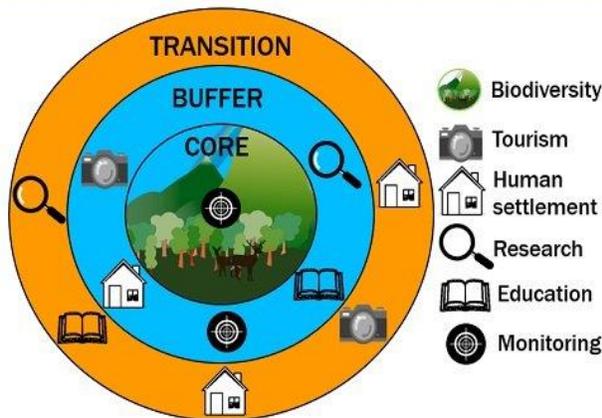


Single use plastic/ biosphere reserve



Zones of Biosphere Reserves



Our consumption of single use plastic, in particular plastic water bottles, will also significantly increase. With 80% of all tourism taking place in coastal areas.

In the Island of Principe Biosphere Reserve, Sao Tome and Principe in Africa, schoolchildren have been equipped with stainless steel bottles for drinking water, so the daily production and consumption of single use plastic bottles can be completely avoided.

Acting as pockets of hope in the face of the climate crisis, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) biosphere reserves are hidden oases, protecting biodiversity, reducing pollution, and enhancing climate resilience.

They are living jewels of land, coastal and marine ecosystems, scattered across the globe, where nature and humans come together creating a symphony of life.

The Hindu

Biosphere Reserve

World Biosphere Reserve Day is celebrated on November 3 each year to raise awareness of the importance of biosphere reserves and to promote their conservation and sustainable use.

In the heart of each biosphere reserve lies the strictly protected core zone, providing habitat for flora and fauna, and protecting water, soil, air, and biota as a whole ecosystem.

There is a buffer zone surrounding the core zone, where people live and work in harmony with nature; a zone that also functions as a laboratory for scientists to study nature, and for training and education.

The outermost edge is the transition zone where communities practice sociocultural and ecologically sustainable human activities.

Designated by UNESCO to promote the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development, and research, biosphere reserves are also supported by other United Nations agencies

According to UNESCO, there are currently 748 biosphere reserves across 134 countries, including 22 transboundary sites, enhancing the friendly cooperation between neighboring countries.

They impact the lives of more than 250 million people in 134 countries; 12 sites can be found in India alone. Biosphere reserves are vital for the future of our planet.

They are a living testament to the resilience of nature, that even amidst human activity, finds a way to flourish.

They are home to a wide variety of ecosystems from tropical rainforests to alpine deserts, and thereby provide home to countless unique and endangered plants and animal's species.

In addition to playing a vital role in the protection of biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, they also provide opportunities for sustainable economic development.

In recent years, biosphere reserves have become crucial in our fight against climate change,

as these areas are home to many of the world's carbon sinks helping to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

At the local level

There have been significant advancements in the conservation of biosphere reserves on the local level. For example, in the Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve in India, local communities are working together to manage mangrove forests and protect the biodiversity of the region.

In the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve in India, local communities, including women, are contributing towards conservation efforts by forming self help groups, while the youth are getting engaged in ecotourism.

Recently recognized with the UNESCO Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management 2023, the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust has also introduced the concept of 'plastic checkpoints'.

Community members check all vehicles and tourists for plastic waste, which is collected,

recycled and used for the construction of roads.

In times of global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable development, the role of biosphere reserves becomes even more important.

Despite these sites being the most vital ecosystems protecting nature, these oases are not without threats such as deforestation, invasive species and land use changes such as mining.

With increasing urbanization and constant growth of the world population, exploitation by humans is ever increasing

In this context, UNESCO in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, concluded the 10th South and Central Asian Biosphere Reserve Network Meeting (SACAM) in Chennai, India (November 13).

With the theme "Ridge to Reef," the SACAM provided a platform for exchanging knowledge and fostering collaborations in the realm of sustainable

environmental practices in the South and Central Asia Region.

The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme enhances the human - environment relationship through combining natural and social sciences to improve livelihoods, safeguard ecosystems, and promote sustainable economic development.

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Scape goat



The Pakistan government's order to all undocumented migrants to leave the country by October 31 has thrown the lives of hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees in jeopardy

According to the United Nations, about 1.3 million Afghans have

been registered as refugees, while another 8,80,000 have legal status to stay.

But Pakistan's Interior Ministry says some 1.7 million people are staying "illegally", a vast majority of them Afghans.

At least 6,00,000 Afghans are believed to have fled to Pakistan after the Taliban recaptured power in Kabul in 2021. Many others had moved during the Soviet military intervention in the 1980s. Pakistan's order states that they should either leave on their own or face detention and deportation.

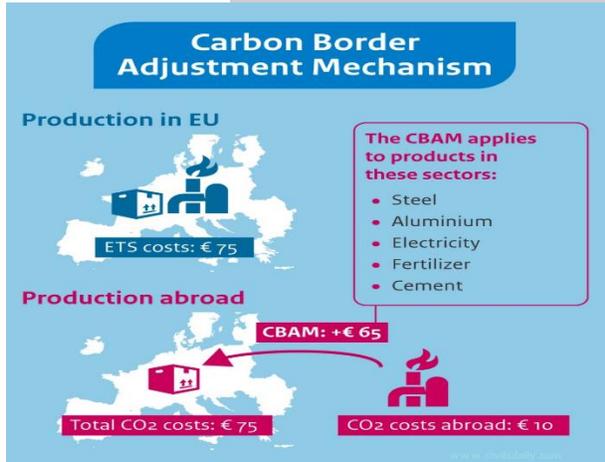
Pakistan has already set up deportation centres to round up "illegal" migrants and deport them.

Thousands are now stranded on the Afghan Pakistan border, while others are in fear of arrest and violence in Pakistan, leading to the UN's warning of a "humanitarian tragedy".

Pakistan's argument is that the presence of illegal migrants has led to rising crime and terror attacks and is straining its struggling economy.

The Hindu

CBAM



The EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM): Key steps

October 2023 → 2026 → 2030-2032

TRANSITION PERIOD	END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD	FULL IMPLEMENTATION
CBAM obligations are restricted to reporting and focused on a limited amount of goods	Payment obligation starts. The EU reviews other goods to be add to the CBAM	Final goods covered by the EU ETS get included in the CBAM



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