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للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
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**Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences**  
Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

MAB National Committees and Focal  
Points

National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

28 September 2015

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**Subject:** 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru, from 14 to 17  
March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with great pleasure that I hereby announce the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (4WCBR) 'A New Vision for the Decade 2016-2025 - UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development', which will take place in Lima from 14 to 17 March 2016, as decided by the 27th Session of the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). The Congress is made possible by the general support of the Government of Peru.

Please find attached the draft Agenda, which will be updated on a weekly basis on the MAB website.

The 4WCBR will involve National Committees of UNESCO's MAB Programme and experts directly involved in the practical implementation of biosphere reserves, including: representatives of governments, biosphere reserves, local communities, UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and partner organizations and institutions from across the world working with the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The 4WCBR will provide a significant opportunity for MAB communities and partners, especially biosphere reserves, to examine their progress, achievements and challenges since the Seville Conference in 1995 and the Madrid World Congress in 2008, and to initiate new plans of action in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Among the key issues for discussion will be biodiversity and cultural diversity, climate change, the sustainable use of natural resources, ecological restoration, education for sustainable development and youth engagement.

The main expected results of this Congress will be the Lima Declaration and the finalization and endorsement of the Lima Action Plan 2016-2025, prepared by the MAB Strategy Group based on inputs by Member States and key MAB stakeholders. Subject to the approval of the 28th Session of MAB Council, to be held in Lima following 4WCBR, the Lima Action Plan will guide the MAB

Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves during the forthcoming period 2016-2025.

Please note that in addition to plenary sessions, the Congress will provide three sessions of parallel workshops (seven for each session), focusing on specific themes. These are: MAB Regional Networks; ecosystems and ecological issues (e.g. forest, drylands, climate change); and biosphere-related crosscutting issues (e.g. governance, economy, youth). The last session will be reserved for side events proposed by the participating institutions/agencies of the 4WCBR. Proposals for side events can be forwarded to the MAB Secretariat until 30 November. Please find attached the guidelines for proposal submissions.

Registration will start at the end of September 2015 upon invitation from the MAB Secretariat. Participation in the 4WCBR is free of charge with no registration fee. Participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation during the Congress.

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For further inquiries regarding the 4WCBR, please contact the MAB Secretariat at [mab4WCBR@unesco.org](mailto:mab4WCBR@unesco.org) and consult the MAB website: [www.unesco.org/mab/4wcbr/en](http://www.unesco.org/mab/4wcbr/en)

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my heartfelt thanks for your continued support of the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Yours sincerely,



Han Qunli

Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences  
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme