

Contributing reviewers, for this issue and the three volumes published (2018–2020). This list is a way of acknowledging our gratitude to our reviewers for their hard and time-consuming work and of saying thank you to them

Thomas Abeli, Arne Arnberger, Jan Bizjak, Jean-Baptiste Bosson, Peter Brang, Deniz Çelik, Yannick Chittaro, Olga Churakova, Thomas Classen, Thomas Dax, Marek Fabrika, Mareike Garms, Michael Getzner, Patrick Gros, Robert Hafner, Andreas Haller, Thomas Hammer, Walter Hödl, Agnes Jakóbbik, Hannes Jenny, Michael Jungmeier, Jan Kadlečík, Silvia Kainzinger, Hannes Kirchmeir, Reinhard Lackner, Yu-Fai Leung, Annina Michel, Dietmar Moser, Korhan Öszkan, Harald Pechlaner, Clémence Perrin-Malterre, Simon Pierce, Rosanna Piervittori, Gill Pomfret, Martin Price, Grzegorz Przydatek, Emmanuel Reynard, Francesc Romagosa-Casals, Fernando Ruiz Peyré, Robert Schabetsberger, Ingrid Schneider, Ernst Steinicke, Petra Sterl, Bernd Stöcklein, James Stewart, Erich Tasser, Eick von Ruschkowski, Jinman Wang, Felix Wöflle and the members of the editorial board of eco.mont.

New UNESCO biosphere reserves approved

The 32nd session of the International MAB Coordination Council (MAB-ICC) of UNESCO took place on 27–28 October 2020. The meeting was originally planned for June 2020 in Nigeria, but had to be postponed due to Covid-19 and was finally held as an online event. Due to the difficult conditions, the agenda had to be shortened and some decisions that would have required in-depth discussion had to be postponed until MAB-ICC 2021. Probably the most important agenda item for many countries of the MAB program's steering committee, which includes 34 countries, was certainly the announcement of the new UNESCO biosphere reserves (BRs). In total, MAB-ICC has added 25 new areas to the World Network of UNESCO BRs (WNBR; see list below). Andorra, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Luxembourg and Trinidad and Tobago join the WNBR with the designation of their first BRs. The transboundary BR *Complex W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP)*, which was formed from three existing national BRs and is now shared by the three West African countries Benin, Burkina Faso and Nigeria, certainly deserves special attention. As a result, the WNBR today consists of 714 BRs in 129 countries (including 21 transboundary BRs): Complex W-Arly-Pendjari WAP (Benin, Burkina Faso, Nigeria); Queme Lower Valley (Benin); Gishwati Mukura (Ruanda); Hadejia Nguru Bade (Nigeria); Oban (Nigeria); Okangwo (Nigeria); Fogo (Kap Verde); Maio (Kap Verde); Mwali (Komoren); Asterousia Mountain Range (Griechenland); Minett (Luxemburg); Island of Porto Santo (Portugal); Ordino (Andorra); Bunaken Tangkoko Minahasa (Indonesien); Karimunjawa-Jepara-Muria (Indonesien); Merapi Merbabu Menoreh Indonesien); Favah-mulah (Malediven); Addu Atoll (Malediven); Kologrivsky Forest (Russland); Panna (Indien); Almaty (Kasachstan); West Altai (Kasachstan); Toson-Khulstai (Mongolei); Bosques de Neblina – Selva Central (Peru) and North-East Tobago (Trinidad und Tobago).

Another important issue on the agenda was the presentation of the MAB Young Scientist Awards. From a total of 46 submissions, six awards of about USD 5000 each were awarded to young scientists:

Radisti Ayu Praptiwi, Indonesia	Understanding the impact of climate change to cultural ecosystem services in tropical marine biosphere reserve Taka Bonerate Kepulauan Selayar
Opeyemi Adeyemi, Nigeria	Assessing and mapping communities' preferences for ecosystem services in Omo Biosphere Reserve, Nigeria: an approach to enhance sustainable management of Biosphere Reserve and promote people's livelihood
Babajide Charles Falemara, Nigeria	Economic valuation of tropical tree species and soil carbon sequestration potential as ecosystem services in the context of climate change in the core, buffer and transition zones of Omo biosphere reserve
Sandra Delfin De Leon, Cuba	Farming, propagation and assisted reproduction of stony corals for the study of reef restoration in Cuba
Laure Thierry De Ville D'Avray, Philippines	The Influence of artificial reefs on fish communities and their potential socio-economic benefits. A study in Palawan Biosphere Reserve (Philippines)
Iolanda-Veronica Ganes, Rumania	Designing efficient strategies for the implementation of an ecotourism network in Sfântu Gheorghe Channel area of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

The MAB Young Scientists Awards targets young researchers, in particular those from developing countries, carrying out interdisciplinary research in line with UNESCO's MAB Programme. Through these awards, the MAB Programme is investing in a new generation of scientists worldwide because well-trained and committed young people are key to addressing ecological and sustainability issues.

Günter Köck