

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

**INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL OF
THE MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAMME**

Twentieth Session

Palacio Municipal de Congresos, Room Madrid, Madrid

5-8 February 2008

FINAL REPORT

1. The twentieth session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Programme on the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) was held at the *Palacio Municipal de Congresos*, Madrid from 5 to 8 February 2008.

2. Participants included representatives of the following Members of the ICC as elected by the UNESCO General Conference at its 33rd and 34th sessions: Argentina, Austria, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, Israel, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

3. In addition, observers from the following Member States were present: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Kuwait, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Niger, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

4. The following international organizations attended the session: The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Council of Science (ICSU). The full list of participants is presented as Annex 1 to this report.

I. Opening of the session

5. Mr Thomas Elmqvist of Sweden, the outgoing Chairperson of the MAB ICC, declared the session opened and invited the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, to address participants of the session.

6. Mr Erdelen warmly welcomed the MAB-ICC delegates on behalf of Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO. He thanked the Spanish Government for its generous offer to host the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 20th session of the MAB-ICC,

highlighting the longstanding cooperation between Spain and UNESCO and the substantial support provided by Spain to the implementation of the MAB Programme.

7. Mr Erdelen recalled that the main item of discussion at this session of the ICC would be the Madrid Action Plan – a roadmap to provide a vision for the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and to guide their effective implementation in the years to come. He noted that, with the steadily-expanding WNBR and the expectation by the international community that this network will continue to be a basis for implementing sustainable development at local and regional levels in UNESCO Member States, the Madrid Action Plan could not afford to be anything but bold, ambitious, realistic, relevant, inclusive, transparent and representative in scope and participation. He also noted that it was time to mainstream the lessons learned in the context of the MAB Programme and the WNBR into the sustainability agenda, from science to policy, from research to practice, at the local, national, regional and global levels.

8. Mr Erdelen called upon the ICC Members to ensure that the 20th session of the MAB-ICC delivers its expected results – the Madrid Declaration and the Madrid Action Plan, thus making the Madrid gathering a landmark event.

II. Report of the outgoing Chairperson

9. Mr Elmqvist welcomed the new and the former Council Members as well as the observers and representatives from international organizations attending the session. He warmly thanked the government of Spain for hosting and generously supporting the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 20th Session of the MAB-ICC in Madrid.

10. Mr Elmqvist reported to the Council on the decisions of the Bureau meeting held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 18 to 20 September 2007, which focused on the nomination of new biosphere reserves. He informed that 34 nominations had been received since the last MAB-ICC meeting in October 2006 and that 23 biosphere reserves in 18 countries were approved by the Bureau, including first-time sites in El Salvador, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Two other biosphere reserves – Rostovsky in the Russian Federation and Islas Marietas in Mexico – were approved by the Bureau during its meeting on 3 February 2008 in Madrid, after it considered additional information and clarifications on some aspects of these nominations. He also mentioned that the governments of Ukraine, Belarus and Poland had agreed to sign an official agreement in support of the proposed West Polesie Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

11. Mr Elmqvist reported on activities he had undertaken as Chairperson since the 19th session of the MAB-ICC. He referred to a side-event on “Biosphere Reserves as Platforms for Learning and Innovation” that was organized by the MAB Secretariat together with the Viet Nam MAB National Committee and National Commission for UNESCO and held during the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2007 in New York. He informed the members of the ICC that the international launch of the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) had also taken place during the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2007 and that a Memorandum of Understanding between the SRC and UNESCO had been signed in October 2007 during the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris. He stated that it was hoped that MAB would be a very significant partner in the work of the SRC.

12. Mr Elmqvist also reported on his involvement in the follow-up on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and reiterated the crucial role that the MAB Programme and the WNBR could play in this process. He mentioned the establishment of a research network on urban issues and the initiation of a research and capacity building programme on management and governance of ecosystem services, which will focus on Africa. Mr Elmqvist announced that in 2012 the SRC will host an international conference on environmental issues to take stock of the results accomplished in this field since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in 1972 in Stockholm.

13. Mr Elmqvist then briefly introduced his views on the draft Madrid Action Plan and raised the question of the possibility of its adoption by the 20th session of the Council and proposed its adoption at an extraordinary session of the MAB-ICC after consultation with governments. He also expressed concerns with regard to the transparency of the election process of the new Chairperson and the MAB-ICC Bureau.

14. In the brief ensuing discussion, the delegate from Egypt supported Mr Elmqvist's proposal to adopt the Madrid Action Plan at an extraordinary session of the MAB-ICC after consultation with governments, while the delegates from Austria, Chile and Lebanon disagreed on the proposal and stressed that the MAB-ICC was indeed in the position of adopting the Madrid Action Plan at this 20th session.

15. The delegate from Germany raised a point of order, recalling that, according to the Statutes, substantive discussions can only take place after the new MAB-ICC Bureau has been elected. In this regard, he stressed that new Members to the MAB-ICC had been elected by the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO and hence the election of a new Chair and Bureau was a necessary agenda item to address before the 20th session could proceed to consider other substantive agenda items including the adoption of the provisional agenda. At his request, a staff member of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, Mr Jean Christophe Badaroux-Mendieta confirmed that, according to Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Statutes of the MAB-ICC, the first obligation of the ICC was to "elect a new Bureau whenever its own membership is changed by the General Conference". Consequently, it was decided that the members of the MAB-ICC should proceed with the election of a new Chair and a new Bureau for the 20th session of the MAB-ICC.

III. Election of the Bureau of the MAB Council

16. The MAB-ICC elected the following to the Bureau of the MAB Council:

Chairperson:

Mr Henri Djombo (Congo)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr Valery Neronov (Russian Federation)

Mr Antonio Serrano (Spain)

Mr Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi (Lebanon)

Mr Chung-II Choi (Republic of Korea)

Mr Alfredo Reca (Argentina)

IV. Adoption of the agenda and timetable

17. The MAB-ICC agreed that the recognition of the winner of the Michel Batisse Award should be dealt with under item 13 of the agenda, i.e. other matters. The MAB-ICC adopted the MAB-ICC 20 agenda, as contained in Annex 2 to this report.

V. Report of the Secretary on programmes and activities since the 19th session of the MAB-ICC

18. The Secretary of the MAB Programme presented his report on programmes and activities since the 19th session of the MAB-ICC held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 23 to 27 October 2006, which had been submitted to the MAB-ICC as document SC-08/CONF.201/INF.1. He informed the MAB-ICC that the work of the MAB Secretariat since the previous session of the Council focused, in particular, on the preparation of the 20th session of the MAB-ICC and the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves. He referred to the information on the progress on preparations for the two Madrid events which was circulated to MAB and UNESCO organs via circular letters CL/MAB/2007/03 dated 31 July 2007 and CL/MAB/2007/05 dated 18 December 2007.

19. He recalled that the Draft Madrid Action Plan had been compiled by a three-person team – Ms June Marie Mow Robinson (Colombia), Ms Doris Pokorny (Germany) and Mr Juan Garay Zabala (Spain) and subsequently endorsed by the joint Meeting of the MAB Bureau and the Organizing Committee for the Madrid events, which took place under the auspices of the former Chairperson of the MAB-ICC, Mr Thomas Elmqvist, and which was kindly hosted by the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sweden in June 2007. The first draft of the Madrid Action Plan was ready in October 2007, which received important inputs and revisions proposed by the Chairperson and the Members of the Bureau, MAB National Committees as well as other partner organizations and individuals. A revised draft was posted on the MABNet on 20 December 2007 for additional comments by the international MAB community. All comments received (27 in total) are to be examined at the 20th session of the ICC to obtain a consensus Madrid Action Plan acceptable to all.

20. The Secretary of the MAB Programme also reported on some relevant results of the 34th session of the UNESCO General Conference held at UNESCO Headquarters in October-November 2007, in particular, the consideration by the General Conference of the results of the Overall Review Committee for Major Programmes II (Natural Sciences) and III (Social and Human Sciences) that had been appointed by the Director-General. He pointed out that the draft Madrid Action Plan would address the implementation of many of the recommendations of the Review Committee.

21. The Secretary of the MAB Programme informed the MAB-ICC on new developments related to partnerships involving the MAB Programme, including those with an International Institute for a Partnership for Environment and Development (IIPED), being established in Trieste, Italy as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO; the Memorandum of Understanding signed by UNESCO and the Stockholm Resilience Centre; and the Memorandum of Understanding signed by UNESCO and the Star Alliance Group of Airlines.

22. The Secretary of the MAB Programme reported on the inclusion of 25 new biospheres reserves into the WNBR, which counts 531 sites in 105 countries. He also reported on the main ecosystems activities of the MAB Programme: in the area of drylands and related activities to

combat desertification, he informed the MAB-ICC that the MAB Secretariat was currently finalizing the proceedings of the Conference on “The Future of Drylands”, held in Tunis in June 2006. The Conference benefited from significant scientific inputs from the current international MAB project on “Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands (SUMAMAD)”. In the context of the UNEP-GEF regional project for six West African biosphere reserves, which has generated a great wealth of knowledge since its inception in 2004, efforts are currently being made in order to share this knowledge with policy-makers and demonstrate how results from the project can be incorporated into the management plans of the six biosphere reserves concerned. With regard to mountain ecosystems, focus is currently on the follow-up to the European Commission-UNESCO-MAB Mountain Research Initiative project on “Global Change and Mountain Regions (GLOCHAMORE)”, which uses mountain biosphere reserves in all regions of the world to assess the impact of global change, including climate change, on mountain environments and people. As for the activities in coastal/marine areas, a new sub-regional MAB Network for the Pacific region, PacMAB, has been created, which will *inter alia* promote the creation of new biosphere reserves, in particular in Pacific island countries that have not yet joined the WNBR.

23. In the area of capacity building, the Secretary of the MAB Programme reported on the activities and success of the ERAIFT (Regional Postgraduate School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands) in Kinshasa, DRC, which has trained more than 60 Africans at master’s degree level and has awarded its first three PhDs. The challenge for the future is to strengthen ERAIFT and to use this project as a model for the development of other regional training facilities for other ecosystems, including arid lands and wetlands.

24. An International Conference on Humid Tropical Ecosystems was held in Kandy, Sri Lanka in December 2006. It recommended to explore various possibilities so as to build South-South and triangular South-North-South cooperation in the Congo Basin, the Amazon region and the South-East Asia region.

25. The Secretary of the MAB Programme mentioned the attribution of the 2008 MAB Young Scientists Awards aimed to support research on environmental issues; he also indicated that six issues of the electronic MAB Newsletter had been released since the last MAB-ICC, with the aim to strengthen communication within and beyond the WNBR.

26. The Secretary of the MAB Programme introduced two new staff members of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences in Paris: Ms Sarah Gaines, USA and Ms Wakako Ichikawa, Japan.

27. Finally, he informed the members of the MAB-ICC that a handbook on biosphere reserves, as requested at the 18th session of the MAB-ICC, had been compiled by a former member of the MAB Secretariat, Ms Jane Robertson, and that the handbook would be made available for comments on the MABNet.

VI Realignment of ICC working methods and practices to better meet UNESCO’s planning and programming agendas

VII Regional, sub-regional and thematic networks as future drivers of MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

VIII Biosphere reserve zones in conservation, development and building a knowledge society

IX Research and capacity building in biosphere reserves for ecosystem goods and services

X Learning, adaptive management and governance for sustainable development in biosphere reserves

28. The Chairperson of the ICC noted that the working documents corresponding to agenda items 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 had been requested by the 19th session of the ICC in view of preparing the Madrid Action Plan. All the documents had been presented to the plenary of the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves on the afternoon of 4 February at the same venue and where many of the ICC Members and observers were present. Hence, based on the suggestion of the Chairperson, the Council decided not to have another round of presentations of these five working documents but consider comments on those documents pertaining to agenda items 6 to 10 within the context of the Council's discussions on the Madrid Action Plan.

XI Discussions and decisions on the Madrid Action Plan and the Madrid Declaration (Agenda items 11 and 12)

29. The Chairperson introduced the draft Madrid Action Plan (MAP) or document SC-08/CONF.201/8. He recalled the process that led to its formulation, namely, the establishment by the Bureau of the MAB-ICC of a three-person drafting team and widespread public consultations on the draft through the MABNet, and he opened the floor for comments from the ICC Members and Observers inviting them to provide practical views on whether there would be a need, and if so how, to improve the current draft MAP. The ICC Members made the following comments on the draft Madrid Action Plan (MAP):

- The delegate from Argentina stressed that the proposed Task Force charged with supervising the implementation of the MAP should liaise with the ICC Bureau; or else, an alternative mechanism through which to ensure participation by ICC Members in the Task Force should be envisaged.
- The delegate from Mali suggested the need to elaborate further upon the section of the MAP dealing with ecosystem services.
- The delegate from the Russian Federation stressed that protected areas should remain the main element of any biosphere reserves, in the form of their core zones; and that while defining core zone status, special attention should be paid to the conservation of pristine and quasi-pristine areas. He insisted on the importance to link biosphere reserves with the implementation of relevant international agreements and, in particular, the Programme of Work on Protected Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It was also suggested that the MAB-ICC be upgraded to an intergovernmental council to enable adequate support of National Governments to MAB National Committees.
- The delegate from Madagascar supported the request by Argentina to ensure that ICC Members interested in taking part in the proposed Task Force would be able to do so. The question of giving the appropriate importance to the issue of climate change in the context of the MAP was raised. It was noted that climate change poses risks as well as opportunities (especially in terms of carbon 'industries'), including for building adequate capacity, and that the notion of climate change had progressively evolved into broader issues related to landscape use, which should be addressed in the context of the MAP.

- The delegate from Egypt suggested that any change in the name of the MAB Programme would be misleading and counterproductive. It was stressed that it was imperative to reinforce the current structure of the MAB Programme and foresee appropriate enforcement measures. It was also stressed that biosphere reserves should act as laboratories for solving real problems such as water-related issues and natural disasters. It was felt that the term 'governance' was misleading in that it had a political connotation and that, in the context of the MAP, terms such as 'management' should be used in its place. It was pointed out that involving the private sector further in the activities of biosphere reserves was a good endeavor and that memoranda of understanding to this end should be developed; this type of partnerships should allow for private ventures such as ecotourism companies to utilize the MAB image, for example through the use of the MAB logo. It was also proposed that post-graduate diploma schemes be developed in biosphere reserves or the MAB Programme, which would assist in addressing the science education component of the MAP.
- The delegate from Sri Lanka commended the draft MAP and expressed its appreciation at the fact that several of the recommendations made at the International Conference on Humid Tropical Ecosystems held in Sri Lanka in December 2006 had been reflected in the draft Madrid Action Plan. He also expressed the need for guidelines and incentives to implement the biosphere reserve concept in buffer zones and transition areas with the aim of clarifying the notion of 'pilot testing sites', as well as the need for guidelines on the functioning of the MAB Programme for the National Committees.
- The delegate from the United Kingdom stressed the importance to maintain the core values of the MAB Programme, specifically with regard to inclusiveness, participation and societal choice. He stressed that the MAP should be a refinement and clarification of the Seville Strategy. Satisfaction was expressed with regard to linkages in the draft MAP with other UNESCO Intergovernmental Scientific Programmes (ISPs).
- The delegate from Spain supported the current draft MAP while recognizing the need for its possible improvements. He warned the ICC on the importance of referring to 'good practices' in biosphere reserves rather than to the notion of 'laboratories', as the latter would imply experimental activities rather than implementation. It was stressed that the finalization of the draft MAP should include clarification on its juridical aspects before its final endorsement by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2009. Furthermore, the delegate noted that Spain would not support the establishment of a new Task Force, because there are other bodies of the MAB Programme (ICC, Advisory Committee, and Regional Networks) that could deal with the work proposed for the Task Force.
- The delegate from Iran called for the conservation element in the vision of the draft MAP to be reinforced, as well as for the strengthening of the provisions related to technical assistance, capacity-building and to education.
- The delegate from Cuba stressed the pertinence of the draft MAP and drew the ICC's attention to the important contribution that the regional networks could provide towards its finalization. Changes in names of the MAB Programme and biosphere reserves were seen as less relevant.
- The delegate from Germany supported the draft MAP as an appropriate basis on which to proceed with further steps related to its finalization. It was stressed that the Seville Strategy should be linked with the draft MAP so as to ensure continuity and capitalize upon past efforts and experiences. It was suggested that a number of concrete measures should be

foreseen in the context of the MAP, including: strengthening the currently loose structure of the MAB Programme; developing strong indicators; identifying clear targets; and cooperating with the private sector. Skepticism about the possible changes in the name of the MAB Programme, as well as the establishment of the Task Force was expressed.

- The delegate from the Dominican Republic drew the attention of the ICC to the need for the draft MAP to address the ethical dimension of climate change and of consumption patterns in biosphere reserves and for the principle of shared and differentiated responsibilities to be introduced in the draft MAP. It was pointed out that the logical framework of some of its parts should be improved; that the MAP should make specific reference to quality, quantity and time indicators for actions; and that it should also include actions to be carried out by local government authorities.
- The delegate from Slovakia suggested that the draft MAP could refer to partners in ecosystem and landscape research such as the United Nations University (UNU), in particular the newly established UNU Research and Training Centre for Ecosystems and Landscape Health in Slovakia and the International Long Term Ecological Research (ILTER) network.
- The delegate from Indonesia supported the suggestion that climate change be included in the draft MAP. It was stated forcefully that climate change needs immediate responses so as to improve mitigation capacities and to be able to develop plans at all levels in order to counteract the adverse effects of climate change.
- The delegate from Ethiopia called for the expeditious establishment of a drafting committee in order to finalize the draft MAP.
- The delegate from the Republic of Korea pointed out to experiences whereby problems have raised with regard to the perception of the term 'reserve' and proposed the term 'park' as a more appropriate designation. It was also stressed that the 'soft-law nature' of the Statutory Framework may entail limited consideration of the MAB Programme at the central government level as compared with international conventions.

30. The ICC Observers expressed the following comments on the Madrid Action Plan (MAP):

- The delegate from Canada stated that the draft MAP was too ambitious, lacked realism in light of the limited resources available and that priority-setting was therefore needed. The need to build on the Seville Strategy was stressed. In its current form, the draft MAP was found to reflect an incomplete picture of sustainable development as it lacked technological, informational and cultural aspects, such as local and traditional uses of biodiversity. The MAP should allow for participatory approaches, partnerships and integration – three main characteristics of biosphere reserves – to be applied to larger portions of the landscape, including urban areas. It was noted that the periodic review could be used as an opportunity for stakeholder consultations and for developing models of cooperative efforts; in this regard, it was also noted that flexibility with regard to zoning was needed.
- The representative of the World Heritage Convention reminded the ICC Members and Observers that more than 80 sites were biosphere reserves that also included areas inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. He informed the MAB-ICC that these joint sites were not only natural heritage and biodiversity sites, but were also cultural landscapes, mixed sites, archaeological and rock-art sites, and that cooperation between these sites was being further

advanced so as to achieve common conservation objectives. It was suggested that the conservation function be strengthened and the partnerships with the Convention be made more explicit in the draft MAP, especially with regard to the action area related to zonation.

- The representative of the IUCN encouraged the ICC to sharpen the scope of the targets of the MAP and suggested that it be shortened without detracting from its key messages. It was stressed that the MAP should reflect a sense of urgency, in particular regarding the key role of biosphere reserves in addressing the loss of species and pervasive threats of climate change. In this context, the role and functions of the different areas/zones of biosphere reserves should be clarified, and the periodic review process used further as a strategic tool to measure the performance of biosphere reserves against national standards for sustainable development. More emphasis should be put on partnerships; in this context, it was stressed that linkages with the CBD and with the IUCN Connectivity and Climate Change initiative, as well as with the broader process of the IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Barcelona in October 2008, should be established.
- The representative of the ERAIFT called for the MAP to be guided by a systemic approach, which should also be reflected in the name of the MAB Programme. The MAP should reflect the notion of poverty reduction and rely on success indicators. It was referred that, as it was already recognized by the UNESCO governing organs, ERAIFT represented a model for tropical forest management beyond Central Africa and in fact beyond Africa itself, for other tropical regions such as in South America.
- A former Secretary of the MAB Programme suggested the need for the MAP to act as a very valuable communication document, which implied the need for streamlining the current version of the MAP. It was stressed that the Seville Strategy should be used as a basis against which to build the MAP.

31. Having listened to the various views on the draft MAP, the Chairperson recognized that it benefited from a general degree of support. In order to address the requests for its improvement made by several ICC Members and Observers, the Chairperson decided to establish a drafting committee under the chairmanship of Spain and comprising two representatives per regional group, two members of the UNESCO International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves and two members of the drafting team that was constituted by the MAB Bureau of the 19th session of the MAB-ICC in order to prepare the draft MAP for discussions of the 20th session of the MAB-ICC and the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Madrid.

32. Subsequently, the regional groups identified their representatives to the drafting committee, namely: Argentina, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Latvia, Madagascar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sudan and United Kingdom.

33. The ICC agreed that the drafting committee should work in parallel with the ICC, report to it regularly and deliver its final report – the finalized draft MAP by day 3 of ICC 20.

34. At the following working session of the MAB-ICC, the Chair of the Drafting Committee reported to the MAB-ICC on progress made by the Committee. During its first meeting, the Committee recognized that the Seville Strategy should be taken into account in their work. The Committee had a discussion on the main challenges noted in the draft MAP such as climate change, urbanization and provision of ecological services. The mission and vision had been discussed, and the members of the Committee felt that they should reflect a mixture of the options proposed in the current draft MAP. The Committee had agreed on the need to simplify

and shorten the MAP. Finally, the Chair noted the good spirit of participation in the Drafting Committee.

35. The Chairperson of the MAB-ICC expressed encouragement to the Drafting Committee. He informed the MAB-ICC that the syntheses of the work by the regional groups at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves would be made available to the Drafting Committee and assured the Council that the views expressed by the various regions would be taken into due account in the draft MAP.

36. The delegate of the United Kingdom expressed concerns with regard to the need for all inputs formulated in the context of the World Congress to be transferred on to the Drafting Committee and the capacity of the latter to deal with all inputs received; he also proposed to provide all the necessary help to the Drafting Committee. This intervention was supported by an ICC Observer, Canada

37. Two ICC Observers then expressed the following observations:

- The delegate from Brazil added her comments on the draft MAP to those already expressed by other members and observers of the MAB-ICC the previous day. Namely, she explained that there was not a clear relationship between the introduction and the suggested actions; that operational guidance for implementing actions at the local level should be provided for in the draft MAP; and that reference to multilateral environmental agreements was missing. She also raised the question of fundraising strategies that are needed to implement the MAP.
- The delegate from France stressed that it was important that the Drafting Committee would take into account the views from the regions. He took this opportunity to stress that the process of demographic changes should also be taken into account by the draft MAP, as this process was not reflected in the Seville Strategy.

38. In response, the Chairperson of the MAB-ICC reassured delegates that all pertinent elements would be taken into account in the process of drafting the MAP, through a large consultation process at the Council and the Congress and the regular interaction of the Drafting Committee with the regional and thematic groups of the Congress.

39. The representative from an ICC Observer, Algeria, pointed out that the MAP should also address issues related to poverty, fair international trade (especially of natural resources) and the equitable sharing of benefits from natural resources.

40. The Chairperson of the MAB-ICC stated that the need to reconcile conservation with income generation was being considered in the draft MAP.

41. On 7 February, the Chairperson of the MAB-ICC invited the Chair of the Drafting Committee to inform the MAB-ICC on the progress of work by the Committee.

42. The report of the Chair of the Drafting Committee can be summarized as follows:

- The Committee met on 6 February from 16:00 to 21:00 and on 7 February from 10:00 to 13:00. The Committee will reconvene on the same day at 15:00.
- The Committee focused on simplifying the draft MAP by reducing redundancy and ensuring more coherence. It primarily focused on matching targets with actions. To this end, three sub-groups were formed within the Committee, and an in-depth examination of the draft

MAP was conducted so as to produce a single table clearly stating all the targets and related actions.

- Changes in the introduction of the MAP were made in order to better reflect the link with the Seville Strategy, which is still to be considered as a core document for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- Changes in the structure of the document were also made so as to reflect the comments and suggestions that the Committee received from the MAB-ICC and the regional and thematic groups that met in the context of the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves.
- A meeting with the chairs/rapporteurs of the regional groups was held to ensure that consensus comments from the regional groups were incorporated in the draft MAP; and a meeting with the chairs/rapporteurs of the thematic groups was scheduled for the same purpose;
- The Committee will continue its work on the vision and mission statements of the draft MAP.
- The Committee also considered the discussions on the establishment of a Task Force as suggested in the original draft MAP, and decided that the decision on this item needed to be taken by the ICC as a whole.

43. The ICC took note of the report of the Chair of the Drafting Committee. A draft Madrid Declaration was distributed for subsequent consideration by the MAB-ICC.

44. The Chairperson of the MAB-ICC opened the floor for discussion on the draft Madrid Declaration. A number of specific amendments were made. The MAB-ICC adopted the Madrid Declaration, as contained in Annex 3 of this report.

45. The Chairperson opened the floor for discussions on the second version of the draft MAP that had been produced by the MAB-ICC Drafting Committee. Members of the MAB-ICC provided amendments to the draft MAP as follows:

- The delegate from Argentina highlighted that some actions were repeated under different targets, and this duplication of actions should be avoided in the final version of the MAP.
- The delegate from Egypt requested the deletion of the expression stating 'in ethical, transparent and accountable manner' under Targets 4 and 7 of the draft MAP.
- The delegate from Togo highlighted that recommendations from the thematic group on forests had not been sufficiently reflected in the draft MAP.
- The delegate from Sri Lanka suggested that a sentence be added with regard to keeping the term 'biosphere reserves', while also giving the possibility to MAB National Committees to adapt it to particular national contexts, as appropriate.
- The delegate from Austria suggested adding to the MAP some strategic directions, particularly with regard to ensuring flexibility in the definition of areas/zones.
- The delegate from Colombia suggested that in Target 3 an action be included with regard to creation of a journalism award for communication work in promoting role and importance of biosphere reserves. With regard to Target 6, she proposed adding an action on creating an incentive programme to recognize the efforts of communities, individuals, institutions, networks and nations in creating, managing and promoting the biosphere reserves. She also stressed, with particular reference to Action 26, that the issue of alternative livelihoods was not adequately reflected in the draft MAP.

- The delegate from Sweden suggested adding reference to “local communities”; this suggestion was supported by one ICC Observer, Canada.
- In relation to Target 18, the delegate from Egypt raised the question of why coastal areas only and not other ecosystems were mentioned in this target. He also mentioned that the capacity-building component of the MAP, namely professional training, was not adequately reflected in the draft Madrid Action Plan. Finally, in this context, he suggested the establishment of University diplomas for biosphere reserve managers.
- The delegate from Germany made specific requests on the deletion of the terms ‘core areas and buffer’ on page 15, line 12 of the draft MAP and the replacement of the success indicator for Target 23 with ‘number of biosphere reserves integrating urban areas’. He proposed the following rewording of the section F of the MAP “The Madrid Action Plan (MAP) has been adopted at the 20th session of the MAB-ICC also in view of implementing effectively UNESCO's Mid-Term Strategy. In light of the rolling character of that strategy, possible adaptations of the MAP may be discussed at the next ICC Meeting in 2009”.

46. The representative of an ICC Observer, Canada, stated that it had been very difficult for French-speaking participants in the ICC session to follow the modifications being made to the texts since no French translation of the amended texts was available. The representative of France had also raised this issue. Canada regretted the lack of consultation with the participants in the Madrid Congress as well as with representatives from the private and the public sectors in the drafting of the Madrid Declaration although the latter states in its introductory paragraph, that they had been consulted.

47. With the above-mentioned amendments, the MAB-ICC adopted the Madrid Action Plan (MAP), as contained in Annex 4 to this report.

48. The MAB-ICC requested the MAB Secretariat to make available the adopted version of the MAP on the MABNet by mid-March 2008.

49. The Chairperson of the MAB-ICC requested that the Secretary of MAB, in collaboration with Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, explore the possibility of setting up an *ad hoc* committee operating at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, including representatives from all UNESCO regions as well as observers, to follow up on the implementation of the MAP.

XII. Date and venue of MAB-ICC 21

50. The MAB-ICC decided to convene its 21st session in late May or early June 2009. Two proposals for the venue of MAB-ICC 21 were considered: the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and the Island of Jeju, Republic of Korea. The MAB-ICC requested the MAB Secretariat to explore the feasibility of these two options and propose the most appropriate date and venue for MAB-ICC 21 to the MAB-ICC Members by June 2008.

XIII. Other matters

51. The delegate from the Republic of Korea requested that the map of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves be amended since there were errors in the way the Republic of Korea and

the Democratic Republic of Korea were referred to in the map. He therefore requested to halt the distribution of the map until the requested corrections were made.

52. The MAB Secretary informed the MAB-ICC that at its meeting in September 2007 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, the MAB Bureau had approved the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee to grant the 2007 Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management to Mr Francisco Javier Jiménez Gonzáles, Mexico. The MAB-ICC congratulated Mr Jiménez Gonzáles on his work and officially granted him the 2007 Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management.

XIV. Adoption of the report

53. The Chairperson and the Members of the MAB-ICC entrusted the Secretariat with the finalization and translation of the report of the 20th session of the MAB-ICC. They requested the Secretariat to send as soon as possible the draft version of the report to all Members of the ICC for their comments and approval. In the event that the Secretariat did not receive comments within a one-month deadline, the report would be considered adopted.

XV. Closure of the session

54. The Secretary of the MAB Programme thanked the Chair, the Bureau and the Council participants for their support and discussions. He also expressed his appreciation to his colleagues of the MAB Secretariat as well as those staff members working intensively behind the scenes, including the translators, interpreters, assistants and technicians. He heartily thanked the Spanish Government for the outstanding support provided to the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 20th session of the ICC.

55. The Chairperson of MAB-ICC expressed his gratitude to the Spanish Government for its generosity for hosting the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 20th session of the MAB-ICC. He also thanked the Secretariat, the Members of the MAB-ICC and all those involved in the preparations and smooth running of this session and declared the meeting closed.

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Annex 1

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION /
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉDUCATION, LA SCIENCE
ET LA CULTURE**

**International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme /
Conseil international de coordination du Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB)**

Twentieth Session / Vingtième session

*Palacio Municipal de Congresos Madrid, Madrid Room, 5 - 8 February 2008
Palacio Municipal de Congresos Madrid, Salle Madrid, 5 - 8 février 2008*

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Annex 2

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
Twentieth Session

Palacio Municipal de Congresos, Auditorium B, Madrid
4 - 9 February 2008

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/icc/icc20th.shtml>

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Report of the outgoing Chairperson
3. Election of the Bureau of the MAB Council
4. Adoption of the agenda and timetable
5. Report of the Secretary on programmes and activities since MAB-ICC-19
6. Realignment of ICC working methods and practices to better meet UNESCO's planning and programming agendas
7. Regional, sub-regional and thematic networks as future drivers of MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)
8. Biosphere reserve zones in conservation, development and building a knowledge society
9. Research and capacity building in biosphere reserves for ecosystem goods and services
10. Learning, adaptive management and governance for sustainable development in biosphere reserves
11. Discussions on the Madrid Action Plan and the Madrid Declaration
12. Decisions on the Madrid Action Plan and the Madrid Declaration
13. Date and venue of MAB-ICC-21
14. Other matters
15. Adoption of the report
16. Closure of the session

MADRID ACTION PLAN

[3 April 2008]



PLAN STRUCTURE

Background

- A. Emerging challenges and the potential role of biosphere reserves in addressing these challenges
 - A.1 Climate change
 - A.2 Provision of ecosystem services
 - A.3 Urbanization as a principal driver for ecosystem-wide pressures
- B. Vision Statement for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) within the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
- C. Mission Statement for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) within the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
- D. Progress since Seville
- E. The Madrid Actions - The World Network of Biosphere Reserves
 - E.1 Cooperation, management and communication
 - E.2 Zonation – linking functions to space
 - E.3 Science and capacity enhancement
 - E.4 Partnerships
- F. Approval, implementation and evaluation

List of acronyms used in the Madrid Action Plan

BACKGROUND

In 1995 an international conference in Seville, Spain started a new era for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). The actions decided at that meeting were incorporated in the *Seville Strategy* and the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves*, both approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995. In Pamplona, Spain in 2000, a Seville+5 meeting was held and various actions were decided, following through on the strategic recommendations from Seville.

This Madrid Action Plan was agreed at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves which was held in Madrid in February 2008. It builds on the Seville Strategy and aims to capitalize on the strategic advantages of the Seville instruments and raise biosphere reserves to be the principal internationally-designated areas dedicated to sustainable development in the 21st century. The

biosphere reserve (BR) concept has proved its value beyond protected areas and is increasingly embraced by scientists, planners, policy makers and local communities to bring a variety of knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to link biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being. Thus the focus is on developing models for global, national and local sustainability, and for biosphere reserves to serve as learning sites for policy professionals, decision-makers, research and scientific communities, management practitioners and stakeholder communities to work together to translate global principles of sustainable development into locally relevant praxis. **Individual biosphere reserves remain under the jurisdiction of the States where they are situated, which take the measures they deem necessary to improve the functioning of the individual sites.**

A. EMERGING CHALLENGES AND THE POTENTIAL AND ROLE OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES

During the thirteen (13) years since the adoption of the Seville Strategy, global issues and problems have emerged or intensified, making it an imperative for the MAB Programme to adapt and change so as to effectively respond to these emerging challenges. These major challenges seriously further exacerbate poverty and inequality and include:

- Accelerated climate change with consequences for societies and ecosystems;
- Accelerated loss of biological and cultural diversity with unexpected consequences that impact the ability of ecosystems to continue to provide services critical for human well-being;
- Rapid urbanization as a driver of environmental change.

From these challenges, several opportunities for change arise, through increased awareness at all levels of the need to maintain and secure access to ecosystem services for human well-being, including health, security and justice/equity.

Understanding the issues highlighted in the key challenges, over the period 2008-2013, the MAB Programme will strategically address the relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through the following:

- Develop mechanisms to encourage the sustainable development of biosphere reserves carried out in partnership with all sectors of society (i.e. public and private institutions, NGOs, stakeholder communities, decision-makers, scientists, local and indigenous communities, land owners and users of natural resources, research and education centres, media) to ensure the well-being of people and their environment;
- Test and apply policies for adaptation and mitigation for climate change in coordination with other intergovernmental programmes;
- Use the experience of the World Network, the MAB thematic networks and interdisciplinary approaches to develop and test policies and practices to address the issues impacting key ecosystem types, namely coastal zones, islands, oceans, mountains, drylands, tropical forests, freshwater ecosystems and areas of increasing urbanization;
- Develop scientific programmes of research to follow on from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) to define approaches that secure ecosystem services into the future.

The Madrid Action Plan (hereafter referred to as MAP or the MAP) articulates actions, targets and success indicators, partnerships and other implementation strategies and an evaluation framework

for the WNBR for the period of 2008 to 2013. It takes fully into consideration the recommendations of the Review Committee that evaluated UNESCO's Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences Programmes during 2006-2007, and will make specific contributions towards the implementation of those recommendations as proposed by the Director General of UNESCO and approved by the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in October-November 2007.

MAP's overall goals are to:

- (a) anchor the research, training, capacity building and demonstration agendas of MAB at the interface between the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities;
- (b) enable the active use of places included in the WNBR as learning sites for sustainable development, i.e. demonstrating approaches to enhance co-operation amongst epistemic (academic), political, practitioner and stakeholder communities to address and solve context specific problems to improve environmental, economic and social conditions for human and ecosystem well-being;
- (c) collect, collate, synthesize and disseminate lessons learnt from more than 30 years of the work of the MAB Programme and the WNBR as well as their planned actions during 2008-2013 to benefit international, national and local efforts to meet global targets such as the MDGs, significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 (also referred to as the "CBD 2010 target") and others that are part of the UNFCCC and Kyoto processes linked to mitigating and adapting to global climatic change; and
- (d) contribute to the emergence of a new generation of professionals and practitioners who can serve as ambassadors and managers/coordinators for linking global environmental agendas to national and local development aspirations.

The MAP builds on past experience in the network and in individual biosphere reserves, and reaches out to all sectors of society to create a new partnership between environmental and development agendas. To this broad community, biosphere reserves should be seen both as a process and as an instrument to understand, and adapt to change, as well as a catalyst of new ideas and territories to test out innovative development approaches. The evolution of the MAB Programme will be guided not only by the community most directly involved in managing biosphere reserves but also by the broader community inspired by the concept and experimenting with it.

The Madrid Action Plan is informed by a consultation process of Member States involving governing bodies such as the MAB Bureau in June and September 2007; the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves in June 2007; circular letters issued by the MAB Secretariat in July and December 2007 and network meetings held in all regions of the world in 2007. MAP builds on the working documents addressing the five (5) issues defined by the 19th session of the ICC in 2006 for the preparation of the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 20th session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the MAB Programme (MAB-ICC) convened in Madrid, Spain, from 4 to 8 February 2008.

A.1 CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change presents one of the most serious and globally significant challenges to society and ecosystems around the world today. Having filtered out the range of natural causes of climate change, the UNFCCC and its scientific panel IPCC have unequivocally established that the accelerated changes to our climate are anthropogenic. The volume of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases emitted primarily by the industrialized nations and now coupled with the demand from less industrialized parts of the world including emerging market economies means that, if unchecked the problems will multiply. In addition, the rate of deforestation in tropical areas is also contributing to the increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere as well as loss of ecosystem functions.

The rise in mean global temperature will mean that billions of people across the globe will face water shortages and millions more people will be exposed to malaria. Weather events such as droughts and floods will be more extreme, leading to a greater range and frequency of natural disasters. This will in turn lead to people moving from inhospitable areas to more amenable regions. The changes in rainfall regimes will drive changes in agricultural systems.

Most ecosystem services will be put under stress. For example 30 percent of species will be put at risk of extinction, desertification will increase; positive feedback mechanisms in the climate will further reduce tropical forests. Sea level rise and sea warming will impact on the ability of coastal systems, such as mangroves and salt marshes, to cope, and fish distribution will change increasing the fragility of coastal ecosystems and the human use of them.

Societal responses to climate change are centred on adaptation and mitigation, both of which bring their own consequences for current and future generations. Society must practise adaptation to accommodate the changes that are inevitable because of the greenhouse gases already emitted and which will be active until they naturally decay. Based on scientific knowledge, adaptation measures may include land use change to safeguard ecosystem services and functions, such as coastal re-alignment, and management of river catchments. Mitigation is required by all nations to varying degrees, in an effort to prevent the CO₂ equivalent in the air exceeding 450 parts per million. These will include carbon sequestration, emission reductions, energy efficiency and renewable energy production in a sustainable manner combined with more climate friendly lifestyles. The barriers to these being put in place can be lack of political awareness of solutions and/or the willingness to implement them, inadequate or lack of technical capacity, economic uncertainty as well as the absence of an integrated approach to development planning.

MAB and the WNBR bring added value through the integrated approach which is generally absent elsewhere. The role of biosphere reserves is essential to rapidly seek and test solutions to the challenges of climate change as well as monitor the changes as part of a global network. For the Natural Sciences as well as other Programme Sectors of UNESCO, biosphere reserves can be areas for demonstrating adaptation measures for natural and human systems, assisting the development of resilience strategies and practices. Buffer zones and transition areas of biosphere reserves may also be used to test many mitigation tactics and strategies. In numerous biosphere reserves, carbon can be sequestered as in forest and wetland systems. In all of them capacity can be built for low-carbon economies using a mix of technology- and labour-based social enterprises. From a social sciences point of view, the political dimensions of changing lifestyles can be explored. The range of biosphere reserves and the systems they represent will provide valuable lessons for the rest of the world.

A.2 PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has articulated and described ecosystem services in a manner that has gained widespread acceptance among public and private sector and civil society organizations. The new MA typology recognizes four distinct categories of services: supporting (nutrient cycling, soil formation and primary production); provisioning (food, fresh water, wood and fibre and fuel); regulating (climate, flood and disease regulation and water purification) and cultural (aesthetic, spiritual, educational and recreational).

Ecosystem services could be a useful conceptual framework to superimpose on the multiple functions of biosphere reserves ranging from protection to production in land/seascapes. The essence of biosphere reserves as sustainable development sites could be seen as the effort to design and develop place-specific mixes of supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural ecosystem services that enable the environmental, economic and social well-being of resident and stakeholder communities. For example, the various zones of biosphere reserves can serve as places to attract new investments into hitherto neglected services (climate regulation, water purification, biodiversity conservation) and improve environmental and social performance of provisioning (agriculture, forestry, fisheries) and cultural (tourism) services that may have been the principal recipients of investments to-date. Active and continuing consultations between the scientific and research communities, policy and decision makers, resource managers and resident populations in a biosphere reserve are critical in finding the optimal mix of ecosystem services that would illustrate the role of biosphere reserves as models for land/seascape level sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels.

A.3 URBANIZATION AS A PRINCIPAL DRIVER FOR ECOSYSTEM-WIDE PRESSURES

Urbanization is a global multidimensional process that manifests itself through rapidly changing and spatially shifting population densities, in particular migration from rural to urban zones, land cover and resource use regimes and a diversity of associated cultural practices. Half of the world's population today lives in urban landscapes, a proportion projected to increase to 66-67% over the next 50 years. Most of this growth will occur in countries that constitute the less industrialized and emerging market economies of the world. It is estimated that by 2030 more than two billion people will be living in urban slums with limited access to basic services, facing extreme vulnerability to natural disasters. The rapid increase of large cities and the continuing transformation of urban landscapes represent great challenges to ensure basic human welfare and a liveable environment.

Urban landscapes represent probably the most complex mosaic of land cover and multiple uses of any landscape. Urbanization and urban landscapes have recently been identified by the MA as priority areas where large knowledge gaps exist. Urban landscapes provide important large-scale experiences of the effects of global change on ecosystems; significant warming and increased nitrogen deposition are already evident and they provide extreme, visible and measurable examples of human domination of "natural" ecosystem processes. However, cities are also perceived as places offering solutions for humans and the environment as main hubs of knowledge, capital and innovations.

A number of urban areas are either considering, or have applied, the biosphere reserve principles within their jurisdictions, with the intention of using the concept as a tool for planning and managing sustainable urban development.

B. VISION STATEMENT FOR THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES (WNBR) WITHIN THE MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAMME

The World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and the Biosphere Programme consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence. It fosters harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue, knowledge sharing, poverty reduction and human well-being improvements, respect for cultural values and society's ability to cope with change, thus contributing to the MDGs. Accordingly, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves is one of the main international tools to develop and implement sustainable development approaches in a wide array of contexts.

C. MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES (WNBR) WITHIN THE MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAMME

To ensure environmental, economic, social (including cultural and spiritual) sustainability through:

- development and coordination of a worldwide network of places acting as demonstration areas and learning sites with the aim of maintaining and developing ecological and cultural diversity, and securing ecosystem services for human well-being;
- development and integration of knowledge including science for advancing our understanding of interactions between people and the rest of nature;
- building global capacity for the management of complex socio-ecological systems particularly through encouraging greater dialogue at the science-policy interface, environmental education and multi-media outreach to the wider community.

D. PROGRESS SINCE SEVILLE

The approval of the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework in 1995 by UNESCO has clearly established the biosphere reserve as the land/seascape level designation conferred by the UNESCO-MAB Programme to places in natural ecosystems as well as those significantly modified by humans. Since 1995 the essence and identity of biosphere reserves has deepened along the following axes: (a) multi-functionality and integration amongst the conservation, development and logistic or knowledge functions that demonstrate context-specific options for local and regional sustainability; (b) the three zone scheme as the basis for the land/seascape level planning and for reconciling stakeholder interests linked to the multiple functions; (c) presence of resident and migrant human settlements within the biosphere reserve; and (d) commitment to review biosphere reserve functioning, including the level of integration amongst the three functions, at least once every ten (10) years after the inclusion of a site in the WNBR.

As much as 98% of the places nominated as biosphere reserves since 1995 have adopted the three-zone scheme. For those biosphere reserves included in the WNBR prior to 1995, this percentage was 23% for those between 1976 and 1984, and 65% for others designated during 1985-1995, respectively. Periodic review of biosphere reserves included in the WNBR has resulted in many pre-1995 biosphere reserves being revised with respect to their zonation schemes and other essential features that define the post-1995 Seville vision of biosphere reserves.

While the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of 1995 enabled the clarification and deepening of the niche of biosphere reserves, the MAP aims to demonstrate and emphasize the role of biosphere reserves as learning sites for local and regional sustainable development practices as well as the importance of MAB and of the WNBR as regional and global hubs for exchange of information, ideas, experience, knowledge and best practices in sustainability sciences. Experience in the application of some of the key tools of the 1995 Statutory Framework, such as the periodic review process will be assessed and this process will be further refined for use in tracking changes in the performance of biosphere reserves in contributing to sustainable development outcomes including locally and regionally appropriate expressions of MDGs, CBD 2010 target, EFA, the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) and other global commitments made by UNESCO Member States.

E. THE MADRID ACTIONS - THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

In attempting to orient MAB and the WNBR activities during 2008-2013 in the face of new challenges in an ever-changing world, the MAP defines four (4) main action areas, with 31 targets and 65 actions that are critical to achieving the vision and mission of the MAB Programme. Targeted actions help its implementation at the appropriate level, may it be local, national or international, within the time-frame set (2008-2013).

Actions are to be taken at the local level (the individual biosphere reserves), the national level (MAB National Committees/National Commissions for UNESCO) and the international level (regional and sub-regional networks as well as ecosystem-based thematic networks, UNESCO-MAB Secretariat). **At all levels, the term biosphere reserve is recommended for use, while respecting the wish of individual MAB National Committees and/or biosphere reserve authorities to use appropriate alternative terminology, such as biosphere regions, areas, territories, etc.**

Although the biosphere reserve project is not time limited but has a long-term perspective, goals and targets have been set to be addressed within an appropriate time-frame during 2008-2013, and progress towards meeting those goals and targets will be monitored and evaluated and the findings of such evaluations shared with others contributing to the work of the MAB Programme and the WNBR. A commitment to innovative time-bound socio-ecological and policy actions integrating the three biosphere reserve functions and the willingness to share data, information, experience and knowledge are seen as vital to the role for biosphere reserves to be learning sites during the UNDESD (2005-2014).

E.1. COOPERATION, MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Biosphere reserves are the principal means for achieving the objectives of the MAB Programme and the visible instrument through which UNESCO as a whole could demonstrate its commitment to sustainability through policy-relevant site-based research, capacity enhancement and demonstration. In order to respond to new and emerging environmental and economic challenges at all scales, the management of the programme and the co-ordination of the work of the WNBR must be revised in light of thirteen (13) years' experience of the implementation of the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework. Necessary adaptations in the operation and outreach dimensions of WNBR need to be introduced in order to ensure that biosphere reserves effectively serve as learning sites for sustainable development at global, regional, national and local levels.

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
1. Effective implementation of the Seville Strategy	1.1 Assess the achievements of the Seville Strategy	2010	Assessment document of the Seville Strategy.	MAB Secretariat	MAB National Committees. MAB Bureau, MAB Networks, BRs, IUCN, UNDP and TNC
	1.2 Compile and synthesize first-hand information on the functioning of BRs, which should then be shared inter-regionally and globally.	2013	Compiled information	MAB Secretariat, MAB Regional and Thematic Networks	World Network of Biosphere Reserves
	1.3 Create and implement a system of recognizing performance of the Seville Strategy.	2010	Performance recognition system reviewed, adopted by MAB-ICC, implemented and disseminated.	Secretariat in co-operation with Regional Networks	MAB Bureau, MAB Networks, BRs, IUCN, UNDP and TNC
	1.4 Update the nomination and periodic review forms for BRs.	2010	Updated forms available	MAB Secretariat	MAB Bureau
2. Increased cooperation and coordination of biosphere reserves with existing international programmes and initiatives	2.1 Utilize BRs in UNESCO's intergovernmental scientific programmes in addition to MAB]	2013	Number of BRs working together with UNESCO programmes (IHP, DESD, IOC, IGCP, MOST, IBSP, etc).	MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	MAB Bureau, UNESCO programmes (IHP, IOC, IGCP, MOST, IBSP, etc.)
	2.2 Work closely with the authorities responsible for the implementation of relevant biodiversity and environmental multilateral agreements to ensure coordination between international designations at the national level.	2010	Number of BRs working with international initiatives (CBD, CMS, UNCCD, UNFCCC, IGBP, MA follow-up, etc.) Number of activities in UNESCO incorporating BRs as a tool for linking WH site conservation with	MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	International initiatives (CBD, CMS, ISDR, UNCCD, UNFCCC, IGBP, etc.) UNESCO Science Sector, WHC and Ramsar Convention, Executive Board of UNESCO All UNESCO intersectoral programmes such as DESD,

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
			sustainable development of the broader region; levels of financial and human resources to developing and implementing joint projects linking WH sites, Ramsar sites and BRs.		EFA, UNESCO Chairs, Associated Schools Network, TWAS, Executive Board of UNESCO.
3. Integrated information & communication strategy	3.1 Creation of a web-based information clearinghouse and information centre, to exchange and share technology, research, training, education and cooperation opportunities, findings and experience, and to help to solve problems at local, regional and international levels.	2013	Functioning information clearing house. Number and variety of publications (print, web-based etc.) and communications in UN as well other regional and nationally important languages. Current template of WNBR map adapted to produce region and ecosystem specific maps as and when needed.	MAB Secretariat	Regional, sub-regional, country and thematic networks in co-operation with MAB National Committees and BR administrations as appropriate, and PALNet-IUCN/WCPA, and other relevant information networks.
	3.2 Produce regional, sub-regional, country- and ecosystem-specific publications on biosphere reserves, MAB and other related themes.	2009 & 2013	Number of publications	MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees, individual biosphere reserves	Regional and Thematic Networks
	3.3 Elaboration of a map presenting the WNBR according to ecosystem types, including human-impacted ecosystems such as rural and urban areas.	2009	World map	MAB Secretariat	Private/public organizations
	3.4 Creation of a journalism award directed at the mass communication media for their role on promoting the importance of BRs.	2010	Number of awards provided.	UNESCO Member States	UNESCO Member States

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
	3.5 Develop an integrated international promotion and communication strategy targeting the general public.	2010	Number of publications.	MAB Secretariat	Individual BRs, UNESCO Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO regional offices
4. Participatory regional networks that are managed in a manner assuring adequate representation of biosphere reserve managers/ coordinators	4.1 Develop a structure, strategy and action plan for each regional network to meet their responsibilities within the MAB Programme and regularly report to MAB National Committees and individual BRs.	2009	Number of regions completing and implementing structure, strategy and action plan. Number of individual BRs participating in regional network activities.	Regional Networks	UNESCO Field Offices, National Commissions for UNESCO, MAB National Committees and individual BRs.
	4.2 Ensure that each network has partnerships and long-term financing mechanisms from within its membership to ensure sustainability of its operations and activities.	2010	No. of networks funded	Regional and Thematic Networks, MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	Governmental institutions, national and international NGOs, private sector
5. Enhanced cooperation between experts and practitioners in relevant key issues	5.1 Create and strengthen existing regional and interregional thematic networks formed around key ecosystems, such as mountains, freshwater, oceans, drylands, forests, urban areas, small islands.	2010	Number of networks and extent of regional and thematic coverage.	MAB Secretariat, Regional and Thematic Networks, individual BRs, other institutions	Diverse stakeholders at multiple scales
6. Communication strategies for each biosphere reserve, integrated with national and higher levels	6.1 Implement a communication strategy on environmental, economic, social, spiritual, cultural and political importance and benefits of BRs and the WNBR, directed to national governments, policy makers, journalists, local communities and other target groups.	2010	Number of BRs that have developed and launched a communication strategy.	Regional and Thematic Networks and individual BRs	UNESCO Communication and Information Sector, Bureau of Public Information, UNESCO Field Offices, MAB Programme
	6.2 Create an incentive programme to recognize the efforts of communities,	2010	Number of incentives created.	MAB National Committees, National	Private and public institutions

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
	individuals, institutions, networks and nations in creating, managing and promoting BRs.			Commissions for UNESCO	
7. Functional MAB National Committees in each country, managed in a manner assuring adequate representation of biosphere reserve coordinators and other key stakeholders	7.1 Create or restructure MAB National Committees.	2008	Number of functioning MAB National Committees.	Member States, National Commissions for UNESCO, MAB National Committees, MAB Focal Points and other national Government authorities concerned with BRs	Diverse stakeholders at multiple scales
	7.2 Develop a structure, strategy and action plan for each MAB National Committee to assist BRs meet their responsibilities within the MAB Programme, and support the planning phase for new nominations.	2013	Number of MAB National Committees restructured with strategies and action plans.	MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	Governmental institutions, civil society bodies
8. Increased linkages between biosphere reserve activities and sustainable development initiatives at multiple scales	8.1 Encourage and enable individual BRs to collaborate with UN-led policies, strategies and action plans towards sustainable development, as well as other initiatives outside the UN-system.	2010 & 2013	Number of BRs contributing to in-country UN and other initiatives on sustainable development.	MAB National Committees, individual BRs	Regional Networks, MAB Secretariat
9. All biosphere reserves undertake periodic review and related actions to update zonation, management and other changes to meet Seville & MAP requirements and recommendations	9.1 Screen new BR proposals as well as devise schemes to support periodic review processes in view of the evolution of the mission and vision contained in the Madrid Action Plan, in particular through field-visits by teams of regional and national experts, in cooperation with the UNESCO regional, cluster and national offices as appropriate.	2010 & 2013	Number of BRs that have undertaken necessary steps to update themselves to a post-Seville and MAP vision.	MAB National Committees, with support from Regional and Thematic Networks	Regional Networks, IUCN
10. Open and participatory procedures and processes in the designation, planning and implementation of biosphere reserves	10.1 Every BR should carry out a participatory planning process, such as Local Agenda 21, to guide BR implementation assuring “participatory management” especially for traditional, local and indigenous communities.	2012	Number of BRs with participatory approaches in place	Individual Biosphere Reserves	Thematic Networks

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
	10.2 Every BR should establish a management committee comprising stakeholders representing different activity sectors of all three zones.	2013	Number of functioning BR management committees	Individual BRs	Public and private institutions including civil society
11. Enhanced legal recognition of biosphere reserves where appropriate	11.1 Encourage States to include BRs in their own legislation.	2013	Number of countries which have incorporated BRs into their legislation	MAB Secretariat and MAB National Committees	UNESCO Field Offices

E.2. ZONATION - LINKING FUNCTIONS TO SPACE

According to the Statutory Framework, biosphere reserves should contain one or more core areas, buffer zones, and a transition area to accommodate their multiple functions.

Facing new challenges, it is important to shift towards a more integrated zoning. Thus the transition area, in addition to the development function, can also consider conservation/environmental goals and elements. Equally the core area, in addition to its conservation function, contributes to a range of ecosystem services which, in terms of the development functions, can be calculated in economic terms (e.g. carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, supply of clean water and air, etc.). Employment opportunities can also complement conservation goals (e.g. environmental education, research, environmental rehabilitation and conservation measures, recreation and eco-tourism). While education, research, monitoring and capacity enhancement are seen as components of the logistic or knowledge generation function of biosphere reserves, they are also integral to the conservation and development functions.

Special attention is to be given to the buffer zones. Their role is to minimize negative and external effects of human-induced activities on the core areas. In addition to the buffering function related to the core areas, buffer zones can have their own intrinsic, 'stand alone' functions for maintaining anthropogenic, biological and cultural diversity. Buffer zones can also have an important connectivity function in a larger spatial context as they connect biodiversity components within core areas with those in transition areas/areas of cooperation.

People live and make a living in transition areas which are characterized by multiple land uses. Transition areas have a central function concerning socio-economic development. In the past, a shortcoming of the transition area was that its outer boundary was not required to be delineated or spatially-defined. But the establishment of cooperation plans and concepts, implementation of co-operation projects and fostering of committed citizenship need clear boundaries that are easy to accept and to understand. Furthermore, the inclusion of the total area of a biosphere reserve in the WNBR needs to be clearly specified; hence, while acknowledging the arbitrary or fuzzy nature of

transition area boundaries, they nevertheless must be specified. Cooperation, however, can extend beyond those boundaries, for sharing best practices, solutions and approaches with the wider region, thus fulfilling the role of biosphere reserves as learning sites for regional sustainable development.

While countries maintain flexibility at the national levels with regard to the definition of zones, the following actions are to be taken in order to make biosphere reserves more effective in combining conservation, sustainable use of resources and knowledge generation through integrated zonation and collaborative management:

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
12. Analysis of zonation of all biosphere reserves	12.1 Carry out a survey on the present zoning system of the WNBR (including the proportions of the different zones) and investigate how well they fulfil the three functions in each zone.	2010	Outcome of analysis submitted to ICC, and results and ICC recommendations published.	MAB Secretariat and Regional and Thematic Networks	BR focal points/managers, MAB National Committees
13. Functional zonation in all biosphere reserves established, particularly with regard to the transition area and the development function	13.1 Develop and apply practical tools and guidelines for zoning at the national level.	2013	100% sites have functional BR zonation.	MAB National Committees, Regional and Thematic Networks, and individual BRs	MAB Secretariat, IUCN, national and international NGOs, academic institutions
	13.2 Use BRs to manage large biome as a BR system and for extensive terrestrial and marine areas as a series of units linking up relatively small protected core areas with significantly larger buffer zones and transition areas.	2013	Number of BRs spatially extended.	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees	Regional Networks, IUCN
	13.3 Determine the most suitable zonation patterns and define performance standards for each zone. Ensure sufficient size of each zone for the BR functions and identify the contribution of each zone to the whole BR.	2013	Suitable zonation pattern for each BR defined.	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees	Regional Networks, IUCN
	13.4 Clearly define the outer boundary of the BR in determining the transition area through stakeholder consultation. (The BR should consider natural, e.g. watershed, ecosystem, etc., as well as political and administrative boundaries in defining its delimitation, and clearly explain the rationale behind that determination in the nomination/periodic review forms).	2013	Each BR has a clearly defined outer boundary.	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees	Regional Networks

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
	13.5 Encourage national recognition of BR zonation schemes as an important planning tool for programmes linked to protected areas in production landscapes.	2013	Number of countries recognizing BR zonation scheme.	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees	Regional Networks
14. Co-operative conservation and development strategies for biosphere reserves	14.1 Use appropriate tools such as the Ecosystem Approach, gap analysis, the concept of corridors, ecological networks, etc. for (a) a better connectivity of ecologically-important sites and elements in the landscape, (b) a better inter-linkage of areas/zones and enhanced buffering, and (c) a better consistency in planning.	2013	BRs have well-designed plans with sufficient conditions for assuring financial and operational sustainability.	Individual biosphere reserves	Thematic Networks

E.3. SCIENCE AND CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

Ecosystems provide goods and services to all humanity, but the sustainable use of these benefits is challenging in the face of rapid climatic, environmental, social, and political changes. To cope with these changes, biosphere reserves play a crucial role in generating knowledge on how natural systems work and how to maintain ecosystem services and resilient ecosystems while at the same time using these systems to create income, employment and wealth. Wide cooperation from institutions and stakeholders is needed within biosphere reserves to foster communication among scientists, policy makers, private companies and others. In order to achieve this there is a need for a significant strengthening of both science and capacity in the WNBR also with a view to applying scientific expertise to global biodiversity management and conservation.

Both scientific as well as traditional knowledge from local and indigenous people is needed for adaptation to change and building resilience.

Since 2004 the MAB-ICC has encouraged all countries to support the UNDESD (2005-2014) of which UNESCO is the leading agency. Biosphere reserves provide an excellent opportunity to play an active role as learning sites for sustainable development in order to implement national policies and strategies on the MDGs, implement the WSSD Plan and strategies for the DESD. Relevant national, regional and global authorities should be encouraged to use biosphere reserve management issues and problems as research questions for multi-disciplinary institutes of higher learning.

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
15.	15.1 Undertake a critical analysis	2013	Number of BRs	National	Regional and

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
Communication of biosphere reserve experiences on management and stakeholder participation of ecosystem services to relevant policy constituencies within the UN bodies, regional development banks, national governments and others	and synthesis of existing data based on experience of implementing the management plans/cooperation plans of BRs around the world, including their relationship to ecosystem services.		which participate in international programmes Analysis document on the implementation of BR management plans.	Commissions for UNESCO, MAB National Committees, World Network of Biosphere Reserves	Thematic Networks, CBD, CSD, UNCCD, UNFCCC & others
	15.2 Promote the MAB Programme's global network function through the systematic recording of policy-relevant case studies and ensuring their availability and dissemination.	2013	Document on case studies	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, MAB Secretariat	CBD, IUCN
	15.3 Develop actions to increase synergies among international, regional and national programmes currently developed and executed in parallel, such as CBD, Agenda 21 and One-UN activities.	2013	No. of BRs involved in various international, regional and national programmes.	Individual BRs, Regional and Thematic Networks	CBD, Agenda 21, One-UN projects.
16. Site-based policy-relevant research programmes	16.1 Coordinate with UNESCO Intergovernmental Science Programmes (ISPs) and other relevant international, regional and national authorities to promote policy-relevant research programmes.	2012	Numbers of scientific articles, books on sustainability referring to BR or using the concept. Number of MS and Ph.Ds on BRs or related topics.	MAB Secretariat. World Network of Biosphere Reserves, Regional and Thematic Networks	Universities and research centres associated with BRs. Collaboration with ISPs, UNU IUCN, including WCPA, and others
	16.2 Improve access to information and new ways to communicate knowledge to a large variety of non-scientific target groups.	2011	Number of outreach publications including Internet-based information material.	MAB Secretariat, individual BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	Universities, press and other mass media.
	16.3 Strengthen the role of science in decision-making through problem-oriented, applied research in order to increase the availability of funding for both science and management, and ensure good science-informed participatory and collaborative management.	2013	Research projects established in all BRs	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	Universities, research institutions, funding agencies

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
17. Trained biosphere reserve managers and other relevant stakeholders	17.1 Provide training to BR managers on science-policy-practice interaction and participatory management for science and other relevant areas.	2010	Number of completed or active courses in the regions	MAB Secretariat, Regional and Thematic Networks	Research institutes, higher education centres, international and national NGOs
	17.2 Promote capacity enhancement programmes for BR administrators and managers, such as on adaptive management, including conflict resolution and negotiation skills.	2011	Training courses for BR managers in operation	MAB National Committees	Universities, research institutions
18. Use of BRs by UNESCO Member States for their work with other ISPs, including IOC and MOST	18.1 Work with other ISPs to include the use of BRs as research and demonstration sites in their programmes.	2010	Number of UNESCO ISP activities and initiatives focusing on BRs	Regional Networks National Committees and MAB Secretariat	IOC, IHP, IGCP
	18.2 Enhance the widespread use of BRs by IHP, IOC, IGCP and MOST for research, information generation and policy advice.	2013	Number of BRs involved with other UNESCO ISP activities related to research, information generation and policy advice.	UNESCO ISPs (MAB, IHP, IOC, IGCP, MOST), individual BRs	IHP, IOC, IGCP, MOST
19. Biosphere Reserves to have research programmes on analyses of ecosystem services and their management through stakeholder participation	19.1 Mobilize scientific and non-scientific actors combining all knowledge systems in order to strengthen the scientific functions of BRs.	2012	Number of BRs having research programmes	BRs and MAB National Committees, Regional and Thematic Networks	GEF, UNDP, EU, international NGOs, etc.
20. Biosphere reserves have research programmes linked to the development of the management plan and zoning	20.1 Ensure stakeholder involvement in the production of a research agenda to be incorporated in the management plan for the whole BR.	2013	Number of BRs with defined and operational research programmes.	Individual biosphere reserves	Universities, research institutions, funding agencies
	20.2 Use BRs as sites for applied, problem-oriented research for sustainable development linked to the zoning and management plan.	2012	Number of BRs with research agendas related to sustainable	Individual biosphere reserves	Universities, research institutions, funding agencies

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
	Incorporate the results of applied ecological and socio-economic research into ecosystem management of all areas and link educational activities to the different functions in all zones of BRs.		development		
21. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) programmes with educational and research institutions	21.1 Promote the BR as a learning site of excellence for sustainable development, for demonstrating trade-offs and balance amongst ecosystem services, human-environment interactions and well-being, in the framework of DESD.	2010	Number of schools associated with BRs through joint classes, school camps, curriculum development	Individual biosphere reserves	Associated Schools Project Network, UNESCO Education Sector
22. Exchange of educational resources for widespread adaptation and application	22.1 Improve capacity of the WNBR with the aim of building strong learning organizations, alliances and empowering all stakeholders at each BR.	2010 & 2013	Number of education programmes; number and range of awareness and educational materials produced.	Individual BRs, World Network of Biosphere Reserves, Regional and Thematic Networks	NGOs, academic institutions, research centres
	22.2 Provide appropriate staff and funding (a) to enable BR managers/coordinators to actively contribute to the WNBR, i.e. translation of best practices report into local languages, and (b) to feed this information into the Internet website of UNESCO-MAB.	2012	Number of best practices reports translated into local languages.	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees	National authorities, national and international NGOs, funding agencies
23. A mechanism for biosphere reserves to address urban issues in a regional context	23.1 Facilitate the integration of urban areas into BRs.	2010 & 2013	Number of BRs with interactions with urban areas	MAB Urban Group, Regional Networks	City Authorities, ICLEI, professional planning institutions universities and research centres associated with BRs
24. Use biosphere reserves as learning sites for research, adaptation, mitigation in	24.1 Use mountain BRs as field observatories of global change impacts on the environment, economy and human well-being, based on the GLOCHAMORE Research Strategy.	2012	Number of mountain BRs with active research and capacity enhancement programmes.	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees, Regional and Thematic Networks	MRI, organizations working on climate change, research, academic and

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
relation to climate change					outreach institutions
	24.2 Use of research results to assist countries in developing and implementing policies for sustainable mountain development.	2013	Number of countries with policies for sustainable mountain development.	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, Regional Networks	MRI, IUCN
	24.3 Develop strategies for other ecosystems in collaboration with relevant national and international organizations.	2011	Number of strategies applied	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, Regional and Thematic Networks	UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD
	24.4 Carry out training courses for different ecosystem types related to climate change, in particular using the ERAIFT regional flagship project for tropical forests and certified forestry as a climate change mitigation approach.	2011	Number of training courses carried out	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, Regional and Thematic Networks	UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD

E.4. PARTNERSHIPS

At all times, the strength and opportunity of partnerships should be drawn upon to cooperatively develop the functions of a biosphere reserve. There is a need to focus efforts on building and improving upon existing partnerships and alliances, championing new initiatives, and creating new partnerships and projects that involve many stakeholder groups. Cooperative activities range from biodiversity conservation to ecosystem management and sustainable use of environmental goods and services.

The ‘added value’ of partnerships is improved effectiveness of management strategies, change of attitude within the stakeholders themselves, better mutual understanding, more informed decision making, increased awareness, and technical and financial support of the management of the biosphere reserve.

The long-term functionality of a biosphere reserve requires long-term financing for both planning and implementation. Generating funds falls primarily under the responsibility of individual biosphere reserve managers/coordinators with support and assistance from the MAB National Committees, Regional Networks, UNESCO-MAB Secretariat solicited as and when needed.

Economic activities provide potential benefits for biosphere reserves:

- Contributions to economic development in terms of strengthening the role of the private sector, revenue generation for the maintenance of natural areas e.g. through tourism;
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) schemes of leading multi-nationals as well as national and regional private sector institutions provide funds for development or maintenance of sustainable practices.

There are already very good examples of economic benefits of biosphere reserves and the feasibility of integrated conservation and development in and around biosphere reserves. They will indeed improve their performance at the operational level if they have sufficient and well trained personnel, equipment, project budget and capabilities to fulfil all three functions in all zones.

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
25. Improved financial mechanisms for biosphere reserves and regional networks	25.1 Establish partnership agreements with relevant institutions/organizations to carry out Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) projects.	2013	Number of regions launching PES projects. Number of BRs involved.	MAB-ICC, Regional and Thematic Networks	GEF, UNDP, EU, international NGOs, universities, research centres
	25.2 Establish partnership agreements, such as for water, forest and carbon funds.	2013	Number of BRs with partnership agreements	MAB National Committees, Regional and Thematic Networks	National and international donor agencies, GEF, UNDP, international NGOs
	25.3 Seek national and international support for BRs and Regional Networks with the organizations responsible for projects on biodiversity conservation, international waters, climate change, poverty reduction, etc.	2013	Number of BRs and Regional Networks with national and international support	MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees, Regional and Thematic Networks	National and international donor agencies, GEF, UNDP, international NGOs
26. Improved generation of profits and livelihood benefits in biosphere reserves through sustainable production, harvesting, processing and marketing of biosphere reserve products	26.1 At least one pilot BR in each Regional Network chosen to carry out an assessment of the economic contribution of BRs to local economies with the active involvement of local communities.	2013	Number of BRs developing assessments in each region	Regional and Thematic Networks	Private sector, research, academic and outreach institutions
	26.2 Further the work of the Task Force on Quality Economies by creating or strengthening partnerships with businesses to identify, develop and promote markets and fair trade for	2010	Number of BRs involved with the work of the Task Force on	MAB Secretariat, individual BRs, MAB National Committees, Thematic Networks	Private sector

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
	goods using the BR brand.		Quality Economies		
	26.3 Creation of sustainable and alternative livelihoods primarily targeting vulnerable populations within BRs such as local communities, minorities, indigenous and ethnic groups.	2013	Number of BRs implementing sustainable alternative livelihoods to ensure ease of poverty	UNESCO Member States, individual BRs	National and international funding agencies, GEF, UNDP, etc.
27. Increased involvement, support and buy-in of private sector	27.1 Create or strengthen partnerships with businesses to identify, develop and promote fair trade for goods and services in BRs and to support management and communication relating to BRs.	2013	Number of businesses actively involved in implementing the BR idea/ BR management. Number of businesses actively involved in supporting activities indirectly in BRs.	BRs and MAB National Committees	Private sector
	27.2 Promote incentives for product labeling in BRs.	2012	Study available on local BR products.	MAB Secretariat, individual BRs	Private sector
28. Exchanges between biosphere reserves	28.1 Support study tours/site visits between stakeholder groups in BRs.	2010 & 2013	Number of exchanges	Regional and interregional networks, thematic networks, individual biosphere reserves	Governmental authorities
	28.2 Encourage and enable twinning programmes between BRs sharing specific issues.	2013	Number of twinning arrangements between BRs.	Regional and interregional networks, thematic networks, individual biosphere reserves	Governmental authorities
	28.3 Encourage South-South cooperation and triangular South-North-South cooperation.	2013	Number of cooperation agreements involving BRs.	Regional and interregional networks, thematic networks, individual biosphere reserves	Governmental authorities

TARGET	ACTIONS	TIME	SUCCESS INDICATOR	RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION	PARTNER
29. Promote partnerships	29.1 Establish cooperation plans including all sectors of society to champion cooperative activities ranging from education and research to sustainable use of environmental goods and services.	2010	Number of partnerships established. Number of BRs involved in partnerships.	Individual BRs	Governmental authorities, private sector
	29.2 Establish partnerships with regional economic and financial institutions.	2010	Number of cooperation plans established	Individual BRs	Canada
30. Transboundary biosphere reserves	30.1 Support the development of new and strengthen existing transboundary BRs as well as other forms of transboundary cooperation.	2013	Number of transboundary BRs established.	MAB National Committees, Regional Networks	MAB National Committees, UNESCO National Commissions
	30.2 Update the nomination and periodic review forms for transboundary BRs	2013	Number of new and existing transboundary BRs with active transboundary cooperation; Use of updated forms.	BRs and MAB National Committees, Regional Networks, MAB Secretariat, World Network of Biosphere Reserves	Academic institutions, international and national NGOs
31. Biosphere reserves for peace, security and conflict management	31.1 Promote and use BRs as mechanisms for peace and security.	2013	Number of BRs with programmes that promote peace and security	MAB Secretariat, World Network of Biosphere Reserves, Regional and Thematic Networks	Academic institutions, international and national NGOs

F. APPROVAL, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

The Madrid Action Plan (MAP) has been adopted at the 20th session of the MAB-ICC also in view of implementing effectively UNESCO's Mid-Term Strategy. In light of the rolling character of that strategy, possible adaptations of the MAP may be discussed at the next MAB-ICC Meeting in 2009. The MAP will then become an integral part of UNESCO's strategy working towards the achievement of internationally-agreed goals and targets including the MDGs, EFA, DESD as well

as emphasizing UNESCO's contributions towards One UN, UNDAF and other in-country co-ordination frameworks promoted under UN reform at the country level. The MAP will contribute towards the Director-General's implementation plan to integrate the recommendations of the Review Committee that evaluated the Natural Sciences and the Social and Human Sciences Programmes of UNESCO during 2006-2007.

The implementation of MAP will be carried out during the six-year Strategic Planning Framework of UNESCO, i.e. 2008-2013, which is the same as that of the MAP under the responsibility of the UNESCO Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences which hosts the Secretariat for MAB and WNBR. Before end of December 2008, countries with biosphere reserves will be requested to inform the MAB Secretariat of the specific methods and schedules of the actions that these countries decide to implement within the framework of the MAP.

The **MAB-ICC**, the **MAB Secretariat**, the **Regional Networks** and the **MAB National Committees** through result-oriented partnerships with public and private sector and civil society organizations will provide the leadership for the successful implementation of the MAP.

The **MAB-ICC**, **National Commissions for UNESCO** and **MAB National Committees** will be critical to the effectiveness of the implementation of the MAP through deep involvement in communicating the importance of, and gaining support for the MAB Programme and the WNBR with national governments, donors and development cooperation agencies, private sector and civil society organizations at all levels.

MAP will be evaluated in 2010 and 2013. The mid-term evaluation will be carried out by a team, whose composition and terms of reference (TOR) will be set by the MAB-ICC at its 21st session 2009. The timing, team composition and TOR for the final evaluation due in 2013 will be determined by the ICC at its 22nd session.

ACRONYMS

BPI	UNESCO Bureau for Public Information
BR	Biosphere Reserve
CI	UNESCO Communication and Information Sector
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CO₂	Carbon dioxide
COP	Conference of the Parties to the CBD
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CYTED	Ibero-American Programme of the Development of Science and Technology
DESD	UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)
EFA	UNESCO - Education for All
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GLOCHAMORE	UNESCO Project "Global Change in Mountain Regions"
IBSP	International Basic Sciences Programme
ICC	International Coordinating Council for the MAB Programme
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
IGCP	International Geoscience Programme
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISP	UNESCO's Intergovernmental Scientific Programmes
IUCN	World Conservation Union
MA/MEA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
MAB	UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme
MOST	Management of Social Transformations Programme
MRI	Mountain Research Initiative
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
One UN	Experiments to rationalize programmatic, managerial and budgetary structures of various UN Programmes and Agencies and co-ordinate their inputs to national development planning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
SD	Sustainable Development
TWAS	The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNU	United Nations University
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas (UICN)
WH	World Heritage
WHC	World Heritage Centre

**WNBR
WSSD**

**World Network of Biosphere Reserves
World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002**

Annex 4

**Madrid Declaration
on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)**

We the representatives of UNESCO Member States, biosphere reserves, and co-operating public and private sector institutions and civil society organizations gathered at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 20th session of the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB Programme during 4-8 February 2008 in Madrid, Spain,

Concerned by the increasing loss of biodiversity, the effects of climate change and demographic changes and convinced of the urgent need to maintain a balance between nature conservation, environmental protection and the social, economic, technical and scientific developments that constitute globalization,

Recalling that the sixteenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO (1970) launched the programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) as a long-term intergovernmental and interdisciplinary programme and that since its inception MAB has focused its research, training, monitoring, education and pilot projects on the search for trade-offs and balance between, on the one hand, the human responsibility to maintain nature and conserve biodiversity and, on the other hand, the human need to use natural resources for enhancing social and economic well-being of peoples,

Recognizing that the concept of biosphere reserves developed within the framework of the MAB programme has resulted, since 1976, in the designation of biosphere reserves, currently numbering 531 sites in 105 countries, that are dedicated to address and learn from efforts to achieve and maintain a balance between the conservation of nature and biodiversity and the socio-economic development of places and peoples,

Appreciating the participatory and good management approaches that allow multiple stakeholders and partners to be an integral part of biosphere reserves,

Acknowledging that the WNBR created under MAB constitutes a global network of places that Member States of UNESCO can prioritize as locations for testing the applications of sustainable development principles and practices dedicated to establishing and maintaining context-specific and mutually beneficial relationships between nature and biodiversity conservation and socio-economic well-being of people,

Cognizant of the fact that the biosphere reserve concept and its applications have, thanks to global reviews and exchange of experience and lessons learned as communicated during the first (Minsk, 1983) and the second (Seville, 1995) Congresses of Biosphere Reserves, been refined and consolidated with respect to its significance to sustainable development at local and regional levels within UNESCO Member States,

Referring to the Statutory Framework of the Seville Strategy that outlines the importance of legally constituted core areas devoted to long-term protection according to the conservation objectives of the biosphere reserves, and of sufficient size to meet these objectives,

Expressing gratitude to the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Spain for its continuous support to biosphere reserves under the framework of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, including by hosting the 20th session of the MAB ICC and the

3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (February 2008) convened in Madrid, Spain, with the purpose to reflect upon the experience of implementing the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves adopted by UNESCO in 1995,

Convinced of the need to strengthen and support the contributions of MAB and biosphere reserve networks to sustainable development in the context of new and emerging challenges and to document, disseminate and share lessons learned in the context of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD; 2005-2014):

- *Urge* UNESCO, its Member States and Secretariat, to make optimum use of biosphere reserves for the promotion of sustainable development and the WNBR and associated regional, sub-regional and national networks as forums for exchange of experience and lessons learned during the UNDESD;
 - *Encourage* UNESCO Member States to establish MAB National Committees where they do not yet exist;
 - *Commit* the Secretariat to review the implementation of the Seville Strategy and make recommendations to improve the working practices of the MAB Programme at the global, regional, national and local levels in order to enhance its relevance to sustainable development policies, planning and implementation at all levels;
 - *Call upon* UNESCO to actively pursue coherent approaches and strengthen cooperation within the UN system, particularly with UNDP and UNEP with the aim to enable Member States to use biosphere reserves as places to demonstrate and promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other UN targets, such as the commitment of Parties to the Conventions dealing with biological diversity, combating desertification and climate change;
 - *Call upon* UNESCO and international funds for the creation of an innovative mechanism for sustainable funding aimed at reinforcing biosphere reserves, the MAB Programme as well as the regional networks and promote the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan;
 - *Capitalize upon* the potential for action of biosphere reserves to address new challenges such as the loss of traditional knowledge and cultural diversity, demography, loss of arable land, climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development; and, in particular, as places for investments and innovation to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to promote the greater use of renewable energy in sustainable futures of rural and urban areas and to enhance and capitalize upon ecosystem services and products in sustainable development for human well-being;
 - *Build* effective partnerships in biosphere reserves through cooperation among all governmental levels, private sector, mass media, civil society organizations, indigenous and local communities, research, monitoring and education centers and other such institutions for the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan during 2008-2013;
 - *Encourage* cooperation between the MAB Programme and the other Intergovernmental Scientific Programmes of UNESCO, the World Heritage Convention and the One UN pilots;
 - *Promote* MAB and WNBR as global, regional and national fora for involving people and generating new ideas to solve local problems and targeted actions to seek a dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship between People and the Biosphere.
-