

## UNESCO

UNESCO is the UN's organisation for peace work through collaboration within education, science, culture and communication. UNESCO has 195 member countries and works towards finding solutions to collective problems, but UNESCO is not primarily an aid organisation but rather works for global development. UNESCO collaborates with a wide network of volunteer organisations, Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO professorships, World Heritage and the Memory of the World organisation, among others.

## Swedish National Commission for UNESCO

UNESCO's 195 member countries will each have a National Commission which functions as the link between the UN organ UNESCO and institutions and organisations in their own country. The UNESCO Commission has a maximum of 12 members, who are professionals within UNESCO's different areas of responsibility (education, science, culture, communication). The UNESCO Commissions from the Nordic countries collaborate closely in order to take advantage of expertise and resources. The government has adopted a strategy for all Swedish collaboration with UNESCO, where the priorities for the collaboration are determined. Many Swedes are active in the committees, boards and networks within UNESCO. SIDA supports UNESCO principally in educational work in third world countries.

The UNESCO National Commission gives advice to the government regarding UNESCO questions, and disseminates information within Sweden on UNESCO's operations.



Elenor Bengtsson, SkaraborgsBild (above).  
Elenor Bengtsson, SkaraborgsBild. Söcke caves (left image).

*Education, science,  
culture and communication  
builds peace.*



## UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme

### UNESCO Priorities

#### Education for all

Education is the key to skills and knowledge, which provide better health and living conditions. "Education for all" is UNESCO's highest priority. UNESCO coordinates the UN's work to ensure that good basic education is available for all, and the UN's work with education for sustainable development.

#### Science for the world's development

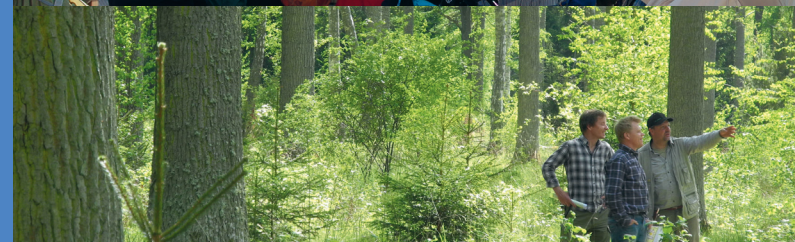
Research gives the countries of the world knowledge and the possibility to combat poverty and create a peaceful, sustainable society. UNESCO is working towards producing guidelines and ethical principles so that research promotes this goal, and towards disseminating research results.

#### Cultural diversity and World Heritage

Among other things, UNESCO works by helping member countries produce common rules, for example, with conventions. The most renowned cultural convention is the 1972 "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" (World Heritage Convention). Two other important conventions concerned intangible cultural heritage (songs, stories, traditions), and cultural diversity.

#### Press and freedom of expression

UNESCO has an important mission to promote the press and freedom of expression and contribute to the free flow of words, pictures, thoughts and ideas. UNESCO also works towards access to information and information technology for all.



Since wars begin in  
the minds of men, it is  
in the minds of men  
that the defences of  
peace must be con-  
structed

From UNESCO's Universal Declaration of  
Human Rights

Svenska Uneskorådet  
Utbildningsdepartementet  
103 33 Stockholm  
Sweden  
[www.unesco.se](http://www.unesco.se)

  
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

[unesco.se](http://unesco.se)

Svenska Uneskorådet  
Swedish National  
Commission for UNESCO





## UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme

A Biosphere Reserve can be regarded as a bridge builder connecting strategic actors (owners, users etc.) in a specific area. In Biosphere Reserves new methods are tested and new knowledge is sought with the aim that Biosphere Reserves should demonstrate how man can preserve a natural area at the same time as creating conditions allowing man to sustainably live in said area, contributing to better understanding of biosphere resources.

The Swedish Biosphere Reserves are a part of the work within the Swedish section of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). The MAB Programme collects and disseminates experience and knowledge from the Biosphere Reserves. The Swedish work is coordinated by a National Committee and developed with the help of a coordinator.

Picture above: Marking turtles in an area where captive turtles are released back into the wild, Senegal. PASEF-2010.



### 1. Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve (2005)

The wetlands are thirty by thirty kilometres - from the forest in the north along Helgån (River Helge) continuing out into Hanöbukten (Hanö Bay). Within the Biosphere Reserve, farmers, entrepreneurs in ecotourism, associations and government agencies collaborate to preserve and develop the countryside. Unique plants and insects benefit from collaboration with the Golf Club in Åhus and open up the sand dunes providing information for nature enthusiasts in the Naturum Vattenriket (The Wetland Visitor Centre) and the local visitor sites. Today the wetlands are no longer regarded as water-logged, but as water-rich! [www.vattenriket.kristianstad.se](http://www.vattenriket.kristianstad.se)

### 2. Lake Vänern Archipelago Biosphere Reserve (2010)

From the top of the Kinnekulle mountain one can look out over the whole Biosphere Reserve where Götene's, Lidköping's och Mariestad's municipalities collaborate and develop a long-term sustainable society where the living environment is highly valued. The area is rich in resources: Lake Vänern's clean water, the diversity of the forest and the knowledge of man. The Biosphere Reserve focuses on the theme areas: unlimited collaboration, successful biosphere economics, knowledge of the biosphere and the sustainable development of society. [www.vanerkulle.se](http://www.vanerkulle.se)

### 3. Nedre Dalälven River Landscape Biosphere Reserve (2011)

The very unique nature conservation value of Nedre Dalälven is created by the river, and additionally by the convergence of northern and southern Swedish nature, known as limes norrlandicus. No other area in Scandinavia has such a variety of vertebrates.



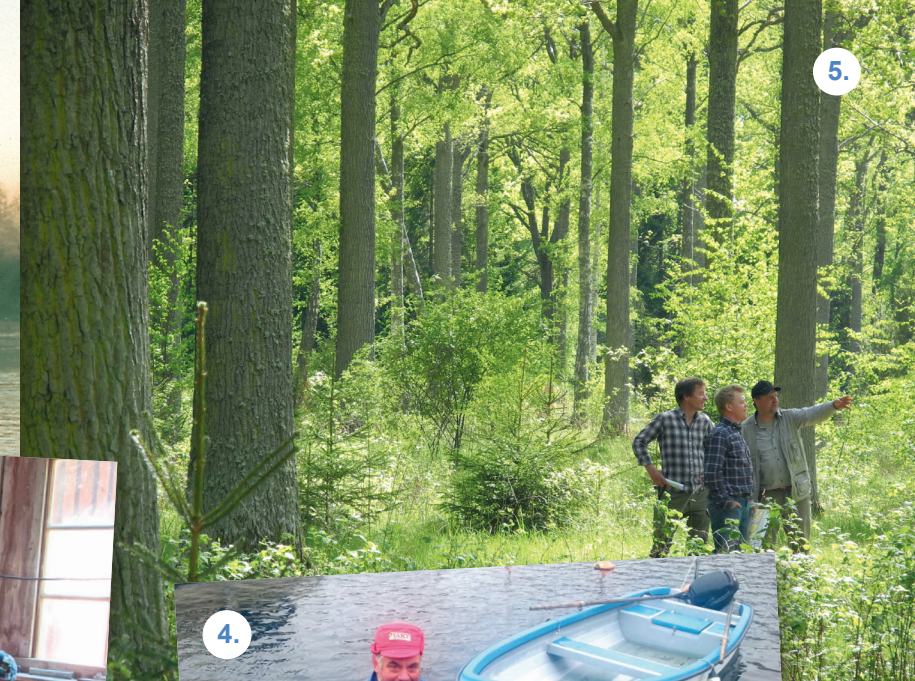
This open cultural landscape is very significant in the area's appeal for population, likewise for settlement, tourism and business. The Biosphere Reserve offers a unique opportunity to live in and strengthen the cultural landscape and its role in ecological, social and economic development. [www.neda.se](http://www.neda.se)

### 4. Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve (2011)

The Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve is the first Swedish Biosphere Reserve to focus on Baltic Sea issues. The reserve includes most of the Blekinge archipelago and coastal landscape and is a relatively populated area: in total about 85,000 people live within the Biosphere Reserve, of whom around 4,000 live on islands with or without mainland connections. The focus of the Biosphere Reserve is to create a living society through new forms of interaction and through supporting and developing the nature, culture and entrepreneurship of the area. [www.blekingearkipelag.se](http://www.blekingearkipelag.se)

### 5. East Vättern Landscape Biosphere Reserve (2012)

East of Lake Vättern stretches a unique mosaic landscape with farmed land and forest slopes – historically interesting Visingsö Island is included in the reserve. At the end of the 1990s the Östra Vätterbrants Project was begun, its goal was to assemble actors with an interest in the different resources of nature. Together they agreed on a vision: "We are all part of the Biosphere". The Biosphere Reserve works to show concrete examples of how the value of the landscape can contribute to the development of towns, countryside and tourism. [www.ostravatterbranterna.se](http://www.ostravatterbranterna.se)



UNESCO has five scientific programmes for questions concerning such things as fresh water and sea water, geoscience and basic natural science as well as Biosphere Reserves – The MAB Programme. The programmes work, among other things, through creating networks and contacts between researchers in different parts of the world.

MAB is an intergovernmental programme with the aim of improving relations between man and his living environment on a scientific basis, within a global perspective. The programme started at the beginning of the 1970s and is an interdisciplinary research programme where natural science and social science unite. MAB differs from UNESCO's other natural science programmes, as MAB builds on local involvement in sustainable social development in Biosphere Reserves. It is UNESCO that designates Biosphere Reserves following nominations from member countries. There are today over 600 Biosphere Reserves in 117 countries that collaborate in "the World Network of Biosphere Reserves". The MAB Programme is managed at central level by a board, and the programme has several sub-programmes and activities concerning, among other things, mountains, arid land, tropical forests, urban landscapes, wetlands, seas, islands and coastal ecosystems.



<http://www.biosfaromrade.org>