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UNESCO insights

« Local action for outstanding nature:
how to conserve biodiversity hotspots »

22 June 2021



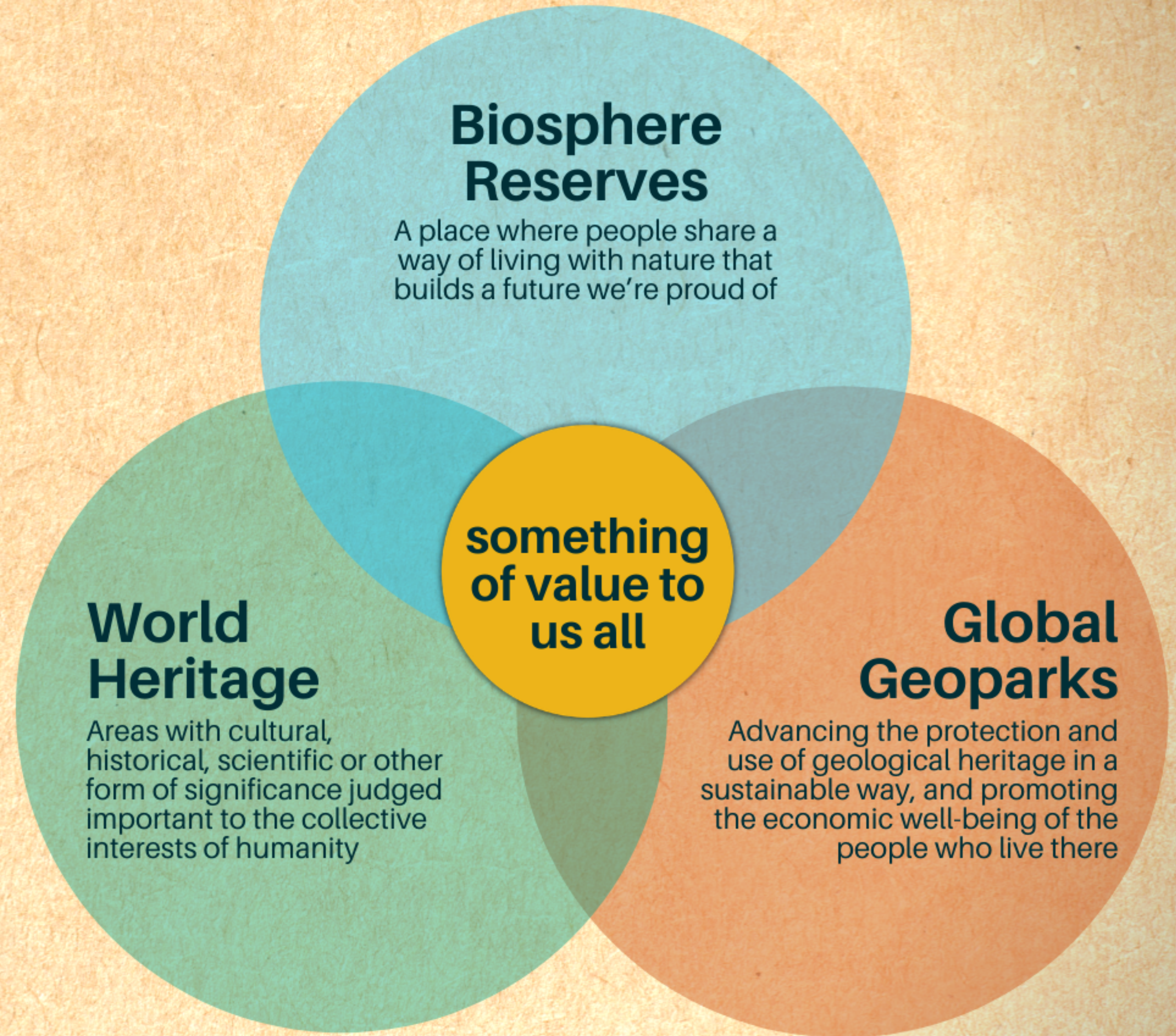
This is a time of transformation, which brings both challenge and opportunity

- For us all to thrive, **the relationship between people and nature must shift**
- The **pandemic** has brought into focus that the relationship between humans and nature has lost harmony
- This is also a time of transformation - **shifting the way we see our relationships with nature, with each other, and with our current ways of living and working**
- As a network, we have a unique opportunity to inspire better ways for people to live together in harmony with nature - and to help us all **emerge from this challenging time stronger and wiser** than before



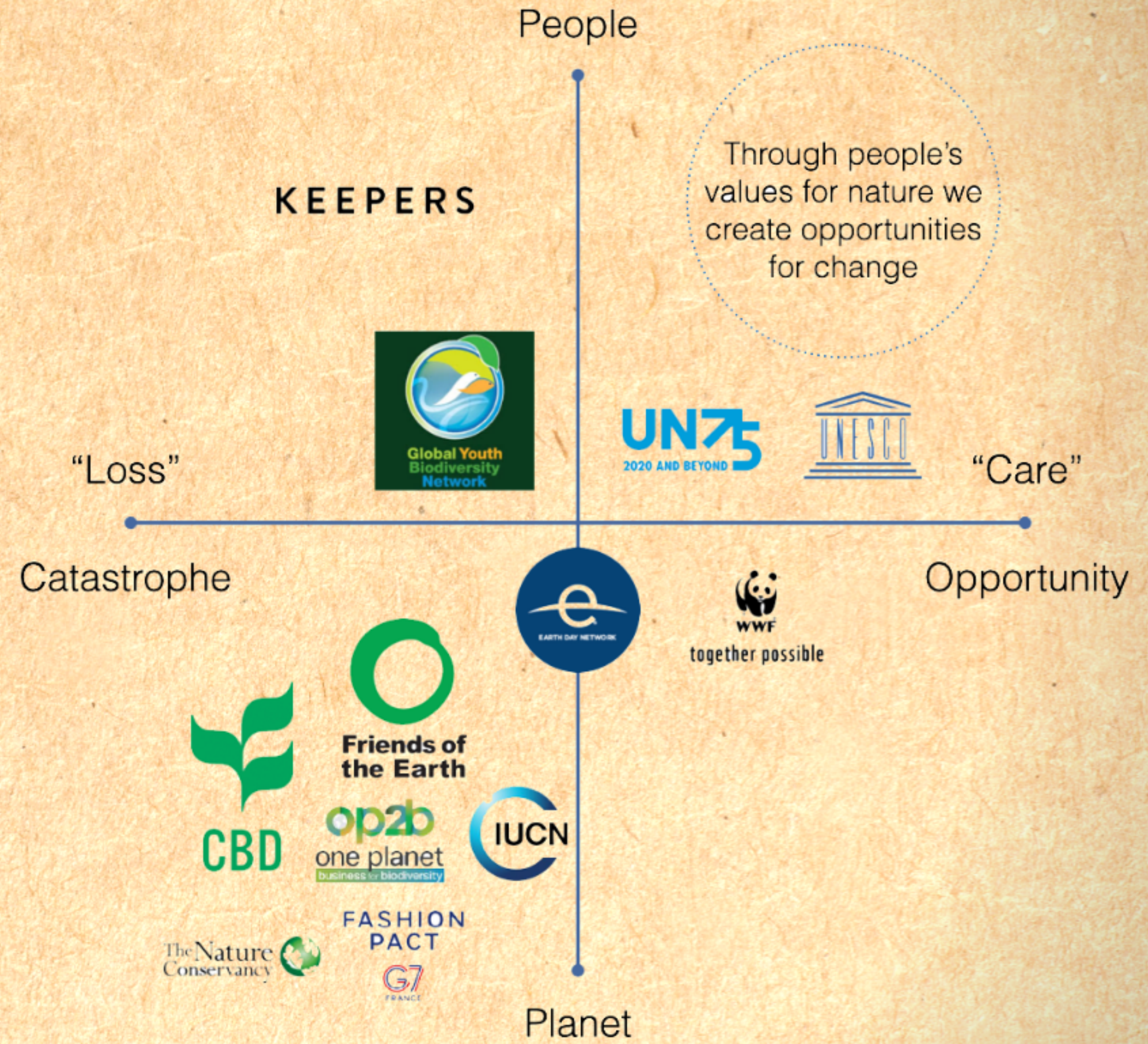
UNESCO is at the forefront of the interconnectivity of territories through its **unique network of sites and the interconnection of knowledge, cultures, values and consciences.**

UNESCO' provides evidence through its **three main networks of sites:**



"Saving the planet" is still the dominant campaign and brand message of NGOs and their initiatives.

There is space to speak more to our connection to nature, and to valorise the people who are creating opportunities that make a difference.



Stakeholders circle



WHY?

This is a time of transformation, which brings both challenge and opportunity

For us all to thrive, the relationship between people and nature must shift - addressing climate change, species loss, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution, and the effects of urbanization.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on our world, and for many individuals, businesses and communities, this is a time of great challenge. The pandemic has brought into focus that the relationship between humans and nature has lost harmony.

And so this is also a time of transformation - shifting the way we see our relationships with nature, with each other, and with our current ways of living and working.

As a network, we have a unique opportunity to **inspire better ways for people to live together in harmony with nature** - and to help us all emerge from this challenging time stronger and wiser than before.

HOW?

Biosphere reserves represent a beacon for sustainable development globally and locally

UNESCO biosphere reserves are examples of where sustainable living is making a difference and where a positive transformation is already happening.

Our network of more than 700 places located in each and every ecosystem of the world are proof of sustainable development in action by acting through our shared cultural values. We:

- **Celebrate life** demonstrating that people's wellbeing and the diversity of nature are inextricably linked
- **Empower people** by creating a movement, building belief in what is possible and trusting each other
- **Model solutions** for the future by exploring new ways of living every day that solves global challenges
- **Belong together** by connecting people across disciplines, cultures and borders

Our role is to demonstrate that it is already possible to live in harmony with nature by demonstrating how to sustainably use and restore key ecosystems on the planet.

WHAT?

We inspire with real stories of practical transformative action

The MAB network brings education, science and culture together to develop tangible and transformative action. **We are creating an alliance for biodiversity by living together in harmony with nature.**

We form an integral part of UNESCO's focus to:

- **Restore** the relationships between people and nature - including restoring degraded ecosystems through education, sciences, local and indigenous knowledge
- **Conserve** the harmony of our ecosystems - sustainably using key ecosystems in the planet by mobilizing the knowledge and know-how of committed and dedicated citizens and partners
- **Amplify** the power of youth - providing universal access to diversity of knowledge, create possibilities and share solutions to empower the next generations

As a network we communicate what we stand for, what we have achieved, and how we can help to inspire our communities and partners into meaningful action.

We are part of nature...





Time for reconciliation with nature

There is only one Earth, not one planet for nature and another for humans. However, we're inclined to think of our planet simply as place on which we live, which runs contrary to local and indigenous understanding. It is time to respect this Earth that we humans inhabit and share with all non-humans. The idea of living together in harmony, and the need to work together to shape a common home, calls for shared values.

The values that enable us to live together in harmony with nature are expressed on several levels. Values that deal with knowledge: how do we create it, and how do we use it? Values that deal with action: what is our responsibility in the face of the foreseeable or imaginable consequences of our collective actions? But it is also values that shape how we caring, see and listen.

Because the nature we tend to hold separate from us speaks to us and speaks within us. It speaks the language of science, which we use to question it, but it also speaks its own language, often whispered, sometimes enigmatic, occasionally imperious.

THANK YOU!
MERCi ¡GRACIAS!
СПАСИБО!

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谢谢你!

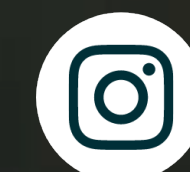
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