

Newsletter

World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

Publisher: Jeju Secretariat of WNICBR, the Republic of Korea

Commander Islands Biosphere Reserve, Russia

WWF RUSSIA HAS COMPLETED FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE COMMANDER ISLANDS BIOSPHERE RESERVE ECO-PATHS

The Commander Islands is a remote part of Russia in the northwestern Pacific Ocean, where untouched wildlife is preserved in its pristine beauty. Under the protection of the nature reserve, thousands of sea otters and harbor seals live, hundreds of thousands of northern fur seals and hundreds of sea lions stay on the rookeries. In the protected area off the coast of the islands you can regularly see about a dozen species of cetaceans: sperm whales, killer whales, humpback, north pacific right whales and other species.

As part of the Earth Hour 2020 campaign, corporate partners and other supporters of WWF Russia managed to raise five million roubles for the implementation of important environmental projects. 3.8 million roubles of these funds will be used to complete the construction of the ecological trail off Severo-Zapadnoye rookery of marine mammals on Bering Island.

The first stage of building the ecological trail was completed back in 2017. Thanks to donations, two new viewing platforms with information boards and an entrance group appeared here. In 2019, on the most difficult section of the route, the employees of the reserve installed the 42-meter staircase.



Fur seals on the rookery of Bering Island

However, the institution ran out of funds to continue the project. Representatives of the CINBR appealed to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF Russia) asking for support. The raised funds will be enough to cover all the necessary expenses associated with the completion of the construction.

“We are grateful to WWF Russia, supporters of the foundation and business - everyone who financially and informally supported the development of the ecological trail along the Severo-Zapadnoye rookery. The fact that we managed to collect the necessary sum so quickly emphasizes that this project of the nature reserve will be in demand among tourists and is necessary for awareness raising for both guests of the reserve and residents of Nikolskoye Village on Bering Island. We plan to complete eco trail project this year. However, now we will have to take into account the difficulties arising from the pandemic of the coronavirus infection,” said the acting Director of the reserve Evgeny Mamaev.

The reserve hopes that the ecological trail on the most popular tourist route on Bering Island, equipped with information boards, staircases, observation platforms and decks, will ensure the safety of tourists and minimize the anthropogenic burden on the coastal ecosystem at the same time. The Fund’s specialists are confident that the development of eco-tourism on the island will help to attract more attention to the protected areas, as well as stimulate the flow of funds for important environmental work.

<http://komandorsky.ru/en/wwf-russia-ecopaths.html>



Observation deck on the eco trail at the Severo-Zapadnoye rookery

Georgian Bay BR, Canada

GROWING TOGETHER: PROVIDING FRESH FOOD AT A TIME OF NEED

A new campaign called “Growing Together” is going to help people grow some of their own food. The Georgian Bay Biosphere is working with partners to have ready-to-grow planters of vegetables and herbs safely delivered under Covid-19. The campaign goal is to get 1,000 planters distributed in the area that can be easily maintained and harvested to boost health and well-being in the community.



Vegetable planters can safely be delivered to community partners for pick-up by participants and be easily maintained and harvested for a healthy supplement to any diet. Partner agencies will order the number of vegetable planters that they then distribute to participants, through their networks.

Partners include food banks, social services, community gardens, shelters, health clinics, First Nations, seniors services and other centres that could receive planters for participants. The number available will depend on the donations campaign and other funding that is received from May to July.

Agencies will coordinate how participants pick-up their vegetable planter or have their volunteers safely deliver. Each planter will have a variety of vegetables, starting with early crops that can be harvested and then allow larger summer plants to expand. Other vegetables and fruits include: lettuce, arugula, kale, green onion, cherry tomato, baby eggplant, slicing tomato or sweet pepper. Herbs such as basil, parsley and thyme provide fragrance, food seasoning, and attract pollinators with their flowers.

Participants do not choose what vegetables they receive and the planters are not available to the general public - just in large deliveries to each partner agency who will then distribute them. The public is encouraged to contact garden centres in the region who take orders by phone to make their own pick up arrangements. Home gardeners are encouraged to plant a little extra this year to donate fresh produce to area food programs.



“We are working hard to ensure each plant is labelled and we’ve created an information sheet for new gardeners to answer most of the common questions about container gardening,” says Delaina Arnold, GBBR Education Coordinator. “There are some tricks, like planters need a sunny spot like a window, back step or porch, but out of the wind. They really need to be watered regularly (sometimes daily if the top 2 inches of soil dry out) but not be swamped. By watching your plants, you can quickly tell if they’re happy or not. Our website will provide more information sheets for backyard gardeners - everything from starting seeds to composting.” Gardening information will be available at www.gbbr.ca/gardens.

Benefits of the program are increased food security through basic gardening skills, some healthy fresh produce, the mental health benefits of tending plants, education materials to enhance gardening success, and children’s activities like ‘Kids Can Grow’ along with reusable planters. They can even be planted again at the end of summer with cool weather crops like lettuce and spinach.

“Since 2008, we have been committed to promoting food sustainability, gardening and food preparation skills. Our ‘Growing Together’ campaign will meet a short-term need but contribute to long-term food security and community well-being. The GBBR raised \$11,200 last week to match with all new donations. Our goal is to raise enough funds to supply at least 1,000 planters in our area and to support all interested gardeners with online resources, tips, and eventually workshops again.” says Dr. Becky Pollock, GBBR executive director.



*Briar Howes waters vegetable seedlings at Little Gardens Ltd. In Parry Sound, Ontario CANADA
(Source: B. Pollock)*

JOBS FOR CARBON SOUP KITCHEN

As a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and resultant implications, South Africa went into lockdown on 26 March 2020 and at the time of this article remained in lockdown, although under less strenuous restrictions.

During this time, as in many other parts of the world, the country faced some challenging and in some cases, life-threatening situations. In Vanwyksdorp in the Western Cape, the GCBR's Jobs for Carbon (J4C) team decided to be proactive in addressing some of the most critical issues.

A meeting was called, information was exchanged and agreement was reached to support the local community. Members from the community that were able, were called upon to make donations. Excitingly therefore, on 13 April 2020, J4C set up a soup kitchen, thereby taking the lead by having a positive influence on the community!

The biggest challenge was to support a local Early Childhood Centre in feeding its children. Ladies who play an integral role in Landcare (partners in some of the J4C work) and who are currently unemployed also required to be fed. Soup was provided to the children at the school twice weekly, whilst the Landcare team received five meals a week. In a quid pro quo arrangement, the Landcare ladies took turns in assisting with the preparation of meals.



The J4C's highest priority was to ensure that the soups and stews provided were healthy, nutritious and high in vitamins and minerals, because these meals may have been the only one of the day for some.

Feeding so many mouths with little funding required careful planning, intensive labour and working in kitchens not equipped for projects this size. But in spite of these challenges, the team served 2,310 meals in a seven week period.

The team is proud to have made a significant difference in responding to a community in need and in guaranteeing that no-one went to bed hungry.

J4C would like to thank the GCBR and all other contributors for their donations, whether in the form of funds, ingredients or a helping hand. Together we have made a difference!

For more information;

<https://gouritz.com/portfolio/jobs-for-carbon/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Jobs-for-Carbon-105833514131214/>



"HERITAGE AT HOME" OPERATION



Launched at the beginning of the year by the Ushant Eco museum, one of the Iroise Biosphere Reserve Houses, this initiative is part of the French Ministry of Culture's "le musée sort de ses murs" label (the museum comes out of its walls).

The museum team noticed that it is not easy to know how to protect and conserve objects of high sentimental value that are transmitted within family's relatives. These objects are part of the families' heritage and so remained at home. Nevertheless they also contribute to telling the collective story. Their knowledge and study thus enrich and add depth and nuance to the history of the area. In order to continue to write this history with the inhabitants, a voluntary and free exchange between the inhabitants and the museum is proposed;

- the inhabitants present an object and tell its story.
- the museum gathers information about the object as it already does for the objects in its collection (photos, measurements, description, dating and history) for study purposes.
- approved heritage restorers inform and train the objects owners, with the aim of improving the conditions of conservation at home and thus their protection.

Subscribe to the Facebook page @Iroise Biosphere Reserve UNESCO to get all the news!



ISLE OF MAN BIOSPHERE STORY TOLD ON WALL-HANGINGS

Life in the Isle of Man UNESCO Biosphere has been recreated in the form of a set of wall-hangings that have been on public exhibition.

Mannin Quilters created seven hangings, encapsulating life in the Isle of Man's six sheadings plus a hanging explaining the project. The impressive works depict the natural, social, cultural and heritage features of the sheadings and amount to thousands of hours work for the quilting group's members. Appropriate for a member of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves, the hangings feature the Island's diverse sea life, its marine nature reserves and its beach cleaning activity.

A public exhibition of the hangings at Castletown Civic Centre was opened by the Isle of Man's Chief Minister, Hon Howard Quayle MHK, who chairs the Biosphere's Stakeholder Partnership Group. The Chief Minister said: 'Our UNESCO Biosphere status celebrates all that we hold dear in the Isle of Man: our green hills by the sea, our diverse nature and wildlife, our rich heritage and our abundant culture, which has shaped the way we live in the past and continues to do so today, and, not last, our strong sense of community and desire to work together to keep the Island special. This delightful project by Mannin Quilters brings together all the strands of our Biosphere. The hangings embody the community spirit that makes the Isle of Man so different from other places.'

The hangings were displayed at two more Isle of Man venues, to much acclaim, before Covid-19 led to closure of public spaces and halted their progress. They had been due to be exhibited in the Isle of Man's largest arts venue, the Villa Marina. However, there are now plans to have the hangings on public display in a permanent home in the Isle of Man and to enter them into a British Isles-wide festival.



Chief Minister of the Isle of Man Hon Howard Quayle MHK (right), Vice-Chairman of Castletown Commissioners David Parnell (left) and Chair of Mannin Quilters Chris Eastham at the opening of the public exhibition at Castletown Civic Centre, Isle of Man

The Mariñas Coruñasas e Terras do Mandeo Biosphere Reserve adapts its Programme 'Educating in the Biosphere' to the Covid-19 situation

The 'Mariñas Coruñasas e Terras do Mandeo' Biosphere Reserve is located in Galicia, Northwest of Spain and its territory bounds with the Atlantic Ocean. Formed by 17 municipalities it comprises 116,724 hectares, of which 2,754.6 are marine hectares, and has a population of 195,077 inhabitants.

In Spain, as in many other countries, the Covid-19 pandemic has implied that different economic sectors, institutions, entities and the entire population have had to adapt their activities and their lives to this situation. 'Mariñas Coruñasas e Terras do Mandeo' has also adapted to continue with functions of Biosphere Reserves such as promoting education and responding to the needs of the population in the face of current situation.

One of its initiatives has been the on-line adaptation of its Programme 'Educating in the Biosphere' with the aim of continuing to bring the values and philosophy of Biosphere Reserves to the educational community of its area.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME 'EDUCATING IN THE BIOSPHERE'?

It is a programme of practical activities aimed at school community that intends to reinforce and complete the knowledge acquired in the classroom.

Since its beginning, the activities have the Sustainable Development Objectives of UNO as a reference point and have been focused on: improving and conserving marine and terrestrial ecosystems, promoting awareness of climate change, highlighting importance of sustainable use of resources, promoting responsible production and consumption habits by emphasizing the reduction in the use of plastics that have a great impact on the marine environment.



Children and a shellfish farmer

Every year, the Programme has been incorporating new activities related to healthy diet and the consumption of local products, the reduction of gender inequality, etc. by involving experts and professionals related to the different topics.

Since 2016, when 'Educating in the Biosphere' started up in Sada (one of the Biosphere Reserve coastal municipality), it has been gradually exported to schools in Biosphere Reserve municipalities (coastal and inland ones), involving children between 3 and 17 years of age.

Nowadays it is established on schools of 6 municipalities of the Biosphere Reserve area. In the last year more than 3,000 children have been participating on the Programme.

'Educating in the Biosphere' 2019-2020

<http://marinasbetanzos.gal/es/2020/04/28/a-reserva-de-biosfera-marinas-corunesas-e-terras-do-mandeo-adapta-o-seu-programa-educando-na-biosfera/>

<http://mediateca-sada.seneca.tv/library/items/presentacion-educando-biosfera-2020>

Book 'Educating in the Biosphere'

http://marinasbetanzos.gal/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Libro-Educando-na-Biosfera_medios-dixitais.pdf



Other activities

COMMUNAL REFORESTATION OF MANGROVES AND NATIVE SPECIES IN THE SAHAMALAZA-RADAMA BR PERIPHERAL ZONE

According to the General Politics of the State Malagasy (PGE), Madagascar aims to plant 60,000,000 trees this year. The Sahamalaza BR planted 1,200,000 mangrove seedlings in Mahitsihazo, about 2000 people came to plant these seedlings.

The aim of this project is to:

- Help restore crustacean habitat in Sahamalaza BR, the BR Sahamalaza is home to the largest number of crustaceans in northwestern Madagascar;
- Contribute to the protection of the Sahamalaza Bay Coastal Area;
- Help raise awareness among the local population to conserve the 8 existing mangrove species in the Sahamalaza BR

In addition, about 8,000 native species including fruit trees such as oranges, combavas, corosoles, etc. and *Dalbergia* sp, have been planted, which in total over 25 hectares was reforested. It aims to help the local population improve their quality of life, to conserve the soil against erosion, to meet the needs of the population in collecting firewood.

The regional, national and traditional administrative authorities, the local population, the technical and financial partners of the BR Sahamalaza came to help us with the reforestation. Finally, the BR Sahamalaza becomes the national reforestation site for mangroves.



POPULATION STRUCTURE AND REGENERATION OF BOSWELLIA ELONGATA AT HOMHIL AREA

Socotra Island has the highest diversity of Burseraceae family members in the world. It is home to seven or eight species of *Boswellia*, all of them are endemic, and five species of *Commiphora*, four of them are endemic. All species live in the zone of dryland deciduous tree or shrub vegetation. Some species colonize lowlands (*Boswellia popoviana*, *Commiphora ornifolia*, *C. socotrana*), while others grow only in the highlands (*B. ameero*, *C. planifrons*).

Frankincense trees are divided into two groups. Species from the first group belong to ground rooted trees (*B. ameero*, incl. *B. sp. A*, *B. elongata* and *B. socotrana*). The second group is composed of cliff rooted species (*B. popoviana*, *B. dioscorides*, *B. bullata* and *B. nana*). Generally, ground rooted species are more endangered because of the strong impact of grazing on their regeneration. Frankincense trees have had high socioeconomic and cultural value since ancient times. The olibanum was a product of high importance and has been harvested for thousands of years, including on Socotra. However, local people use these trees in a special sylvo-pastoral system cutting branches as a fodder for cattle, in traditional medicine and as a source of nectar for honey bees.

In past decades a decline of frankincense and myrrh tree populations is evident, due to lack of the regeneration of ground rooted species caused by livestock grazing. There is also a lack of systematic studies that could examine the population status of the species and which could lead to improved management and conservation.

The current grazing and sylvo-pastoral system results in a gradual degradation of the population and inhibits its natural regeneration. The situation of *B. elongata* in the Homhil area calls for urgent action for the conservation of the species. A proper management plan and its implementation are required. Presently, Socotra island has lost more than 70% of the population of *Boswellia elongata*, 25% of *Boswellia socotrana* and 5-10% of other species due to cyclones in 2015, 2018 and 2019. Therefore, we are currently looking for fund to support the biodiversity and rehabilitation *Boswellia* species which are endangered in Socotra Island.

TWO NEW ECOTOURISM VILLAGES, PYEONGDAE-RI AND HOGEUNDONG

Man and the Biosphere Programme implies the harmonization of conservation and development and Jeju Island utilizes UNESCO status for sustainable development and an effort to benefit locals. Ecotourism project aims to generate profits for local people and integrate the economy with the protection of the environment. This government-funded program supports two villages for five years. The ultimate goal is to help the villages establish ecotourism model and run various programs and activities on their own.

Two ecotourism villages, Jeoji-ri and Harae-ri, were financially supported by Jeju Provincial Government from 2014 to 2018. With warm welcome and hospitality offered by residents of the village, visitors can take part in a variety of eco-friendly programs such as trekking along the nationally protected areas and hands-on experience programs utilizing the resources found in the areas. These opportunities enable both tourists and visitors to learn and respect the environment of these natural places and also maintain a sustainable environment.

Two new ecotourism villages have been chosen, Pyeongdae-ri and Hogeundong. A consulting group has had some meetings with the residents for capacity building and investigated resources available in the villages they can utilize for Eco-tourism. This 5-year project requires continued dedication and cooperation of the government and local community. The project is now entering its second stage which focuses on education and program planning. This process will eventually encourage visitors to walk through and explore with local residents and allows them to learn more about the history and culture of each village and their local ecosystems.



Trekking program along the Hyodoncheon Stream in Harye-ri

INTERIM REPORT OF THE PROJECT ON THE VALUE OF ISLAND AND COASTAL BR AS A SOURCE OF CARBON SINK

UNESCO MAB Programme has carried out a series of researches on climate change in Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (ICBR). Due to its impact on both nature and human society, climate change is the most serious environmental problem. Biosphere Reserves especially those on island and coastal areas are more vulnerable to climate change, the establishment and implementation of BR-specific strategies against climate change are urgently needed. International organizations have emphasized the importance and necessity to establish and implement specific strategies on international protected areas such as biosphere reserves.

The first stage analyzed the impact of climate change on the research sites. The second stage aiming to establish strategies responding to climate change on island and coastal BRs has also been conducted and published. The third stage of the research, 'the Value of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves as a Source of Carbon Sink, four ICBRs aims at analyzing the value of island and coastal BRs with a special reference to them as a source of carbon sink. The interim report of the project has been conducted, published and made available on the websites of Joint Secretariats, Menorca and Jeju. The final edition of the report will be devoted to finding out the value and its implications of island and coastal biosphere reserves and the key findings and analysis results will be summarized in relation to the research objectives and human perspectives on nature.

The final report is scheduled to be completed early next year.

<http://www.jeju.go.kr/wnicbr/eng/pds/pds.htm>



Principe Island, Sao Tome & Principe



The São Jorge Island, Portugal



Menorca Island, Spain



Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

La Palma BR participates in the LIFE IP AZORES NATURA project

World Biosphere Reserve La Palma has begun the work of creating the Operational Framework for Action for early detection and rapid response to invasive alien species, within the context of the LIFE IP AZORES NATURA Project, of which La Palma is a beneficiary and a pilot island, together with the island of Corvo, of the Azores Archipelago.

The design, testing and evaluation of an Operational Framework of these characteristics is a complex action that involves the coordination and joint work of various administrations, entities, technicians and experts.

From the World Biosphere Reserve La Palma, aware of the complexity of this action, a governance system has been established in which the different roles and functions of all the entities involved in the Project are defined, and which will collaborate closely to carry out the same with Government of the Canary Islands, Government of La Palma, the Port Authority, La Palma Airport and different members of the scientific community and experts.

In this sense, the Committee of Expert People linked to the Project was created, a group of people whose professional activity is linked to the management, knowledge and / or handling of invasive alien species. The purpose of this committee is none other than to mark the roadmap in decision-making and define both the species to work with and the protocols for their intervention.

The work of this committee is in turn supported by the action of the Technical Commission and the Technical Units of Work of the Biosphere Reserve, and by the Intervention Group. All of them are pieces in the governance system whose mission is to launch the Operational Framework for Action and develop this project whose ultimate goal is to achieve early detection and rapid response to the problem of invasive alien species on La Palma.

<http://www.lapalmabiosfera.es>



THEATER AS A DISSEMINATION TOOL FOR THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

On Friday, March 6, the play "The Crime of the Reserve", produced by commission from the World Biosphere Reserve La Palma, premiered at the Circo de Marte Theater in Santa Cruz de La Palma, and featured with the sponsorship and support of the Culture Area of the Island Government and also from the capital, Santa Cruz de La Palma.

The play, written by Antonio Tabares, illustrious Goodwill Ambassador of our Biosphere Reserve, and renowned international playwright, was performed by the Friends of the Municipal Theater School "Pilar Rey", and directed by Carlos de León. On the day of the premiere, in the morning (10:00 am) a first performance was held for various educational centers (rural schools, colleges and secondary schools) and in the afternoon (8:00 pm) for the general public.

The creation of this play was conceived as an element of rapprochement between citizens and the figure of biosphere reserve, that is, it is a work that manages to spread the characteristics and values of our territory declared a biosphere reserve, while having fun and entertaining.

The main character travels to La Palma in search of a person and, without realizing it, discovers an island full of contrasts and diverse people who tell him about the "Biosphere Reserve" in many different situations. The feeling of something that makes them feel pride and responsibility for that concept is in the air, but nobody knows how to explain to the protagonist what it is.

The montage combines theatrical interpretation with projected images that serve as a perfect framework to recreate the diversity of La Palma landscapes through which the protagonist transits, and which contributes a cinematographic aesthetic to the play.

<http://www.lapalmabiosfera.es>



9TH WORLD PANGOLIN DAY CELEBRATED IN PALAWAN BR



The World Pangolin Day is celebrated every third Saturday of February to ignite conversations about pangolins and bring up solutions to halt its nearing extinction.

The illegal trade involving Philippine Pangolin (*Manis culionensis*), particularly its scales and meat which are used as Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in parts of China and Vietnam, is envisaged as the top threat to the Pangolins. Loss of habitat is another continuing threat due to swidden agriculture, forest destruction and land-use conversion.

The Philippine Pangolin is one of the only eight (8) species of Pangolins in the world, and this particular species in the Philippines (locally known as “Balintong”) can only be found in the province of Palawan, a biosphere reserve.

SCHOOL CARAVAN - From February 10 to 11, 2020, the staff of Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) conducted caravan activities in four (4) national high schools located in Puerto Princesa City purposely to introduce the Philippine Pangolin and create awareness campaigns on several ways to protect, conserve, and manage the critically endangered wildlife species, over 500 students actively participated in the event.

MALL EXHIBIT - The World Pangolin Day was also celebrated through a mall exhibit, the PCSD put up an exhibit on 15 February. At SM Mall Puerto Princesa City featuring a large fiberglass resin portrait of a Pangolin, infographic materials and an activity area for the visitors/viewers.

[Click HERE to Learn More](#)

SEA TURTLE HATCHLINGS RELEASED IN PUERTO PRINCESA CITY – BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Fifty-one (51) hatchlings of Olive Ridley Sea Turtle were released last February 19, 2020 at Bgy. Bagongbayan, Puerto Princesa City. Prior to the release, the nest was monitored and protected by Task Force Bantay Pawikan and supported by Puerto Princesa City Environment and Natural Resources Office (City-ENRO).

The releasing team was composed of Department of Environment and Natural Resources), Palawan Biodiversity Advocates, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (the Biosphere Reserve management authority), and the Bantay Pawikan Team.

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle, scientifically known as *Lepidochelys olivacea*, is commonly found in warm and tropical waters and is known to have the most abundant population among all sea turtles.

It is enlisted as “Vulnerable” in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species but is consequently classified as “Critically Endangered” under the PCSD Resolution No.15-521 (2014 Updated List of Terrestrial and Marine Wildlife in Palawan and Their Categories Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9147, otherwise known as the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001”).



PCSD/S Launches a Community Radio Station (CRS) at Roxas, Palawan



The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and the Local Government Unit of Roxas (LGU-Roxas) have teamed up to open a new Community Radio Station in the municipality.

It is an AM/FM radio station, with a bandwidth name of DWSD (Sustainable Development) and a frequency number of 103.5, devoted for cascading timely and correct information about environmental conservation, protection, and management as well as developmental aspects in Roxas, Palawan.

Under the signed Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the PCSD and the LGU-Roxas to establish and maintain a Community Radio Station (CRS), The Community Radio Station (CRS) will be managed by the Local Media Council (LMC), composed of agencies from the LGU, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), including the PCSD- Environmental Education and Extension Division (EED) and the PCSD- Northern District Management Office (DMO).

During the soft launching and test airing of DWSD Radio 103.5 on December 19, 2019; PCSDS Deputy Director Adelina B. Villena stated that the purpose of which is to educate communities on practices that are sustainable and encourage them to abandon destructive methods.

“This is a community radio station, that is why it is really important to maintain the involvement of the community... Hoping that this radio station becomes a catalyst for change and will be beneficial for the knowledge of the community,” said Atty. Villena.

Republic Act No. 8993 grants PCSD “a franchise to construct, install establish, operate and maintain radio and/or television broadcasting stations in the province of Palawan.”

<https://pcsd.gov.ph/igov/2019/12/23/new-community-radio-station-launches-in-roxas/>

Puppet show “Ginto sa Dagta” (Gold in the Sap) for the Local People of Cleopatra’s Needle Critical Habitat (CNCH) in Palawan Biosphere Reserve

Cleopatra’s Needle, found in Puerto Princesa City, at the heart of Palawan Biosphere Reserve, is one of the most diverse and oldest forests in the Philippines and is home to multiple endemic species. To provide for its additional protection, it was declared as Critical Habitat on December 15, 2017 through Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD, the authority management of Biosphere Reserve, Resolution No. 17-612.

The Cleopatra’s Needle Critical Habitat (CNCH) - Technical Working Group (TWG) is teaching communities the values of conservation for CNCH through a Behavior Change Communication (BCC) campaign, which includes puppet shows and other educational interactive activities.

From December 16 - 18, 2019, the group began the campaign in a three-day caravan around all seven barangays (San Rafael, Tanabag, Concepcion, Binduyan, Langogan, Tagabinet and New Panggangan) of CNCH to educate locals on their roles and responsibilities as communities living in areas declared as “Critical Habitat” by the PCSD.

Partner for Environment and Natural Resources Office of the City Government of Puerto Princesa said participants of previous consultations and forums have pointed out the lack of awareness among CNCH’s locals regarding the declaration of their place as a Critical Habitat. One of the most anticipated activities was a musical puppet show entitled “Ginto sa Dagta” (Gold in the Sap), it depicts the adventures of two children belonging to the Batak (Indigenous People) community in Cleopatra’s Needle, locally known as “Puyos”.

After facing issues on the over-tapping of Almaciga Trees (*Agathis philippinensis*) and wildlife trafficking, their community has eventually learned the importance of forest conservation to sustain their culture and livelihoods.

<https://pcsd.gov.ph/igov/2019/12/20/locals-of-cleopatras-needle-watch-ginto-sa-dagta-puppet-show-on-forest-conservation/>



MENORCA BIOSPHERE RESERVE LAUNCH ITS OWN SUSTAINABILITY BRAND TO RECOGNIZE GOOD PRACTICES OF PRODUCERS AND COMPANIES OF THE ISLAND

The Menorca Biosphere Reserve brand is a new sustainability brand that will distinguish those producers and companies that develop their economic activity in Menorca with initiatives to protect the island's natural environment and culture. It was launched last December and over thirty companies have started the process for obtaining the brand.

Up to now the brand has raised interest mainly among the tourism sector. Six tourist lodgings, six tourism activity companies including excursion companies, diving centers and boat rentals, and an organic garden producer are among the first candidates. The certification guarantees that their activities are environmentally sustainable.

In addition to the requests received, the Menorca Biosphere Reserve Agency has contacted almost 50 companies that are likely to receive the sustainability badge, as farm producers of wine, cheese, meat, vegetables or honey, as well as artisans, lodgings, restaurants and specialized shops.

This badge is an institutional commitment to the sustainable development of the island, aligned with the values of the Menorca Biosphere Reserve, which is a goal that local government, businesses and Menorcan society as a whole must work towards together.

Web page: <http://marcamenorcabiosfera.org/en/>

Promotional video of the brand:

<https://youtu.be/YEeUKNcP-4Y>



THE MENORCA BR IMPLEMENTS THE 2030 ENERGY OFFICE

Last year the “Menorca 2030 Strategy” was launched, which sets a roadmap for the island's transition towards a renewable energy system. One of the actions foreseen in this roadmap is the creation of the Menorca 2030 Energy Office which has the objective to inform and encourage the participation of all citizens in the process of decarbonization and energy transition of the island.

The main function of the Energy Office is to offer services such as advice and assistance in the administrative and regulatory aspects of self-consumption equipment; information regarding the implementation of energy efficiency measures, sustainable mobility, and on open grant lines related with these; as well as the organization of dissemination and training events in energy matters.

The Menorca 2030 Energy Office also provides users and professionals with guidelines on the most common questions regarding energy efficiency and installations for renewable energy. All citizens can request information online, by phone or make an appointment with the specialized technicians of the office.

It is important to notice that the ultimate goal of the Menorca 2030 Strategy is to put Menorca at the forefront in energy saving, energy efficiency and the use of clean energy, and to become a reference for other regions of the European Union.

<http://www.biosferamenorca.org/Contingut.aspx?!DIOMA=3&idpub=4186>



MENORCA JOINS THE PLASTIC WASTE-FREE ISLANDS PROJECT FROM IUCN

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The Menorca Biosphere Reserve and the island of Cyprus, in representation of the Mediterranean, join eleven other Caribbean and Pacific islands in the global project “Plastic Waste-Free Islands (PWFI)” led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This project aims to drive the circular economy agenda forward by helping island territories to implement pilot actions for the reduction of plastic waste generation and leakage to the sea.

The actions in Menorca will be coordinated by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation with the collaboration of the Socio-environmental Observatory of Menorca (OBSAM). The PWFI project has selected three target-sectors related to the use of plastics: tourism, waste management and fisheries, and intends to answer two main questions: how much plastic is generated along the value chain of the tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors, and what is the amount of plastic leakage into the marine environment. In order to do so, different stakeholders from these sectors are expected to be involved in the development of the project, including administration entities, private enterprises, civil society and academia.

The expected outputs of PWFI include the results from a new Plastic Hotspot Assessment Methodology, co-developed with UN Environment, that will assess plastic leakage distribution, abundance, types, sources pathways and sinks. The project also features an economic analysis, a policy assessment, a material flow analysis, new products development and the assessment of best available technologies. The overall results and experiences from the application of these actions in each island will be used to elaborate island-specific action plans and the global PWFI Blueprint.

The Plastic Waste-Free Islands is part of the IUCN’s “Close the Plastic Tap” programme and is supported by the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). It was launched in Menorca in January 2020 and will last until April 2022.

<https://www.iucn.org/regions/mediterranean/projects/current-projects/plastic-waste-free-islands-med-project>



ZERO PLASTIC NEWS #3

The 3rd Zero Plastic News Bulletin has been published in May 2020, spotlighting new experiences and efforts to fight plastic pollution across the network. From the Waste Museum in the Commander Islands BR (Russia) and marine debris artwork on display in Jeju BR (R. of Korea), to ongoing monitoring for microplastics and other marine debris in the islands of Iroise Sea BR (France), the «fishing for litter» project in Isle of Man, analyzing persistent chemical pollutant loads on microplastics washing ashore in Fuerteventura BR (Spain), and cleaning estuaries and rivers in Mariñas Coruñas BR (Spain), the examples in this edition of the Zero Plastic News highlight the creativity and diversity of these actions. There is also an insight view in our new Zero Plastic member Mariñas Coruñas BR (Spain), an invitation offer for collaboration from the Commander Islands in a virtual waste museum, and the announcement of the MICRO 2020 international conference in Lanzarote (23-27 November).

Facing the current uncertainty about the pandemic for this coming autumn, along with our aim to make MICRO less CO2 intensive, we are thinking to shift the conference to be substantially online-based with several in-person meeting nodes.

For more information and updates :
<https://micro2020.sciencesconf.org/>

Access the Bulletin here:
<http://zeroplastic.islandbiosphere.org/Contingut.aspx?IdPub=1028>

For more information on the Zero Plastic Working Group contact us: zero.plastic@islandbiosphere.org

ZERO PLASTIC

WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

[ZERO PLASTIC] GAIA THEORY AND BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Our experience studying plastic pollution for 10 years, and hosting two scientific conferences (1)(2) along the way, has led us to explore Gaia Theory as a means for contemplating the complex dynamic systems that comprise the biosphere. An example of this is the ConCiencia Seminar hosted in the Lanzarote BR in 2018 (3). A recent article in The Anthropocene Review (4) proposes a scientific and philosophical discussion of Gaia; in a similar spirit, we pose the question: Are the Biosphere Reserves ready to study, debate and reflect on Gaia?

We believe so, and we are talking about working to construct 'A contemporary science of the future and a necessary myth'(5). Please let us know if you would like to join the conversation.

- contributed by Quino M., Ana C. (Lanzarote BR), Eva C. (Menorca BR), Juan B. and Bethany J. (Marine Sciences For Society)

1. MICRO 2016: Fate and impacts of microplastics in marine ecosystems -- From the Coastline to the open sea; <https://micro2016>
2. MICRO 2018: Fate and impacts of microplastics -- Knowledge, actions and solutions; <https://micro2018>
3. <http://www.lanzarotebiosfera>
4. T. M. Lenton et al. 2020. Life on Earth is hard to spot. The Anthropocene Review, 0(0) 1–25. <https://journals.sagepub.com/>
5. http://www.lanzarotebiosfera.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/REENCONTRANDO-A-GAIA_Difusion-Prologos.pdf