



**PERIODIC REVIEW
FOR BIOSPHERE RESERVES**



(January 2002)

The UNESCO General Conference, at its 28th session, adopted Resolution 28 C/2.4 on the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves*. This text defines in particular the *criteria for an area to be qualified for designation as a biosphere reserve* (Article 4). In addition, Article 9 foresees a periodic review every ten years, *based on a report prepared by the concerned authority, on the basis of the criteria of Article 4 and forwarded to the secretariat by the State concerned*. The text of the Statutory Framework is given in the annex.

The form which follows is proposed to help States to prepare their national reports in accordance with Article 9 and to update the data available to the Secretariat on the biosphere reserves concerned. This report should enable the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB Programme to review how each biosphere reserve is fulfilling the criteria of Article 4 of the Statutory Framework and in particular the three functions. It should be noted that it is requested, in the last part of the form (*Conclusion*), to indicate the way in which the biosphere reserves fulfil each of these criteria.

It is advisable to quantify data as much as possible and to provide supporting documentation to complete the information provided, especially:

- a map clearly showing the zonation;
- the legal texts for the different zones.

The completed form should be sent to:

UNESCO
Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
1, rue Miollis
F-75732 Paris Cedex 15, France
Tel: +33.1.45.68.40.67
Fax: +33.1.45.68.58.04
E-mail: mab@unesco.org

I. NAME OF THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

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II. COUNTRY

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III. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Latitude and longitude

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Please enclose a map showing the general location of the biosphere reserve.

Biogeographical Region

Indicate the name usually given to the biogeographical region in which the biosphere reserve is situated.

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Topography of the region

Briefly describe the major topographic features (wetlands, marshes, mountain ranges, dunes, landscapes, etc.).

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Climate

Briefly describe the climate of the area using one of the common climate classifications.

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Geology, geomorphology, soils

Briefly describe the main land formations and characteristics.

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Significance for conservation of biological diversity: habitats and characteristic species

List main habitat types (e.g. humid tropical forest, savanna woodland, alpine tundra, coral reef, seagrass beds) and land cover (e.g. residential areas, agricultural land, grazing land).

Type of habitat:

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Main species:

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Main human impacts:

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Relevant habitat management practices:

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Habitats of special interest:

Describe and indicate the location of habitats which are unique or exceptionally important from the point of view of conservation.

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Endangered or threatened plant or animal species:

Identify species (with scientific names) or groups of species of particular interest for conservation, in particular if they are threatened with extinction.

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Species of traditional or commercial importance:

Indicate the use(s) of these species or varieties.

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IV. ZONATION

Names of the different areas

Indicate the names of the different areas which make up the core area(s) and buffer zone(s).

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Spatial configuration

A *Biosphere Reserve Zonation map* showing the delimitations of all core area(s) and buffer zone(s) **must be provided**. Also indicate the approximate extent of the transition area(s).

Size of terrestrial Core Area(s): ha.

If appropriate, size of marine Core Area(s): ha.

Size of terrestrial Buffer Zone(s): ha.

If appropriate, size of marine Buffer Zone(s): ha.

Approx. size of terrestrial Transition Area(s) (if applicable): ha.

If appropriate, approx. size of marine Transition Area(s): ha.

Brief justification of this zonation (in terms of the various roles of biosphere reserves) as it appears on the zonation map.

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V. HUMAN ACTIVITIES

Population living in the reserve

Approximate number of people living within the Biosphere Reserve.

Permanently / Seasonally

Core Area(s):

Buffer Zone(s):

Transition Area(s):

Brief description of local communities living within or near the Biosphere Reserve.

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Indicate ethnic origin and composition, minorities etc., their main economic activities (e.g. pastoralism) and the location of their main areas of concentration, with reference to a map if appropriate.

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Name(s) of nearest major town(s).

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Cultural significance of the site

Briefly describe the Biosphere Reserve's importance in terms of cultural values (religious, historical, political, social, ethnological).

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Use of resources by local populations

Uses or activities in the Core Area(s):

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Main land uses and economic activities in the buffer zone(s):

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Main land uses and major economic activities in the Transition Area(s):

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Possible adverse effects of uses or activities in the transition area(s) and remedial measures taken:

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If known, give a brief summary of past/historical land use(s) of the main parts of the Biosphere Reserve:

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Tourism

Indicate the number of visitors coming to the Biosphere Reserve each year

National:

Foreign:

Type(s) of touristic activities (Study of fauna and flora, recreation, camping, hiking, sailing, horseriding, fishing, hunting...).

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Tourist facilities and description of where these are located.

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Income and benefits to local communities

Indicate for the activities described above whether the local communities derive any income directly or indirectly and through what mechanism.

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Socio-economic research:

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Estimated number of national scientists participating in research within the Biosphere Reserve on a permanent or occasional basis.

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Estimated number of foreign scientists participating in research within the Biosphere Reserve on a permanent or occasional basis.

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Research station(s) within the Biosphere Reserve.

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Permanent research station(s) outside the Biosphere Reserve.

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Research facilities of research station(s) (meteorological and/or hydrological station, experimental plots, laboratory, library, vehicles, computers etc.).

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Other facilities (e.g. facilities for lodging or for overnight accommodation for scientists etc.).

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Indicate how the results of research programmes have been taken into account in the management of the biosphere reserve

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VII. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Describe the types of activities related to

- Environmental education and public awareness:

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- Training programmes for specialists:

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Indicate whether there are facilities for education and training activities, as well as visitors' centres for the public

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VIII. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

State, Province, Region or other administrative units

List in hierarchical order administrative entity(ies) in which the Biosphere Reserve is located (e.g. state(s), counties, districts).

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Management plan/policy

Indicate if a management plan or policy exists for the overall biosphere reserve.

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If yes, briefly describe the main characteristics of this plan and precise the modes of application.

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Authority in charge of administration of the whole, i.e. of implementation of this plan/policy:

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Total number of staff of Biosphere Reserve:

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Financial source(s) and yearly budget:

Indicate the source and the relative percentage of the funding (e.g. from national, regional, local administrations, private funding, international sources etc.) and the estimated yearly budget in the national currency.

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Authority in charge of administration

The biosphere reserve as a whole:

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Core area(s):

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Buffer zone(s):

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Mechanisms of consultation and co-ordination among these different authorities:

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Where appropriate, National (or State, or Provincial) administrations to which the biosphere reserve reports:

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Mechanism for consultation of local communities

Indicate how and to what extent local people living within or near the Biosphere Reserve.

- have been associated to the biosphere reserve nomination:

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- participate to the decision process and management resources:

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Indicate whether you consider the participation of local communities to be satisfactory and, if not, what measures are envisaged to improve this situation

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Protection regime of the core area and possibly of the buffer zone

Indicate the type (e.g. under national legislation and date since when the legal protection came into being and provide justifying documents (with English or French summary of the main features)).

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Land tenure of each zone

Percentage of ownership in terms of national, state/provincial, local government, private, etc.

Core Area(s):

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Buffer Zone(s):

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Transition Area(s):

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Foreseen changes in land tenure.

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Is there a land acquisition programme, to purchase private lands, or plans for privatization of public lands?

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Contact address(es)

Contact address of the biosphere reserve for all official correspondence.

Name:.....

Street or P.O. Box:

City with postal code:

Country:

Telephone:

Telefax (or telex):

E-mail:

Web site address:

IX. CONCLUSION

Brief justification of the way in which the biosphere reserve fulfils each criteria of article 4:

1. Representative ecological systems - graduation of human interventions

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2. Significance for biological diversity conservation

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3. Approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale

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4. Appropriate size to serve the three functions

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5. Appropriate zonation to serve the three functions

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6. Participation of public authorities and local communities

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7. a) mechanisms to manage human use and activities
- b) Management policy or plan
- c) Authority or mechanism for implementation
- d) Programmes for research, monitoring, education and training

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Does the biosphere reserve have cooperative activities with other biosphere reserves (exchanges of information and personnel, joint programmes, etc.)?

At the national level:

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Through twinning and/or transboundary biosphere reserves:

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Within the World Network (including Regional Networks):

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Obstacles encountered, measures to be taken and, if appropriate, assistance expected from the Secretariat

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ANNEX

THE STATUTORY FRAMEWORK OF THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Introduction

Within UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme, biosphere reserves are established to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere. Biosphere reserves are designated by the International Co-ordinating Council of the MAB Programme, at the request of the State concerned. Biosphere reserves, each of which remains under the sole sovereignty of the State where it is situated and thereby submitted to State legislation only, form a World Network in which participation by the States is voluntary.

The present Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves has been formulated with the objectives of enhancing the effectiveness of individual biosphere reserves and strengthening common understanding, communication and co-operation at regional and international levels.

This Statutory Framework is intended to contribute to the widespread recognition of biosphere reserves and to encourage and promote good working examples. The delisting procedure foreseen should be considered as an exception to this basically positive approach, and should be applied only after careful examination, paying due respect to the cultural and socio-economic situation of the country, and after consulting the government concerned.

The text provides for the designation, support and promotion of biosphere reserves, while taking account of the diversity of national and local situations. States are encouraged to elaborate and implement national criteria for biosphere reserves which take into account the special conditions of the State concerned.

Article 1 - Definition

Biosphere reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof, which are internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO's programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), in accordance with the present Statutory Framework.

Article 2 - World Network of Biosphere Reserves

1. Biosphere reserves form a worldwide network, known as the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, hereafter called the Network.
2. The Network constitutes a tool for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, thus contributing to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other pertinent conventions and instruments.
3. Individual biosphere reserves remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the States where they are situated. Under the present Statutory Framework, States take the measures which they deem necessary according to their national legislation.

Article 3 - Functions

In combining the three functions below, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale:

- (i) conservation - contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;

- (ii) development - foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- (iii) logistic support - support for demonstration projects, environmental education and training, research and monitoring related to local, regional, national and global issues of conservation and sustainable development.

Article 4 - Criteria

General criteria for an area to be qualified for designation as a biosphere reserve:

1. It should encompass a mosaic of ecological systems representative of major biogeographic regions, including a gradation of human interventions.
2. It should be of significance for biological diversity conservation.
3. It should provide an opportunity to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale.
4. It should have an appropriate size to serve the three functions of biosphere reserves, as set out in Article 3.
5. It should include these functions, through appropriate zonation, recognizing:
 - (a) a legally constituted core area or areas devoted to long-term protection, according to the conservation objectives of the biosphere reserve, and of sufficient size to meet these objectives;
 - (b) a buffer zone or zones clearly identified and surrounding or contiguous to the core area or areas, where only activities compatible with the conservation objectives can take place;
 - (c) an outer transition area where sustainable resource management practices are promoted and developed.
6. Organizational arrangements should be provided for the involvement and participation of a suitable range of inter alia public authorities, local communities and private interests in the design and carrying out the functions of a biosphere reserve.
7. In addition, provisions should be made for:
 - (a) mechanisms to manage human use and activities in the buffer zone or zones;
 - (b) a management policy or plan for the area as a biosphere reserve;
 - (c) a designated authority or mechanism to implement this policy or plan;
 - (d) programmes for research, monitoring, education and training.

Article 5 - Designation procedure

1. Biosphere reserves are designated for inclusion in the Network by the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB programme in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (a) States, through National MAB Committees where appropriate, forward nominations with supporting documentation to the secretariat after having reviewed potential sites, taking into account the criteria as defined in Article 4;
 - (b) the secretariat verifies the content and supporting documentation: in the case of incomplete nomination, the secretariat requests the missing information from the nominating State;
 - (c) nominations will be considered by the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves for recommendation to ICC;
 - (d) ICC of the MAB programme takes a decision on nominations for designation. The Director-General of UNESCO notifies the State concerned of the decision of ICC.
2. States are encouraged to examine and improve the adequacy of any existing biosphere reserve, and to propose extension as appropriate, to enable it to function

fully within the Network. Proposals for extension follow the same procedure as described above for new designations.

3. Biosphere reserves which have been designated before the adoption of the present Statutory Framework are considered to be already part of the Network. The provisions of the Statutory Framework therefore apply to them.

Article 6 - Publicity

1. The designation of an area as a biosphere reserve should be given appropriate publicity by the State and authorities concerned, including commemorative plaques and dissemination of information material.

2. Biosphere reserves within the Network, as well as the objectives, should be given appropriate and continuing promotion.

Article 7 - Participation in the Network

1. States participate in or facilitate co-operative activities of the Network, including scientific research and monitoring, at the global, regional and sub-regional levels.

2. The appropriate authorities should make available the results of research, associated publications and other data, taking into account intellectual property rights, in order to ensure the proper functioning of the Network and maximize the benefits from information exchanges.

3. States and appropriate authorities should promote environmental education and training, as well as the development of human resources, in co-operation with other biosphere reserves in the Network.

Article 8 - Regional and thematic subnetworks

States should encourage the constitution and co-operative operation of regional and/or thematic subnetworks of biosphere reserves, and promote development of information exchanges, including electronic information, within the framework of these subnetworks.

Article 9 - Periodic review

1. The status of each biosphere reserve should be subject to a periodic review every ten years, based on a report prepared by the concerned authority, on the basis of the criteria of Article 4, and forwarded to the secretariat by the State concerned.

2. The report will be considered by the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves for recommendation to ICC.

3. ICC will examine the periodic reports from States concerned.

4. If ICC considers that the status or management of the biosphere reserve is satisfactory, or has improved since designation or the last review, this will be formally recognized by ICC.

5. If ICC considers that the biosphere reserve no longer satisfies the criteria contained in Article 4, it may recommend that the State concerned take measures to ensure conformity with the provisions of Article 4, taking into account the cultural and socio-economic context of the State concerned. ICC indicates to the secretariat actions that it should take to assist the State concerned in the implementation of such measures.

6. Should ICC find that the biosphere reserve in question still does not satisfy the criteria contained in Article 4, within a reasonable period, the area will no longer be referred to as a biosphere reserve which is part of the Network.

7. The Director-General of UNESCO notifies the State concerned of the decision of ICC.

8. Should a State wish to remove a biosphere reserve under its jurisdiction from the Network, it notifies the secretariat. This notification shall be transmitted to ICC for information. The area will then no longer be referred to as a biosphere reserve which is part of the Network.

Article 10 - Secretariat

1. UNESCO shall act as the secretariat of the Network and be responsible for its functioning and promotion. The secretariat shall facilitate communication and interaction among individual biosphere reserves and among experts. UNESCO shall also develop and maintain a worldwide accessible information system on biosphere reserves, to be linked to other relevant initiatives.

2. In order to reinforce individual biosphere reserves and the functioning of the Network and sub-networks, UNESCO shall seek financial support from bilateral and multilateral sources.

3. The list of biosphere reserves forming part of the Network, their objectives and descriptive details, shall be updated, published and distributed by the secretariat periodically.