

GoBi - Governance of Biodiversity project at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

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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!

The year 2006 draws to a close. Since our last newsletter, the GoBi Research Project managed to include ten more countries into its global survey, e.g. Cameroon, Congo DR, India, Jordan, Niger, Sweden, Turkey and Yemen.

We are now concentrating on Central and Eastern Asia and already managed to establish contact to biosphere reserve managers from this region. We hope that their role as 'multipliers' will help us to learn more about the functioning of biosphere reserves out there.

Christoph Nolte who spent six months cycling 12,000 km from Europe to China and visiting 18 biosphere reserves along the road in the so-called 'Biosphere Tour' visited the GoBi Research Group for a fruitful information exchange.

The first results of GoBi's global survey were presented at the 2006 Berlin Conference on Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (for a short overview please see the adjoining article).

Laura Avila who helped us so much in contacting the biosphere reserves in the Americas and in the Spanish speaking countries will return to Florida at the end of the year to start her PhD. Thank you, Laura!

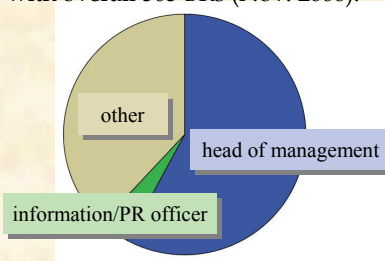
Have a relaxed and peaceful time!

Your GoBi-Team

First results from GoBi's global survey

Coverage of the survey

Currently there are 101 countries participating in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (BRs) with overall 505 BRs (Nov. 2006).



Job positions of participants

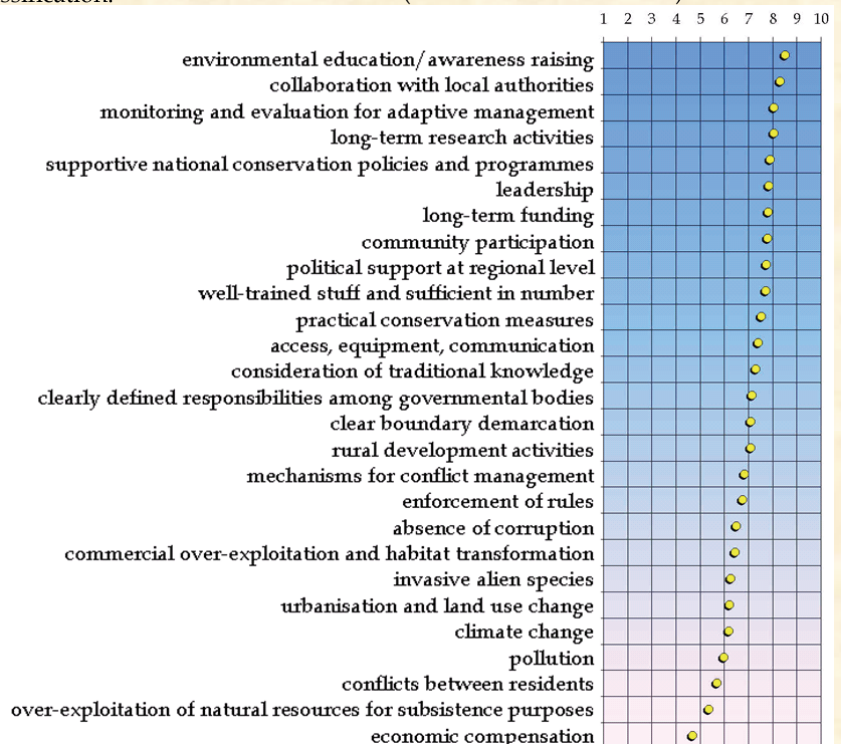
GoBi's global survey covers 78 out of 101 countries. 202 members of BR management were interviewed with an overall response rate of 40%. About half of the accomplished interviews are from high-income economies according to the World Bank classification.

Ranking of the factors

Results from the online questionnaire show that all 27 factors were ranked with high relevance between 5 and 10 (see figure below). One remarkable result is the position of factors related to collaborative management.

Regional aspect: Exceptional position of United States biosphere reserves

15 out of 26 interviewed US BRs are affiliated to universities or national and State agencies. As a consequence, the basic assumption underlying the concept for successful BR management diverges substantially from the world average: 61.5% name species protection and ecosystem integrity as priority (world without US: 14.1%), while 30.8% favour a balanced approach integrating socio-economic and cultural dimensions with conservation (world without US: 74.2%).



Average relevance of success and failure factors, online questionnaire (n=177)