

# Biosphere Reserves of India

The term 'Biosphere Reserve' should denote an area:

- which is, set aside for the conservation of the resources of the biosphere and for the improvement of the relationship between man and the environment;
- which is, to serve as sites for long term scientific research as well as education all over the world.

The programme of Biosphere Reserve was initiated under the 'Man & Biosphere' (MAB) programme by UNESCO in 1971. Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They are internationally recognized, nominated by National Governments and remain under sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. Biosphere Reserves serve in some ways as 'living laboratories' for testing out and demonstrating integrated management of land, water and biodiversity (CES., UNESCO, 2005., IUCN, 1979).

## *Biosphere Reserve Objectives*

Each Biosphere Reserve is intended to fulfill three basic functions, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing:

- A conservation function - to contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- A development function - to foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- A logistic function - to provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local, national and global issues of conservation and development (UNESCO, 2005).

## List of Biosphere Reserves in India

Name	Year of establishment	District	State
Achanakmar-Amarkantak	2005	Anupur, Dindori & Bilaspur	Madhya Pradesh & Chhattishgarh

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Agasthyamalai	2001	-	Kerala
Dehang-Debang	1998	Siang & Debang Valley	Arunachal Pradesh
Dibru-Saikhowa	1997	Dibrugarh and Tinsukia	Assam
Great Nicobar	1989	Southern most Island of Andaman and Nicobar	Andaman and Nicobar
Gulf of Mannar	1989	Indian part of Gulf of Mannar	Tamil Nadu
Khangchenjunga	2000	Khangchendzonga Hills	Sikkim
Manas	1989	Part of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup and Darang	Assam
Nanda Devi	1988	Chamoli, Almora, and Pithoragarh,	Uttaranchal
Nilgiri	1986	Part of Wayanad, Bandipur, and Nagarhole, Nilambur, Silent Valley and Siruvani Hills	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka
Nokrek	1988	Part of Garo Hills	Meghalaya
Pachmarhi	1999	Betul, Hoshangabad and Chindwara	Madhya Pradesh
Simlipal	1994	Mayurbhanj	Orissa
Sunderbans	1989	Delta of Ganges and Brahmaputra	West Bengal