

GoBi - Governance of Biodiversity project at the University of Greifswald, Germany

No. 6

<http://www.biodiversitygovernance.de>

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Vibrant discussion at GoBi's workshop on the relevance and potential of protected areas for adaptation to climate change at IUCN's World Conservation Congress, Barcelona 2008.

### Dear participants of the GoBi Global Survey on Biosphere Reserve Management!

The GoBi-Team is constantly spreading the word of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. During the last weeks our team was receiving visits from a number of colleagues from all over the world: Dr. Thomas Schaaf (UNESCO-MaB Paris, France), Ms. Lisen Schultz (Stockholm University & Resilience Centre, Sweden), Prof. Dr. Marc Hockings and Dr. Fiona Leverington (both IUCN-WCPA and University of Queensland, Australia). We continue to deepen our contacts to the experts and practitioners from the WNBR e.g. at our Summer School (see article) when we welcome colleagues from Asia, Africa and Latin America to reflect together on challenges and opportunities in the promotion of sustainable development. We will further intensify our efforts in this regard by means of C-BRA (see Newsletter No. 5 and adjoining article).

With best wishes,

#### Your GoBi-Team

#### Closer collaboration with Latin- American BR experts

Since her visit to Mexico in fall 2008, Dr. Cristina de la Vega-Leinert is exploring different paths to foster closer collaboration between C-BRA and leading academic institutions and governmental organisations on academic exchange and research in Mexican BRs as well as in Ecuador. We will further report on the progress of this collaboration effort.

## Dialogue on Sustainability Education

In the context of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), Prof. Dr. Susanne Stoll-Kleemann and Dr. Regine Schönberg (GTZ) chaired an international Summer School financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009. The Summer School entitled "From Research to Practice: The Role of Education for Sustainable Development in Natural Resource Management in Research, Education and International Cooperation" was held on the Isle of Vilm, close to Greifswald, Germany. The Summer School was closely related to the GTZ- initiative "Between



Meeting with managers of the BR South-East Ruegen

Lecture Hall & Project Work", a virtual learning platform.



Conference hall and guest houses, Isle of Vilm

In an inter- and transdisciplinary dialogue, 25 participants from 18 countries shared their knowledge and experience with invited experts and GoBi scientists. Topics discussed included the roles of higher education, research, participation, and communication in the context of natural resource management in biosphere reserves. Additionally, field trips to the Biosphere Reserve South-East Ruegen und the National Park Jasmund provided the participants with real life examples. Contact: Ms. Clara Buer; E-Mail: [clara.buer@uni-greifswald.de](mailto:clara.buer@uni-greifswald.de)

## Inauguration of BR Association

With the participation of national and international supporters, the Association for Biosphere Reserve Research and Communication, the legal body of the Global Centre for Biosphere Reserve Advancement (C-BRA), was launched in January at the University of Greifswald.

Introducing the event, Dr. Thomas Schaaf, UNESCO MaB Programme and Chief of the Ecological Sciences & Biodiversity Section at the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, gave a guest lecture.

The total number of association members is currently 50 from 11 countries. The board of the association is supported by an expert advisory body counting on the active participation of: Ms Gertrud Sahler (German Federal Ministry for the Environment / head of the German MaB National Committee), Ms Doris Pokorny (BR Rhoen), Ms Gisela Stolpe (International Nature Conservation Academy, Isle of Vilm),

Ms Regine Schönberg (GTZ), Ms Lisen Schultz (Stockholm University), Mr Michael Succow (Laureate of the Right Livelihoods Award), Mr Konrad Ott, Mr Sixten Bussemer, Mr Wilhelm Steingrube (University of Greifswald), Mr Klaus Jarmatz (BR Schaalsee), and Mr Thomas Schaaf (UNESCO-MaB Paris).

For further information about the association, please see:

<http://www.biosphere-research.org/>



Dr. Thomas Schaaf during his guest lecture on biosphere reserves as learning sites