

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**  
Twenty-seventh session

**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room XII (Fontenoy Building)**  
8 – 12 June 2015

**Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda: INFORMATION ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES, A NEW VISION: UNESCO'S BIOSPHERE RESERVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

1. The Secretariat presents the draft agenda of the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, A New Vision: UNESCO'S Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development, to be held on 14 - 17 March 2016 in Lima, Peru.
2. The Honorary Committee of this Congress would be composed of the President of Peru, UNESCO's Director-General, the Minister of Environment of Peru, the Mayor of Lima and other Ministers present at that Congress. The Organizing Committee would be composed of the President of the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme (MAB ICC), the Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences of UNESCO and Secretary of the MAB Programme, the Director of the National Service of State-Protected Natural Areas (SERNANP) of the Ministry of Environment of Peru and President of the MAB Committee Peru, the Vice Presidents of the MAB ICC from Ghana, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Technical Committee would be composed of the Executive Secretary of the MAB Programme in Peru and the International Secretariat of the MAB Programme.
3. The Congress will last four days starting on Monday with an opening ceremony presided by the President of the Republic of Peru, followed by a series of high-level speeches and a presentation of the MAB Programme in Peru and its importance for the sustainable development of the country. The first plenary session will have several working documents presented to set the scene for the Congress sessions and discussions on new global action plan. Consequently, there will be the presentation of the draft Lima Action Plan (LAP), followed by presentations of six biosphere reserves case studies from different regions and a documentary film on biosphere reserves in Peru, produced by the Peruvian Television.
4. During the next two days, there will be workshops on specific themes and ecosystems such as mountains, drylands, forests, urban areas, wetlands, coasts, islands, oceans, in connection with the relevant SDG targets, on the working documents and the LAP. On Thursday there will be the presentation and discussion of the latest LAP draft, a discussion on the implementation of the Lima Action Plan and the Roadmap. Finally, the meeting will be closed with the Lima Declaration and the closing ceremony. On Friday, there will be sightseeing tours around Lima for congress attendees who are not members of the MAB ICC.
5. The 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coordinating Council of MAB Programme will be held on 18 – 19 March 2016 (Friday and Saturday). This shorter Council session will have main agenda items including the Election of the Bureau members of the Council, the approval of new

biosphere reserves and the adoption of the Lima Declaration and Lima Action Plan. On Sunday, there will be the sightseeing tours around Lima for MAB ICC members.

6. The MAB Secretariat and the Technical Committee will update the progress on technical preparations for the Lima Congress monthly at UNESCO MAB web site, and communicate routinely by MAB Circular Letters.

7. The MAB ICC may wish to welcome and endorse the generous proposal of Peru to host the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, the first to be held outside Europe, and thank Peru to also host the 28<sup>th</sup> session of MAB ICC as above outlined. ICC may thank Peru for assuming such important roles within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

8. The MAB ICC is invited to advise further on thematic and technical input for the success of the Lima Congress.