

Towards a
**CONTINENTAL
AQUATIC
ECOSYSTEMES**
MAB Network



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
DESCRIPTIVE SHEET TEMPLATE**

Name of your biosphere reserve

COUNTRY

MAIN PHOTO**

MAP*

- *Coordinating structure / Administrative authority*
- *Full contact information*

• *Main features and specificities*

Open list (max 5)

• *Cultural and social particularities linked to rivers:*

Open list (max 5)

• *Main know-how, skills and specialties of your BR (of international importance)* (3 to 5 max / a few key words or a short descriptive sentence)

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• *Main problems and concerns* (highlight topics among those of the "Sarlat Declaration")

- water pollution (eutrophication, toxic substances)
- morphological deterioration of river beds
- biodiversity loss
- loss of flooding areas
- hydropower impacts
- conflicts between water and land use
- invasive species
- disappearing of river-related cultural heritages (knowledge, identity...)
- **Other (explain...)**

• *Current scientific research topics and actions* (3 to 5 max)

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• *Feedback* (major action that you want to highlight)

- 200 words max
- use a short but effective headline
- one (or two) photo which shows the action
- give bibliographic information and web links

***MAP:** Send us a map of the country with your biosphere reserve area. A map is enough as we will do the creation of graphic designs.

If you possess a vector version of the map, please send us the original files (such as ai, svg, eps, formats)

****PHOTOS:** Send us 3 or 5 high-resolution photos in JPEG (.jpg, .jpeg) or PNG (.png) formats, a resolution of 300 DPI (dots/pixels per inch/cm) and up to 5 MB in size with credits.

Example of the descriptive sheet's final version



Feedback

Ecological restoration of the former gravel pit in Veyrignac

The Dordogne basin Biosphere Reserve is characterised by major dam chains on the Dordogne River and its tributaries. To reduce the impact of the numerous dams on aquatic habitats and water uses, a non-profit organisation was founded in 2013 by EDF and EPIDOR (IBD or Dordogne Biosphere Initiative). IBD is active throughout the biosphere reserve, providing support for studies, ecological monitoring, research efforts and renaturation operations and land acquisition along the river.

The assessment completed beforehand showed that the extraction of gravel over several decades caused long-term disruption to the river, in particular by deepening the riverbed. Natural habitats experienced degradation processes, in particular with vegetation dosing in. After the machinery and equipment had been removed, the site's topography was completely redesigned so it could once again express its biological potential. This work included the creation of a two-hectare oxbow lake. To limit the number of invasive species taking hold, the land was also replanted. The renaturation project was made possible through the acquisition of the former gravel pit in Veyrignac by the Communauté de Communes du Pays de Fénélon, with the help of IBD and the water agency.

Work to rehabilitate a former gravel pit has been undertaken, over 20 years after mining operations ceased. Renaturation of this 16-hectare alluvial area is one of the flagship projects of the IBD programme.



Coordinating structure / Administrative authority
Etablissement Public Territorial du bassin de la Dordogne (EPIDOR)

Contact information
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Main features and specificities

The longest estuary in Europe.

The middle part of the Dordogne basin is a large karst area, one of the longest underground networks in the world.

The last refuge of the eight major diadromous migrating fish in Western Europe (Atlantic salmon, European sturgeon, eel, shad species, lamprey species).

The Upper Dordogne Basin hosts one of France's largest dam chains.

Several areas and sites recognised on the List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Prehistoric sites of the Vézère Valley, Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion...).

Cultural and social particularities linked to rivers

One of the main European sites for freshwater recreational activities.

The Dordogne was a historically important water shipping way.

Professional fishing.

Main know-how, skills and specialties

- Dialogue and Governance at a watershed scale
- Migratory fish
- Integration of hydropower activity
- River restoration

Main problems and concerns

- water pollution (eutrophication, toxic substances)
- morphological deterioration of river beds
- biodiversity loss
- loss of flooding areas
- hydropower impacts
- conflicts between water and land use
- invasive species
- disappearing of river-related cultural heritages (knowledge, identity...)

Current scientific research topics and actions

- Climate change
- Hydromorphology of water courses
- "Territorial knowledge"

More information

<https://biosphere-bassin-dordogne.fr/renaturation-de-la-croix-graviere-de-veyrignac/>