



# ANDORRA

Reserva de la biosfera

---

PRESS KIT

---

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

---

***1.***

***WHAT***

- 1.1. PRESENTATION
- 1.2. FUNCTIONS
- 1.3. REQUIREMENTS
- 1.4. ZONING

***2.***

***WHY***

- 2.1. VALUES
- 2.2. OBJECTIVES
- 2.3. STRENGTHS
- 2.4. BENEFITS

***3.***

***HOW***

- 3.1. CONDITIONS
- 3.2. STAGES
- 3.3. AGENDA
- 3.4. CLIPPING
- 3.5. CONTACTS



## WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

### 1.1 Project Presentation

**Biosphere reserves are not about conservation, they are about people.**

A biosphere reserve is a territory established by an applicant country and recognised by UNESCO and the Man and the Biosphere programme to promote the balance between economic development and biodiversity conservation.

It is a catalyst for the achievement of the **SDGs** and the **2030 Agenda** and to promote the **European Green Deal**.



# *A biosphere reserve is not a new protected natural area.*

It acts as the operational tool of the **Man and the Biosphere programme**, which recognises human beings as indivisible and fundamental parts of the natural environment. This programme connects the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, where ideas and experiences can be shared with people from different backgrounds while sharing good practices for nature to improve people's quality of life.

Biosphere reserves are, in short, **sites of excellence** for learning and practising sustainable development where local solutions to global problems are applied.



## 1.2. THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF A BIOSPHERE RESERVE

- ▶ Contribute to the conservation of landscapes, natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and the genetic diversity of a territory.
- ▶ Promote economic and human sustainable development; socially, culturally and environmentally.
- ▶ Provide logistical support for research, monitoring, education and information on conservation and development at local, national and global levels.
- ▶ Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The main virtue of a biosphere reserve is based on the transparency and **participation** of all the stakeholders in the territory, both during its creation and operation.

Citizens interested in any strategic axis of the biosphere reserve can follow and discuss actions that respond to new specific needs through workshops.

## 3 FACTS TO CONVEY THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROJECT

---

**727**

**Number of biosphere reserves.  
They represent a 5% of the  
planet's surface (Australia's  
land area approximately).**

**131**

**Countries forming  
the World Network  
of Biosphere Reserves.**

**260**

**Million people  
participating in  
this project.**

**1.3. REQUIREMENTS:  
WHO QUALIFIES TO BE A BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE?**

- ▶ **A territory with unique ecosystems of a biogeographical region with an undisturbed and relevant diversity.**
- ▶ **A territory with a legal framework and operative tools to apply the basic functions of a biosphere reserve.**
- ▶ **A territory with a social will to progress towards sustainability at a local, national and global level.**



# ***Andorra could become the first country to be recognised as a biosphere reserve in its entirety.***

The fact that Andorra has the technical and regulatory instruments to control the use of natural and cultural resources is a good starting point for becoming a biosphere reserve.

Nonetheless, there is still some way to go and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda has marked the date to achieve this commitment.





## 1.4. ZONING OF BIOSFERE RESERVE

### ① CORE AREA

Legally composed with strictly protected ecosystems.

Nature Parks ( NP. Sorteny / NP. Comapedrosa / Madriu - Perafita - Claror Valley).

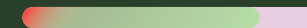
% NORMATIVE: >3%  
% ANDORRA: 15%



### ② BUFFER ZONE

Envelops the core area and separates it from the transition zone. Suitable for low impact activities (extensive stockbreeding, forest management, ecotourism, education, applied research...).

% NORMATIVE: >10%  
% ANDORRA: 75%



### ③ TRANSITION ZONE

Aimed towards the economic and human development of local populations, always following a criterion of sustainability and long-term viability.

% NORMATIVE: >X%  
% ANDORRA: 10%



# ***Being considered a biosphere reserve does not imply any limitations***

A biosphere reserve does not have a **normative status**, therefore it does not imply any additional limitation regarding the use and management of the territory.

In fact, a biosphere reserve is **structured according to the existing instruments and structures** to fulfil its objectives. The limitations shall be solely and exclusively those imposed by the legislation in force.

## WHY THIS PROJECT?

### 2.1. VALUES

The Principality's biodiversity and natural heritage should be conserved for their intrinsic value, for their beauty and the environmental services they provide, as well as for the ethical and aesthetical

values they bring to society and their vital importance for the well-being of future generations.





## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ANDORRAN CONSTITUTION

Andorra has as its basic principles and duties the preservation of its historical and cultural heritage, as well as guaranteeing...

“a decent quality of life and to restore and maintain for future generations a sound ecological balance in the atmosphere, water and land and to protect the native flora and fauna”.

Andorran Constitution, art. 31

The Andorran Constitution points out another duty following this field by stating...

“(..)The state shall guarantee the conservation, promotion and diffusion of the historical, cultural and artistic heritage of Andorra.

Andorran Constitution, art. 34

Andorran Constitution, art. 34

## 2.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE CANDIDACY: ANDORRA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

- ▶ **Become a part of an International Network of Biosphere Reserves, the purpose of which is to conserve the global ecosystem.**
- ▶ **Have an effective spatial planning and approach of the reserve to ensure that it fulfils the functions it has to perform.**
- ▶ **Promote the conservation of species and ecosystems on site.**
- ▶ **Promote Research.**
- ▶ **Encourage monitoring and surveillance activities to optimise management and research.**
- ▶ **Optimise regional planning.**
- ▶ **Link the reserve as closely as possible to the development and conservation processes of the region.**
- ▶ **Promote local planning when managing the reserve.**
- ▶ **Promote environmental education and training activities.**
- ▶ **Promote information in order to disseminate the concept of the reserve.**

## 2.3. STRENGTHS

### ① **Natural and Cultural heritage**

Representative, not disturbed and with great value.

② **Protected Natural Areas** (6.900 ha, 14,7% of our territory).

③ **Legal System** (current and future law projects) completely aligned with the Man and the Biosphere programme objectives.

④ **SDG Commitement** and other international treaties.

⑤ **Structure** of the land ownership system.

⑥ **Social awareness** in preserving the country's heritage values.

**Ordino being a biosphere reserve is already an extremely positive point towards the national candidacy.**





## 2.4. BENEFITS OF BECOMING A BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Our ecosystem has its own characteristics and over the years we have learnt something distinctive about how to live here. **The biosphere reserve label allows us to connect with this knowledge and adapt it to the future by bringing people closer to decision-making.**

Participating in this programme as a country, would be a commitment for Andorra to **achieve a historic milestone** and at the same time:

▶ Benefit from **international technical assistance and scientific advice** in the planning and implementation of research and training programmes in order to meet the SDGs.

▶ Anticipate the future and **decide what model of territory we want** for Andorra.

▶ Count with the support of a prestigious model given by the **Man and the Biosphere programme, which is suitable for our country's future.**

▶ The opportunity to join an **international network** of biosphere reserves.

▶ **Value the work done by Andorra** so far and achieve recognition for our model of balancing development and sustainability.

▶ **Project Andorra's commitment towards the future.** Make this balance our permanent roadmap.



## HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

### 3. 1. CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS

The MAB application consists of drawing up a document setting out the natural and cultural values that make Andorra a potential candidate to be declared a biosphere reserve.

It is necessary to demonstrate the will, the aptitudes and the possibilities we have as a society to ensure the conservation of the territory without relinquishing its development.







## **CONSENSUS AND PARTICIPATION, THE CORNERSTONES OF THE CANDIDACY**

In addition to meeting the requirements mentioned in section 1.3 (page 7), it is essential to have:

- ▶ Political and Social consensus.
- ▶ Integrated parishes (Comuns and Quarts) as a fundamental pillar for the success of the project.
- ▶ Sectorial involvement since the beginning of the project.
- ▶ Transversality of work.
- ▶ Establishment of the state biosphere council.

## 3.2. STAGES OF THE CANDIDACY

SEPTEMBER 2020

### Diagnosis

Viability analysis to assess the possibilities of the candidature.

[Download](#)

FEBRUARY 2021

### Participation

Participative processes with stakeholders involved in territorial management.

[Download](#)

SEPTEMBER 2022

### Presentation

The Andorran National Commission for UNESCO, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Andorra submit the candidature to UNESCO.

OCTOBER 2020

### Information

Presentation of the project to all the institutions, associations, economic sectors and citizens.

JULY 2022

### Summary

Compilation of all the information generated during the participatory processes in a document to be submitted to UNESCO.

### 3.3. AGENDA NEXT VILLAGE MEETING

26TH APRIL

Canillo, Auditori del Palau de Gel

2ND MAY

Encamp, Sala La Valireta

4TH MAY

Sant Julià de Lòria, auditori Rocafort

9TH MAY

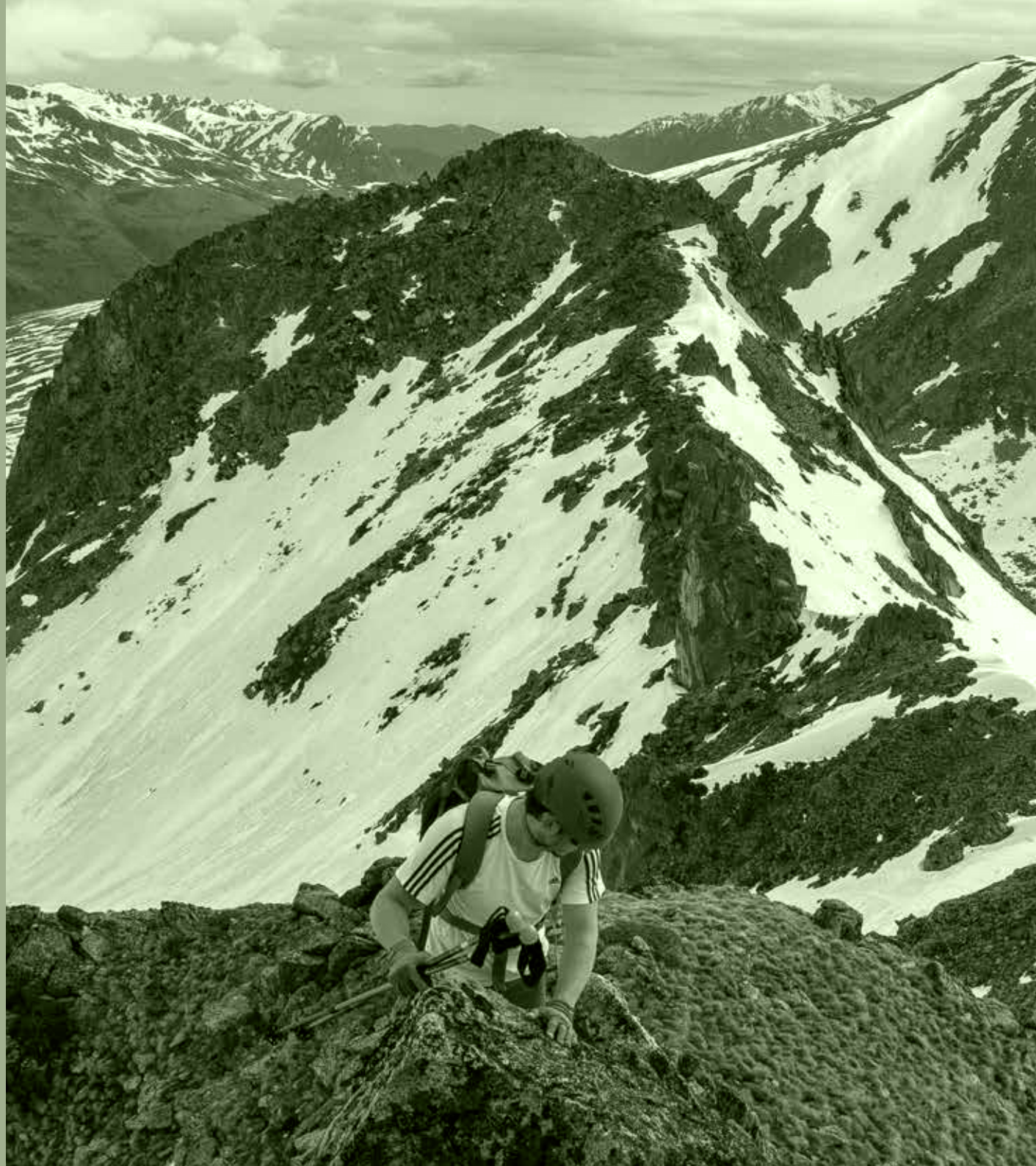
La Massana, Auditori de les Fontetes

12TH MAY

Andorra la Vella, la sala la Consòrcia

16TH MAY

Escaldes-Engordany, Prat del Roure



**CLIPPING**

---

**CONTACT**

---

**[info@reservabiosfera.ad](mailto:info@reservabiosfera.ad)**

---