

COMMITTED TO BIODIVERSITY

2019 MAB YOUTH TOWARDS THE 15th CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE CBD FORUM

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15 September 2019 - 18 September 2019

Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve, CHINA P. R.

TOWARDS THE 15th CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE CBD



The fifteenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) will be held in China in 2020. It is expected to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework – a "New Deal for Nature" for the entire international community. Inscribed in the 2050 Vision "Living in Harmony with Nature", it will address the challenge of biodiversity and ecosystems loss and to ensure that the solutions and benefits nature provides are integrated in systemic, inclusive, and transformative actions to benefit human well-being, the economy, and the planet. The decisions to be taken on that occasion will be of great relevance to youth, whose future daily lives will be strongly impacted by those desired transformations, but also considering the crucial role they will play in shaping and implementing them. UNESCO and its partners are committed to support youth raising their voice and taking action in this arena. The organizers will also pay particular attention to gender equality interrelated issues.



On the occasion of its 30th session held in Palembang, Indonesia, in July 2018, the International Coordination Council of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) expressed its will to strengthen its engagement with Youth and to call for the organization of a new MAB Youth Forum in 2019 as an event closely link to the preparation of the CBD COP15. Building on the successful experience of the 2017 MAB Youth Forum held in Italy, in the presence of 285 young representatives of Biosphere Reserves from 84 countries, the 2019 MAB Youth Forum will have the main purpose of offering youth an opportunity to engage more concretely in the preparation and running of CBD COP 15, elaborate their contribution to its debates and foster their commitment to the realization of the future they want, being actors of change in their territories.



The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)

GYBN is a global coalition of young people and youth organizations who have joined forces to fight against the loss of biodiversity. GYBN aims to raise awareness for the values of biodiversity among young people, empowering them to take action. The network's objective is to support youth activities for biodiversity on both the national and regional level by providing an international structure for exchange and coordination, capacity-building trainings and political representation on the international level. As of February 2019, GYBN brings together 340 youth organizations from 145 countries, representing a total of 680,000 youth.

GYBN is the officially recognized coordination platform for youth participation in the negotiations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and is also the official Biodiversity SDG15 focal point of the UN General Assembly mandated Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY).

As the CBD's youth constituency, GYBN will coordinate youth participation during the actual negotiations at COP15 in China in October 2020 as well as during the preparatory phase, and that is why GYBN will be partnering with UNESCO in order to bring the voice of the MAB Youth Community in this context.

THE CHANGBAISHAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve is located in the northeast of China on the border with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The topography is composed of a basalt platform, basalt slope highlands and cone-like volcanoes. Craters produced in the distant past now form lakes, which are surrounded by sixteen mountains.

About 65,000 inhabitants live in the biosphere reserve. The nearest major towns are Erdo town, Antu County, Fusong County and Changbai County. Tourism has become a key activity with 170,000 tourists visiting the biosphere reserve every year. The authorities of Changbaishan work together with local communities to diversify the local economy, for instance, through the cultivation of economic and medicinal plants.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

- 15 September: Arrival of participants, plenary sessions and opening ceremony
- 16 September: Workshops
- 17 September: Excursions
- 18 September: Workshops and closing ceremony

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Participants need be aged from 18 to 35 years maximum, showing their engagement with UNESCO-MAB:

- In their respective living/working contexts - territories and communities already included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves;
- On issues related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable territorial development.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thanks to the generous support of the Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve, the organizers will be in position to financially cover:

- Air tickets for up to 90 international participants;
- All local costs for up to 270 participants.

HOW TO APPLY?

- Please be in contact with your MAB National Committee or Focal Point, as well as your Biosphere Reserve manager, to express your interest to participate (with your motivation letter).
- Qualified applicants will then be selected and given the access to the dedicated online application system, in which to finalize their application with the submission of their motivation and support letters, and of other details which will allow the organizers to arrange their travel and accommodation.
- Deadline for applications: **31 July 2019**

CONTACTS

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Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve

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