

# ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve



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# INTRODUCTION

Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve, Public Benefit Corporation (hereinafter PBC), was established as a legal entity in 2004 and its mission statement aims at active meeting of objectives expressed in the Seville Strategy by the terms of *conservation of biological and cultural diversity and sustainable development*. In February 2008, the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Biosphere Reserves held in Madrid adopted the Madrid Action Plan, a document elaborating the Seville Strategy into concrete steps which set the agenda for Biosphere Reserves in 2008–2013. Our PBC was one of the first to update their medium-term Action Plan and to harmonize it with UNESCO's planning periods. All the above-mentioned documents can be found on our website.

Compared with other Biosphere Reserves (hereinafter BRs) in the Czech Republic, the Lower Morava BR differs in several respects. It is the smallest of all (354 km<sup>2</sup>) and less than a quarter of its area was designated as the Pálava Protected Landscape Area (PLA), while most other BRs are identical with their respective PLAs. However, the main difference proves to be the informal way of meeting the objectives set for the BR by the professional team of our employees whose activities are supported by a strong mandate delegated by the stakeholders in the area managed by our PBC and their representatives in the PBC bodies following the principles of participative management.

The year 2010 proved crucial for our organization's future development in several respects. Due to external circumstances, which included the omnipresent economic crisis, we were forced to reduce the number of employees to two at the beginning of the year. We focused our activities particularly on long-term cultural landscape management programmes in rural areas. Cultural landscape management, which we have been actively involved in, tends to be a complex, interdisciplinary, frequently complicated issue anywhere in the world. It is primarily built on responsibilities assumed by individual landscape professions and land owners. Nature conservation thus cannot be its sole goal. Voluntary embracing of the key principles of nature and environmental conservation has proved much more advantageous, as all stakeholders using the landscape as means of production come to accept it as an integral part of their professional training and personal values. For the concept of sustainable development programmes of landscape management and cultural and natural diversity conservation to be successful, a balanced consideration of environmental, economic and social factors is required. We have embraced these principles in a number of projects implemented by our organization, by increasing the scope of collaboration with stakeholder municipalities and by promoting our understanding of nature conservation in a number of seminars, workshops and other presentations given both locally and abroad.

In 2010 we actively participated in many international events, including the international project "Management of Natural Resources in the Tropics and Subtropics – Innovation of Study Programs of the Mendel University in Brno" and exchange of expertise with our Austrian partner, Wienerwald BR, in search of objective methods for revising the functional zonation of our BR. We also gave lectures for foreign students as well as expert consultations in Sweden where our expertise is implemented in the process of establishing two second-generation BRs. A field excursion of Chilean experts from the Torres del Paine BR proved to be inspiring for both parties. An event organized by EARTH

University in Costa Rica to commemorate the World Environment Day by a fight against air pollution and decrease CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was symbolic, yet it received global media attention. The Czech Republic participated in this event by planting a tree in the Valtice Chateau garden.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of our BR governing bodies, our employees, external consultants and supporters at home and abroad who have helped us to sustain our belief that also in 2010 we provided meritable and beneficial services which in the long-term horizon will help create and promote values of civil society. Our special thanks go to our sponsors, without whose support we would not be able to develop our organization.

I can confidently say that we continue to be fully capable of meeting the noble goals embedded in UNESCO and the Man and the Biosphere Programme. We are ready to stand as respectable representatives of our organization both in our country and abroad. I hope that the ranks of our supporters will continue to grow and that we will earn their trust in 2011 as well.

Jan Vybírál  
Managing Director  
May 2011

## MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAMME AND THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

**Man and the Biosphere (MaB)**, a UNESCO worldwide programme of environmental cooperation, was established in the 1970s. Its primary objective is to promote sensible and sustainable use of natural resources and to improve relationships between man and the environment. Specially selected areas called **biosphere reserves (BRs)** are to serve as tools for implementing these goals.

The meaning of the term “biosphere reserve” is incorrectly translated into many languages, including Czech, where it incorrectly accentuates purely the conservation aspect of BR. In fact, it should be understood more in the sense of “a store kept for future use”. Consequently, some countries adopted the terms “biosphere area” or “biosphere park” which express the wider context of the MAB Programme more precisely.

Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and designated by the MaB International Coordinating Council. In most cases, BRs encompass sites protected under individual national systems, which in the Czech Republic include e.g. national parks or nature reserves, or other types of internationally recognized areas (World Heritage Sites, Ramsar Wetlands, Natura 2000, etc.). Prior to its designation, as well as upon its inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, every BR has to conform to a specific set of criteria and has to be able to meet a given set of tasks.

All world BRs fulfil three equally important functions:

1. Conservation of natural and cultural diversity
2. Economic development which is socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable
3. Support of research, monitoring, environmental education and training.

All three basic functions of BR should be considered equally important and their application should be well balanced. From this follows the **specific nature of biosphere reserves which do not focus exclusively on nature protection**, while the very same must be a priority only for specially protected areas managed by nature conservation bodies. **In BRs, nature conservation represents only one of the tasks which must be equally complemented while stressing the promotion of such human activities in landscape which lead to its positive and sustainable use and development, as well as by sharing information and expertise gained through active involvement and research.**

An integral part of every BR work is the considerable role which the “human element” plays both in the landscape and in the participation in BR management. It encompasses equal collaboration and active participation of local inhabitants, state administration, other stakeholders, such as conservation and development groups, as well as natural and social scientists. BRs following this model as well as the Seville Strategy and the Madrid Action Plan, the two cornerstones of the MAB Programme, are sometimes called “second generation Biosphere Reserves” and we are proud to be one of them.

In 2010, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves encompassed a total of 564 BRs in 109 countries. Six BRs were in the area of the Czech Republic (Šumava, Krkonoše, Křivoklátsko, Třeboň Basin, Bílé Karpaty and the Lower Morava BR).

Some countries adopted specific legislation for accepting the MAB Programme and for designating BRs. However, MAB and the institution of BR lack any legislative support in the Czech Republic as well as in many other member states.

## LOWER MORAVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The **Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve** was designated in July 2003. By this step, the former Pálava Biosphere Reserve (designated in 1986) was extended to encompass the Lednice – Valtice Cultural Landscape (hereinafter LVCL) and the floodplain forests at the confluence of the Morava and Dyje rivers.

In 2004, the **Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve, Public Benefit Corporation**, was established to procure proper management of the BR as required by the MAB Programme. It follows the principles of participative management and procures fulfilment of all BR functions.

The corporation was established by the following founding members: Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise, MND, a.s., Břeclav District Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and the Czech Union of Nature Conservationists. The organizational structure is complemented by representatives of municipalities of the Lednice – Valtice Cultural Landscape, Mikulov, and Podluží Regions and includes representatives of the Břeclav District Chamber of Agriculture.

In the context of the Czech Republic, this represents a unique concept of BR management by a non-profit, non-governmental organization. The areas of the remaining Czech BRs are identical with those of their respective Protected Landscape Areas or National Parks and as such the fulfilment of BR tasks is the responsibility of state administration officials running the respective nature conservation body. However, their priorities focus solely on nature conservation, which does not fully correspond to the contemporary focus of the MAB Programme.

Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve, P.B.C., provides the following public benefit services:

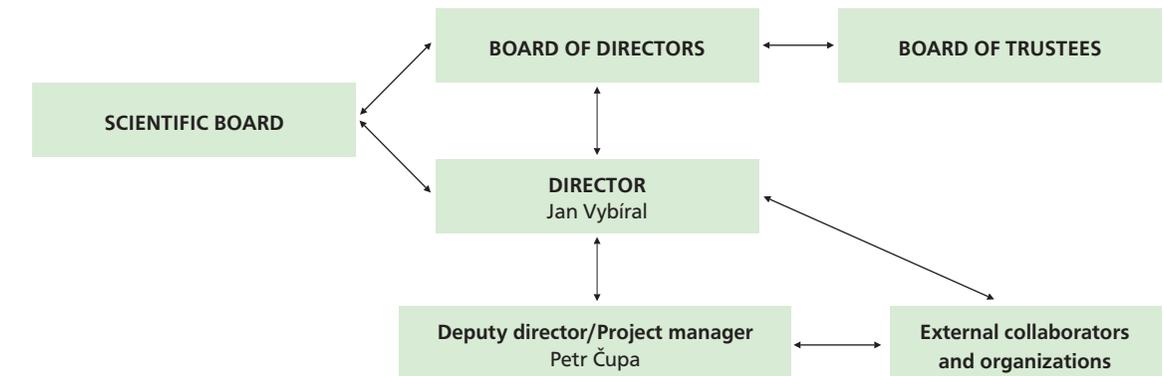
1. Organizational, institutional, factual and personnel provision of activities administered by the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve as part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
2. Participation in activities relevant to the Lower Morava BR, including the coordination of these activities with state administration bodies, municipal authorities, stakeholders, educational and scientific institutions, companies, general public and other bodies.
3. Participation in mediating and procuring advisory, financial and coordinating services which relate to the Lower Morava BR and its development, in accordance with the UNESCO regulations on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
4. Safeguarding the commissioning, development and regular update of an open information database on the Lower Morava BR and on the scientific, economic and development activities relating to the area or existence of the Lower Morava BR.
5. Participation in publishing both periodic and non-periodic materials and proceedings, including informative and methodological publications printed, electronic, audio-visual and multimedia, as well as their presentation, distribution and sale.
6. Participation in educating the general public, further education and training of young people, and cooperation with youth centres in a spirit of promoting the principles of sustainable lifestyle, in particular those of nature and landscape conservation and the rational management of natural resources.
7. Providing information services for the general public.
8. Participation in organizing international scientific conferences, forums, training courses and exhibitions relating to the Lower Morava BR.

9. Establishment and management of model facilities.
10. Fostering international cooperation in matters relating to the Lower Morava BR and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
11. Promoting and enforcing activities aimed at economic and demographic development of the Lower Morava BR and the entire region.
12. Providing mediatory services in cases of disputes and conflicts arising from the existence and activities of the Lower Morava BR.

All activities conducted in 2010 were in accordance with the 2005-2013 Action Plan and in concord with the conditions of the Man and the Biosphere Programme.

## ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE CORPORATION

**Registered office:** Národních Hrdinů 23, 690 02 Břeclav  
**Registration number:** 26938171  
**Legal form:** Obecně prospěšná společnost



In 2010, mandates of most the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees members for the second term of office expired. In accordance with the applicable legislation, personnel change was required. The Scientific Board was not affected by the legislative requirements and its composition remained unchanged.

## Governing bodies of the Lower Morava BR, p.b.c., until 31. 8. 2010

### Board of Directors

<b>Chairman:</b>	Libor Opluštil	(Czech Union of Nature Conservationists)
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	Libor Kabát	(municipalities of the LVCL Region)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman:</b>	Stanislav Koukal	(Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)
<b>Members:</b>	František Fabičovic	(District Chamber of Commerce Břeclav)
	František Hrnčíř	(municipalities of the Podluží Region)
	František Komárek	(Moravské naftové doly, a.s.)
	Ladislav Sečkář	(District Chamber of Agriculture Břeclav)
	Miroslav Svoboda	(Forests of the Czech Republic)
	Petr Žluva	(municipalities of the Mikulovsko Region)

### Board of Trustees:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Pavel Kotásek	(Moravské naftové doly, a.s.)
<b>Members:</b>	Libor Ambrozek	(Czech Union of Nature Conservationists)
	Viktor Beran/Jaroslav Hladík	(Chamber of Commerce Břeclav)
	Martin Bílý/Dušan Utinek	(Ministry of the Environment)
	Tomáš Blaha	(Forests of the Czech Republic)
	Vilém Vyhnálek	(municipalities of the Podluží, LVCL and Mikulovsko regions)

### Scientific Board:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Karel Zlatuška	(municipalities of the Podluží Region)
<b>Members:</b>	Antonín Buček	(Czech Union of Nature Conservationists)
	Jiří Danihelka	(Ministry of the Environment)
	Václav Jelínek/Roman Osička	(District Chamber of Commerce Břeclav)
	Petr Kučera	(municipalities of the LVCL Region)
	Jiří Matuška	(Administration of the Pálava Protected Landscape Area)
	Jaromír Míčka	(National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites)
	Ota Pražák	(Moravské naftové doly, a.s.)
	Martin Půček	(District Chamber of Agriculture Břeclav)
	Milada Rigasová	(municipalities of the Mikulovsko Region)
	Jiří Schlaghamerský	(Czech MAB National Committee)
	Jiří Stonawski	(Forests of the Czech Republic)

## Governing bodies of the Lower Morava BR, p.b.c., as of 1. 9. 2010

### Board of Directors

<b>Chairman:</b>	Pavel Kotásek	(MND, a.s.)
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	Miroslav Svoboda	(Forests of the Czech Republic)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman:</b>	Stanislav Koukal	(Ministry of the Environment)
<b>Members:</b>	Miroslav Volařík	(District Chamber of Commerce Břeclav)
	Ctírad Petrla	(municipalities of the Podluží Region)
	Tomáš Nečas	(District Chamber of Agriculture Břeclav)
	Libor Ambrozek	(Czech Union of Nature Conservationists)
	Vladislav Moravčík	(municipalities of the Mikulovsko Region)
	Pavel Dominik	(municipalities of the LVCL Region)

### Board of Trustees:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Libor Opluštil	(Czech Union of Nature Conservationists)
<b>Members:</b>	Zbyněk Parma	(MND, a.s.)
	František Fabičovic	(District Chamber of Commerce Břeclav)
	Dušan Utinek	(Ministry of the Environment)
	Vladimír Krchov	(Forests of the Czech Republic)
	Libor Kabát	(municipalities of the Podluží, LVCL and Mikulovsko regions)

In 2010 the Board of Directors met seven times, the Board of Trustees had one meeting and the Scientific Board met twice.

# IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES IN 2010

As in the previous year, all our activities in 2010 were affected by the ongoing economic crisis as well as by cuts in public funding which used to support a considerable part of our projects. Shortage of funds necessitated changes in our organization philosophy and compelled us to maximize the reduced funds so that we could fulfill the functions and tasks required both by the founding members and the MAB Programme. Therefore we focused on our coordinating and initiating role and upon request we participated in larger projects as partners. As an independent entity we channelled our efforts to the management of projects whose target group are municipalities and whose funding was provided by some of our founding members.

## 1. Long-term programmes implemented in collaboration with Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise

The aim of these programmes is to promote positive examples of environmental awareness through professional conduct of representatives of landscape professions who implement the concepts of complex nature and cultural heritage conservation into practice. By drawing on historical facts about the long-term development of the cultural landscape and the role of landscape professions within it, these programmes are to promote sustainable methods of management as a time-tested approach to balancing the needs of people and the necessity to conserve the species and habitat diversity of a cultural landscape.

In accordance with our Foundation Contract, the Seville Strategy and the Madrid Action Plan for biosphere reserves and thanks to the support and collaboration provided by Forests of the Czech Republic, we were able to undertake

activities which come under the four following programme categories:

- 1) Conservation of Species and Cultural Diversity of Cultural Landscapes
- 2) Cultural Landscape Management
- 3) Environmental Education and Training
- 4) Information and Cooperation with the General Public

Our activities encompass lectures delivered to schools, general public as well as expert groups, organization of field excursions and maintaining international co-operation. We make every effort to make the outcomes understandable to the general public and to raise awareness about the fact that the traditional landscape professions are a part of our heritage and of general culture. We promote examples of landscape management harmonized with conservation of all the landscape's values for future generations.



Jan Vybíral, BR director

The activities are implemented under the co-funding of Forest of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise.

## 2. Grant programme “Energy from Nature” funded by MND, joint-stock company

MND Hodonín, joint-stock company, a major energy company and one of the Founding Members of our organization, establishes partnerships with microregions, individual municipalities and other stakeholders in the interest area. One of the forms of support is the project of grant funding called “Energy from Nature” which provides funding for projects in the fields of sports, education, ecology, culture as well as support for young people and youth protection. Entities related to the interest areas of MND are eligible to the grants.

In 2010 our PBC succeeded in securing financial support for the following:

- 1) creation of suitable conditions for sustainable economic development and site management of our BR
- 2) nature, landscape and cultural tradition conservation built on mutual co-operation in concord with the interests of BR stakeholders
- 3) international collaboration
- 4) promoting partnership principles in decisions taken about Lower Morava BR by nature and landscape conservation bodies, land owners, local administration and all other stakeholder groups
- 5) providing mediatory services in cases of disputes and conflicts arising from the existence and activities of the Lower Morava BR
- 6) organizational, institutional, factual and personnel procurement of Lower Morava BR activities as part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Thanks to the financial support provided by MND, a.s. we were able to provide public benefit services under unchanged conditions. These services are designed to support all entities and activities whose objective is to develop the area of BR in accordance with the conditions and regulations of the Man and the Biosphere Programme.

The activities are co-funded by MND, a.s.

## 3. “Transboundary information exchange for revision and functional improvement of zonation in the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve” Project

In accordance with General Statutes which are obligatory for all BRs, the areas of BRs should be divided into three zones, each of which fulfilling different functions. Core zones are relatively small natural or close-to-nature areas which are protected by law and focus exclusively on nature conservation. Buffer zones are designed to minimize the negative impacts of human activities on core zones and at the same time strive to conserve their anthropogenic, biological and cultural diversity. These zones may play an important role in connecting core zone biodiversity elements with those in



*Project team Hanns Kirchmeir, Jiří Stonawski, Libor Opluštil, Jan Vybíral, Karel Zlatuška, Christian Dyri*

the vast transition zones, or areas of cooperation. Apart from their main function, which is socio-economic development, these zones may incorporate conservation elements and objectives designed to incorporate the people living and working in them. These zones are characteristic by their multiple usability.

The Madrid Action Plan (2008), a document defining the current objectives of all BRs, devotes an entire chapter to the issue of BR zonation (E2 – Zonation linking functions to space). To comply with the prescribed tasks we therefore set about to revise the existing zonation of Lower Morava BR.

Zonation in our BR, as it was originally designed, does not reflect the actual land use or the current developments of the MAB Programme. Moreover, it had not been discussed with land owners, users or managers of the affected areas.

It is the active involvement of these stakeholders in the zonation process which greatly contributes to the general acceptance and sustainability of thus

established zonation schemes. Since none of Czech BRs opted for the involvement of stakeholders in zonation design, we had to seek help of our Austrian colleagues who have up-to-date experience with BR zonation.

The output of the international project, led by E.C.O – Institut für Ökologie – and attended by our colleagues from Wienerwald Biosphärenpark, was in the form of a plan designed for Lower Morava BR and its prepared zonation revision. It stressed the importance of implementing practical experience from abroad, including feedback from the MAB Programme and active involvement of all stakeholders.

*The project was co-funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.*

#### **4. "Management of Natural Resources in the Tropics and Subtropics – Innovation of Study Programmes of the Mendel University in Brno" Project**

The project is implemented by Mendel University in Brno and we participate in it as partners, along with Lipka, an educational organization whose activities focus on the environmental training. The project focuses on innovation of study programmes at Mendel University in Brno and its main objective is to enhance the competitiveness of its graduates.

The innovations modify the former, purely forestry-oriented approach to university education towards a broader environmental scope on the landscape level. For this purpose the platform of two biosphere reserves, Lower Morava BR and Socotra BR, is utilized. The study programme introduces the specific aspects of natural resources management in tropical and subtropical regions and offers comparison with cultural landscape management in Central Europe. In the

course of the practical training module students solve field projects in collaboration with native inhabitants and employees of the Socotra BR.

As partners we are directly involved in the management of an important international project, participate in designing the theoretical and practical training modules and as lecturers we are given the opportunity to compare the models of both BRs working under different socio-economic and geographical conditions. In 2010 we participated in activities which focused on the issues of nature conservation and specific landscape management of the island of Socotra, exchange of experience with teaching students in the Czech Republic and Socotra, plantation checks in selected parts of the island and on dendrology and entomological research of species diversity.

Our participation in the project is in accordance with our Foundation Contract, the Seville Strategy and the Madrid Action Plan.

*The project was funded by the European Social Fund and state budget of the Czech Republic under the Education for Competitiveness Operational Programme.*



#### **5. Landscape Plan and Urban Study of the Habrůvka Municipality**

This project is a practical proof of the fact that biosphere reserves can serve as models even outside their formal boundaries. Our PBC was approached by "Habrůvka – Traditional Village" civic association. We were asked to participate in the design of a landscape plan and urban study for Habrůvka which would serve as theoretical documents necessary for the creation of modern local plans and complex land consolidation. Upon our recommendation, the Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area Administration and Mendel University in Brno were included in the project. As referees we helped establish a complex body of documents and activities which include the landscape plan, urban study, plans to establish orchards of traditional regional tree species varieties, complementary plans for the territorial system of ecological stability, maintenance and regeneration of the local Tyrš Orchard, lectures, field trip to the village of Hostěnin in Bílé Karpaty, completed application for development funding of the local civic association as well as information articles for the local newsletter. In mid-September 2010 we presented the current results and the long-term concept of the project to Ivan Fuksa, Minister of Agriculture, and regional politicians during a seminar organized directly in Habrůvka.

*The project received financial support of REAL SPEKTRUM, a.s.*

## 6. Landscape Forum and Cultural Landscape Management workshop

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 we co-organized the third gathering focusing on Cultural Landscape Management together with the third Landscape Forum. The primary objective of the participating experts and general public was to assess the significance of 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ratification of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) by the Council of Europe member states. By ratifying the Convention, the Czech Republic pledged to protect the universal values of cultural landscape as our elementary cultural and natural heritage. Various landscape professions experts along with university lecturers and representatives of non-governmental organizations provided updates on the implementation process of this key international convention.

Participants noted that an integrated system of cultural landscape protection and management which would draw on balanced economic, environmental, cultural and social development principles is lacking. Sustainable use of natural resources may be a verbally well established philosophy of developed societies but its implementation in everyday life has its shortcomings. The primary problem is insufficient respect for the cultural landscape and its values, which often results in chaotic housing developments and consequently diminished biological and cultural diversity. Cases of unfounded absolute preference of protection principles enforced at the expense of social and cultural values and upon unnecessary and unjustifiable financial losses are documented. Professional conduct, responsibility and expertise of landscape professions together with their ability to implement the ELC objectives are too often neglected, trivialized and at times even replaced with the dictate of group or personal interests at the expense of the landscape and its values.

The issues of cultural landscape protection, management and use have been closely linked to the emergence of civil society in the Czech Republic. Its solution requires an up-to-date objective analysis of the present state of affairs and

adoption of such measures which will be generally acceptable and implemented on a daily basis. This cannot be achieved without a constant interdisciplinary exchange of views and information and without an integrated set of legislative norms which will improve the relation of the general society to the cultural landscape.

Both events were organized under the auspices of Ing. Ivan Fuksa, Minister of Agriculture, Mgr. Pavel Drobil, Minister of the Environment, MUDr. Jiří Besser, Minister of Culture, and Mgr. Michal Hašek, Governor of the South Moravian Region. Funding was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, Forest Management Department, and Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise.



“Cultural Landscape Management Workshop”

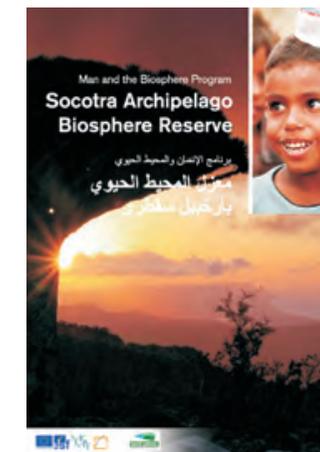
## PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES

Publications constitute a significant part of our activities. We publish materials which inform readers about the missions of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and about the specific regional significance of our Public Benefit Corporation. The publications highlight places of interest in the area of the Lower Morava BR or interesting activities within, and their general aim is to promote the ideas of the area's sustainable development.

### Socotra Biosphere Reserve – leaflet

The MAB Programme philosophy accentuates the importance of cooperation. This includes cooperation within individual BRs as well as among BRs. With this philosophy of cooperation in mind, we decided to support the MAB Programme in Yemen. For its only Socotra Biosphere Reserve we prepared a leaflet providing information about the key principles of the MAB Programme, its focus on sustainable landscape management and about the BR itself. The Arabic-English leaflet was prepared in collaboration with students of Mendel University in Brno as part of the “Management of Natural Resources in the Tropics and Subtropics” project. The leaflet was designed to be used by the Yemen side as publication commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MAB Programme in 2011.

*Production of the leaflet was supported by the European Social Fund and the state budget of the Czech Republic under the Education for Competitiveness Operational Programme.*



### Tiger Beetles of the Madagascan Region monograph

Education, science and research represent the three primary functions of every BR. Under this guidance we published a monograph by Jiří Moravec, a world-renowned entomologist. This book written in English is the author's third volume on tiger beetles. Compared with the previous two monographs, this book presents a taxonomic and descriptive treatment of 17 different genera occurring in Madagascar and the neighbouring islands of Mauritius, Reunion, Rodrigues, the Comoros Islands and the Seychelles. Although it may appear that the region is too distant from our BR, we took the opportunity to publish unique results of a long-term scientific research which will serve as a valuable source of information not only for employees of the given region's BRs but also for scientific facilities and experts from the Czech Republic and worldwide.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2010 we presented the Man and the Biosphere Programme, the Lower Morava BR, its founding members and partners as well as our activities at conferences, lectures, forums and excursions for both general and expert public in the Czech Republic and abroad. The target groups were pupils and students, general public, representatives of state administration and local governments as well as professional groups and experts.

### **Lecture “Man and the Biosphere Programme – Biosphere Reserves as a Global Concept of Landscape Management” delivered at Mendel University** (10. 2. 2010, Brno, 20 attending students)

As participating partners in the project “Management of Natural Resources in the Tropics and Subtropics – Innovation of Study Programmes of the Mendel University in Brno” we provide theoretical training modules for students. As part of our obligations we delivered a lecture focused on “Man and the Biosphere Programme – Biosphere Reserves as a Global Concept of Landscape Management”.

### **Seminar “Křivoklátsko Forest Park – Space for Nature and People” and “International Model Forest Network”** (18. 2. 2010, Křivoklát, 100 participants)

The seminar was organized by the Czech Forestry Association (Česká lesnická společnost, o.s. – CFA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and was financially supported by Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise, to endorse the designation of Forest Parks (FP) by the Ministry of Agriculture. The seminar was a closing event preceding the designation of the Křivoklátsko Forest Park, which was a culmination of almost year-long endeavours of CFA, Forests of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Agriculture and a number of other forestry organizations to establish an institution which would conserve the outstanding values of the Křivoklátsko region along with the high standards of its forest management as cultural heritage of the Czech nation.

The aim of the seminar was to provide information about the FP activities and the project as such and to secure the support of local mayors, local councillors and other stakeholders from the surrounding municipalities for future active participation in the park management and decision-making about its future use.

In the course of the seminar we delivered a presentation on International Model Forest Network and its importance for cultural landscape management explaining the principles and motivations for establishing the International Model Forest Network, its work and the possible future implications for human activities in the area of the Forest Park in case of accession to the Network.

### **Lecture for students of Mendel University in Brno** (16. 3. 2010, Brno, 25 students)

Following the request of representatives of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology of Mendel University in Brno we organized a lecture for international students entitled “Man and the Biosphere Programme – Biosphere Reserves as a Global Concept of Landscape Management”.

### **Negotiations and cooperation with Land Offices in Břeclav and Blansko**

Throughout 2010 we engaged in negotiations under coordinated cooperation aimed to implement projects of joint facilities in municipalities subject to complex land consolidation. We chose municipalities whose cadastre areas within the existing Territorial System of Ecological Stability display the highest potential for greenery planting and revitalization. Operative consultations with experts from the Břeclav Land Office and their participation in important meetings in the given municipalities were agreed. Long-term cooperation on the concept of territorial studies as bases for complex land consolidation in Habrůvka, and possibly other municipalities of the given district, was agreed with the Blansko Land Office experts with the objective to conserve the traditional values of rural settlements.

### **Negotiations with local mayors on landscaping and sustainable development in the municipalities of Sedlec, Novosedly, Horní Věstonice, Lednice and Mikulov**

Following our coordinated cooperation with the Břeclav Land Office, mayors of the aforementioned municipalities were approached in 2010 and were offered our collaboration in the process of preparation of bio-centres, in the design of sustainable development concepts enhancing their tourist attractiveness, local union activities and conservation of their cultural and natural heritage. Individual mayors were encouraged to voice their ideas about the municipal development in the context of the implemented complex land consolidation and territorial planning, the possibilities of funding from Operational Programmes of the Ministry of the Environment and they actively participated in selecting sites and possibilities of greenery planting.

During a meeting with the mayor of Mikulov, the possibilities of Mikulov Landscape Plan implementation were discussed together with the possibility of outlining Urban Studies in the form of diploma theses prepared by university students and the implementation of greenery planting projects in the open landscape (e.g. 14 km of tree avenues and other linear landscape elements).

### **Official visit from the Republic of Yemen** (13. 4. 2010)

Our BR welcomed an official visit from Yemen. The visitors included Mr. Hussein Al-Guneid, Deputy Minister of the Environment, and Mahmoud Shidiwah, Director of the Nature Protection and BR Department. During fruitful discussions we exchanged experience in nature protection, provided information on our core activities, philosophy of the Lower Morava BR and visited outstanding sites within our BR.

### **Municipality Consulting Day designed to outline possibilities of receiving funding from the Operational Programme Environment** (28. 4. 2010)

Following earlier negotiations and in collaboration with the Agency for Nature



*Mr. Jindrich Pavlis, Mr. Hussein Al-Guneid and Mr. Mahmoud Shediwah*

Conservation and Landscape Protection in Brno we prepared consultations for mayors of the local municipalities to outline possibilities of receiving funding from the Operational Programme Environment. In the course of a field excursion we presented individual cases of possible project implementation in the municipalities of Lednice, Sedlec, Mikulov and Novosedly.

### **Meeting of Interdisciplinary Workgroup for the Lednice – Valtice Cultural Landscape**

(7. 5. 2010, Lednice)

We participated in a committee meeting chaired by Mr. Tomáš Rotröckl, Deputy Minister of the Environment, which followed an earlier meeting in 2008. On the agenda was a summary of the key issues in the LVCL and a presentation of Site Manager activities in the LVCL, as administered by our PBC. The Ministry of the Environment was commissioned to prepare an outline of a document for the Czech government which will include a proposed systematic solution of continuous funding of the Site Manager office.

### **Lecture for 5<sup>th</sup> grade pupils of Břeclav primary schools** (11. 5. 2010, Prostřední Fishpond, 30 pupils)

We organized a lecture on our BR and sustainable forest and agricultural management for the Duhovka Centre of Leisure Time Activities in Břeclav.

### **Field excursion for employees of the Regional Development Agency South Moravia in Brno**

(12. 5. 2010, Soutok, 12 persons)

Upon request of the Regional Development Agency we organized a day cycling field trip which included presentations of hollow-tree nesting bird monitoring, examples of charcoal production and explanation of some specific features of forest management in the Soutok area.

### **Lecture “Importance of the BR Institute and Nature Conservation in Madagascar”**

(3. 6. 2010, Brno, 34 students)

Under the project “Management of Natural Resources in the Tropics and Subtropics Innovation of Study Programmes of the Mendel University in Brno” we prepared a lecture on biosphere reserves and their role in different social and geographical conditions for students of Mendel University in Brno.

### **Symbolic planting of a tree in the Valtice Chateau park to commemorate the World Environment Day of fight against air pollution and decrease CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

(5. 6. 2010, Valtice)

The event was organized in cooperation with the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology and the Faculty of Horticulture of Mendel University in Brno and EARTH University in Costa Rica. It was part of a global event in the course of which a total of 1,195,371 trees were simultaneously planted in 31 countries worldwide in a single day.

### **Awarding primary school pupils in Lednice for recycling and secondary materials collection** (11. 6. 2010, Lednice)

In cooperation with civic associations in Lednice and the Pálava Protected Landscape Area we presented awards to pupils and teachers of the Lednice primary schools.

### **Lecture for professorial staff of Mendel University in Brno and the Department of Forest Sciences of Dresden University of Technology**

(11. 6. 2010, Lednice, 11 participants)

We delivered a lecture on the Lower Morava BR and the implementation of participatory management whose objective is to endorse the principles of sustainable use of natural resources.



### **Spring meeting of the Czech National MAB Committee** (17. 6. 2010, Prague)

The regular meeting of the Czech National MAB Committee took place at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague. As has become a tradition, the committee members noted that regardless of the achieved results and the exceptionally good reputation which our PBC has abroad, it is still perceived as problematic. This attitude is conditioned by different views of the current development of MAB Programme philosophy and the consequent marked shift in work of present biosphere reserves. The attitude of committee members expressly follows their preferences for the protection function of BRs and their conviction that BRs should provide unconditional support for nature conservation bodies. On the other hand, we believe that all BR functions should be balanced and the work of each BR should be based on equal cooperation and participation of all stakeholders, including local governments and businesses.

### **Meeting of the Břeclav District Chamber of Agriculture** (2. 7. 2010, Bulhary)

At the meeting we presented information about our activities. Representatives of the District Chamber of Agriculture expressed their satisfaction at being given the possibility to participate in BR management. In the course of discussion they expressed their request for a more distinct public presentation of our PBC in order to be clearly distinguished from other “nature conservationists”.

### **Field trip for participants of International Conference on Landscape Ecology**

(6. 9. 2010, 40 participants)

Upon request from the International Association for Landscape Ecology we organized a day field trip to the area of Lower Morava BR for the conference's international participants as part of its programme focusing on landscape ecology.

### **Field excursion for employees of the Křivoklátsko Forest District** (13. 9. 2010, 45 participants)

Foresters represent an important target group of our activities. That is why we organized a programme for employees of the Křivoklátsko Forest District covering the areas of LVCL and forests of the Lower Morava BR. In the course of the field excursion we shared experience with sustainable forest management and explained the role foresters play in the management of Lower Morava BR compared with Křivoklátsko BR where foresters do not participate in its management in the least.

### **International seminar “Model Forests – Modern Initiative in Landscape Approach”**

(14. 9. 2010, Brno, 18 participants)

This seminar was co-organized by Mendel University and the keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Axelsson of Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, presented Model Forest as a concept of landscape approach, i.e. a concept striving to achieve sustainable development, sustainable forest management and sustainable management of natural resources. The primary objective of the workshop was to present new approaches to research and to present the landscape approach on examples of the Bergslagen Model Forest and other sites in Eastern and Western Europe or Scandinavia. The following discussion focused on the possibilities of implementing the Model Forest concepts in the conditions of the Czech Republic.

### **Participation in the designation of a new biosphere reserve in Sweden**

(23–30. 9. 2010, Vänerskärgrden)

Upon the invitation of the Swedish National MAB Committee we took part in the official designation of the new Vänerskärgrden med Kinnekulle Biosphere Reserve in Sweden.

The invitation was a logical continuation of our long-term international cooperation. Already back in 2008, upon the invitation of the Swedish MAB Committee we delivered a series of lectures in Vänerskärgrden focusing on MAB

Programme in the Czech Republic, Lower Morava BR, its organization structure, participative management and its prepared, implemented and completed projects. The lectures were a part of information campaign connected to the designation of a new BR.

At present, Sweden has only two BRs: Kristianstad Vattenrike (2005) and the newly designated Vänerskärgrden med Kinnekulle Biosphere Reserve. Two more reserves are in the nominating process at the local level. All the designated Swedish BRs fall into the category of “second generation” BRs and similar to us they promote direct involvement of local stakeholders, including municipalities, in their management. The previously designated Lake Torne Area BR (1986) was dissolved because it had failed to meet the tasks admi-



nistered by BRs, i.e. participation of stakeholders in its management, and fulfilled only the functions of a national park. The trip to Sweden was in accordance with the tasks of international cooperation prescribed by the Lower Morava BR Foundation Contract, the Seville Strategy and the Madrid Action Plan. Information delivered in the form of presentations and ensuing discussions promoted the founding members and partners of Lower Morava BR and helped enhance its position within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

### **Field excursion for students of the University of Bayreuth** (25. 9. 2010, 21 participants)

Under the study trip of German students to the Czech Republic we organized an excursion and delivered a lecture on cultural landscape management and participatory management implemented in the Lower Morava BR.

### **Lectures and documentary viewing organized for primary school pupils from the Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia** (1. 10. 2010, Mikulčice, 108 children)

In cooperation with civic organization MAS Dolní Morava we organized a series of lectures on Lower Morava BR in the course of which we showed documentary “Landscape under the Lednice Minaret” to the children from primary schools in the Podluží Region, Slovakia and Austria.

### **On-line lecture for students of the University of Gothenburg** (26. 10. 2010, 10 students)

We took part in an interesting project which implements modern technology. Over the Internet we delivered an online lecture on Lower Morava BR, its participatory management, involvement of its founding members and partners in our activities and implemented projects, and we engaged in an ensuing discussion with the students. The lecture was one in a series of online lectures and discussions designed for landscape management students to get information from BR coordinators abroad.

### **Visit of experts from the Torres del Paine National Park and Biosphere Reserve**

(3–7. 11. 2010, 4 persons)

The visit of experts from the Torres del Paine National Park and Biosphere Reserve was organized as part of a programme run under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic providing expert help for Chile. We provided expert programmes in LVCL (management of a cultural landscape listed as a World Heritage Site), in the Soutok Forest District (sustainable management of floodplain forests which are part of Ramsar Wetlands as well as the Natura 2000 European network of protected areas, plus water management issues within the area), in the Moravský Krumlov Forest District (natural regeneration of sessile oak in the conditions of Czech-Moravian Highland foothills, deer management in the Moravský Krumlov game preserve) and in the Masaryk Forest Training Forest Enterprise in Křtiny (interesting issues connected with special-purpose forest management in an area frequently visited by people from the nearby city agglomeration).

The Chilean party declared their dedication to maintaining and expanding their contacts with the Czech Republic. Lower Morava BR is viewed as a partner who may help overcome a period of certain stagnation in contacts between the Czech Republic and Chile.

### **Participation in international conference “Positive Visions for Biodiversity”**

(15–19. 11. 2010, Brussels)

Upon the invitation of Dr. Ishwaran, Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO, and Secretary of the UNESCO MAB Programme, we took part in a conference entitled “Positive Visions for Biodiversity” organized in Brussels.

The event hosted almost 250 participants from 43 countries worldwide. The conference was organized by the Belgian Platform for Biodiversity and received support of the Belgian Science Policy Office, European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy and the Belgian Presidency of the European Union. Its partners included the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Department of Economics, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government, French Foundation for Biodiversity Research, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Biostrat project and the European Commission.

The aim of the event was to define a platform for positive visions for the protection of biodiversity and the necessary steps to achieve these goals by 2050 during a concerted brainstorming process. The participants play a leading role as stakeholders in their countries and their wide spectrum included economists, artists, architects, philosophers, politicians, journalists, businessmen and scientists.

A complete list of topics and proposed changes can be found on: [www.biodiversity.be/epbrsbe2010](http://www.biodiversity.be/epbrsbe2010)

### **Cooperation with universities**

Similar to previous years, we were involved in active cooperation with universities, notably with Mendel University in Brno.



*“Positive Visions for Biodiversity”*

## **DONORS AND PARTNERS**

Activities and projects implemented in the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve would not be possible without the funding of grant and support programmes, nor without the contributions from individual donors and project partners. We wish to express our thanks to all those without whose financial support we would not be able to fulfil our mission.

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