

Learning for sustainable development in UNESCO biosphere reserves



German Commission
for UNESCO

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO biosphere reserves



Global network: 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries

15 German UNESCO biosphere reserves



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Representative ecosystems

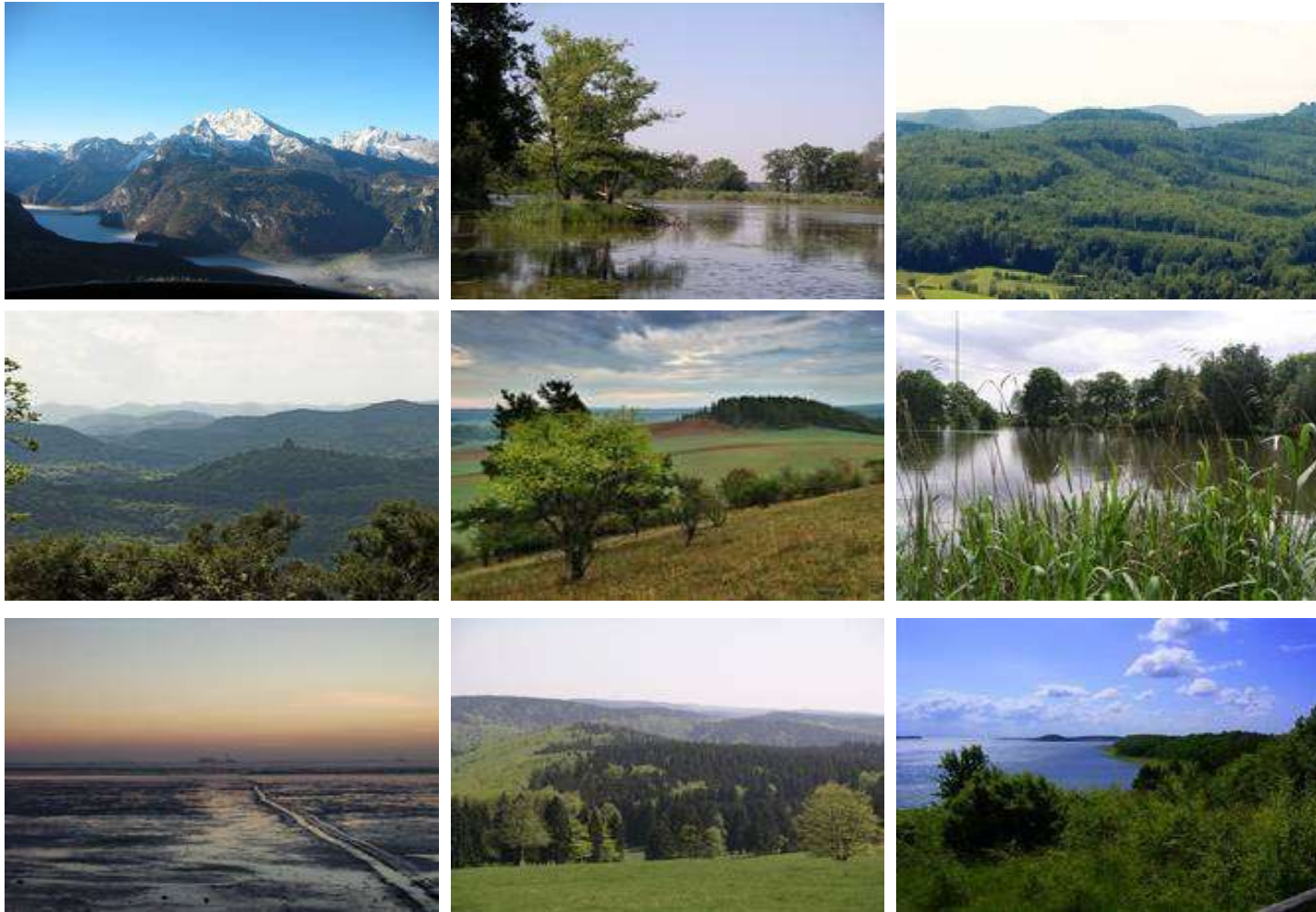


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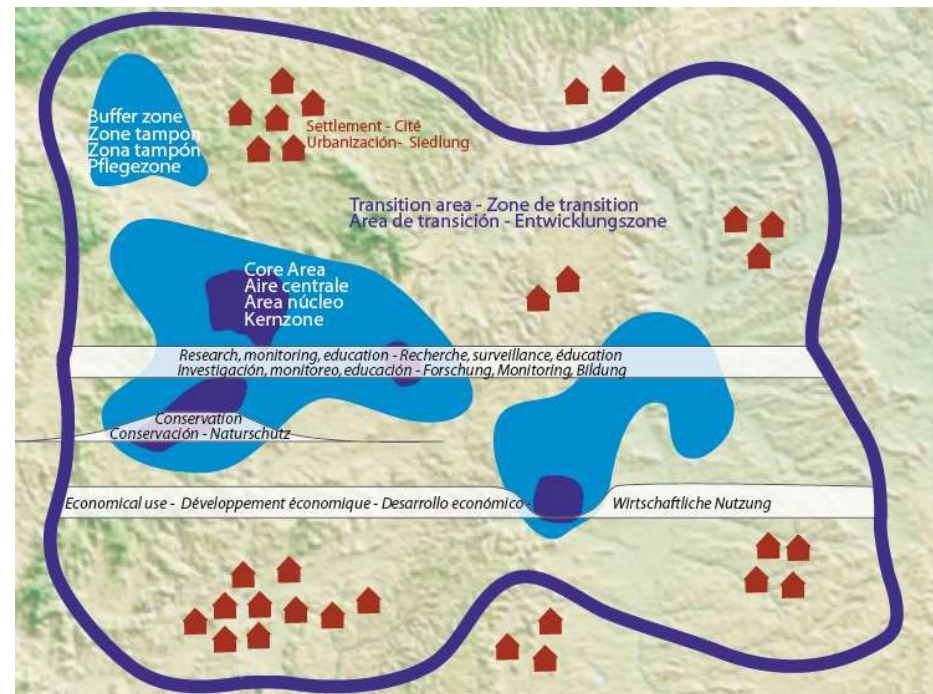
Focus – on sustainable livelihoods



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Key aspects

- Since 1971
- Nature conservation **with and through human use**
- Only global intergovernmental network of protected areas
- 10-year evaluation cycle
- Strong focus on knowledge generation, sharing and application
- Zonation



Learning laboratories for sustainability

- Learning NOT AS transferring some previously defined content to an audience of learners
- Learning AS conscious and reflexive process of acting towards a more sustainable development
- Joint learning processes by
 - managers,
 - communities (across all generations),
 - scientists and
 - stakeholders, and including
 - education institutions

The idea

- Knowledge is generated and shared, every day, in every biosphere reserve
- We need to become aware of these processes of generating and sharing knowledge, and:
- We need to understand and analyze the process of knowledge generation/sharing as such, *as learning* – and systematically improve such learning processes
- Which knowledge, which values will help us and the world to become less unsustainable?

2016: a new community of practice

- To develop, in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, a new common understanding of learning processes for sustainable development
- To develop a better understanding
 - of the preconditions of successful learning,
 - of good practice in terms of results,
 - of the role of managers as catalysts or hubs, including their education staff,
 - of the role of scientists, including in their interaction with communities

Are you interested?



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Education, Science, Culture and Communication

Thank you for your attention!

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