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CEBioS & UNESCO-MAB COP-15 Side Event

Biosphere Reserves:

conservation, restoration,

engagement



UNESCO Biodiversity Strategy : three pillars

Restoring

the relationship
between humans and
nature



Conserving

the harmony of our
ecosystems



Amplifying

the power of youth



UNESCO and IPBES

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent body established in 2012 with the aim to provide the best-available scientific evidence on biodiversity and ecosystems services. Its goal is to inform better decisions and policy making on biodiversity, just like the work of the IPCC for climate change. UNESCO is one of the 4 founding members.

UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme (LINKS) works to improve the integration of knowledge of indigenous peoples in IPBES assessments, including through dialogue workshops that bring together local communities and authors of the assessments.



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BESNet: Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services Network



BES-Net aims to build capacity and commitment for biodiversity action across the world by translating the latest IPBES products into action for biodiversity and conservation on the ground.

National Ecosystem Assessments synthesize critical knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to empower the full consideration on nature's values in decision-making. UNESCO supports the integration of local and indigenous knowledge into the assessment process.

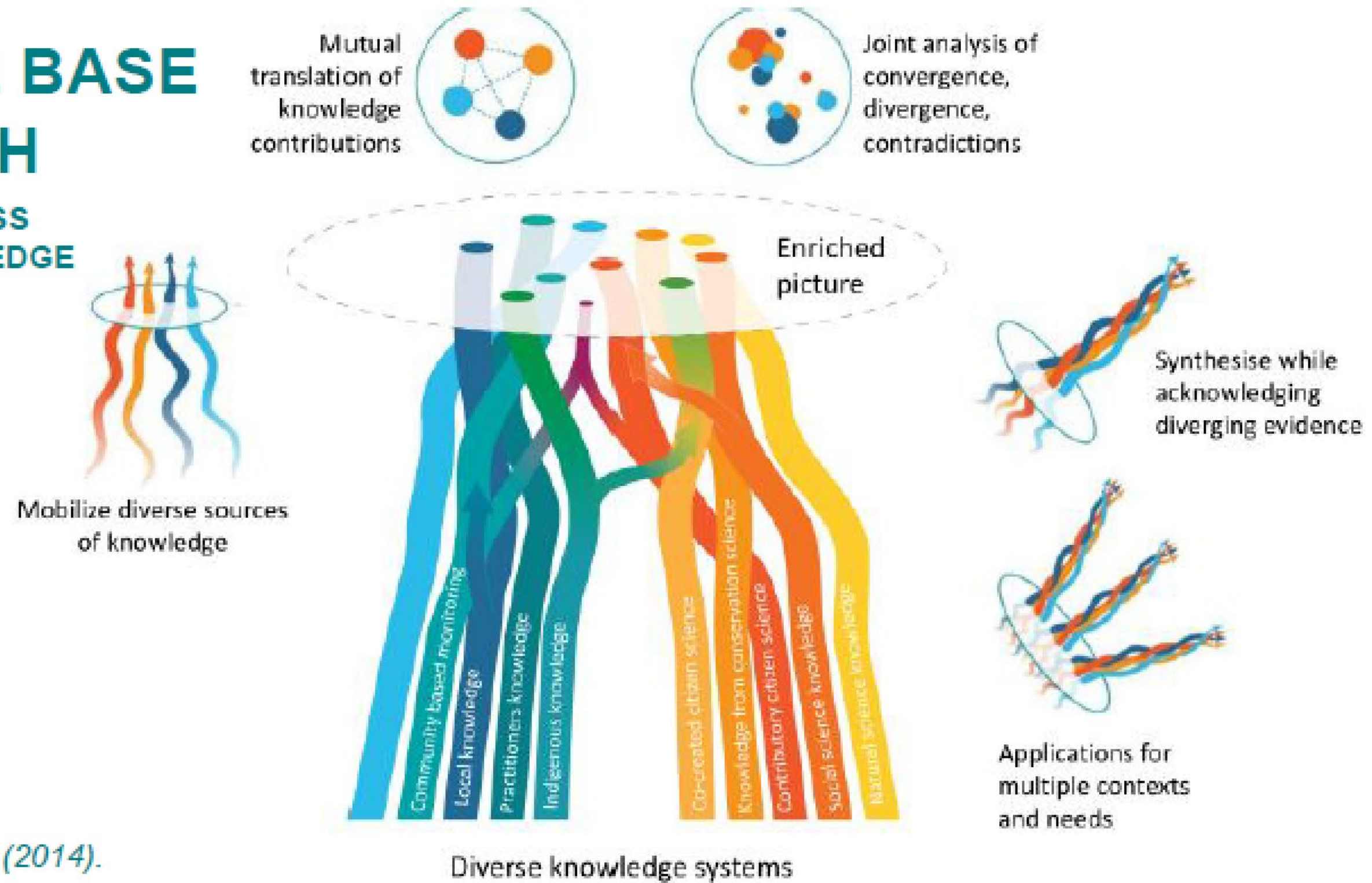


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Integration of different knowledge systems

MULTIPLE EVIDENCE BASE APPROACH

TO CONNECT ACROSS
DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE
SYSTEMS



Source: Tengö et al. (2014).

Casestudy : Malawi

- ▶ Malawi launched its National Ecosystem assessment project in December 2020.
- ▶ **Country Implementing partners:**
 - ❖ Environmental Affairs Department (Policy advice)
 - ❖ Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Implementation)
- ▶ **Global Partners (BES-Net)**
 - ❖ UNEP-WCMC (NEA Initiative)
 - ❖ UNESCO (Indigenous and local knowledge)
 - ❖ UNDP (Stakeholder engagement)
- ▶ **Goal:** To enhance National policies on biodiversity and ecosystem services informed by science and indigenous and local knowledge.
- ▶ **Prioritized ecosystem types:**
 - ▶ Aquatic
 - ▶ Terrestrial
 - ▶ Wetlands

Introduction to Malawi NEA



Main thematic areas of focus

- ▶ Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- ▶ Land degradation and restoration

Casestudy : Malawi



**ILK Household dialogues
with elders**

Casestudy : Malawi

Key ILK Milestones Achieved



Weaving ILK in Scoping Report

- ▶ About 180 ILK holders engaged in all activities
- ▶ 4 ILK potential sites identified, and explorative expeditions conducted in 3 sites
- ▶ ILK themes of focus were identified
- ▶ Sub-policy questions on ILK forthcoming.

Awareness Creation

- ▶ Raised awareness to ILK holders, other community members, District officials and other stakeholders
- ▶ ILK documentary: Culture-diversity nexus
- ▶ Article on ILK drafted pending for publishing.
- ▶ 3 Case studies from the potential ILK sites drafted.

Partnership and Collaboration

- ▶ Key ILK holders mapped and nominated to the ILK TWG to represent ILK in the assessment.
- ▶ Established collaboration with University of Malawi



Biosphere reserves are learning sites for sustainable development

Sites to test **interdisciplinary approaches** to understanding and managing **changes and interactions between social and ecological systems**, including conflict prevention and biodiversity management.

We present solutions from biosphere reserves around the world on the link between **sustainable development, climate resilience** and **biodiversity conservation**.



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The World Network of Biosphere Reserves | 2022-2023

738 
**Biosphere
Reserves**

**Present in 134
countries**




**22 Transboundary
Biosphere Reserves**

3 in Africa, 12 in Europe & North
America, 3 in Latin America & the
Caribbean



**2 Transcontinental
Biosphere Reserves**

Intercontinental del Mediterraneo (Europe/Arab
States) and Great Altay (Europe/Asia & Pacific)

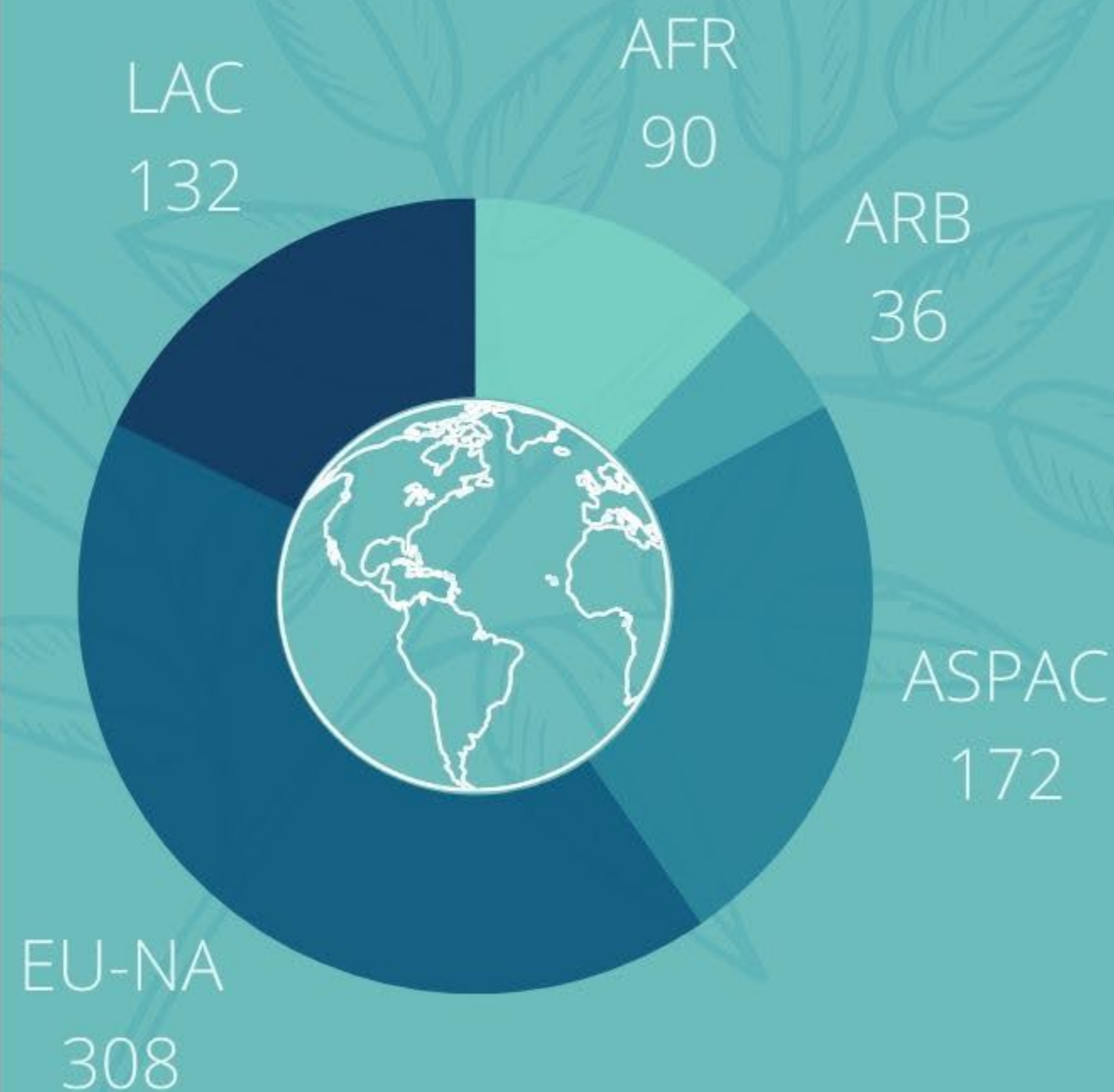

**276 million
people call
Biosphere Reserves their home**



5 %

of the world's land surface
Strictly protected core areas,
altogether, amount to **1,333,710
km²**, bigger than Peru

Regional distribution



LAC: Latin America & Caribbean; AFR: Africa; ARB: Arab States;
EU-NA: Europe & North America; ASPAC: Asia & Pacific

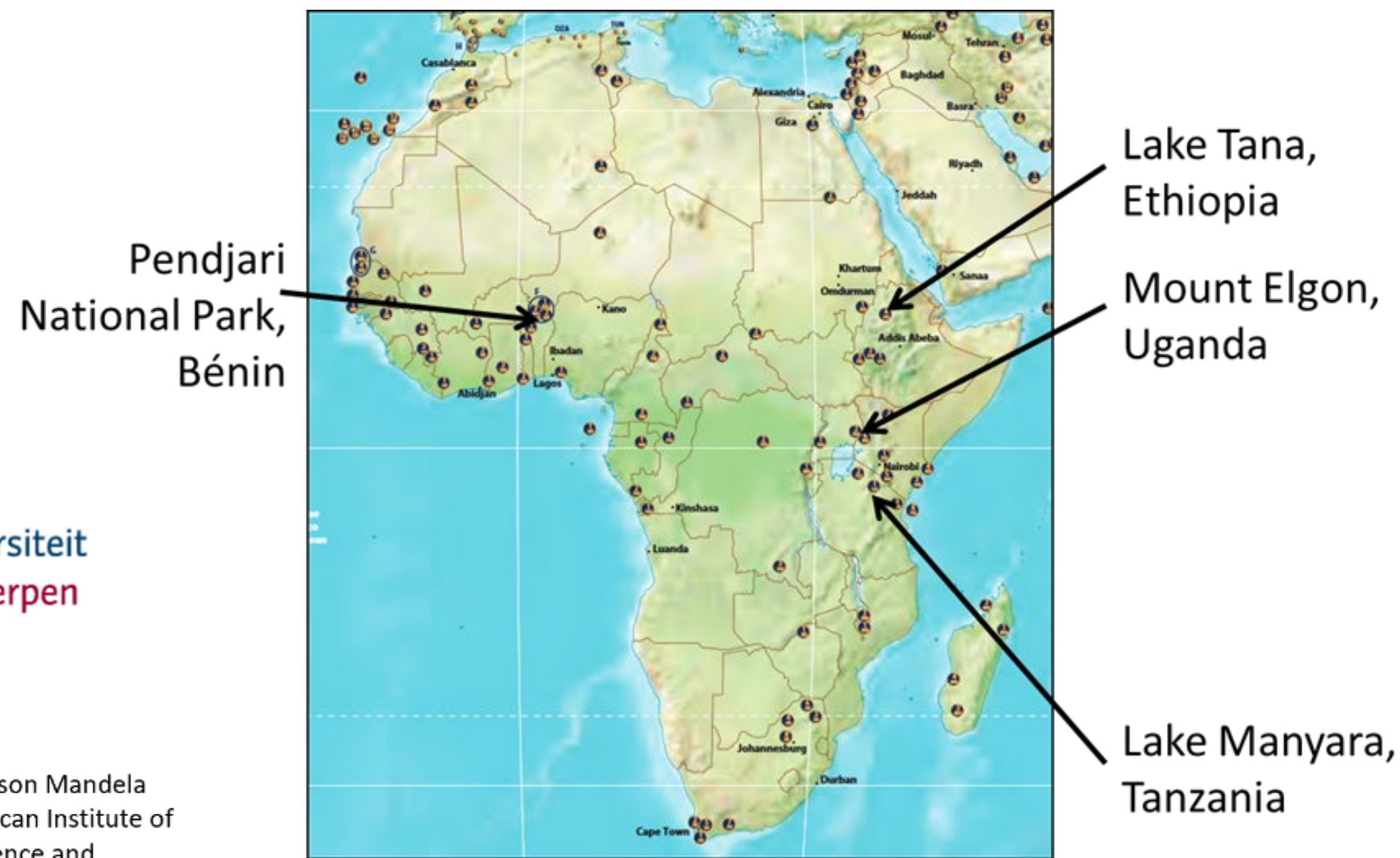
Title: Economic valuation of ecosystem services in Man and Biosphere reserves: testing effective rapid assessment methods in selected African Biosphere Reserves

Budget: 250 000 € (funding agency: Belspo)

Objective: To assess the **value(s) of priority ecosystem services** for a better appreciation of the potential for management and **socio-economic integration**.



Fieldwork in collaboration with local partners:




Action in Biosphere Reserves



Restoring mangroves with nature-based solutions


Together with the Flemish government, UNESCO is analysing the state of the mangroves in certain sites and undertaking their restoration with the communities.

 **7 biosphere reserves in Latin America and the Caribbean**



Restoration of a dune to combat desertification

UNESCO, with the support of the African Development Fund and the Lake Chad Basin Commission is restoring 4ha of dune in Lake Chad to facilitate the harvesting of spirulina by women

 **Lake Chad**



Education for resource management

UNESCO supports the inhabitants of Socotra in the knowledge and management of their water resources. Activities are implemented with children to take into account the issues of water scarcity and quality.

 **Socotra Archipelago Biosphere Reserve, Yemen**