

EXHIBIT 8

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization website (available at
<http://www2.unesco.org/mab/br/brdir/directory/biores.asp?mode=all&code=USA+39>
(last visited Jan. 16, 2007))**



Biosphere Reserve Information

United States of America

MOJAVE AND COLORADO DESERTS

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General Description

This cluster biosphere reserve is situated in south-east California and comprises four management units: the Death Valley National Monument, Joshua Tree National Monument, the Santa Rosa Mountains Wildlife Management Area and Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

Death Valley, the principal feature of the biosphere reserve encompasses a substantial percentage of the northern Mojave Desert. This combined with its extreme altitude range (86 below to 3,368 meters above sea level) results in a large diversity of features at the northern edge of this biogeographic region. Rugged, sparsely vegetated mountains border a north-south oriented valley, and are incised by numerous deep rocky canyons terminating in huge alluvial fans. Lower and middle elevations are dominated by shrubs such as creosote bush (*Larrea divaricata*), sagebrush (*Atriplex* spp.), mormon tea (*Ephedra* sp.) and blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*). Trees include the Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) and one needle pine (*Pinus monophylla*).

Joshua Tree National monument, some 20 km east of Los Angeles, straddles the transition area between Mojave and Colorado Deserts and is known for its Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) woodlands, a typical feature of the Mojave Desert which is higher, moister and slightly cooler. However, there are also characteristic species of the lower Colorado Desert including *Washingtonia* spp.

Mining activities, the presence of large numbers of feral donkeys (*Equus asinus*) and trespass grazing by cattle, off-road vehicles as well as tourism activities are the main human influences in the region. By using the biosphere reserve concept, it is expected that user conflicts in this multiple use area can be solved.

Major ecosystem type

Warm desert

Major habitats & land cover types

Creosote scrub; Sonoran

Location

33°35'N; 116°20'W

Area (hectares)*Total* 2,388*Core area(s)* 2,388*Buffer zone(s)**Transition area(s) when given***Altitude** (metres above sea level) +300**Year designated** 1984**Administrative authorities** Department of Biology, University of California; Riverside Natural Reserve System, University of California; Office of the President**Research and monitoring...****Brief description** Ecology of desert flora and fauna;
Wildlife population dynamics;
Physiological ecology of cactus;
Rare and endangered species.**Specific variables...****Abiotic** *n.a.***Biodiversity** Arid/Semi-arid, ecology, fauna, flora, plants, population genetics/population dynamics, rare/endangered/threatened species, wildlife.**Socio-economic** *n.a.***Integrated monitoring** *n.a.***Contact...****Contact address** Allan Muth
Deep Canyon Desert Research Center
P.O. Box 1738
92261 Palm Desert, California
United States of America**Telephone** (1.760) 341 3655**Fax** (1.760) 779 8076**E-mail** deepcanyon@mindspring.com**Related links...** *n.a.**Last updated: 3/11/2005*