



The GoBi-Team: Nadine Fritz-Vietta, Rainer Schliep, Laura Avila, Susanne Stoll-Kleemann (head), Monika Bertzky, Sascha Maier, Marion Mehring (from left to right; Anne de la Vega is missing)

Dear participants of the GoBi global survey on biosphere reserve management!

Today we are glad to send you the first edition of our newsletter on the GoBi project.

First of all we would like to thank you for your valuable support to our project and the many contributions from your side!

With this newsletter we would like to satisfy your demand for a feedback from us and to briefly inform you about the progress of our project. We thus provide you with a short overview on the overall and regional coverage of the project. However, this newsletter will not replace the scientific publication of our data.

GoBi is a team of young researchers and scientists from various disciplines: geography, planning, ecology, biology, management and philosophy. We are located in Berlin, Germany.

GoBi's vision is to support and enhance the management of biosphere reserves worldwide. Herein the GoBi concept refers to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Ecosystem Approach and considers the UNESCO-MAB Programme to be an implementation instrument for the CBD.

We hope that we stay in touch with all of you and wish you all the best for your work!

Your GoBi-Team

The GoBi global survey

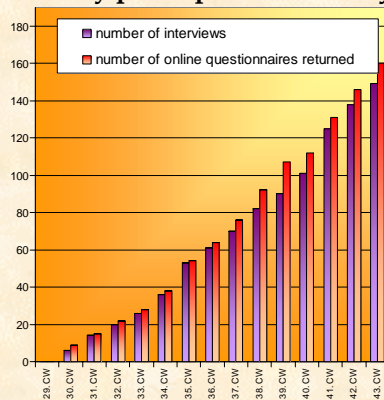
The GoBi global telephone survey on success and failure factors for biosphere reserve management started in the middle of July 2006, however, preparations started much earlier. Two different media for surveying were developed: one online questionnaire and one interview guidance (currently available in six languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish). Both are meant to complement each other: the online questionnaire serves as a 'warming up' and refers to the more general view of our interview partners

Since July, more than 156 filled online questionnaires have been sent back to us and more than 150 interviews have been completed, now covering 57 out of 101 countries participating in the UNESCO-MAB World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The return rate is now above 30% when considering the Network consisting of 480 biosphere reserves worldwide.

The GoBi global survey shows a very good coverage in the Americas and in most parts of Europe. Difficulties continue to exist in contacting biosphere reserves in China, India, Iran, the Russian Federation, as well as in Central Asian and Middle African countries. This is of high relevance as the biosphere reserves in the above countries make up to 20% of the whole Network.

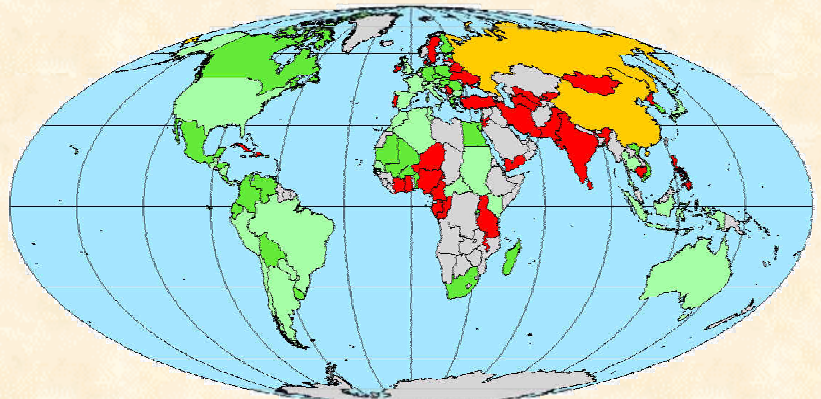
We have prolonged the deadline for the survey several times because we had to invest a lot of time in searching for valid contact data. However, communication with you is worth every second invested. We would like to encourage every head or information officer of a biosphere reserve reading this newsletter and not yet having participated in our survey to visit our website and join the club!

Weekly participation in survey



on nature conservation while the telephone interview explores the management in the respective biosphere reserves in particular.

Percentage of participating biosphere reserves per country



dark green: >50%; light green: >20%; yellow: >0%; red: no reply; grey: no biosphere reserves