

Training Programme on Sustainable Development of World Mountain Biosphere Reserves

Beijing and Hangzhou, China | 15–27 September 2025

Background

In the framework of the UNESCO World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves (WNMBR), this training programme contributes to global efforts to strengthen mountain ecosystem conservation and sustainable development. Organized in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and supported by its Bureau of International Cooperation, the training is part of UNESCO's broader initiatives to promote nature-based solutions, climate resilience, and inclusive governance in mountain areas.

The training course supports the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by enhancing international cooperation in science and sustainable development.

This activity also forms part of UNESCO's WNMBR contribution to the International Year of Glacier Preservation 2025, addressing the urgent need to enhance knowledge, capacity, and cooperation in the face of accelerated glacier loss and climate impacts on high-mountain ecosystems. Through this training, participants will strengthen their capacities to monitor biodiversity, manage socio-ecological transitions, and protect vital mountain ecosystems that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

The training is aligned with the forthcoming Strategic Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves 2025–2035, to be adopted at the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Hangzhou, China. It contributes directly to the implementation of the Plan's key priorities, including strengthening capacities, enhancing resilience in the face of climate change, and fostering cooperation among biosphere reserves.

Objectives

The main objectives of the training programme are:

- To strengthen the scientific and management capacities of stakeholders involved in the governance and operation of mountain biosphere reserves.
- To promote the exchange of knowledge, technologies, and best practices in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and sustainable development.
- To equip participants with tools and methodologies for monitoring, evaluating, and enhancing the effectiveness of protected areas.
- To foster collaboration between developing countries within the framework of the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves.

Structure and Methodology

The programme combines scientific and technological modules with management training and peer exchange. It includes lectures, practical case studies, interactive group work, and field visits. The course content is structured around four thematic pillars:

- Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring
- Protected Area Management
- Sustainable Development and Climate Action
- Community Engagement and Co-management

Each participant will develop a tailored action plan or dashboard to be applied in their own biosphere reserve context.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the training, participants will:

- Gain enhanced knowledge of biodiversity monitoring, adaptive management, and ecosystem service evaluation.
- Acquire practical skills in using remote sensing, AI, and participatory tools for biosphere reserve management.
- Strengthen their capacity to align local management with global and regional biodiversity and climate goals.
- Develop individual or institutional strategies to apply the training in their home countries.
- Establish professional networks for continued collaboration within the WNMBR and beyond.

Target Audience

Up to 30 participants will be selected for the training. Of these, 20 participants will receive full funding, including round-trip international airfare, accommodation, meals, and local transportation within China.

The full funding is open to up to 20 participants, including:

- Researchers and technical staff related to mountain biosphere reserves
- Biosphere reserve managers related to mountain biosphere reserves
- Government officials and science administrators related to mountain biosphere reserves

Eligible participants should come from developing countries including Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe.

Researchers should have at least two years of relevant experience in fields related to the training content, and in principle, be under the age of 45. Managers should have at least five years of experience in science and technology administration, and in principle, be under the age of 50. All participants must have strong written and spoken English communication skills.

To ensure the safety of all participants, applicants are required to submit a health certificate or recent medical examination report confirming that they are in good health. Applicants' professional backgrounds must be relevant to the theme and content of the training programme.

Funding and Logistics

The programme will cover round-trip international airfare (excluding other forms of transportation such as train travel), accommodation, meals, and local transportation in China. Visa fees are not included. Participants are expected to submit a post-training report and will receive a certificate upon completion.

Follow-Up Management

Following the conclusion of the training programme, all participants are kindly requested to submit scanned copies of their passport information page, visa page, and entry/exit stamp pages to the email address: wlcheng@rcees.ac.cn.

In addition, within two months after the programme, each participant is expected to submit a personal report in Word format to the same email address. The report should include basic personal information, a summary of participation, and evaluation of the training programme, to the email address: wlcheng@rcees.ac.cn.

Please note that all documents, publications, and promotional materials produced in the context of the training must acknowledge the support received with the following statement: "Supported by the Bureau of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Sciences."

Registration

Please fill out the following registration form on the website **before 20 June 2025**

<https://www.wjx.top/vm/eNeK6kP.aspx#>

Important: All applicants must also register for the **5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves** using the following link by **20 June 2025**:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1016809/>

Once registered through the Indico platform, applicants will receive an official confirmation letter, which can be used for visa applications or other administrative travel procedures.