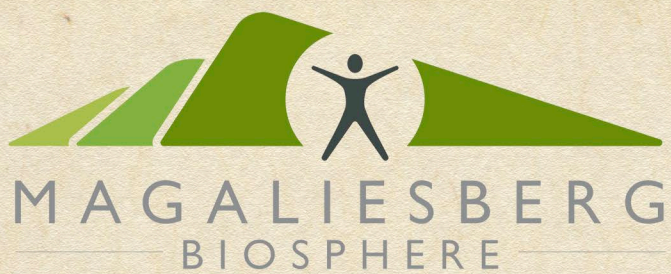


The mission of the Magaliesberg Biosphere Board is "The preservation of the Magaliesberg Biosphere and the development of its communities for the benefit of humanity"



"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."  
Aldo Leopold

## WHAT IS A BIOSPHERE RESERVE?

- A biosphere reserve is an area defined eco-system containing plants and animals of unique or particular scientific interest.
- It is the label given by UNESCO to assist communities in protecting these important sites which have those specific characteristics. The objective is to promote the management, research and education in the preservation of the reserve's eco-system.
- This includes the 'sustainable use of natural resources'. If for example, animals or trees are used by the community for a particular purpose it should be in a manner which causes the least damage to the eco-system.
- The program is administered by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) which has established a "World Network of Biosphere Reserves" across the globe.
- Since its formation in 1971 the MAB programme has established over 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries. There are 7 biospheres in South Africa. The Magaliesberg Biosphere is the most recently proclaimed biosphere reserve in SA.
- Biosphere reserves exchange their research, knowledge and experiences about new ideas for sustainable development.

"The aim is to maintain a balanced relationship between humans and their natural environment".

## THE MAGALIESBERG BIOSPHERE



### 3 ZONES IN ONE BIOSPHERE!

Biosphere reserves have three interrelated zones that aim to fulfil three complementary and mutually reinforcing functions:

- The **core area(s)** comprises a strictly protected ecosystem that contributes to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.
- The **buffer zone** surrounds or adjoins the core areas, and is used for activities compatible with sound ecological practices that can reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education.
- The **transition area** is the part of the reserve where the greatest activity is allowed, fostering economic and human development that is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable.

## THE 3 MAIN FUNCTIONS OF A BIOSPHERE RESERVE

### CONSERVATION FUNCTION

- Preserve the ecosystem, landscape, fauna, flora and genetic resources
- Integrate biosphere reserves into municipal Environmental Management Plans (EMP's) and existing environmental legislation.

### DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

- Promote sustainable economic and human development.
- Integrate biosphere reserves into municipal Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF's) and existing planning legislation.

### LOGISTIC/SUPPORT FUNCTION

- Support demonstration projects
- Environmental education and training
- Research and monitoring related to local and global issues related to conservation and sustainable development.

