



*The painting exhibited in Luxembourg with the painter explaining the concept*

### *Cape Winelands BR, South Africa* **FROM SOURCE TO SEA**

The Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve (CWBR) is an inland Biosphere Reserve, known for being the source of seven critically important rivers, flowing into the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The river not only supports major cities, agriculture, and industry but is also the bloodline for a plethora of Biodiversity and the connection to three other coastal Biosphere Reserves in South Africa.

Whatever pollution, destruction of ecological infrastructure, or negative human impact happens within the CWBR radically effects all the landscape further down, and the oceans themselves. The Benguela and the Agulhas Currents are the first spreaders of these negative effluences into the worldwide ocean networks.

It is vitally important that inland and Coastal Biospheres work hand in hand to ensure the longevity of ecosystem services, while insuring dignified and sustainable living landscapes for human existence. To bring awareness of the need to foster these collaborations, within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), the CWBR initiated and developed the "Source to Sea" program.

This program was launched with the World's Largest Painting in 2018, a 22 x 1.8-meter oil painting of the Berg River from its source in Franschoek to the Atlantic Ocean. The painting depicts all the activities and human relationships along the river, from the first recorded human engagement to the present. The Guinness Book of records acknowledged the record, which was displayed at the International Art Fair in Amsterdam and later in Luxembourg.

The CWBR has since partnered with the UNESCO driven Be Resilient Project utilizing BRs as observatories for climate change adaptations and

nominated as the site for reach by African Climate and Development Initiative. Partnerships have been built with provincial and local government, and Western Cape BRs, tourism, universities, historical and cultural societies, communities, and businesses.

*A mobile science education unit has been developed, to travel throughout these five BRs to excite and inform every one of the importance of river systems and how their existence as pristine water sources is so important to human wellbeing. To achieve exemplary learning experiences that expand minds, unlock opportunities, and reconnect people to nature.*

<http://www.capewinelandsbiosphere.co.za/latest-news/be-resilient-project>

<https://www.capewinelandsbiosphere.co.za/latest-news/an-unforgettable-unveiling-of-la-source>



*Exploring the biodiversity through magnifying glasses*

## BIRDS OF KAMCHATKA AND THE COMMANDER ISLANDS – NEW FIELD GUIDE

On the international day of birds, the Commander Islands Nature and Bio-sphere Reserve was happy to share great news for both professional ornithologists and all those who are inspired by birds – the first field guide Birds of Kamchatka and the Commander Islands has been released in Kamchatka.

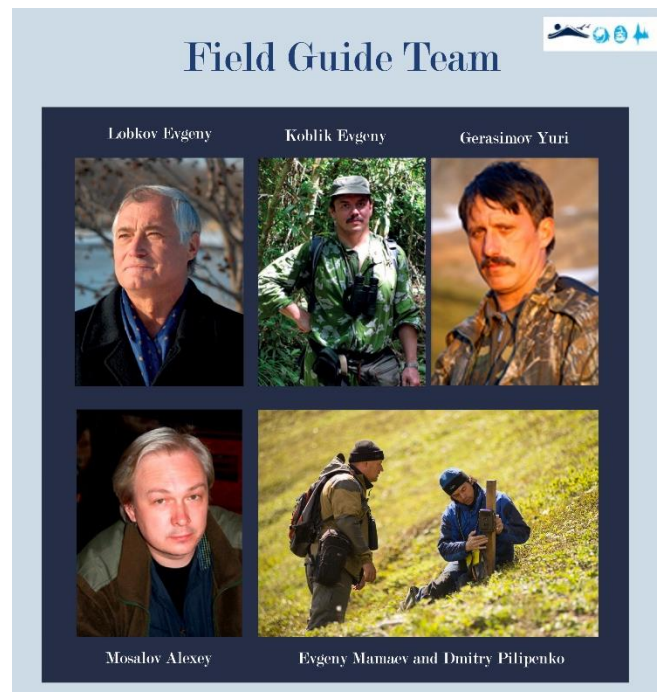
Many experts and amateur birdwatchers know firsthand about the lack of information about the species diversity of Kamchatka birds. It is rather difficult to find a quality field guide in Russia, and it is not always convenient to use foreign ones, in addition, the information in them regarding such a remote and complex region as Kamchatka may be unreliable. Today the problem is solved, as a modern, colorful edition meeting international standards is now accessible for everyone.

The Kamchatka avifauna is determined by its marginal position, volcano-genic factors, and active cyclonic activity. It is unique. The list of bird species is constantly updated here. During the five years that we worked on the guide, 7 new species were registered. The field guide describes each species in detail and is a great visual material for study of Kamchatka and Commander birds.



*Now there are 373 species with subspecies in Kamchatka Krai, of which more than 240 species are registered on the Commander Islands.*

On April 1, we started a large-scale ecological and educational program called Kamchatka Spreads Its Wings, aimed at promoting the appreciation of the protected nature of Kamchatka and popularizing ornithology among locals and guests of the region. The program will last for one year and will include many activities and competitions for schoolchildren and students of the peninsula. Also, within the framework of the program, schools and libraries of the region will receive free copies of the guide. For the convenience of all those interested in birds, [the wildkamchatka.ru website](http://wildkamchatka.ru) has been launched, where you can follow the current news of the ornithological program.



## MAAMWI ANJIAKIZIWIN 'TOGETHER, LAND, RENEWAL, LIFE'

Maamwi Anjiakiziwin is part of a larger Canada-wide program called Community Nominated Priority Places (CNPP), administered by Canada's department of Environment and Climate Change and the Canada Nature Fund. This four-year initiative (beginning in 2019) supports partnerships in protecting and recovering species at risk. It takes a coastal view of protecting entire ecosystems through knowledge integration and adaptive management.

A major project theme is road ecology. Reptiles are especially threatened by the impacts of roads due to the behaviors, habitat preferences and life histories of these animals. During the 2020 year, this project focused on three roadways that were observed to have high road mortality rates and/or had the ability to partner with local governments to use the data to make recommendations regarding species-friendly future road construction.

A great example of this work is a joint partnership between Georgian Bay Biosphere (GBB), Shawanaga First Nation, and Township of the Archipelago on Skerryvore Community Road. The team worked with the township staff, engineers and the construction company to mitigate the road work impacts and improve reptile safety post-construction. Strategies include using a cobble fill instead of sand/gravel near wetlands to discourage turtle nesting there and removing and incubating turtle eggs from construction areas in the spring, and then releasing the hatchlings later in the season. In total, we were able to release over 1000 hatchling turtles, whose eggs would have otherwise been negatively impacted by construction. The results will be monitored by a local university research team.

The project incorporates Indigenous traditional knowledge into both the project as a whole and daily work. An Anishinaabek ceremony was held at the first turtle release to recognize the safe return of all the turtles to the wetlands. Through the teachings of Sherrill Judge, Maawaanji'iwe (brings people together) Manager with GBB, and Gracie Crafts, summer student and member of Wasauksing First Nation, GBB staff make an asemma (tobacco) offering before daily road surveys. This is meant to be a step toward a "two-eyed seeing" cultural approach to conservation work that incorporates both Indigenous and western scientific ways of learning and sharing knowledge.

This is just one highlight of our biodiversity conservation work, made possible by the incredible collaboration of groups in the UNESCO biosphere region. (the project: <http://maamwigeorgianbay.ca/>)

[www.gbb.ca](http://www.gbb.ca)



GEORGIAN BAY  
BIOSPHERE  
MNIDOO GAMII



## PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR LANDOWNERS IN THE HERBERTSDALE MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR AREA

The Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR) Corridors Project is an initiative to enhance landscape scale ecological processes along mountain ranges and rivers associated with the Gouritz river catchment in the GCBR domain. Corridors are critical for ecological processes such as pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling and water provision, as well as for the long-term survival of wild animals and plants, especially in the context of climate change.

The project aims to establish landscape level strategies for effective fire management, successful invasive alien plant control and improved river and wetland health by means of establishing collaboration between farmers and other landowners.

Our dedicated Herbertsdale Corridor Project Team conducted a series of baseline studies of natural habitat types in October 2020, followed by landowner workshops and technical presentations between November 2020 and February 2021. Ongoing engagement since then directly with landowners has resulted in enhanced and mutually beneficial relationships.

With continual engagement and through collaborative discussion, a series of practical guidelines has been compiled, critically with the buy-in of landowners and other stakeholders. Areas identified as critical by landowners resulted in Guidelines which cover the Management of Micro-Corridors; Fire; Wetlands; and Invasive Alien Plant Control. These guidelines will be available to all participating landowners and stakeholders to assist with implementing practical and cooperative strategies to address threats and opportunities at a landscape scale, to support sustainable farming livelihoods and local biodiversity.

As a broader scope of the Gouritz Corridors Project, a portal on our website has been created where additional resources can be downloaded and to which we will continue to add information as the project evolves. See the link below.

[Project Information for Landowners in the Herbertsdale Mountain Corridor \(gouritz.com\)](https://www.gouritz.com)

We are proud of our achievements to date and continue to believe in the significant development of relationships in this Herbertsdale Corridor Area and other potential and relevant Corridor Areas we have identified. Watch this space!

[Gouritz Corridors Project | Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve](#)



*A completely intact wetland in the Weyers River. The dense wetland plant cover absorbs floods, holds the soil in place, stores water and provides habitat for a range of wetland animal species.*



*A controlled burn in the mountain foothills near Herbertsdale.*

## NEST TO OCEAN TURTLE PROTECTION PROGRAM



The Queensland Government, Department of Environment and Science together with Australian Federal Government has supported predator management on marine turtle nest and hatchlings.

Burnett Mary Region beaches are unique in having both major and minor marine turtle rookeries where loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green (*Chelonia mydas*) and flatback (*Natator depressus*) turtles nest. Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) has supported all turtle volunteer groups within the Bundaberg Region during 2020-2021 turtle monitoring season to enable them to protect marine turtle populations. Through these collaborations, the following has been achieved:

- Predator control activities including conservation dog detection, den fumigation and soft jaw trapping implemented at Wongarra and Discovery coast have been effective in reducing fox predation on turtle nests.
- Monitoring & control activities have been implemented over 22,200 ha across the Burnett Mary Region.
- 38 active fox dens have been fumigated and 16 individual adult foxes trapped.
- Approximately 9.53 ha of Wreck Rock beach was cleaned of marine debris. Over 40 kg of debris was collected from a 5 km beach stretch.
- Number of clutches during 2020/21 season for Wreck Rock (loggerhead 266, green 89, flatback 8) and for Moore Park beach (loggerhead 54, green 29, flatback 11).
- In total 62 nests (35 loggerheads, 22 green and 5 flatbacks) were relocated at Moore Park beach to either a safer place on a beach or to a predator protection cages. 65 loggerheads nest were relocated to four predator exclusion cages on K'gari.

### Community Engagement

- BMRG attended the 1770 Cultural Connection Immersion Festival (2nd-3rd October 2020) and held a stall raising awareness on fox predation on sea turtle nests and marine turtle monitoring supported by the Nest to Ocean Program. Tangaroa Blue Foundation supported BMRG to spread the word about the harmful effect of debris on marine fauna, especially marine turtle species. Approximately 1400 visitors attended the event over two days.
- NADIOC Family Fun Day (13th November 2020) was another event where BMRG provided public education on turtle monitoring at local beaches, fox predation/eradication program and marine debris threat to marine life. 560 visitors attended the Day.
- Elliott Heads State School visit on the 6th May, 2021 - the educational presentation was successful as the students and teachers were engaged and enjoyed the display.
- Turtle's Paradise market 16th May, 2021 - Community engagement event about Nest to Ocean Program attracted approx. 140 visitors.



BMRG staff giving a presentation at Elliott Heads State School to Prep to Year 3 on the 6th May 2021.



Volunteers at Wreck Rock taking turtle measurements



Educational display at Turtle's Paradise market (16th May 2021)

## LAUNCH OF YOUNG NATURE BLOGGER 2021

Young people who love nature and the outdoors are invited to take part in a summer writing challenge. After a successful launch year in 2020, Young Nature Blogger 2021 is again open to contributions from everyone aged 21 and under.

Entrants should write up to 500 words about Manx nature and send it in with their own photos and/or drawings, if they wish to add these. The challenge is run by UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, Manx Wildlife Trust and Isle of Man Newspapers.

Entries should be sent to [Biosphere@gov.im](mailto:Biosphere@gov.im) accompanied by the entrant's name, age, email address and phone number. Photos should be at least 1MB and no bigger than 5MB and should be sent separate to, and not embedded in, documents. The challenge closes on 12th August 2021.

Entries will be judged by Geoffrey Boot MHK, Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Leigh Morris, CEO of Manx Wildlife Trust, and Richard Butt, Editor of Isle of Man Newspapers.

Winners will receive Manx Wildlife Trust goodie bags and their blogs will feature in Isle of Man Newspapers' titles and on its website, as well as in MWT's Manx Nature magazine.



*UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Young Nature Blogger 2020 winners pictured with Hon Geoffrey Boot MHK, Minister for Environment in the Isle of Man, and Leigh Morris, CEO of Manx Wildlife Trust*

Minister Boot said: 'We are so lucky to live in a UNESCO Biosphere. Being out in, connecting with and noticing nature in our Biosphere is good for wellbeing and we encourage young writers to explore this summer and share their unique observations with us.'

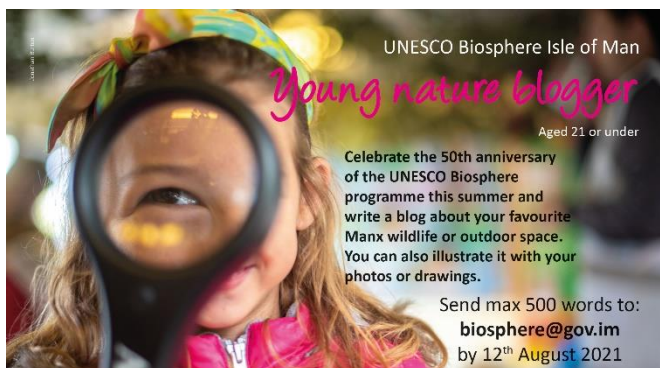
Leigh Morris said: 'We hope Young Nature Blogger 2021 inspires young people to engage with our wonderful Manx nature, be amazed at the diversity we have, and learn why it's so important that we all nurture and care for it so that it remains wonderful for generations to come.'

Richard Butt said: 'I look forward to publishing the work of some fresh new writing talent, in celebration of Manx nature.'

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme promotes conservation, learning and sustainable development. This year, four other UK and Ireland UNESCO Biospheres are joining UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and running Young Nature Blogger 2021.

The first prize winners from the Isle of Man and from each participating Biosphere will be judged for an overall UK and Ireland Biosphere prize. The Man and the Biosphere Programme celebrates its half century in 2021 and Young Nature Blogger 2021 is accredited as an official 50th anniversary event.

Inquiries to [biosphere@gov.im](mailto:biosphere@gov.im) or 01624 686080.



*UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Young Nature Blogger 2021 promotional postcard*

## RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE SPECIES AMONG FORESTRY AND GARDEN WORKERS

Canary Foundation La Palma Biosphere Reserve has carried out an awareness campaign on the problem of invasive plants in our territory. This campaign has made it possible to sensitize 83 forestry workers and gardening professionals, linked to the field of training, which they carry out professionally in various municipalities of La Palma.

Specifically, the Biosphere Reserve has organized awareness talks included in four Programs of Training in Alternation with Employment, developed in the municipalities of Garafía ("*Vivir el Monte*", *Live the Mountain*), Barlovento ("*Barlovento Florece*", *Barlovento Flourishes*), Puntagorda ("*Replantando el Noroeste*", *Replanting Northwest*) and Villa de Mazo ("*De la Rosa a Flores*", *From La Rosa to flowers*), where the students from Los Llanos de Aridane Institute of Agrarian Professional Training also participated.

The awareness sessions explained the large environmental and socio-economic losses that biological invasions can cause, being especially serious in island territories. Prevention and early detection are often configured as the only valid tools to face this threat, which is becoming more and more frequent as a result of globalization.

The training program was accompanied with a field trip to the nearby environment of the educational facilities, to check on site, some of the problems identified during the theoretical session, in addition to reviewing the different invasive plants and the most abundant species detected in each region.

This campaign is part of the LIFE IP Azores Natura project, which aims to extend this type of activity to students of primary, secondary and high schools, as well as professionals, linked to both public administrations and private companies.

The development of these actions will be completed in the coming months with the preparation and distribution of support content, both in digital and printed format.

<https://lapalmabiosfera.es/la-reserva-de-la-biosfera-sensibiliza-sobre-el-impacto-de-las-especies-invasoras-a-83-trabajadores-forestales-y-de-jardineria/>



# FOUR SPANISH ISLAND BIOSPHERE RESERVES' ASSESSMENT USING DATA ANALYSIS AND INDICATORS SYSTEM

## ISLANDS



**MENORCA**

- 694,8 km<sup>2</sup>
- 39° 58' 00" N  
04° 05' 00" E
- 93.397 inhabitants
- 8 municipalities



**IBIZA**

- 571,8 km<sup>2</sup>
- 38° 59' 00" N  
01° 26' 00" E
- 147.914 inhabitants
- 5 municipalities



**LANZAROTE**

- 845,9 km<sup>2</sup>
- 29° 02' 06" N  
13° 37' 59" W
- 152.289 inhabitants
- 7 municipalities



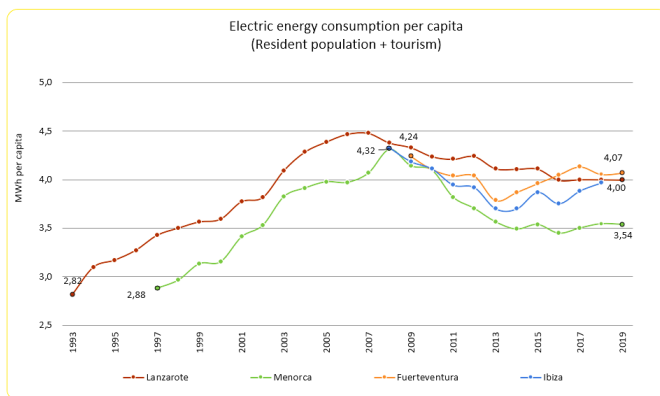
**FUERTEVENTURA**

- 1659,7 km<sup>2</sup>
- 28° 25' 57" N  
14° 00' 11" W
- 116.886 inhabitants
- 6 municipalities

A dynamic comparison has been made between four Spanish islands using sustainability indicators. On the one hand, Menorca (Balearic Islands) and Lanzarote (Canary Islands), biosphere reserves since 1993, and on the other hand, Fuerteventura (Canary Islands), designed BR in 2009, and the non BR island of Ibiza (Balearic Islands). The four islands have similar size and population, as well as a tourism-based economy. The main difference is that the milder climate of the Canary Islands allows tourist activity throughout the year, while in the Balearic Islands it only lasts 6 months.

A system of 98 indicators has been created, divided into seven thematic blocks gathering historical data of the four islands. These indicators invite us to shift from the short-termism of a legislature to a longer-term perspective. These indicators do not reflect what is the impact of the current policies, but rather show us what has been done right or wrong in the last two decades. Therefore, they do not reflect the work of a certain government team, but rather inform us of the trends of the four islands and societies throughout the 21st century.

Another aspect that should be noted is that the period of data collection in this report ends at 2019. Therefore, it does not reflect the disruption caused by the health, social and economic crisis of COVID 19 in 2020. Nevertheless, it faithfully reflects how each island arrived in 2020 in terms of the socio-economical and environmental situation and what were the main trends. The extension of this study next year, with the inclusion of 2020 data, will allow to see how each island model is impacted by the global disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and in which aspects each island is more resilient.



<http://www.obsam.cat/informes-indicadors/>

<http://www.datosdelanzarote.com/>



## TRAVELER'S DAY 2021



In the middle of April 2021, within the framework of the Traveler's Day, the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve's travel campaign "Travel and get to know the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve" was launched. Campaign will take place until the end of the summer.

Travelers' Day in Specially Protected Nature Territories of Latvia has been held for eleven years, but this is the fifth year that they are organized in the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve. In the Biosphere Reserve the event is held twice a year – in the spring and summer. Traveler's Day is organized by the Nature Conservation Agency in cooperation with local governments and entrepreneurs.

Due to the fact, that this year's Traveler's Day could not take place in that's usual format with face-to-face events, hiking and cycling, because of the epidemiological safety restrictions, created travel campaign is great opportunity to get to know Biosphere Reserve individually with family.

The travel campaign "Travel and get to know North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve" will run until 15th August. Travel campaign is a safe way to offer people to travel and discover the natural and cultural heritage in the territory of the reserve. Within the framework of this campaign, the booklet – map was published with the same name as the travel campaign. Those who take part in the Traveler's Day have to collect nine stamps on the booklet at nine tourist information centers. The participants who achieve all the stamps can enter the lottery.

North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve is a family – friendly travel destination where everyone can escape from the daily rush and large masses. Established booklet – map serves as a guide for everyone to reach and explore already known and popular natural and cultural tourism destinations and also at the same time will help to discover and explore lesser known natural and man-made tourist attractions in the Biosphere Reserve.

The campaign "Travel and get to know the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve" will take place every year from now on.



*Tourist holding up "Travel and get to know the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve" map at the Burtnieki Manor park*

**Ms. Linda Kauliņa**

North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve coordinator,  
Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia  
linda.kaulina@daba.gov.lv

## PROTECTING THREATENED SPECIES IN THE NOOSA BIOSPHERE RESERVE, AUSTRALIA

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* is a rare species listed as vulnerable in Queensland. The Noosa Biosphere Reserve is considered a significant habitat with up to one third of the entire known population located in the region. ‘Glossies’ are known fussy eaters and extremely loyal to their habitat, however there are currently no known active or recorded nesting sites in the region. Thanks to citizen science observations by passionate community members, we do know Glossies are breeding.

A key challenge in their recovery is breeding success. Pressures have been put on these large hollow dependant species by land clearing, logging, bush fires and fragmentation, across regions. In Noosa, the 2019 and 2020 bushfires impacted feed tree sites and habitat trees.

The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation (NBRF) held a stakeholder symposium with conservation groups, researchers, government authorities and experts to co-develop priority actions that will close current knowledge and management gaps. The NBRF has since partnered with Bushland Conservation Management to use bioacoustic sound recorders to monitor and analyse calls of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo. The technology was developed by Dr Daniella Teixeira and successfully used in Kangaroo Island, Australia. Identifying successful nesting sites will enable better support and conservation management for local populations. This research can inform feed tree revegetation, watering hole rehabilitation, habitat protection and further nesting box installation in critical zones. See project overview [here](#).

Using the same collaborative model, NBRF hosted [the Marine Species Protection Symposium](#) in May 2021 to discuss alternative shark control measures for Noosa’s popular beaches. Current methods under Queensland’s Shark Control Program such as drum lines or net barriers, provide a level of human protection, however non-target marine species including dolphins, turtles, juvenile whales and threatened shark species continue to be caught in this equipment.

Based on outcomes from the workshop, a preferred trial for Noosa will be put forward to the Queensland Government for consideration, as part of a state-wide series of trials.

We are pleased to be connecting with other biosphere reserves in this network and look forward to learning and sharing with you! Stay up to date with all our news on [our Facebook page](#) and [News and Events page](#).



*Bioacoustics monitoring.  
(Credit: Bushland Conservation Management)*



*Dr Charlie Huvneers presents at Marine Species Protection Symposium*

## Campaign for the Reduction and Management of Solid Waste and Environmental Awareness within the Framework of World Earth Day.

Tecuilcan Association with the support of the Fons Menorquí, in alliance with the municipality of Moyogalpa, the Environmental Commission and the Ministry of Education, with the participation of teachers and young environmentalists from educational centers; "Israel" and "Gaspar García Laviana" organized campaigns to commemorate the International Day of "Mother Earth", in order to act and sensitize families and the general population about the care and protection of natural resources.

Among the activities carried out, the following stand out; Talks on environmental awareness, reduction and reuse of waste, carrying out environmental walks with posters alluding to the protection of resources, elaboration of personalized messages in reusable bags that were given to families, filling bags and planting seeds in the nursery and collection of plastic bags in critical points of the municipality.

The activities were carried out for four days between April and May, both within the educational centers and in neighboring places. During one of the campaigns, the young student "Roselyn" from the youth brigade addressed her classmates saying: "For many years, human beings have confusedly managed natural resources and we are experiencing fatal consequences. Our planet and its ecosystems give us life and the sustenance to live. Protecting our biodiversity and its resources are essential to ensure our own survival, as a student we assume a cause that unites us, that of seeking harmony between all and all inhabitants and nature.

Among the messages of the young people, written on the reusable bags, the following stand out: "Let us always leave green footprints", "Be the change you want to see in the world", "Recycle to give life to the planet", "Maybe I can not change the world, but if the bit that touches me", "I love you Verde Ometepe", "Think about the future, think about the land, think about our home", among others.

160 students, six teachers and technical personnel from Tecuilcan Association and the municipality participated in these activities. The campaign was successful and more activities will be carried out with the support of the Fons Menorquí and the Fons Pitiús.



## PCSD FEATURES 3 NEW INNOVATIONS IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2021

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) conducted the virtual launching of the Palawan Biodiversity Resource Center (PBRC), BRAIN System and Zooverse in celebration of World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2021.

In the said program held via Facebook live, PCSD featured the aforementioned up-and-coming innovations which were all developed in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Protect Wildlife Project in Palawan.

The event reached 23,019 people from different organizations, agencies or institutions across the country and had 6,894 engagements as reflected in the interactions of the virtual audience on the Facebook page of the PCSD.

As revealed during the event's online tour of PBRC, the center houses samples and specimens of wildlife derivatives that PCSD has gathered over years of operations in environmental law enforcement. It offers a venue for learning about the province's rich biodiversity. Its goal is to engage local communities in biodiversity conservation efforts through showcasing Palawan's endemic and threatened species with global significance.



Palawan Biodiversity Resource Center (PBRC)

Another fascinating innovation that caught the interest of the online viewers is Zooverse, an augmented reality filter featuring 10 Palawan endemic wildlife in animated 3D that can be accessed in PCSD's Instagram page. It is a new digital tool that will be part of PCSD's education and advocacy efforts for those who are active on social media.



It harnesses an interactive user experience to help spread the word about the importance of Palawan's wildlife and promote public commitment for their conservation.



BRAIN System

Completing the new innovations of PCSD is the Biodiversity Resources Access Information Network (BRAIN) System, which is user-driven online and offline platform that combines inter-agency coordination, online permitting, intelligence capabilities, environmental law enforcement management information system, and public reporting system into one framework.

<https://web.facebook.com/pcsd7611>

## 40TH BIRD-LOVING WEEK

From April 21 to 27, 2021, Snake Island - Laotie Mountain Biosphere Reserve in China hosted the 40th Bird-loving Week themed “Loving and Protecting Birds, Fostering Harmony of Everything”. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the reserve, under the arrangement of Dalian Natural Resources Services Center, adopted a new form of publicity, through which multiple sites joined together to hold a series of Bird-loving Week events, yielding good results.

Each year, the Bird-loving Week lasts for one week, but the protection of birds runs throughout the year. Birds in the reserve, with or without a conservation status, have been put under the protection. Over the years, the reserve has engaged more people in bird conservation through multiple forms of publicity. As people’s awareness of bird protection has been raised, the eco-environment has become better, which has created good conditions for habitats of migratory birds. As such, the number of birds migrating through the Laotie Mountain area has been increased. In recent years, researchers have been observing *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila nipalensis*, *Aquila fasciata*, *Aegypius monachus* and *Cygnus olor*, which had not been seen for many years. Since 2003, new record birds in the reserve have risen by nearly 40 species. The population of *Egretta eulophotes* has grown from 6 in three pairs originally found in 2007 to over 600 today. Also over 10,000 *Larus crassirostris* breed here every year. Currently, of 346 species of birds in the reserve, there are 21 species under China national grade-I protection and 61 species under China national grade-II protection.

[http://www.mab.cas.cn/jsjz/202104/t20210423\\_635919.html](http://www.mab.cas.cn/jsjz/202104/t20210423_635919.html)



*The well-known nature and geography photographer, Mr. Bianyuan, is honored as the Image Ambassador of Snake Island - Laotie Mountain Reserve.*

## Towards the Sustainable Environment and Economic Recovery of Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the lives of the people in countless ways, including people living in small islands of Takabonerate – Kepulauan Selayar Biosphere Reserve. The volume and value of fish catches by fishermen in the coastal area have declined significantly since national government restrictions on travel and social distancing were imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. At the same time, the decreasing level of fishery activities has given an opportunity for the coral reefs to recover.

The Takabonerate National Park management is using this opportunity to conduct economic recovery project through a conservation and community empowerment approach. This project is supported by World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR) through UNESCO Office Jakarta. The goals of this project are to build resilience in the Takabonerate – Kepulauan Selayar BR for economic sustainability and climate change mitigation. Activities include community development on coral reefs conservation, sustainable fisheries and salt production.

The project was started by conducting social mapping in order to identify key issues from the local perspective as well as to identify relevant stakeholders. The National Park management reached out to the head of villages in order to engage more local communities. The exercise was not without challenges: difficulties encountered during the mapping included lack of knowledge from the local communities, social gap, lack of trust, fear of expressing potentially controversial opinions, among others.

The next phase of the project includes development training for selected community groups, including youth, to improve their skills and knowledge. Development training includes coral reef planting, sustainable fishing and salt production using the prism house method. In the first session of the training, local communities were given basic understanding of the activities including a short video presentation. The training then continued to the second session which includes sharing experience and demonstration.

<https://tntakabonerate.com/id/>

[https://www.instagram.com/btn\\_takabonerate/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/btn_takabonerate/?hl=en)

## TUSCAN ISLAND YOUNG REPORTER: A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION PROJECT



Young Reporter is the project of the Tuscan Islands Biosphere Reserve which involves young girls and boys with a passion for writing, photography and video in a "diffuse editorial community" reporting the Tuscan Archipelago in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea.

A "Diffuse Editorial Community" is a group of different subjects who, adequately trained and equipped with common rules and methods, manage and update web-communication tools in a unitary and cooperative way, with the common objective of promoting a territory and/or products.

The young people taking part in the project are sixteen, and live in the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago or have a strong link with them: they are all different in terms of age, origin and professional or study background, but united by a strong love for the territory, nature and its communities and the desire to transmit their values by promoting an aware use of resources. In line with the communication strategy of the UNESCO MAB Programme, the idea was born to give space to young people, involving their admiration for the islands and making them, therefore, protagonists of the narratives of the values underlying the recognition given to the Tuscan Archipelago in the "Man and Biosphere" area.

This community of young people contribute to the development of the contents of the communication tools of the Tuscan Islands Biosphere Reserve, including the website, Facebook page, Instagram, YouTube and the newsletter.

Thanks to the support of the Young Reporters, today an average of 4 original articles, 2 ProudToShare videos and dozens of posts on Facebook and Instagram are published every month which tell, through their point of view, the relationship between Man and Biosphere on the Tuscan Islands.

The Young Reporters are a community of young volunteers who, because of their commitment, participate free of charge in the initiatives and excursions organized by the Tuscan Archipelago National Park.

The project can easily be replicated in other Biosphere Reserves, with the aim of a future exchange of Young Reporters.

<https://www.isoleditoscanamabunesco.it/young-reporter-il-progetto-della-riserva-di-biosfera-isole-di-toscana-per-dare-voce-ai-giovani/>

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the Sustainable Mobility Strategy of the Urdaibai BR, we have enabled around 24 kilometers of pedestrian routes. The Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve Service (UBRS) of the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment of the Basque Government, has recently conclude actions towards sustainable mobility in the surroundings of Gernika-Lumo and on the right side of the Oka estuary.

This action attends to achieve some of the objectives of Urdaibai BR declaration in 1984 and tries to reach the conservation and sustainable development objectives of the UNESCO MaB Program. Moreover, we try to mitigate climate change with the reduction of emissions, promote slow mobility in Urdaibai BR, enable pedestrian and cyclable accessibility to the population settlements and provide a connection between the eastern and western edges of the Oka estuary.

To begin the consolidation of the network of pedestrian routes, between 2010 and 2014, the "Integral Restoration and Enhancement of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Oka River's Upper Estuary Project" was designed and developed. The first actions joined both banks of the estuary and connected the town of Gernika-Lumo with the municipalities located in the northern area of the upper estuary. During this period, several sections have also been adapted in the northern area of the right bank, such as the one that connects the city center of Ibarangelu municipality with the surrounding Laga beach and the near rural neighborhoods. It is worth highlighting the project of the pedestrian route between the urban center of Kortezubi municipality and the Urdaibai Bird Center equipment for birdwatching. Additionally, between 2020 and 2021, we have built up the pedestrian section between the beaches of Laga and Laida, which in turn contributes to the reduction of the use of massive private transport.

The aim of all these actions has been to ensure pedestrian accessibility to the population centers and places of cultural and natural interest in that area, as well as to enhance the landscape of the estuarine right bank and connect various intermodal points to promote the use of public transport.

<https://www.urdaibai.eus/es/noticias/>

## CLEAN-UP EXERCISE

The St. Mary's Biosphere communities in St. Kitts and Nevis have energetically launched a project entitled "Clean-Up of the Cayon River Hermitage and Keys Beaches and Hermitage Estate". The sentiment of the communities is that these important historical, environmental and cultural landmarks are finally receiving much needed attention and rehabilitation. The Clean-up Project is being funded under the UNESCO Participation Programme. Led by the Government of St. Kitts Nevis, the National MAB Committee and community stakeholders, the exercise is in the initial stages.

### Clean Up of the Hermitage Estate

The clean up of the Hermitage Estate which is being considered as the future home of the National MAB Secretariat is being carried out in collaboration with the Peace Initiative Team "a group of young men who are being fostered by the government to deter them from criminal lifestyle".



*Radio & TV Interview Handing over Equipment to Peace Initiative Team and Hermitage Estate Ruins*

### Clean Up of the Cayon River Hermitage and Keys Beaches

The Clean-up of the Cayon River is in its preliminary stage where assessment of the scope of work is being carried out and an extensive "Community Outreach Program" is being Implemented. However, due to the recent community spread of Covid19 cases, the outreach is being conducted on a house-to-house basis by National MAB Committee Members from within the MAB Community.



*Pictures of the Cayon River Assessment and Community Outreach*

## PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY GOODS AND SERVICES

Individuals, groups, and corporations that directly produce agricultural, fishery, livestock, forest, processed products, and natural resources in Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve can submit an application form to utilize the BR label and should be approved through document and on-site evaluations by Jeju Special Self-Governing Province.

Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve and enterprises taking advantage of the branding scheme have continued to discuss and exchange views and opinions on different measures to promote and increase the sales of the high quality food products registered to utilize the brand logo.

Other than the existing local market operated by Jeju City Forestry Cooperative, a newly established eco-friendly store, named “Yong-gi,” a community-based zero waste store that provides food, home goods and zero waste products to ensure sustainability with as little waste as possible, has established the permanent exhibition of BR-labeled products to promote Jeju BR and its labeled products alike.

The store, “Yong-gi” offers all natural, sustainably sourced, eco-friendly, plastic-free alternatives to items people use in their everyday lives, which resonates with objectives of Man and the Biosphere Programme that aims to improve human livelihoods and safeguard natural ecosystems.

Jeju Island BR continuously examines ways to coexist with nature and benefit local economy. The instrument has encouraged a dynamic network between certified producers and increased public awareness about the importance of sustainable use of resources.

