Shushenskiy Biosphere Reserve | 15. Altaisky Biosphere Reserve |
| 5. Sokhondinskiy Biosphere Reserve | 16. Khakassky Biosphere Reserve |
| 6. Baikalskiy Biosphere Reserve | 17. Mountainous Urals Biosphere Reserve |
| 7. Taimyrsky Biosphere Reserve | 18. Kuznetsky Alatau Biosphere Reserve |
| 8. Ubsunorskaya Kotlovina Biosphere Reserve | 19. Visimskiy Biosphere Reserve |
| 9. Daursky Biosphere Reserve | 20. Katunsky Biosphere Reserve |
| 10. Barguzinskiy Biosphere Reserve | 21. Uvs Nuur Basin Biosphere Reserve |
| 11. Commander Islands Biosphere Reserve | 22. Barguzinskiy Biosphere Reserve |

EABRN Best Practices

A. NATURE: Ecosystem Restoration & Biodiversity Protection

Bogda World Biosphere Reserve

Country: China

Theme: Vertical Zone Biodiversity, Scientific Restoration and Shared Governance

Bogda World Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1990 and located in Xinjiang, China, protects temperate mountain forests dominated by *Picea schrenkiana* and well-preserved vertical vegetation zones, along with glaciers, rivers, and lakes such as Bogda Peak Glacier and Tianchi Lake. To strengthen governance, the reserve has established a framework for biodiversity judicial protection, including a Judicial Protection Order and the creation of a Biodiversity Judicial Protection Base. It has also launched environmental monitoring and desert observation stations in collaboration with scientific institutions. Management measures include grazing bans, ecological migration programs, and traffic control to protect migratory corridors. The reserve integrates eco-tourism with community development by training local residents as guides, artisans, and conservation educators, supporting both biodiversity awareness and local livelihoods.

Chebaling World Biosphere Reserve

Country: China

Theme: Wildlife Monitoring and Environmental Education

Chebaling World Biosphere Reserve, established in 1981 and designated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve in 2007, covers 7,545 hectares of subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest with high biodiversity. Since 2018, it has served as a pilot site for China's wildlife monitoring and protection initiatives, applying technologies such as real-time sensor networks, artificial intelligence, and integrated cloud platforms. The reserve has established a full 4G/5G network and a "sky-ground" ecological monitoring system to track medium and large terrestrial animals and their habitats. In 2021, Chebaling launched a community-based environmental education initiative in partnership with Shaoguan College, creating the "Urban and Rural Youth Learning Community" to promote nature education and address inequalities in educational access by connecting youth from urban and protected areas.

Gansu Baishuijiang National Nature Reserve (Recommended for BR status)

Country: China

Theme: Panda habitat, Ecological Governance, and Biodiversity Case Model

Established in 1978, Gansu Baishuijiang National Nature Reserve covers 183,799 hectares and is one of the most pristine protected areas in China, safeguarding giant pandas, *Davidia involucrata*, and other rare and endangered species. In partnership with the Beijing Shanshui Conservation Center, the reserve has developed a community-led collective forest management model that integrates community and professional oversight. Responsibilities are assigned to individuals, management areas to households, funds are allocated at the village level, and oversight is conducted by station-level authorities. Since its full implementation in 2012, this model has improved ecological conditions, supported livelihoods, and fostered social cohesion. In 2021, the Liziba Village pilot was recognized among the "100+ Global Typical Cases of Biodiversity Conservation."

Hustai Nuruu Biosphere Reserve

Country: Mongolia

Theme: Reintroduction and Monitoring of Przewalski's Horse

Hustai Nuruu Biosphere Reserve is one of 120 protected areas in Mongolia. Its primary goal is to reintroduce the Przewalski's horse, which was once extinct in the wild, and to preserve the surrounding ecosystem. Currently, 310 Przewalski's horses roam freely in the reserve. Populations of other species—including red deer, Mongolian marmot, Mongolian gazelle, and Argali sheep—are also increasing due to effective conservation activities. In cooperation with local administrations in Altanbulag, Argalant, and Bayankhangai soums, the reserve supports local livelihoods by providing soft loans for income-generating activities other than livestock husbandry, helping reduce grazing pressure on pastures.



Mt. Myohyang Biosphere Reserve

Country: Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Theme: Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Education

Mt. Myohyang Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2009, is recognized for its unique landforms, diverse biodiversity, and rich cultural heritage. The reserve implements regular investigations of endangered and rare species, natural landscapes, and monuments, in line with national conservation plans. Cutting of trees is prohibited in the core and buffer zones, and afforestation activities are carried out under national greening and ecosystem restoration programs. Youth and children participate in seasonal conservation campaigns and environmental education activities. The reserve has also cooperated with UNESCO through the development of educational materials and research projects, including the publication of nature study resources and a study awarded under the MAB Young Scientist Programme. These initiatives contribute to biodiversity protection, community engagement, and strengthened cooperation with UNESCO.

Onon-Balj Biosphere Reserve

Country: Mongolia

Theme: Local Ecosystem Regeneration and Cross-Border Dialogue

Onon-Balj National Park aims to serve as a model where nature and people coexist by preserving favorable habitats for forest, water, and wetland species. The area has been designated as a core zone within a historical travel corridor and is managed to international standards to protect its original natural resources. Conservation outcomes have been strengthened through local citizen cooperation, as communities respect regulations and actively support nature protection. The park also maintains cross-border collaboration with Russia's Sokhond Nature Reserve and has achieved notable ecosystem regeneration as a result of effective conservation measures.



B. People: Community, Livelihood & Culture

Aya Biosphere Reserve

Country: Japan

Theme: Forestry & Native Vegetation, and Sustainable Agriculture

Aya Biosphere Reserve, located near the northern limit of East Asia's evergreen broad-leaved forest zone, is one of Japan's largest natural forest areas and supports many native species. In Aya Town, local residents engage in sustainable agriculture and community-based development through a self-governed community center system. A notable initiative is the development of a "Satoyama Ecological Forest" project, transforming 6 hectares of artificial *Cryptomeria japonica* plantations into native broad-leaved forests. This effort supports biodiversity, improves pollination for local citrus varieties like Hyuganatsumikan, and reduces reliance on pesticide-sensitive European honeybees. The project is also designed to promote environmental education, eco-tourism, and local industries in cooperation with businesses and community members.



Mount Huangshan Biosphere Reserve

Country: China

Theme: Eco-Cultural Management for Tourism and Conservation

Mount Huangshan Biosphere Reserve, located in Anhui Province, China, covers 42,558 hectares across the scenic area, 12 administrative villages, and one state-owned forest farm. Identified as one of China's 35 biodiversity priority areas and a global biodiversity distribution center, the reserve promotes a sustainable development model focused on minimizing environmental impact and integrating community participation. Adhering to principles of ecological protection, the site has maintained zero forest fires for 45 consecutive years and achieved a forest coverage rate of 90.51%. Conservation actions have led to the discovery of two new mammal species and eight new fungi species. Key measures include reducing peak tourist capacity from 50,000 to 40,000, investing over 70 million yuan in sewage treatment upgrades, and implementing a closed rotation protection system for scenic spots. Through the "Huangshan Natural Time" and "Huangshan Natural Lecture" programs, 78 nature education events have reached nearly 220,000 participants, particularly youth, linking biodiversity protection with public education and local development.

Mt. Paektu Biosphere Reserve

Country: Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Theme: Sustainable Cultural Tourism in a Heritage Landscape

Mt. Paektu, designated as the first UNESCO biosphere reserve in the DPRK in 1989, spans 132,000 hectares and includes Janggun Peak—the highest mountain in the country. With its unique alpine and forest ecosystems, the reserve is home to 1,261 species of seed plants and 286 species of vertebrates, including globally rare species such as *Panthera tigris* and *Rheum coreanum*. As a site of national cultural importance, Mt. Paektu has become a focal point for sustainable tourism. Samjiyon City, located within the reserve, has been developed as a model mountain city with modern infrastructure, eco-tourism services, and cultural and public facilities. Sightseeing paths, interpretive signage, and educational exhibitions promote public understanding of the region's biodiversity and volcanic landscape. The integration of nature conservation with tourism, culture, and local development reflects a strategic approach to sustainable mountain city planning.

Tadami Biosphere Reserve

Country: Japan

Theme: Biosphere Branding, Traditional Culture, and Community Economy

Tadami Biosphere Reserve, located in the mountainous and high-snowfall region of western Fukushima Prefecture, is characterized by unique biodiversity and traditional lifestyles shaped by its heavy snow environment. As part of its biosphere reserve activities, Tadami Town launched a branding initiative certifying 34 traditional products made from local natural resources, agricultural goods, and traditional techniques. These include silver vine weaving, honey from native plants, beech-dyed textiles, handcrafted chopsticks, and cotton balls made from *Osmunda japonica*. Produced by 24 local businesses—including elderly-operated workshops—these products support the local economy, promote environmental awareness, and help preserve cultural heritage rooted in sustainable use of natural resources.



Yeoncheon Imjin River Biosphere Reserve

Country: Republic of Korea

Theme: Ecological Citizenship and Community Science

Yeoncheon has implemented a variety of citizen-led awareness and Yeoncheon Imjin River Biosphere Reserve, located in northern Republic of Korea, encompasses the entire Yeoncheon County excluding the DMZ and overlaps with the Hantangang UNESCO Global Geopark. The region includes vital wetland, river, and forest ecosystems that support species such as



cranes, scaly-sided mergansers, cyprinid fish, and water spiders. Since 2021, Yeoncheon has partnered with Birds Korea to monitor bird populations along the Imjin and Hantan Rivers, leading to its designation as an East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network Site in 2024. In collaboration with local citizens, the reserve has developed an education program to train community members as citizen scientists, some of whom have established a Yeoncheon branch of Birds Korea and manage local BioBlitz activities. These programs, supported by the MAB National Committee, have engaged children, teachers, and public servants in habitat-focused biodiversity education and fostered broader understanding of the region's ecological value.

C. Systems: Policy, Governance & Partnerships

Commander Islands Biosphere Reserve

Country: Russian Federation

Theme: Island-Wide Waste Management and Responsible Consumption

The Commander Islands Biosphere Reserve spans over 3.6 million hectares, including Bering and Medny Islands and a surrounding 30-mile marine area in the northwestern Pacific. As the peaks of an underwater volcanic ridge adjacent to the 7,000-meter-deep Aleutian Trench, the islands support a unique mix of flora and fauna shaped by extreme marine and climatic conditions. Based in Nikolskoye Village, the reserve functions as a research and education hub, having collected and analyzed ecological data for over 30 years. Through the Green Commander Islands project, the reserve addresses hazardous waste such as fishing gear, plastics, batteries, and lamps. A central feature of the project is the “Anti-Waste Museum,” a creative space where community members can exchange usable items like clothing and learn about responsible consumption. Educational events, film screenings, lectures, and recycling workshops further support awareness of the global waste crisis and promote sustainable behavior among residents.



Great Altay Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

Country: Russian Federation and Republic of Kazakhstan

Theme: Monitoring of biodiversity in the transboundary zone

Transboundary Biosphere Reserve “Great Altay” is located in the Altai mountains, shared by Russia, Kazakhstan, China and Mongolia. Its relatively intact area is covered by the mosaic of ecosystems, including boreal taiga forests, steppes, alpine meadows and the highest peak of the Altai (4506 m asl). Highlands of the TBR is the largest centre of the modern glaciation in Siberia. TBR is the home for globally endangered species such as the Snow leopard and others. For coordinating conservation efforts and development of



the transboundary ecotourism, the TBR was established jointly by Russia and Kazakhstan in 2017 thus piloting establishment of the 4-lateral transboundary conservation area in the Altai.

Boreal forest and meadows ecosystems of the TBR “Great Altay”, as well as habitats of some flagship mammals, are artificially divided by the boundary line. Roe deer, Moose, Red deer populations are spread over two sides of the state border, and animals move daily and seasonally across it. For example, within the Russian portion only summer habitats of the Roe deer are located, while for the winter period animals move to the Kazakhstani part with less snow cover. In order to monitor biodiversity, Russian and Kazakhstani partners work together towards organization of the joint monitoring system. Common indicators describing the state of biodiversity are identified, thus providing the basis for aligning the monitoring programs. For studying migrations of animals across the national border, joint field expeditions are being organized both in Russian and Kazakhstani parts. Experts of this international team identified key migratory routes, and by using camera traps receive data on the intensity of animal migration, which are necessary for effective conservation of species within the TBR.

Moreover, some researches indicate that under climate change effective species conservation requires capacities for unimpeded migration of animals. This is especially actual for the transboundary populations. Within the TBR legal mechanisms for such migration over the state border are in place. Coupled with the monitoring activities, it provides effective adaptation solution for conservation of ungulate species under climate change.

Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve

Country: Republic of Korea

Theme: Nature-based City and Conservation-benefit sharing

Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2002 and expanded to cover the entire island and surrounding marine areas in 2019, is characterized by a unique gradient of climatic zones and rich biodiversity shaped by volcanic landforms. Under the Ecotour Village Project, local communities in villages such as Harye-ri, Hogeun-dong, Jeoji-ri, and Pyeongdae-ri have led efforts to conserve ecosystems and promote sustainable livelihoods. Since 2014, Jeju Provincial Government has supported these communities through five-year development plans, including resident training, ecotour program design, and capacity building for mostly elderly residents. Village councils play a central role in decision-making, with education programs enhancing public understanding of biosphere reserve values. Profits from ecotourism are reinvested into resident welfare and conservation, allowing communities to lead in balancing ecological protection with sustainable local development.



Uvs Lake Depression Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Uvs Nuur Basin Biosphere Reserve and Ubsunorskaya Kotlovina Biosphere Reserve)

Country: Mongolia and Russian Federation

Theme: Transboundary Ecosystem and Community-Based Conservation

The Uvs Lake Depression Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, located on the border between Mongolia and the Russian Federation, was officially designated in 2021 and is recognized as part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme. This transboundary biosphere reserve integrates both the Uvs Nuur Basin Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia) and the Ubsunorskaya Kotlovina Biosphere Reserve (Russia), which were individually designated in 1997. The reserve focuses on preserving natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and cultural heritage across two distinct biomes: the Siberian taiga and the Mongolian steppes.

The reserve is home to significant wildlife species, including the snow leopard, Argali sheep, Altay ibex, and a variety of migratory birds. Uvs Lake, the largest lake in Mongolia, serves as a vital stopover for migratory birds. Joint monitoring programs, cross-border meetings, and collaboration with local herders help ensure that eco-friendly practices are promoted and integrated into conservation decisions.

The reserve's management also emphasizes public awareness through media campaigns and eco-tourism development to highlight the area's natural values. Key strategies include developing eco-tourism routes, conducting seasonal education programs, promoting sustainable tourism, and ensuring effective waste management. These efforts aim to maintain ecological balance while fostering community engagement and promoting the long-term preservation of the region's biodiversity.

Disclaimer, Acknowledgements and Contacts

Disclaimer

This publication has been produced by the UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia in collaboration with the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN) to mark the 30th anniversary of EABRN. It is intended for informational and educational purposes and to promote knowledge-sharing among Member States, stakeholders, and the global community.

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