



WORLD NETWORK OF MOUNTAIN BIOSPHERE RESERVES

EDITORIAL

First work year of the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves

From the Joint Technical Secretariat of the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves (WNMBR), we are pleased to share with you our biannual network newsletter, in which you can review the work that has occupied us over the past months, as well as the main achievements to date.

The collaboration in the Technical Secretariat between the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (RCEES), with its strong scientific background, and the Omaña and Luna Valleys Biosphere Reserve, with its vast experience in project management under the principles of the MAB Program, aims to set an example of joint work by combining research with the development of initiatives with a positive impact on mountain ecosystems, where specific factors coexist that support the formation of this network. This alliance facilitates both the transfer of knowledge towards the management of these areas and the identification of new research lines that respond to the specific needs of mountain biosphere reserves globally.

During the first in-person meeting for WNMBR members held in Dujiangyan, Sichuan (China) from September 18 to 22 in 2023 – with more than 60 people participating, including representatives of Mountain Biosphere Reserves, experts, academics, and stakeholders from 17 countries and 5 continents – the 2023-2025 Roadmap was approved, projects from mountain reserves worldwide

were presented, and two proposals we are currently working on were introduced: an exchange program for technicians and managers and an international internship program for young researchers.

This first member meeting proved to be very interesting and enriching for the participants, as common interests among the different Biosphere Reserves were identified, and there was space to share concerns and knowledge. Thanks to this exchange of ideas, the possibility of collaborations and joint project designs between Mountain Biosphere Reserves worldwide was opened.

The WNMBR is growing and already has nearly 70 Mountain Biosphere Reserves as members to date. Currently, they are working on developing management strategies to address three well-differentiated thematic groups: biodiversity, climate change and resilience, and participation and socioeconomics.

MAIN MILESTONES OF 2024

The conservation of glaciers in mountain ecosystems

As a contribution of the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves to the International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers, to be celebrated throughout 2025, we are working on a project aimed at highlighting the importance of glaciers for the entire planet, raising awareness about their vulnerability to climate change and the effects that glacier disappearance can have on ecosystems and society. We are developing it in collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and two main actions will be carried out:

- An inventory of glaciers present in mountain biosphere reserves worldwide and their percentage of protection.
- Citizen science actions with local communities and mountain sports practitioners, and the production of audiovisual material for environmental awareness.



We hope to have some initial results to be showcased at the COP 29 on Climate Change to be held next November in Azerbaijan.

Exchange Program for Managers and Technicians

Throughout 2024-2025, a pilot project for the exchange of technicians and managers between mountain biosphere reserves belonging to the Network will be launched, with the aim of facilitating the transfer of knowledge and experience among management teams and the Network as a whole around projects of common interest. In this first phase, and to facilitate logistics, it will be carried out within the European Union. The Nockberge Biosphere Reserve (Austria) is a strong candidate to be one of the participating biosphere reserves.

We will keep you informed of the progress. If you are interested in participating in this program, please write to us at hello@mountainbiosphere.org.

Mountain Research Internship Program

The WNMBR, in collaboration with UNU-EHS and Eurac Research's Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS), will launch during the next academic year 2024-2025 an internship program for young researchers interested in contributing to the conservation, resilience, and long-term sustainability of mountain areas. It will be divided into two phases: a first phase of two months in Bolzano (Italy), the headquarters of the GLOMOS program, and a second phase of one month in a mountain biosphere reserve.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please write to us at hello@mountainbiosphere.org

Continuing to strengthen ties with UNESCO's Thematic Biosphere Reserve Networks

Following a first meeting last November 2023, the three thematic networks of UNESCO biosphere reserves - Mediterranean Network of Biosphere Reserves (MedMaB Network), World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR), and World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves (WNMBR) - continue to work to showcase the added value of each of these networks to the MaB Program, particularly with a view to the International Coordinating Council (ICC) and the upcoming MaB Program Congress 2025 (China) and define a joint work agenda for 2024 and 2025.



4th Virtual Meeting of the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves

On June 26, we held a new virtual meeting of the entire WNMBR that served to share progress and needs, as well as to hear the concerns and suggestions of members and interested parties. We will provide detailed information soon and encourage you to participate actively.

2nd In-person Meeting of the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves

We have already confirmed the date and venue of our next meeting! It will be held in the Ordino Biosphere Reserve (Andorra), from September 24 to 27. We want this meeting to be a new opportunity to grow as a Network and to bring the voice of the mountains to a global level. We are already working on a common agenda.

Participation in EuroMAB 2024

The WNMBR was present at the EuroMAB 2024 Congress, held from June 3-7 in the Elbe River Landscape Biosphere Reserve (Germany), with a workshop titled "Addressing climate change in mountain regions: science, local action and collaboration. Sharing experiences from the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves," which featured participation and collaboration from the Nockberge (Austria), Engiadina Val Müstair (Switzerland), Mount Arrowsmith (Canada), and Appennino Tosco-Emiliano (Italy) biosphere reserves. Thank you to all participants and especially to Nockberge BR for their collaboration in organizing this event!

Participation in the International Congress at the Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve

Six members of the network - Chebaling World BR, Changbail Mountain BR and RCEES from China, Champlain-Adirondack BR from the USA, Shouf BR from Lebanon and Andean Conservancy from Chile - participated in the congress "World Biosphere Reserve and Global Geopark Sustainable Development" held from June 14 to 17 at the Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve (China). A new opportunity to disseminate the work of the Network at all levels.

Cultural Giants

As you have seen, we recently sent you a questionnaire related to the Cultural Giants initiative, promoted by the Sierra de Grazalema Biosphere Reserve (Spain), which aims to collect and value the intangible cultural heritage present in our mountains, especially traditions, legends, and cultural expressions, which, like other aspects, are also at risk of extinction. So far, nearly 15 cases have been collected, but we encourage you to continue sending us your examples. We will seek the best way to give global visibility to this wealth.

Thank you very much for your collaboration!

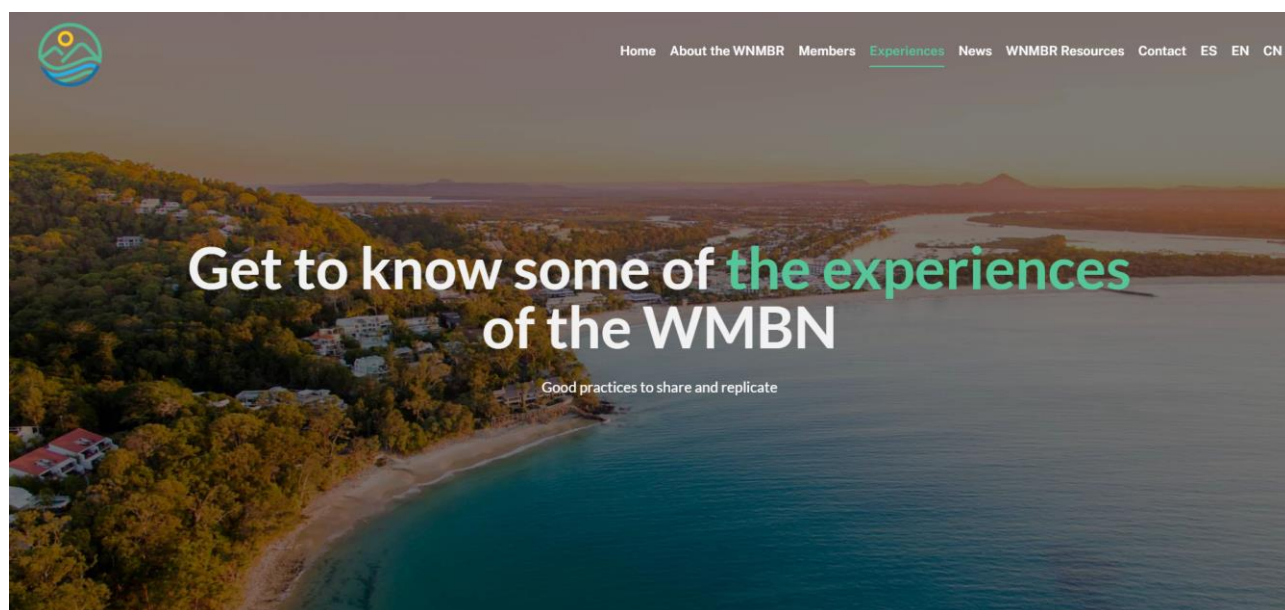
We are now 67 members

The network continues to grow and now has 67 members (we warmly welcome the new additions). However, as you know, the strength of the network depends on the number and diversity of its members, so we encourage you to continue sharing our progress and news with other biosphere reserves and entities related to the mountain field and serve as ambassadors.

If you need specific information, guidance, or concrete data, please do not hesitate to contact us at hello@mountainbiosphere.org

Experience and Best Practices Exchange Platform

In the coming months, we will enable a platform on our website, accessible only to entities associated with the WNMBR, from which you can access the best practices and inspiring experiences collected within the WNMBR, with detailed information on the most relevant aspects and direct contact with their managers.



UPCOMING EVENTS RELATED TO WNMBR

Next meeting for WNMBR members

Between September 24 and 27, network members will meet in the Ordino Biosphere Reserve (Andorra) to share the progress made to date and to plan a work agenda for the coming months. We will soon be able to share the event's agenda. Attendees will need to complete a brief [registration form](#).

Next World Biosphere Reserve Congress 2025

Next year, WNMBR members are invited to participate in the World Biosphere Reserve Congress, which will be held in Hangzhou (China). There we expect to share the advances achieved by the network to date.

JOIN THE WNMBR!



Join our mountain biosphere reserve community by filling out [this form](#)



Contact us to learn more about the membership process:
hello@mountainbiosphere.org

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MOUNTAINS IN THE NEWS 2024

For a future of Europe's mountain regions: experts meeting in Brussels

On January 11, 2024, more than 50 mountain experts, including members of the Mountain Partnership, met in Brussels to discuss the future of Europe's mountain regions and European Union (EU) policies post-2027. The workshop, organized by the MOVING project, aimed to establish strategic pathways for mountain regions until 2030, addressing economic, natural, knowledge, and innovation aspects. Isabel Carvalhais of the European Parliament and other prominent speakers emphasized the need to empower local communities and intensive collaboration for sustainable development of mountain areas.

The World Social Forum highlights climate and mountain justice

At the World Social Forum 2024 in Nepal, climate and mountain justice were highlighted in various events. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and the Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) participated in the Global Climate Justice Assembly to address how to improve the resilience of livelihoods in the mountains in the face of climate change. Rosalaura Romeo, MPS Coordinator, highlighted initiatives such as the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative and the Business Incubator and Accelerator (BIA) to support vulnerable mountain communities. Sara Manuelli, MPS Advocacy Officer, emphasized the importance of climate justice in climate action, presenting the Mountain Youth Hub. This forum, held from February 15 to 18 in

Kathmandu, provided a space to exchange ideas and strategies to address global crises such as inequality and food sovereignty.

Andean GEO Mountains Seminar: advances and challenges in mountain monitoring

From February 20 to 22, 2024, various organizations co-organized a workshop in Bogotá (Colombia) to bring together data providers and users from the Andes. The event, with 69 participants from several Andean countries and other regions, focused on sharing monitoring practices, exchanging data, and exploring collaboration opportunities. Participants highlighted existing good practices but also pointed out challenges such as lack of funding and political instability. The workshop concluded with visits to regional institutes and discussions on how to improve collaboration and resources in the region.

Discover Europe: conversations on sustainable mountains

The EU-funded MOVING project is producing a podcast series titled Conversations on Sustainable Mountains, exploring challenges and opportunities in Europe's mountain regions. From October 2023 to August 2024, this series based on MOVING's research results offers a unique window for innovation in mountain territories, making them more resilient to climate change and other threats. Experts and case studies from MOVING discuss topics such as vulnerability, value chain diversity, economic revitalization, and policy alignment, aiming to guide a sustainable future for European mountains.



Empowering women shepherds in Europe's mountain regions

Europe's mountain regions host communities deeply rooted in pastoral traditions, where women shepherds play a crucial role in maintaining local practices and fostering socio-economic development. A Consultation Day under the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) brought together more than 100 participants on March 12, 2024, online. Presentations by women shepherds, researchers, and policymakers highlighted challenges and explored strategies for their empowerment, including policy planning, networking, and income diversification.

MOVING Project Conference: driving sustainability in Europe's mountain regions

The MOVING Project Scientific Conference, held in Córdoba (Spain) from March 19 to 21, 2024, brought together experts, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore the project's scientific results and their impact on the sustainable development of European mountain regions. Organized under the EU-funded MOVING project, the event highlighted the project's achievements in revitalizing mountain economies, valuing value chains, and aligning management policies.

Focusing on Mountain Youth at the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2024

Recognizing the vital role of mountain youth in sustainable development and climate change action, the Mountain Youth Hub (MYH) organized a side event at the 2024 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum. Young people from Armenia, Argentina, Colombia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, and Nepal shared experiences and strategies on how mountain youth can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing gender equality, technology and innovation in sustainable agriculture, ecological restoration, and public policy participation. Despite challenges, young people showed strong commitment to a sustainable future for mountain communities and ecosystems worldwide.



Strengthening mountain infrastructure resilience: reflections from ICDRI 2024

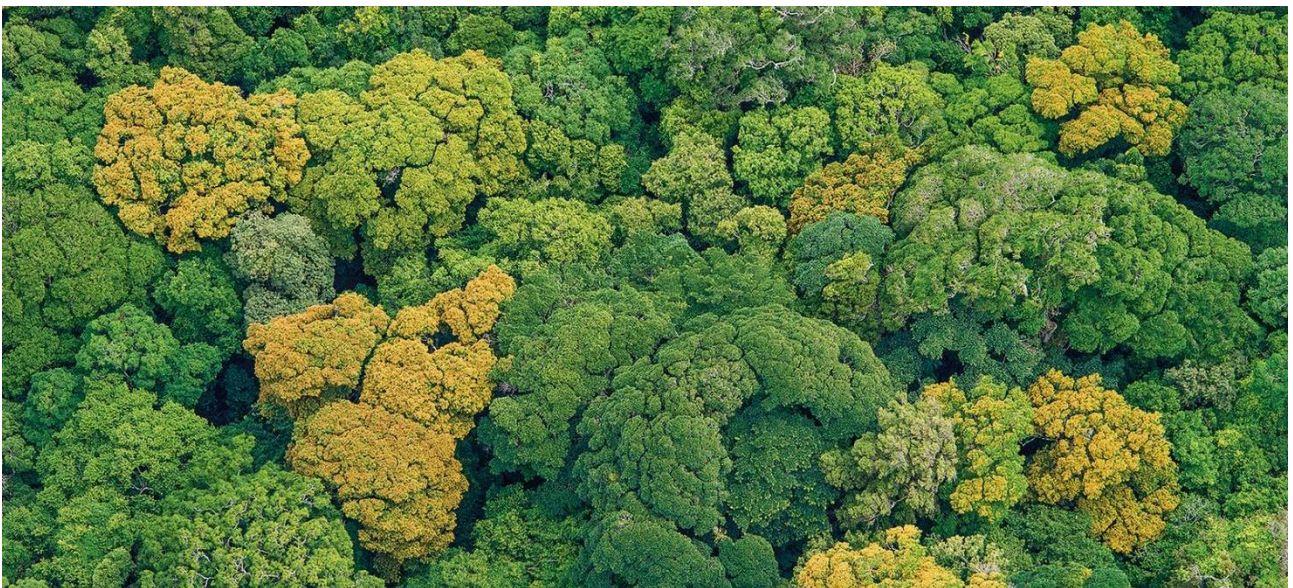
On April 24, 2024, the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) hosted a roundtable in New Delhi, India, dedicated to strengthening infrastructure resilience in mountain regions. The event brought together representatives from member countries and leading organizations to explore partnerships and collaborative actions, focusing on integrating climate and disaster resilience into infrastructure planning and capacity building.

Empowering mountain communities: measuring vulnerability in Pakistan

From May 8 to 10, 2024, in Islamabad, a workshop organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), along with the University of Rome "La Sapienza," trained participants from government agencies to measure the vulnerability levels of mountain communities in Pakistan, focusing on the threat of climate impacts as a major vulnerability factor. Participants learned to assess exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity of these communities, using standardized formulas and specific data to identify and manage risks effectively.

Strengthening mountain ecosystems: sustainable forests for a resilient global future

During the 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF19) on May 10, 2024, in New York, leaders from Kyrgyzstan, Italy, and Nepal, along with the UN Mountain Friends Group, emphasized the critical importance of mountain forests for global sustainable development. They stressed the urgent need to manage these forests sustainably to strengthen ecosystem resilience, create new economic opportunities, and support the livelihoods of mountain communities. They also called for meaningful inclusion of youth, women, and indigenous peoples to ensure innovative solutions that leave no one behind.



Mountain action: Nepal leads global climate change debate in mountains

At the international dialogue "Mountain, People and Climate Change" held in Kathmandu on May 22-23, Nepal's Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, highlighted the universal threat of climate change to mountain ecosystems and communities. Nepal, through the Mountain Partnership, brought together world leaders to promote a coordinated and urgent response to the climate challenges in the mountains.

Joining forces against climate change in the mountains: SBSTA 60 event mobilizes Mountain Partnership countries

The event "Mobilizing Mountain Partnership countries to address climate change," organized by the governments of Andorra and Kyrgyzstan along with ICIMOD, took place on June 4 during the 60th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 60) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This event highlighted the importance of strengthening political and financial support for the mountains, in preparation for the expert dialogue on mountains and climate change and the upcoming COP 29 of the UNFCCC in Azerbaijan.

Glacier preservation: international meeting in Dushanbe to discuss its importance

The International Glacier Forum, held on June 10, 2024, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, highlighted the critical role of glaciers in water supply, agriculture, industry, and energy. Organized by the Government of Tajikistan in collaboration with UNESCO, this event brought together leaders such as Tajikistan's Deputy Prime Minister, Sulaimon Ziyozoda, and UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, to launch a roadmap towards the International Year of Glacier Preservation 2025. The initiative aims to strengthen regional and international cooperation to address the climate challenges facing the cryosphere, essential for the sustainable development of mountain regions.

The MOVING project drives the future of mountain areas in the EU post-2027 agenda

The final MOVING conference, held on June 13-14, 2024, in Brussels, brought together more than 60 participants from European institutions, EU support services, stakeholders, the research community, and local actors to emphasize the crucial role of mountain areas in achieving Europe's political goals for 2030. Mar Delgado, MOVING coordinator, highlighted the continued importance of support for mountain regions. The conference included presentations on challenges and opportunities in mountain value chains, discussions on post-2027 policies, and the presentation of MOVING's Policy Roadmap, focused on improving governance, collaboration, and adaptability in these areas.



Contact:

Get in touch to learn more about the network: hello@mountainbiosphere.org