








Biosphere Reserves
Supported by Succow Foundation



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The Succow Foundation is partner in the Biosphere Reserves Institute of Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development.
www.biospherereserves.institute

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Supporting Biosphere Reserves

Model Regions for People and Nature

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Strengthening Biosphere Reserves Globally

Around the world, the Michael Succow Foundation (MSF) — partner in the Biosphere Reserves Institute — supports the development of UNESCO biosphere reserves (BR). These areas serve as living examples of how nature conservation and sustainable regional development can go hand in hand.

Our work focuses on regions with high ecological values and strong community engagement potential. We help ensure that biosphere reserves are not only ecologically meaningful but also socially inclusive and economically viable.

Working closely with local partners, the Foundation conducts feasibility assessments, surveys key ecological and socio-economic conditions, and supports the conceptual design of the biosphere reserves. Community participation is central: open dialogue from the very beginning with all stakeholders (communities, municipalities, authorities, land users) ensures local ownership and long-term success.

In Myanmar, MSF supported partners from the BR nomination to transition to organic agriculture (particularly rice farming), community forestry, and establishment of a community-managed ecotourism lodge.



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In Georgia, MSF supported the process from the feasibility study stage to BR designation and continues to assist in developing governance structure and management planning.

The Foundation also contributes to building BR governance models, developing management structures, and preparing the nominations for UNESCO designation. In parallel, foundations are laid for future education, ecotourism, and sustainable land-use activities.

Regular workshops, seminars, and study tours are organized to strengthen capacities, foster exchange of best practices, and support partnerships among biosphere reserves. A workshop series conducted for the EuroMAB network brought together BR practitioners and scientists from 13 European countries for exchanges on insect conservation, participation, and climate neutrality.

The vision: a vibrant region where conservation, climate action, and sustainable livelihoods are integrated — for the benefit of both nature and people.

MSF supported the nomination of the following Biosphere Reserves:

BIOSPHERE RESERVE	COUNTRY	DESIGNATED
Lake Tana BR	Ethiopia	2015
Lake Indawgyi BR	Myanmar	2017
Lower Amudarya State BR	Uzbekistan	2021
Three Alazani Rivers BR	Georgia	2022
Dedoplistskaro BR	Georgia	2022
Dilijan BR	Armenia	Ongoing