

Virtual meeting of the
**World Network of
Mountain Biosphere Reserves**

Agenda

BLOCK 1 / 13:00 - 13:50 (CET)

Welcome

1. Situation of the WNMBR today
2. Current initiatives
 - Good practices
 - Project on Conservation of glaciers
 - Cultural Giants
 - Exchange and Internship programs
3. Participation in EuroMAB 2024

BREAK

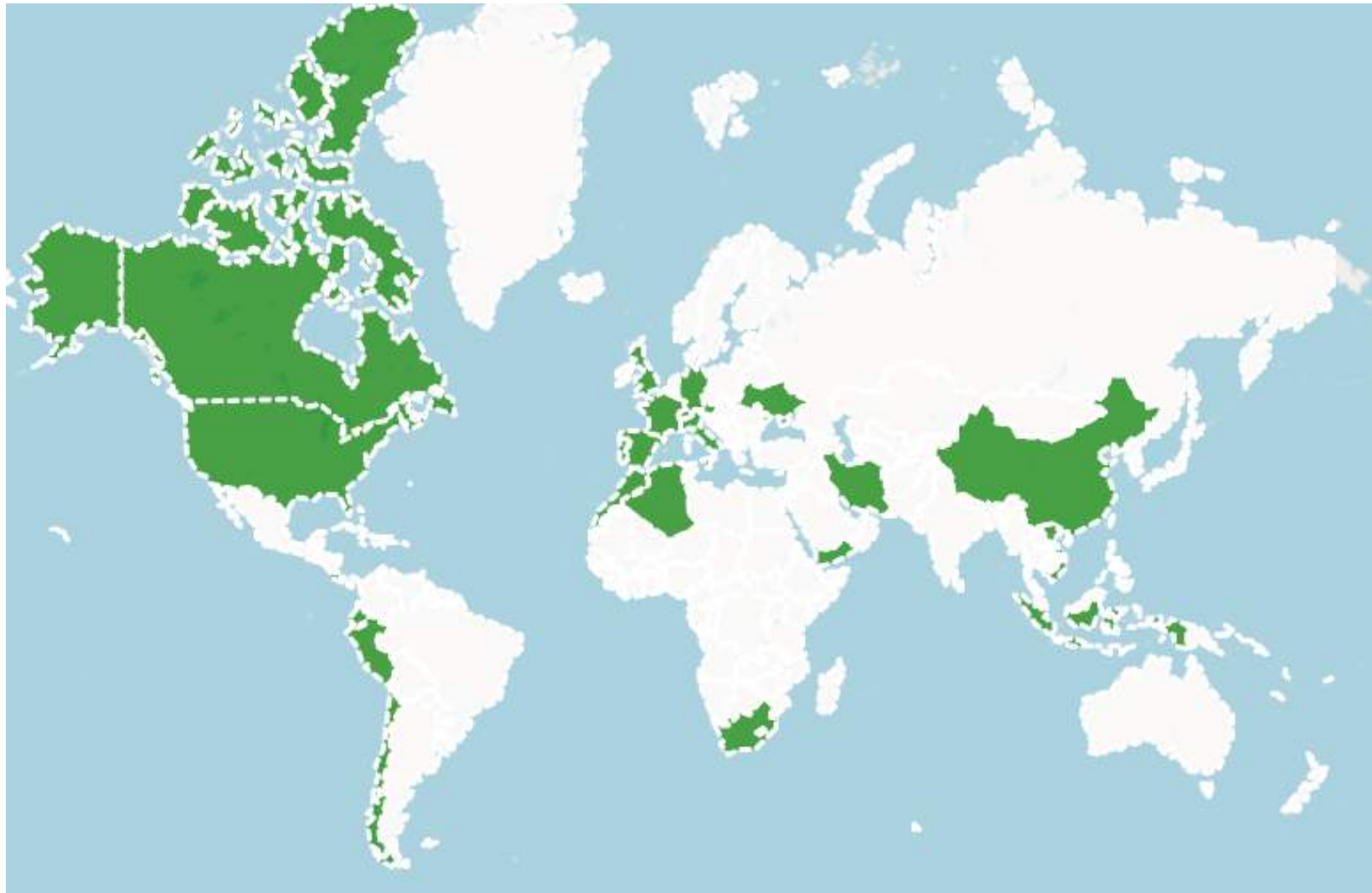
***13:50 - 14:10
(CET)***

BLOCK 2 / 14:10 - 15:00 (CET)

4. Responses to the survey: ideas for improving WNMBR
5. II Meeting in Ordino BR (Andorra)
6. Setting up a common position for 2025 MAB Congress
7. Group discussion
8. Conclusions and next steps

1. Situation of WNMBR today: Roadmap 2023-2025

67 Biosphere Reserves from 25 countries



WNMBR 2024 - Member States

- AFRICA: Morocco, Lesotho, South Africa
- ARAB COUNTRIES: Algeria, Lebanon, Yemen
- ASIA/PACIFIC: China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Viet Nam
- EUROPE: Andorra, Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK
- NORTH AMERICA: Canada, USA
- LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador/Perú

We are making good progress but we still need better geographical representation!

1. Situation of WNMBR today: Roadmap 2023-2025

Workline: Research for actionable knowledge

Planned actions:

- Share small, affordable, and creative initiatives to address global change adaptation at the local level (identification, facilitating exchange)
- Exchange tools for monitoring biodiversity and socio-economic dynamics (baseline, needs, matching)



What we've done ?

Compilation of practices through a standardized form and options for progress through an Internship Programme. The intranet will be available soon.



What do we need?

Define baselines, identify needs and indicators, match needs with resources...

1. Situation of WNMBR today: Roadmap 2023-2025

Workline:

Empowerment and engagement

Planned Actions:

- Youth education and engagement program (toolkit for social-environmental education, contests for youngsters)
- Catalog of participatory approaches (identifying best practices, shared platform on website)



What we've done ?

Compilation of good practices



What do we need?

- Enhance leadership from WNMBR members to be more proactive
- Build collaboration with environmental education institutions

1. Situation of WNMBR today: Roadmap 2023-2025

Workline:

Support of adaptive management

Planned Actions:

- Communication platform for MBR managers (forum, space for sharing best practices)
- Capacity building programme (Identifying priorities, design a capacity building programme)



What we've done ?

Intranet will be available soon (WNMBR website)



What do we need?

- Identify needs
- Develop internal and external collaboration
- Enhance leadership from members
- Define efficient tools for capacity building

2. Current initiatives: Good practices



- 16 good practices compiled in a first call
- Diversity of topics, some of them with a cross-cutting perspective
- Incorporate the criteria that define good practices (working groups)
- Next calls will address specific issues
- Need to design how to share them efficiently on the website (how to structure information, definition of guidelines, collaborative tools, webinars, search engines...)
- Other means for sharing?



2. Current initiatives: Good practices

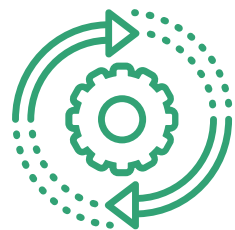
- **Tools for adapting to climate change** (Apenninno Tosco-Emiliano BR)
- **Strategic partnerships for conservation** (Changbaishan BR, Mont Viso TBR)
- **Ecosystem restoration** (Dong Nai BR, Intercontinental of the Mediterranean BR, Gerès-Xurés TBR)
- **Actionable knowledge** (Nockberge BR, Laguna Pozuelos BR)
- **Enhancement of intangible cultural patrimony** (Grazalema BR)
- **Citizen science for conservation** (La Amistad BR)
- **Enhancement of local production** (Meseta Ibérica TBR, Sierra de las Nieves BR)
- **Energy transition** (Salzburger-Lungau & Carinthian Nockberge BR)
- **Support for traditional economic activities** (Sierra del Rincón, Laguna Pozuelos BR)

2. Current initiatives: Project on Glacier's Monitoring and Conservation

MAIN GOAL

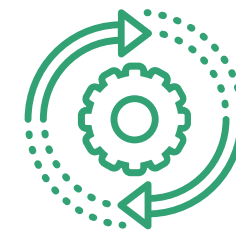
To understand the situation of glaciers in biosphere reserves and develop tools for raising awareness of their importance and encourage public participation

To contribute to the United Nation's International Year of Glacier Preservation (2025)



Phase 1:

- Inventory of glaciers in mountain biosphere reserves
- Percentage of glaciers under protection (cross-referenced with Randolph Glacier Inventory 7.0 and other geographical information layers)



Phase 2:

- Engagement with local communities and citizen science activities
- Identification of areas impacted by glacier retreat on local communities
- Compilation of audiovisual material

2. Current initiatives: Project on Glacier's Monitoring and Conservation



Possible pilot project in 3 mountain biosphere reserves

Collaborators: Marc Pons, Graham McDowell (University of Saskatchewan, Canada); James Thornton (GeoMountains-MRI)

Other potential collaborations:

- International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA), for involving mountaineers in data collection and monitoring
- Specific Apps (Strava, FatMap) for data collection and analysis

2. Current initiatives: Cultural Giants

What is it?

An initiative that aims to promote and rescue ancient celebrations, cultural manifestations, and legends of the different biosphere reserves from oblivion.

Why?

Like certain species of flora and fauna, mountains are a refuge for cultural manifestations that have been devoured by modernity in highly anthropized areas. They constitute an important part of the cultural identity of the biosphere reserves.



2. Current initiatives: Cultural Giants

How?

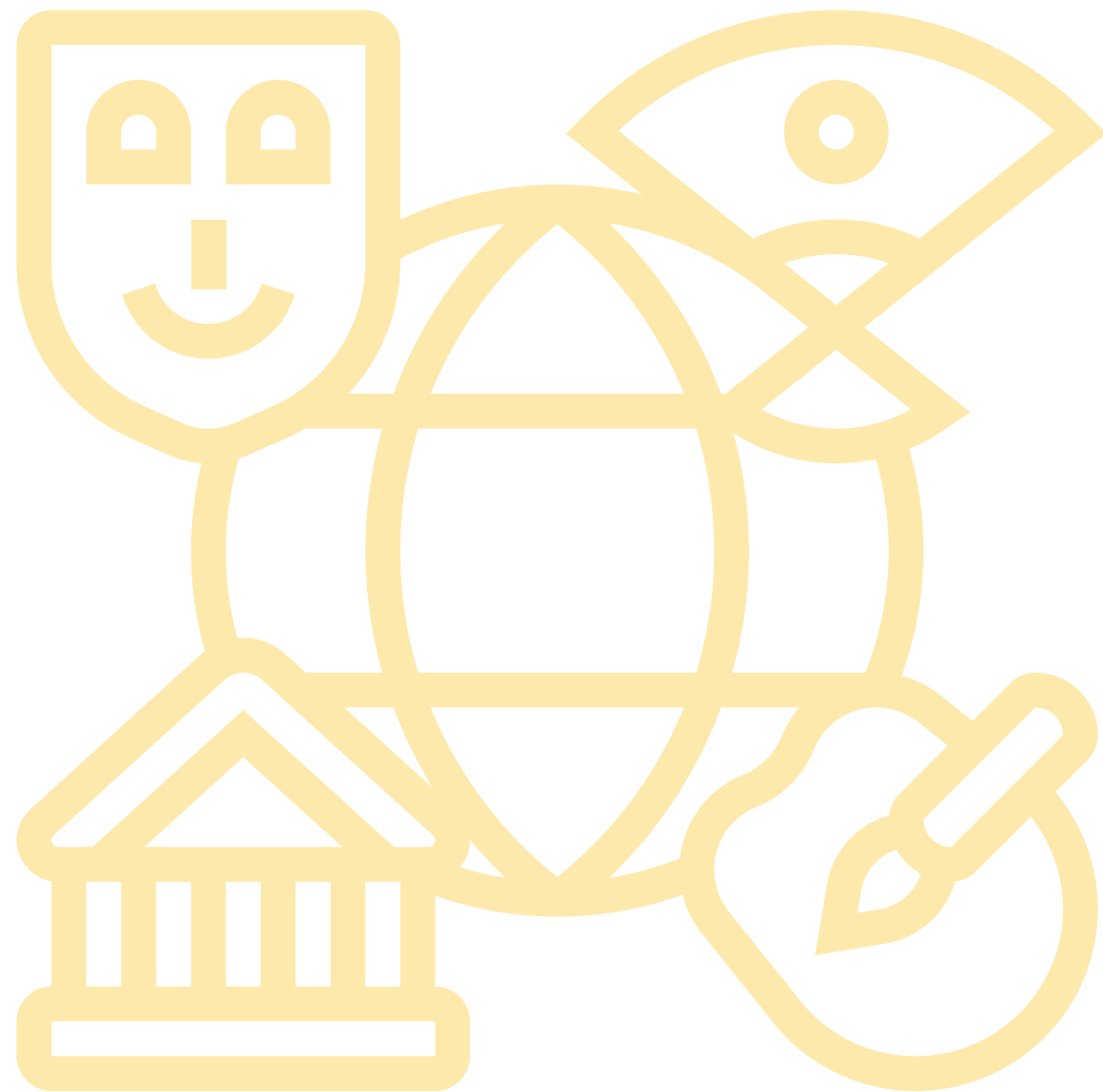
- The WNMBR Secretariat, in collaboration with Sierra de Grazalema BR, has created a template that each reserve can use to spread their **cultural manifestations**.
- The main goal is to create publications that will be available in both paper and digital formats.

An example: La Crujía del Gamón

A festivity that was traditionally spread throughout Mediterranean countries, but today is only preserved in this biosphere reserve and Corsica. It involves exploding the seeds of a plant (*Asphodelus* sp.), which eventually pop when heated. Originally, the goal was to scare off wild animals or invading troops.



2. Current initiatives: Cultural Giants



So far...

- We have received 16 cultural manifestations
- 6 different countries have participated
- Representing 3 different continents

We encourage all biosphere reserves to participate with unique cultural manifestations from their region!

2. Current initiatives: UNU-WNMBR Internship program

MAIN GOAL

To connect the interest of early career researchers in mountain social-ecosystems with the need of mountain biosphere reserves to access research expertise for knowledge integration into policies and practices.

SECONDARY GOALS

- Provide interns with practical experience in conducting research in an MBR
- Foster inter- and trans-disciplinary collaboration among interns and professionals
- Create links between research and management, fostering actionable knowledge
- Promote awareness through community engagement activities
- Enhance interns' scientific communication and analytical skills
- Inspire and empower interns to become advocates for sustainability and conservation in mountain regions

2. Current initiatives: UNU-WNMBR Internship program

STRUCTURE

- A 2-month stay in the context of the GLOMOS program in Bolzano (Italy), under EURAC's assistance
- A 1-month stay in an MBR for an intensive field experience aligned with the BR priorities and needs
- Program completion upon redaction of a report of results for the MBR and the WNMBR



The program is being developed in collaboration with the Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS) program of UNU-EHS.

2. Current initiatives: UNU-WNMBR Internship program

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (DRAFT)

- September 2024: Launching and communication to potential candidates (young researchers and WNMBR members)
- September-December 2024: Recruitment of potential MBRs and students, matching of interests and needs (specified by MBRs). Specific workshops would be organized.
- 2025: Internships
- A maximum of 2-3 young researchers would be admitted in this pilot phase
- UNESCO will support this program with 3000 €

2. Current initiatives: WNMBR Exchange Program

MAIN GOAL

To facilitate the exchange and spread of good knowledge and experience between MBR in relation to specific projects that are of the common interest to the participants

SECONDARY GOALS

- Innovation and problem-solving
- Capacity building
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Collaboration and partnership
- Cultural understanding and tolerance
- Continuous improvement & adaptation
- Policy & decision-making
- Resilience and adaptation
- Enhancing education and research

2. Current initiatives: WNMBR Exchange Program

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (DRAFT)

September 2024: Launch of the program. A questionnaire will be sent to biosphere reserves to assess their interest in participating, their priorities and current projects, and their capacity to host interested managers or technicians.

October-December 2024: Analysis of responses and matching of interests. Final selection of candidates.

2025: Stays by the selected persons in the biosphere reserves participating in the program (EU context in this pilot phase)

2. Current initiatives: WNMBR Exchange Program

- Participants in the programme receive financial support for travel costs, accommodation and meals. In addition, training courses and workshops are offered to prepare participants for their tasks and promote the exchange of knowledge.
- During and after completion of the project, participants will be required to submit regular reports on the progress and results of their project.
- A final evaluation ensures that the objectives of the project have been achieved and identifies possible improvements for future programmes.

UNESCO will support this program with 3000 €

2. Current initiatives: Changbaisan International Congress

“The “World Biosphere Reserve and Global Geopark Sustainable Development Conference” was held in Changbai Mountain World Biosphere Reserve from June 14 to 17. About 30 people attended the conference, including 181 in person and more than 120 online.



2. Current initiatives: Changbaisan International Congress

A total of **six WNMBR members** gave presentations, including:

- China (3): Xu Weihua from RCEES, Chebaling World Biosphere Reserve, and Changbai Mountain Reserve
- United States (1): Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Reserve
- Lebanon (1): Shouf Biosphere Reserve
- Chile (1): Andean Conservancy

We regret that several network members canceled their participation in the workshop due to financial policy reasons (cancellation of sponsorship for international transportation). We look forward to many future opportunities to meet and discuss the sustainable development of the mountains.

2. Current initiatives: Changbaisan International Congress



3. Current initiatives: Participation in EUROMAB 2024

- Participation with the organization of a **workshop** entitled "**Addressing climate change in mountain regions: science, local action and collaboration. Sharing experiences from the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves**"
- Co-chaired by the WNMBR and Nockberge Biosphere Reserve
- With the assistance of more than 20 people and the collaboration of 4 WNMBR members
- A series of recommendations for MBR were made
- Also contributing to the document of recommendations towards the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves 2025 that came out of this event

3. Current initiatives: Participation in EUROMAB 2024

- **Presentations:**

- **Selina Strasser** (Nockberge BR, Austria): Examples of local action and cooperation (SCiENCE_LINK and SHARED GREEN DEAL)
- **Pam Shaw** (Mount Arrowsmith BR, Canada): Presentation of three projects currently underway that focus on data acquisition that will assist in addressing the climate crisis.
- **Angelika Abderhalden** (Engiadina Val Müstair BR, Switzerland): Long-term research on springs and brooks
- **Enrico Fortin** (Apennino Tosco-Emiliano BR, Italy): Sustainability Credits: an instrument to remunerate the local forest management adaptation to the challenge of climate change

3. Current initiatives: Participation in EUROMAB 2024



EuroMAB 2024

3-7 June
Elbe River Landscape

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves
for Sustainable Futures

Climate for Change

BREAK

**We will be back at
14:10 (CET)**

4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

People from
17
countries
have answered the
survey



**World Network of
Mountain Biosphere
Reserves**

The survey aimed to gather member insights on improving communication, collaboration, and project priorities. It focused on enhancing member engagement, developing features for a new website, and identifying future projects. The results will guide strategic planning and elevate the network's global presence in conservation efforts.

44
Answers
in total

Main proposals/concerns

- Training and Webinars:
- Communication Platforms:
- Project Collaboration:

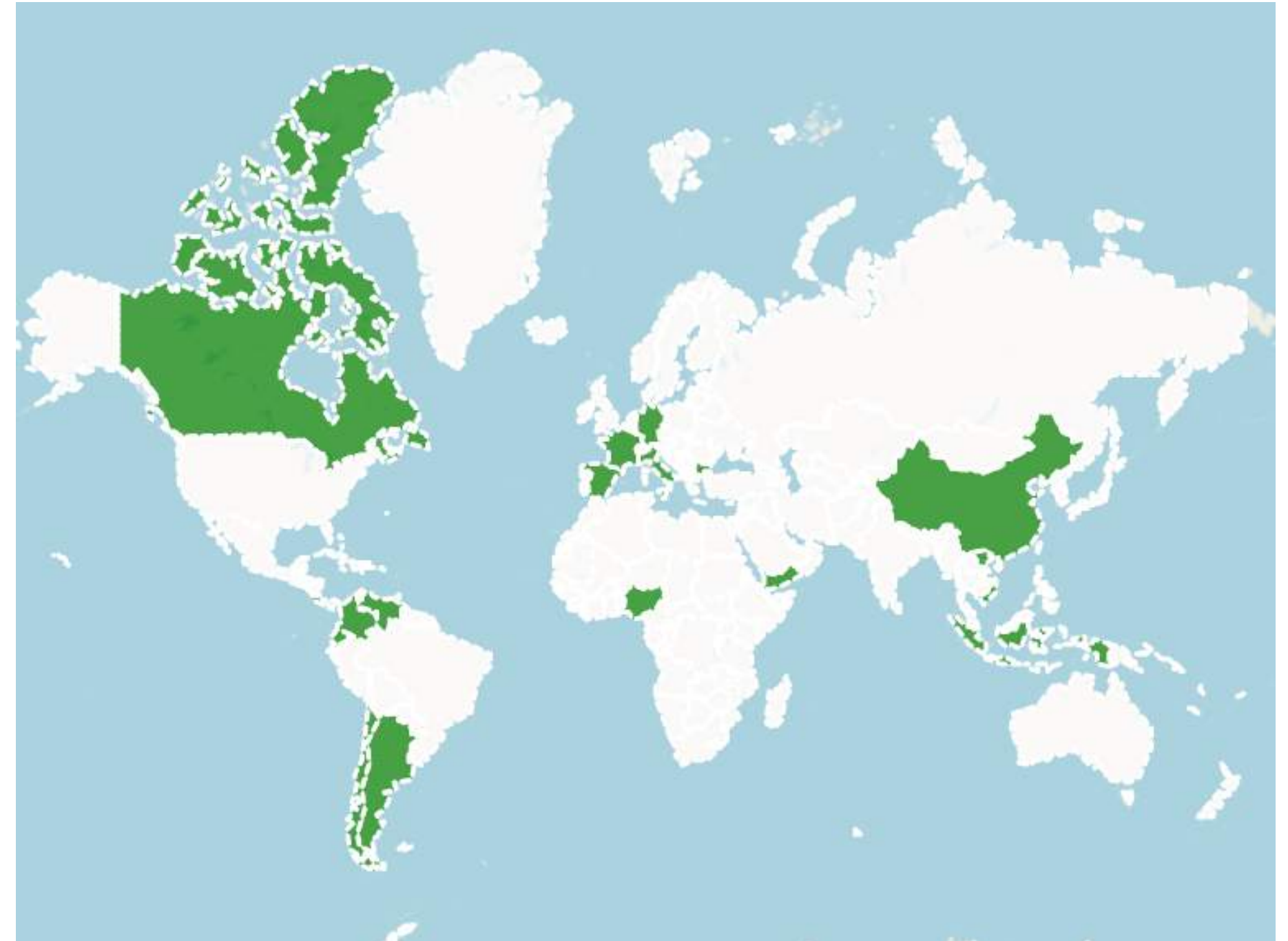
Future Outlook and Recommendations

- Enhanced Communication Strategies
- Strategic Project Development
- Global Advocacy and Visibility

4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

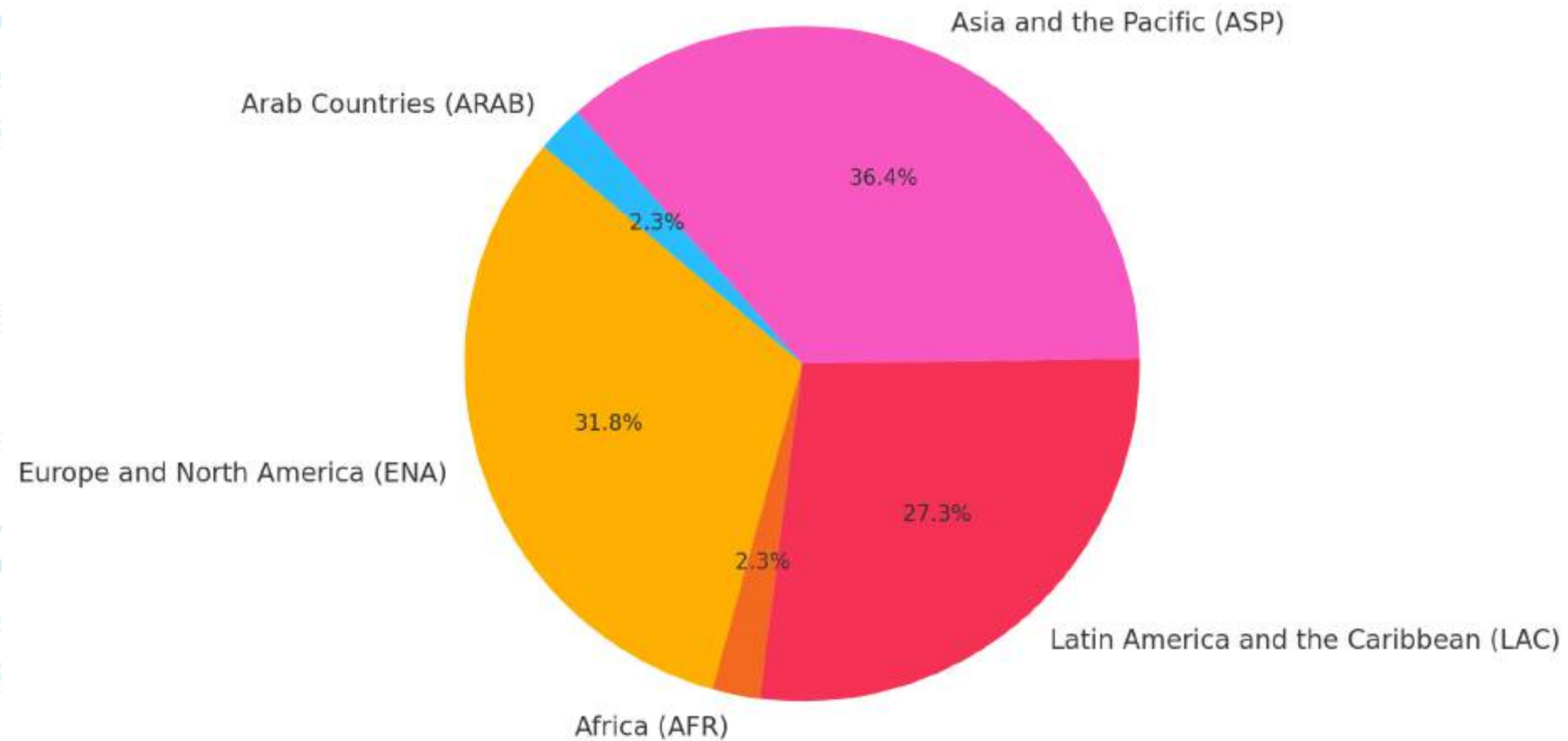
Respondents per country

- Spain: 8
- China: 8
- Vietnam: 7
- Costa Rica: 4
- Ecuador: 2
- Colombia: 2
 - Chile: 2
- Nigeria: 1
- Canada: 1
- Italy: 1
- Germany: 1
- Bulgaria: 1
- Indonesia: 1
- Yemen: 1
- France: 1
- Argentina: 1
- Andorra: 1
- Venezuela: 1



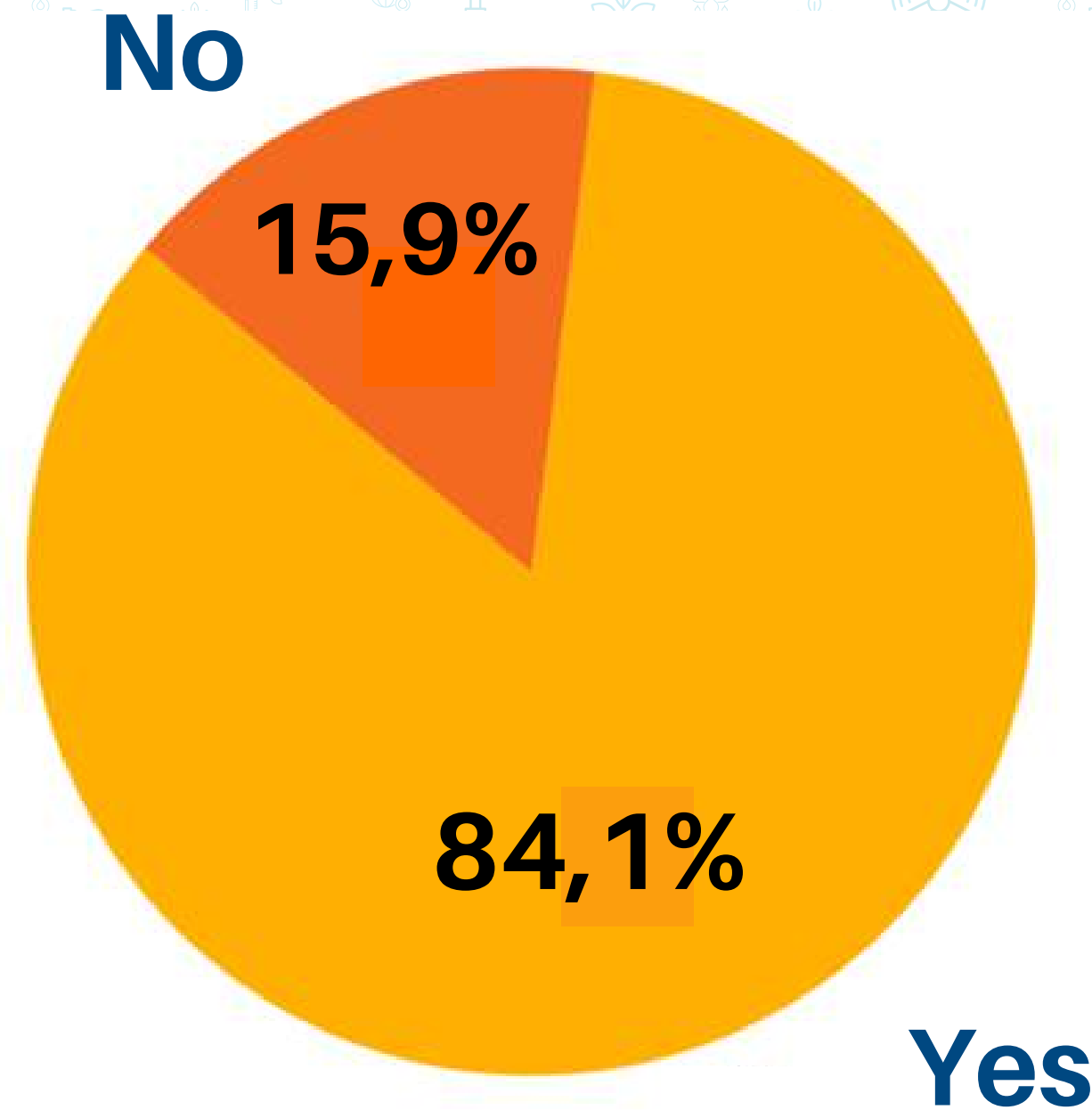
4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

Region Distribution of the 44 answers



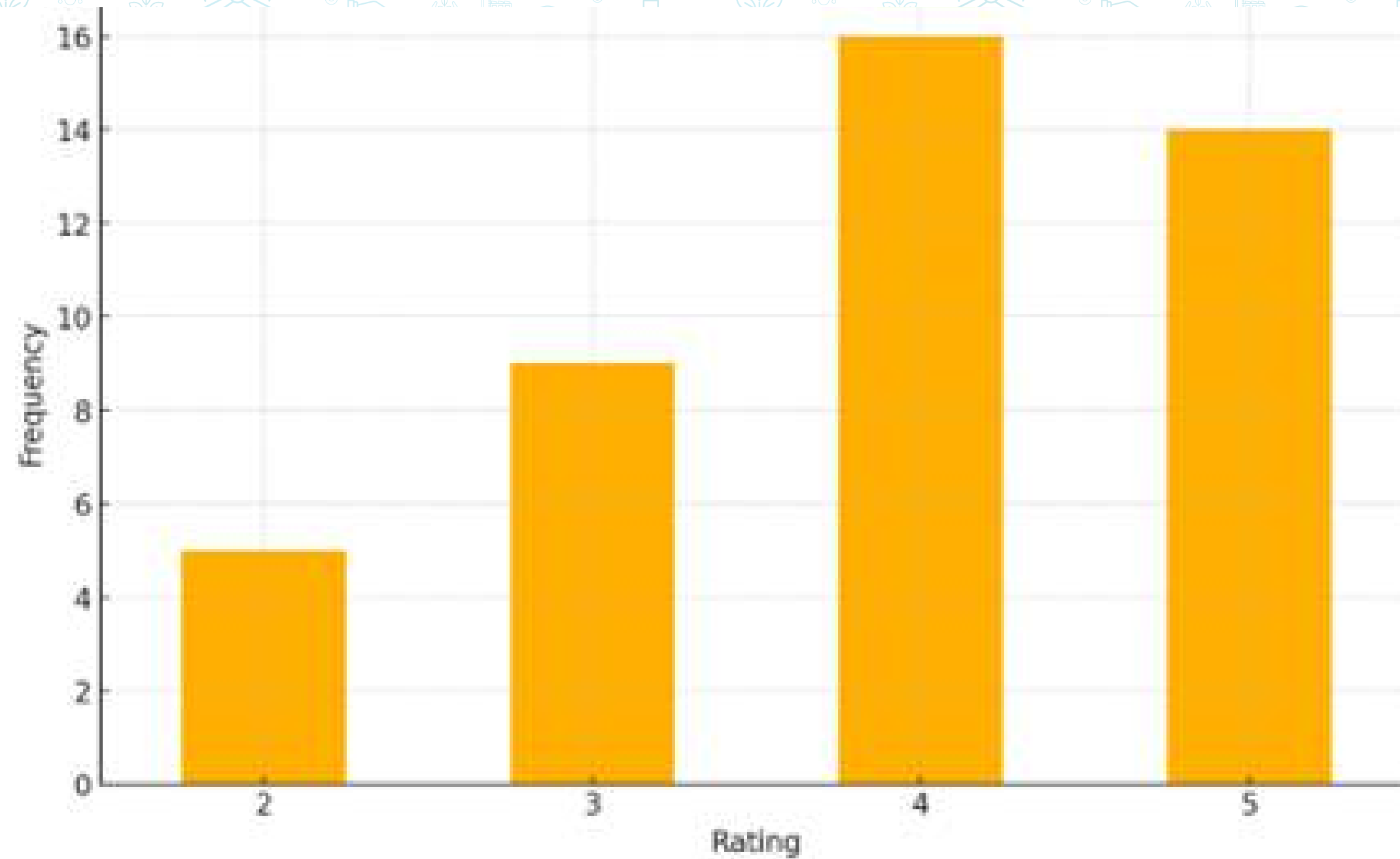
4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

1. Is your entity part of the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves?



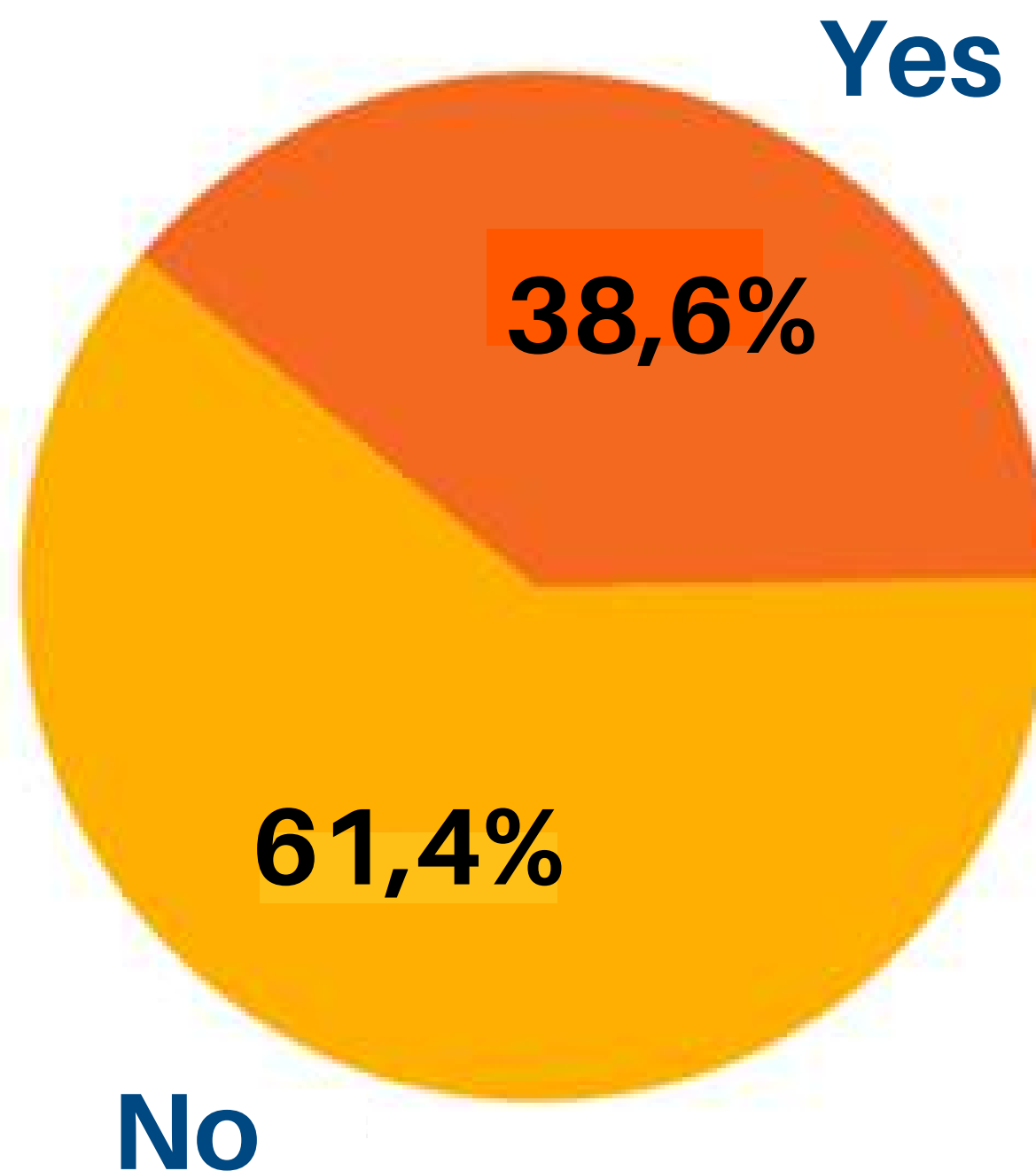
4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

3. Do you think the communication from the WNMBR to its members is adequate? (Rate from 0 to 5)



4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

4. Do you feel that you have missed important messages from WNMBR?



4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

5. We plan to open a members' space on the WNMBR website.
What features would you like it to have?



4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

6. What would you suggest to improve communication with and among WNMBR members?

Main Identified Trends:

1. Trainings and Webinars
2. Communication Platforms and Digital Tools (Social Media, Chat Groups, Informative Emails)
3. Publication and Sharing of Best Practices
4. Meetings and Conferences
5. Collaborative projects
6. Communication management and timely feedback

4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

7. The WNMBR is open to its members leading and coordinating specific proposals (projects, working groups, etc.). Is there any topic you would like to promote and coordinate?"

Main Identified Trends:

1. Climate Change and Environmental Management
2. Youth Involvement and Education
3. Community and Economic Development:
4. Scientific Research and Data Monitoring
5. Conservation and Sustainable Practices
6. Collaboration and Networking

4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

8. The WNMBR is currently working on a glacier conservation project in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan (Canada) and the Cultural Giants initiative with the Sierra de Grazalema Biosphere Reserve. Is there any other project that you think could be promoted in the short term?"

Main Identified Suggestions:

Rock Glacier Monitoring

GLORIA Project

Forest Fire Prevention and Fighting

Ecosystem Services and Credits

Paramo Ecosystems in Colombia

Short-Term Monitoring of Alpine Tundra and
Meadows

Sustainable Energy Development

Regenerative Biotourism

Field Notebook for Schools

Encouraging Student Interaction

Information Campaigns on Glacier Conservation

Strengthening Collaboration Between Countries

Water Eutrophication Trends

4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

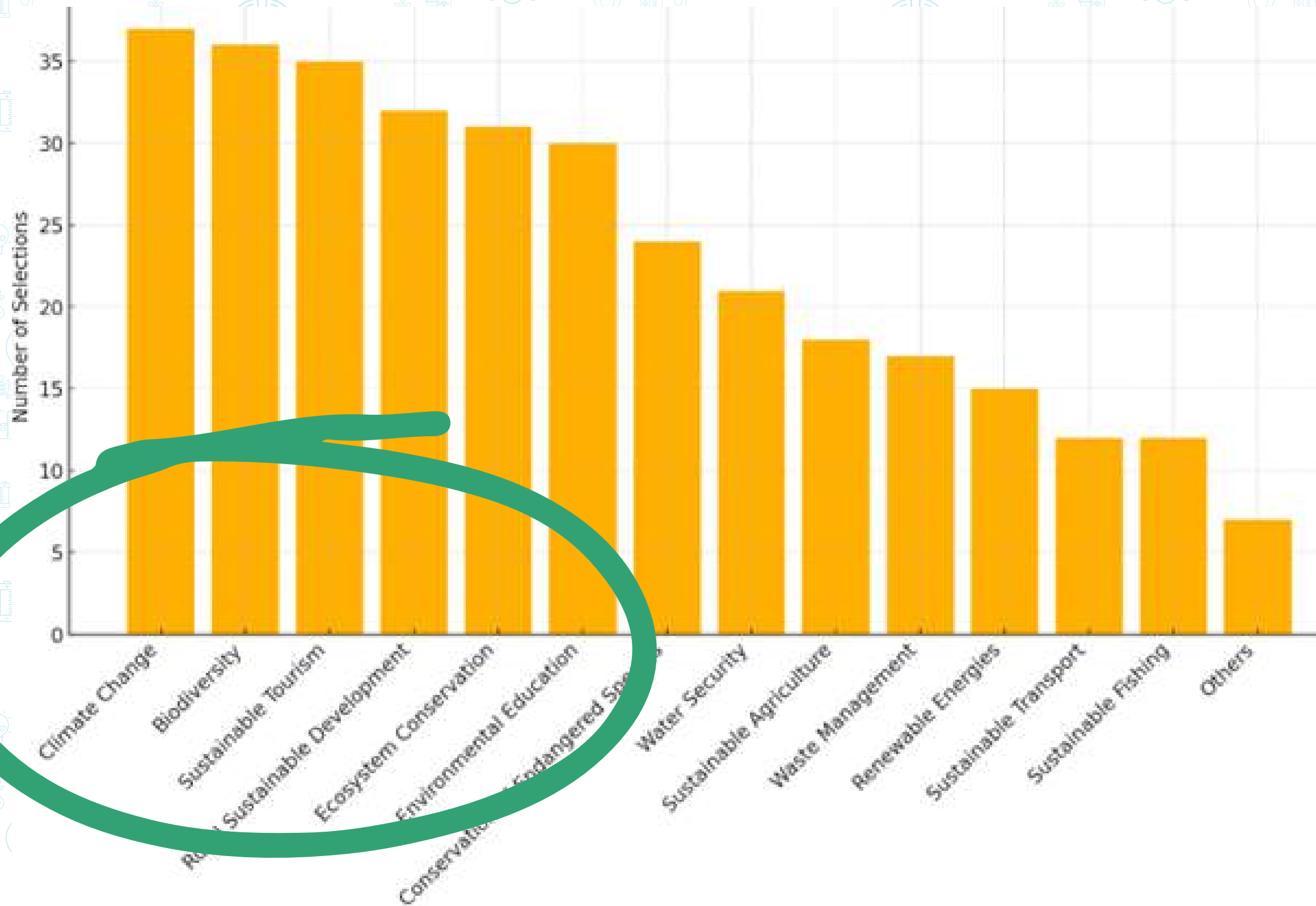
9. Within the framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, how do you think the WNMBR can become more relevant?

Main Identified Trends:

1. Enhancing Communication and Exchange (Regular Webinars and Training Courses)
2. Leveraging Partnerships and Collaborations (Collaborative Partnerships and Creating Links Between Similar Projects)
3. Promoting Visibility and Awareness (Media Presence and Publishing Statements and Comments)
4. Focusing on Specific Issues and Activities (e.g. a focus on specific activities relevant to mountainous areas)
5. Strengthening Internal Structures and Processes (Generating Tangible Products, e.g. publications, protocols, recommendations)
6. Involving Local and Indigenous Communities (Integrating Local Knowledge)

4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

10. What are the major issues in which you think the WNMBR should be present and convey the vision of the network?



4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

11. Do you have any proposals to bring a mountain vision to the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves to be held in 2025 in Hangzhou, China?

Main Identified Trends:

1. Most have not proposed a specific idea for the World Congress.
2. Enhancing Mountain Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Mountain Biodiversity for Digital Sequence Information, Mountain Ecosystem Restoration, Mountain as a Producer of Ecosystem Services)
3. Community-Based Research and Local Involvement (Community-Based Research, Linking Communities)

4. Responses to the survey: Ideas for improving the WNMBR

12. "The WNMBR needs economic funds for its mid-term operation. Do you know of any funding calls or potential donors we should contact?"

Main Identified Trends:

- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- Carbon Credit Fund at the World Bank
- International Cooperation European Union
- FAO
- CODESPA
- Ford Foundation
- Next Generation Funds
- LIFE
- INTERREG
- Rockefeller Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation
- Crowdfunding and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)
- Ministries of the Environment
- Carbon markets
- Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)
- Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AACID)

5. II WNMBR Meeting in Ordino Biosphere Reserve (Andorra)

Ordino, Principality of Andorra - *in the heart of the Pyrenees mountains!*

Event Dates: From 24 to 27 September 2024:

Duration: 3 days of work + 1 day field visit

Biosphere Reserve Nomination: 2020

Average Altitude: 1300 meters above sea level (maximum 2915 meters)

Surface Area: 90 km² and population: 5000 inhabitants

Recognized as one of the **Best Tourism Villages (UNWTO - 2023)**



More info at:

- <https://biosferaordino.ad/>
- <https://www.visitordino.com/>
- <https://visitandorra.com/en/visitor-information/>

***PREPARE YOUR GETAWAY...
AND PACK YOUR BAGS!***

6. 2025 MAB Congress (Hangzhou, China) - Drafting Group

- **Objective: Work on a WNMBR's common position in the view of MAB Congress 2025**
- **One of the main items that will be addressed in our II Meeting in Ordino BR**

7. Group discussion



• **Next steps / Conclusions**

- **Need to improve communication within the WNMBR**
- **Call to members to be proactive - open to suggestions!**
- **Need to strengthen our profile as the voice of the mountains globally and advocates of the Biosphere Reserve model (participation in international meetings)**
- **Focus on prioritized topics**
- **Need to create effective spaces and tools for the transmission of knowledge and experience**
- **Promote joint projects**
- **Need to identify opportunities for financial stability**
- **Give more visibility (globally) to our achievements**
- **Take advantage of the 2025 meeting to hold a parallel meeting of mountain reserves**
- **Member profiles and projects need to be provided**

Join the WNMBR

- Doors open not just to biosphere reserves !
- Contact us at hello@mountainbiosphere.org
- Visit www.mountainbiosphere.org for more info



**World Network of
Mountain Biosphere
Reserves**

—
UNESCO Man and
the Biosphere Programme

Making visible the contributions that biosphere reserves and mountain regions bring to our world and to our communities

Thank you!

Huascarán Biosphere Reserve, Peru