

**05– 11 – 2023**

**News:** International Biosphere Reserve Day

## **International Biosphere Reserve Day**

- International Biosphere Reserve Day is celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November since 2022 by UNESCO.
- This day celebrates the role of biosphere reserves in conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development.
- The celebration of this day aims to raise awareness, share best practices, and showcase achievements of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

## **Biosphere Reserve**

- Biosphere reserves are ‘learning places for sustainable development’.
- They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.
- They are places that provide local solutions to global challenges. Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine, and coastal ecosystems.
- Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

## Features

- Biosphere reserves consist of three main zones.
- **Core Area:** The core area is the strictly protected zone, where natural processes and biodiversity are preserved.
- **Buffer Zone:** The buffer zone surrounds the core area, where human activities are compatible with conservation and research objectives.
- **Transition Area:** The transition area is the outermost zone, where sustainable development and human well-being are promoted.
- Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.
- Biosphere reserves are designated by UNESCO under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme which was launched in 1971.
- The MAB Programme aims to improve the relationship between people and their environment and to foster the integration of natural and social sciences.
- The MAB Programme also supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Biosphere reserves are part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), which currently comprises 748 sites in 134 countries, including 22 transboundary sites.