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

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Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda: PERIODIC REVIEW OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND FOLLOW-UP RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Secretariat has received 75 reports from 30 countries, including 45 Vallée du reports as implementation of the Exit strategy (Annex 1) and 69 follow-up information from 22 countries which are presented in the Annex 2.
2. During its meeting held from 25 to 28 January 2016 in Paris, the Members of the Advisory Committee reviewed these 75 periodic review reports and 69 follow-up information.
3. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on each of these sites are included in the Annex I and Annex II of this document. These recommendations have been transmitted to the concerned countries for follow-up. Since the adoption of the exit strategy, the Advisory Committee made specific efforts that each recommendation state clearly if the site is or is not meeting the criteria of the Statutory Framework. In order to implement the exit strategy, the members of the Advisory Committee were invited to consider if they have necessary information to evaluate if the sites are meeting the criteria.
4. At its 27th session in UNESCO Headquarters (May 2015), the MAB Council agreed that there will be no change in the deadline for countries to submit their reports (i.e. 30 September 2015) and that the final decisions would be taken by the Council when it next meets at its 29th session in the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris. It was also decided that at its 28th session, the MAB Council will formally recognize the sites which meet the criteria, in line with paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
5. The MAB Council is invited to comment on the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee.

Annex 1: Periodic Review Reports considered by the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves during its 22nd meeting held at UNESCO Headquarters, 25-28 January 2016

*** Exit Strategy**

Country	Name of the site
ALGERIA	El Kala*
	Gouraya
	Taza
ARGENTINA	Delta del Paraná*
AUSTRIA	Wienerwald
BRASIL	Espinhaço Range
	Amazônia Central*
	Caatinga*
	Cerrado*
BURKINA FASO	Mare aux Hippopotames*
	W (partie Burkina Faso)*
BULGARIA	Steneto*
	Tsaritchina*
	Srebarna*
	Doupkata*
	Koupena*
	Mantaritsa*
	Ali Botoush*
	Bistrishko-Branishte*
	Tchouprene *
	Kamtchia*
	Parangalitza*
	Bayouvi-Doupki Dzhindzhiritsa*
	Boatine*
	Tchervenata Stena*
Djendema*	
Ouzounbodjak*	
CAMEROON	Waza*
	Benoué *
CANADA	Georgian Bay
CHINA	Bogeda*
	Xishuangbanna*
CZECH REPUBLIC	Trebon Basin
RDC	Yangambi*
	Lufira*
DENMARK	Northeast Greenland*
ECUADOR	Sumaco*
	Archipiélago de Colón*
ESTONIA	West Estonian Archipelago
FRANCE	Vallée du Fango
GREECE	Mount Olympus*
KENYA	Malindi Watamu*
	Mount Kenya*
	Kiunga*

MEXICO	Sian Ka'an
	Banco Chinchorro
	El Triunfo
	Ría Lagartos
	Ría Celestún
MONGOLIA	Bogd-Khan
	Uvs Nuur Basin
	Great Gobi
	Dornod Mongol
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Voronezhsky*
	Kedrovaya Pad
	Laplandskiy State Nature*
	Tsentrál'nochernozem*
SERBIA	Golija-Studenica*
SOUTH AFRICA	Cape West Coast*
SPAIN	Alto Bernesga
	Área del Allariz
	Gran Canaria
	Los Arguellos
	Sierra del Rincón
	Valles de Omaña-Luna
SUDAN	Dinder
SWEDEN	Kristianstad Vattenrike
TANZANIA	Ngorongoro-Serengeti
	Lake Manyara*
	East Usambara*
UKRAINE	Shatskyi
UK	North Devon
USA	Rocky Mountain*
YEMEN	Socotra Island

El Kala Biosphere Reserve (Algeria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report from El Kala Biosphere Reserve which was designated in 1990. The Advisory Committee acknowledged the Biosphere Reserve's efforts to comply with the recommendations made in 2002 following the biosphere reserve's first periodic review. In particular, several studies on the ecological state of the site, notably for the elaboration of a management plan for wetlands, and on socio-economic characteristics of the local populations have been undertaken in order to identify appropriate local engagement processes. Among these, support and training for the development of beekeeping involving both men and women has to be mentioned in particular. The Advisory Committee congratulated the biosphere reserve for having become a reference that is often consulted by national and local authorities in the realm of ecological sustainability and for its capacity to build several national and international collaboration arrangements.

Integration of local populations is undertaken through economic developments and volunteering opportunities. However, the biosphere reserve is managed following El-Kala National Park's management plan and by its "conseil d'orientation" (orientation council), in which civil society is present only through one association representative. The increase of participatory processes within the Biosphere Reserve as stated in the objectives for the coming years are thus strongly encouraged.

Following the request made in conjunction with the first periodic review, Algeria had submitted a revised and extended zoning of the biosphere reserve that met with the Advisory Committee's full approval. Subsequently, together with other positive developments reported on, the Advisory Committee concluded that the El Kala Biosphere Reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee also recommended that the MAB ICC approves the extension of this biosphere reserve.

Gouraya Biosphere Reserve (Algeria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review from Gouraya Biosphere Reserve which was designated in 2004. The Advisory Committee congratulated the authorities for the positive developments in territorial planning that have taken place since its designation. Among which are the closing of a quarry, the delocalization of a landfill site and the infrastructure developments facilitating transport and access to previously isolated villages.

A strong scientific research activity is reported, implemented through conventions with several national and international universities on the biosphere reserve's natural resources but that also resulted in the recovering of historical sites of national value. Environmental education and ecotourism development have been translated into the creation of four eco-museums, hiking trails while open communication is achieved through a dedicated website and the biosphere reserve's presence in the social media.

Noteworthy is the reported recruitment of 1,500 people in the biosphere reserve since its designation. The inclusion of local people is described as happening at the implementation level of the site's management plan. Rural development projects and ecotourism projects have thus been built with associations from the civil society and beekeeping has been supported through training. However, participation of local communities is currently not foreseen in management planning, decision making and new territorial plans and should therefore be more encouraged.

While, the Advisory Committee acknowledged with appreciation the ongoing work to extend the transition zone to include several additional municipalities, it requested that a clarification be provided concerning the status, detailed rationale, and the surface figures provided in relation to these changes. In particular, the authorities are invited to specify if the measures in the table on surface area and spatial configuration constitute a formal proposal, or if it is work in progress yet to be finalized, and if they represent additions to current surface area and not updated figures of the total area. Similarly, the measures indicated in the table have to be made coherent with the information contained in the maps. The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere

reserve **meets** the criteria. The authorities are requested to provide the requested clarification and documents to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

The Advisory Committee also recommended that the MAB ICC approves the extension of this biosphere reserve.

Taza Biosphere Reserve (Algeria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review from Taza Biosphere Reserve which was designated in 2004. It acknowledged the extension of the transition zone to a marine area and the revision of the biosphere reserve's internal organization, with the creation of a scientific committee to determine research priorities and coordinate the collaboration of research institutions. As a consequence of the biosphere reserve's scientific research efforts and the establishment of conventions with universities, the discovery of new animal species (butterflies and bats) and an increase in the number of inventoried species have to be cited.

Studies targeted biological diversity as well as cultural history and traditional cultural knowledge has been promoted through media coverage. In parallel, the revival of some traditional practices such as pottery or mountain agriculture has been observed. The Advisory Committee congratulated the authorities for their commitment to local development. In particular, socio-economic studies were performed to identify the needs of the local population and training sessions (beekeeping, arboriculture, ecotourism etc.) held as a means for capacity building. This approach provides a good example of the site's compliance with the biosphere reserve concept. Further the biosphere reserve's ability to face ad-hoc problems, such as beach pollution due to over-frequented, through the creation of field units has to be emphasized.

To date, the local population is participating in the implementation of the BR's management plan by being the recipient of training sessions and environmental education programs or by contributing in voluntary activities (cleaning for instance). However, these processes remain mainly top-down while local populations are not included in the elaboration of the management plan nor in decision making. Therefore, the Advisory committee encourages Taza Biosphere Reserve to work towards more participatory processes.

The Advisory Committee considers that Taza Biosphere Reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the MAB ICC approves the extension of this biosphere reserve.

Delta del Paraná (Argentina) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2000, that covers an area of 88,624 ha. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the great work done in this biosphere reserve for the last ten years. The national authorities implemented in 2008 the Integral Strategic Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Paraná Delta Region (PIECAS—DP) for a better land-use regulation. The organization of the symposium in 2010 "Delta del Paraná: Historia, presente y futuro" with a large contribution of different actors on the role of the Biosphere Reserve helped to improve the management and analyze the contributions made during the past years.

The Advisory Committee considered that this biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, the Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities reinforce the Management Committee, present the Management Plan and also improve the zoning system in order to ensure the protection of the core area located at the border with Uruguay. The national authorities are requested to complete the dossier, and to submit the shape files of the zoning system to the MAB Secretariat.

Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Austria) The Advisory Committee welcomed this first periodic review of Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, established in 2005. The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve covers an area of 105,645 hectares and extends across 51 communities in Lower Austria and seven municipal districts in Vienna and is the largest contiguous beech woodland in

Central Europe. The biosphere reserve contains 20 types of woodland – with beech, oak and hornbeam dominating – and more than 17 types of meadow. There are more than 2,000 plant species and around 150 species of breeding birds. Cultural landscape is shaped by vineyards and dry stone walls.

The Advisory Committee took note of the diversity of projects in the field of nature conservation that acted as a bridge between science and society. Through very successful involvement of various stakeholders, they introduced sustainable farming with support of local economy through well-functioning partnership. The education and public awareness are harmoniously incorporated in all three functions of biosphere reserve.

In addition to conservation projects, the biosphere reserve supports social involvement of local people, provides training for young people, and promotes the area through traditional knowledge, recognized as intangible heritage, healthy food and environment, creating green society also through transgenerational projects.

The management plan is based on participatory approach that was introduced through the project Wienerwald BR 2020 Vision, where inhabitants are proposing activities. The action plan is a tool for further management of the site. The Advisory Committee recommended that this methodology can be used as a model for other biosphere reserves.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee commended the management authority on the very well prepared periodic review report. The Advisory Committee recommended that the report is used as model for periodic review report for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and commended the participatory approaches in implementing sustainable development and nature conservation, as well as the management of a biosphere reserve close to a capital city.

Espinhaço Range Biosphere Reserve (Brazil) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2005 and congratulated the national authorities for the high quality of the information provided. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the work done in this biosphere reserve for the last ten years in order to promote conservation and sustainable development (training courses, seminars, and development of educational and information material) in line with the principle of the Biosphere Reserve.

The Advisory Committee considered that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, however, recommended to put more attention on mining activities developed in the Biosphere Reserve and explore how to better manage them.

Amazônia Central Biosphere Reserve (Brazil) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2001 and noted the achievement made by the Biosphere Reserve taking into account the difficulties of the Amazonian region. The Advisory Committee noted as well, that there is an overlapping of national and international designations in the Biosphere Reserve area - Biological Corridor, Ramsar site and World Heritage sites – that reflects the importance of conservation of this area.

The Advisory Committee considered that the site **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and recommended to:

- revise and update the management plan and structure of the Biosphere Reserve to reinforce the harmonization with the other national and international designations
- ensure a stable funds to guarantee the continuity of the activities implemented.

Caatinga Biosphere Reserve (Brazil) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2001. The Advisory Committee thanked the national authority for the submission of the information provided in this report and noted the important work carried out by this Biosphere Reserve to fulfill sustainable development objectives. It noted the importance of the contribution of the State Committees of the biosphere reserve,

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site meets the criteria. However, the Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities restructure the management committee and reinforce the national council and the management system of this biosphere reserve. The authorities are also requested to submit an updated management plan.

Cerrado Biosphere Reserve (Brazil) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 1994, and extended in 2000 and in 2001. The Phase one is actually working and achieved the objective of the Seville strategy, however, it was not possible to evaluate the situation of phase 2 and 3, as no information was provided by the national authorities. The Advisory Committee concluded that additional information should be provided to enable it to assess whether this biosphere reserve meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee requested that the national authorities submit a new Periodic Review Report to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016 with information covering all the entire biosphere reserve, including the extension of phase 2 and 3. The national authorities are also requested to define clearly the management committee and management plan for the biosphere reserve, including the extension of phase 2 and 3, and to send clear digital and printed cartography of the whole Biosphere Reserve.

Pantanal Biosphere Reserve (Brazil) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2000. Pantanal is the biggest continental wetland in the world. There are good conservation practices. It works as a biosphere reserve but the management plan has not been implemented. The Advisory Committee noted the important work made by the national and states authorities, NGOs and private partners to ensure the conservation of the cultural and environmental values of the Pantanal area as well as the sustainable development of the local communities. However, the Advisory Committee noted that activities were not promoting directly by the Biosphere Reserve because the management structure was not operational. It encouraged to revitalize the structure of the Biosphere Reserve to become the promotor of the management of this important area as a model of sustainable development of the region.

The Advisory Committee considered that the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

- Submit report of the activation of the management committee by 30 September 2016.
- Present a management plan for the biosphere reserve.
- Promote the communication of Pantanal as a biosphere reserve.

Mare aux Hippopotames Biosphere Reserve (Burkina Faso) The Advisory Committee welcomed this second periodic review of a site established in 1987 located in the south east part of the country. The area comprises of various humid ecosystems as well as dry forests and savannas. The biosphere reserve has been named after a pond, the “Mare aux hippo”, which is the habitat of an important population of hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibious*). It is an important concentration area for migratory birds (more than 160 species) designated as a Ramsar site (1990) and an Important Bird Area (IBA). This biosphere reserve has been an active member of the “Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands” project completed in 2014 and which build resilience capacity of BR to climate change.

The Advisory Committee commended the country for the participatory process of the periodic review at local, regional and national level which involved all categories of stakeholders and acknowledged the implementation by the national authorities of the recommendations of the ICC following the 1997 periodic review.

The Advisory Committee noted that a number of community based organizations are involved in the management of the biosphere reserve. A number of participative local and regional management plan have been developed since the last periodic review. The newly developed management plan (2016 -2025) has been endorsed by regional authorities but was not provided. A number of development activities, including tourism, have been implemented increasing the income of communities. Environmental education programmes are also implemented. Communication in the area has been improved by establishment of a community radio. However, the Advisory Committee noted confusion with the definition of logistic function under *section 2.2.6.*, which mentioned infrastructures (lodge, radio infrastructure, etc.).

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the reinforcement of the management team. A number of activities towards the conservation function have been conducted with a positive impact of the pond dimension and the density of fauna. However, it noted with concern the presence of invasive species.

The Advisory Committee commended the national authorities for the establishment of the “Fonds d’Intérêt Collectif (FIC)” in support of communities living around fauna reserves and requested the national authorities to provide a signed copy of gazette legal act.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the Mare aux Hippo Biosphere Reserve **meets** the criteria of the statutory framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). The advisory committee requested that a copy of the management plan (2016-2025) be sent to the MAB Secretariat by 30th September 2016.

W Biosphere Reserve (Burkina Faso) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review of this site established in 2002 and which is part of the transboundary W Biosphere Reserve with Niger and Benin.

The site is located in the south eastern part of the country. The biosphere reserve is home to a wide and varied biodiversity. The ‘W’ Region also constitutes a barrier against the advance of desertification from the north. The area hosts one of the largest populations of ungulates in West Africa and also comprises wetlands of international importance recognized under the Ramsar Convention. Wild plant species continue to play an important role in traditional land use and agriculture.

The Advisory Committee noted the extension of 26 000 ha of the buffer zone by addition of the Koakrana fauna reserve. The Advisory Committee acknowledged the update of the management plan (2015-2024). It commended the country for the participatory process of the periodic review at local, regional and national level which involved all categories of stakeholders.

The Advisory Committee recognized the involvement of the communities in the management of the biosphere reserve through several communities based organizations improving the development function of the biosphere reserve. Capacity building to improve the governance of the biosphere reserve has been done. The logistical function has been promoted through biological and socio economic research as well as monitoring activities. The Advisory Committee invited the national authorities to pay attention to the reporting of logistic function under section 2.2.6.

The Advisory Committee commended the national authorities for the establishment of the “Fonds d’Intérêt Collectif (FIC)” in support of communities leaving around fauna reserves and requested the national authorities to provide a signed copy of gazette legal act.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the W Biosphere reserve (Burkina Faso) **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). The Advisory Committee requested that the national authorities send a new nomination form for the extension of the biosphere for its approval by the MAB ICC and a copy of the management plan (2015-2024) to the MAB Secretariat by 30th September 2016.

General recommendation to Bulgaria

The Advisory Committee noted that all the Bulgarian biosphere reserves have been designated before the adoption of the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework. Their zonation is not meeting the statutory framework criteria as only the conservation function and partly the logistic function have been implemented. The Advisory Committee acknowledged that in response to the MAB Council adoption of the Exit Strategy, a national Expert Group was established in 2013 and that also the MAB National Committee was enlarged to include all major stakeholders. It also welcomed the mentioned plan to fund review of the Bulgarian network of biosphere reserves within the Operational Program 'Environment' (2014 – 2020). The Advisory Committee acknowledged the unique contribution of the sites to conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems as well as contribution to scientific research.

The Advisory Committee noted that all Bulgarian biosphere reserves share the same borders with specific nature conservation areas, under the national legislation. As the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria and the specific Bulgarian legislation – Protected Areas Act, allow no human settlements within their boundaries, the biosphere reserves in Bulgaria are with no inhabitants.

The Advisory Committee recommended that drastic changes need to be made on the spatial structure of the biosphere reserves to include inhabited areas, to consider new zonation scheme, for building a shared common vision with diverse stakeholders and relevant management structures and management plans for the sites that will equally reflect all the three functions of a biosphere reserve.

Therefore, the Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities consider the withdrawal of all but one biosphere reserves and strongly encouraged the authorities to submit new proposals based on the implementation of the Statutory Framework criteria, the involvement and active participation of stakeholders, including local communities in the nomination process. The MAB Secretariat and the UNESCO Venice office will be at the disposal of the Bulgarian authorities to assist in this process.

Steneto Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report of this biosphere reserve, designated in 1977. The biosphere reserve is located within Central Balkan National Park (CBNP) in the central part of the country.

It noted that there is no clear distinction between the national park and the biosphere reserve. Steneto Biosphere Reserve has the highest legal protection according to the national legislation, therefore no human activities related to use of natural resources are allowed. The conservation and the logistic functions are of high standards, nevertheless the development function is not implemented in the site.

It also noted the existence of a Public Advisory Council under Central Balkan National Park Directorate, with stakeholder groups from the surrounding areas. However, there is no one in charge of the biosphere reserve management.

It also acknowledged the lengthy and ongoing efforts to fulfill the Seville strategy criteria, but considered that Steneto Biosphere Reserve still has no adequate zonation in place, that there is no population living within the biosphere reserve and that its primary focus on nature conservation does not reflect the value of the three functions of a biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities may consider withdrawal of the current site due to the following reason:

there are no inhabitants in the biosphere reserve
the three functions are not being implemented
the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Tsaritchina Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review of this biosphere reserve, designated in 1977. The biosphere reserve is located within Central Balkan National Park (CBNP) in the central part of the country. There is no clear distinction between the national park and the biosphere. The national legislation does not allow any kind of human activities or use of natural resources within the Tsaritchina biosphere reserve. The conservation and the logistic functions are fulfilled through the National park agenda, nevertheless the development function is not implemented. The Advisory Committee noted the existence of a Public Advisory Council for the national park, but that there is no coordination structure established for the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concurred as written in the document that this biosphere reserve remains in the pre-Seville state. It noted efforts made over the last few years ~~have~~ to remedy the situation, but despite these efforts Tsaritchina Biosphere Reserve has only a core area in place. It also noted that no population is living within the biosphere reserve and its primary focus is on nature conservation.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve. It concurred with the authorities, that the Central Balkan National Park is suitable to form the core area and buffer zone of a biosphere reserve whereas the transition area could be constituted by the territory of the municipalities adjacent to the park, as there is no need for the transition area to have any nature conservation status.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Srébarna Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report of this biosphere reserve, designated in 1977. The biosphere reserve is located within Srébarna Managed Reserve in the north east part of the country. The area has high

biodiversity value and has been listed as a World Heritage Site, Ramsar site and also Natura 2000 site.

There is no clear distinction between the nature reserve and the biosphere reserve. According to the Constitution of Republic of Bulgaria and the specific Bulgarian legislation, there is no human activity or settlement allowed within the Srébarna Biosphere Reserve. The only exceptions are limited management measures to improve habitats. The nature reserve administration agenda includes conservation and logistic functions, but the development function in the biosphere reserve is not fulfilled. The Advisory Committee also noted, that there is no coordination structure established for the biosphere reserve.

It also noted that the authorities agree that this biosphere reserve remains in the pre-Seville state. It also noted the efforts made over the last few years to improve the situation. However, Srébarna Biosphere Reserve has no permanent residents and the zonation is limited to a core area. The three functions of the site are not performed equally as nature conservation dominates above all.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Doupkata Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report of this biosphere reserve, designated in 1977. The biosphere reserve is located within Doupkata Nature Reserve in the Western Rhodopi Mountains. The area has high biodiversity value and is included in the Natura 2000 network.

It noted that there is no clear distinction between the nature reserve and the biosphere reserve. According to Bulgarian legislation, no human activity or settlement is allowed within the Doupkata Biosphere Reserve. The conservation function and partly the logistic functions have been implemented, but the development function is not fulfilled, despite some attempts to cooperate with municipalities outside the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee also noted that there is no coordination structure or management plan established for the biosphere reserve.

It also noted that the authorities agree that Doupkata only contained core area and buffer zones and that no inhabitants reside within the site. It noted the efforts made at the national level over the last years but considered that the potential of Doupkata to become a biosphere reserve has not yet been investigated in details.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve, especially as regards its crucial role for maintaining ecosystems.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Koupena Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report of this biosphere reserve, designated in 1977. The biosphere reserve is located within Koupena Nature Reserve in the Western Rhodopi Mountains in the southwestern part of the country. The area is rich in biodiversity and has been included in the Natura 2000 network.

It noted that there is no clear distinction between the Koupena Nature Reserve and the biosphere reserve. The conservation function and partly the logistic functions have been implemented but the development function in the biosphere reserve is not fulfilled. The Advisory Committee also noted that there is no participative coordination structure or management plan established for the biosphere reserve.

The biosphere reserve has only a core area which is a strict nature reserve and according to the national legislation, no population is allowed to live within the area. It acknowledged the efforts of the national authorities over the past few years to upgrade Bulgarian biosphere reserves but noted that there have been no satisfactory results achieved yet. It also noted that the potential of Koupena to become a functioning biosphere reserve has not been investigated in details.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve, especially as regards its crucial role for maintaining ecosystems.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Mantaritza Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review of this biosphere reserve, designated in 1977. The biosphere reserve is located within Mantaritza Nature Reserve in the Western Rhodopi Mts. in the southwestern part of the country. The rich biodiversity was the reason for declaring the area a part of the Natura 2000 network.

It noted that the biosphere reserve is not fulfilling its functions because there is no clear distinction between the Mantaritza Nature Reserve and the biosphere reserve. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria and Protected Areas Act, nature reserves (corresponding to Protected Area Category I of IUCN) do not allow any human settlements within their boundaries. The conservation function and partly the logistic function have been implemented but the development function is nonexistent. Currently the biosphere reserve is limited to a core area. The Advisory Committee also noted that there is no participative coordination structure, stakeholder involvement or management plan established for the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve, especially as regards its crucial role for maintaining ecosystems.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Ali Botouch Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed this first periodic review of Ali Botouch Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1997. The biosphere reserve is located in Mountain Slavyanka next to Bulgarian – Greek border. The site comprises three major types of ecosystems – forests, grasslands and lands with no or sparse vegetation. The protected area was established in order to protect the unique relic forest with *Pinus helledichii*, *Pinus nigra*, *Abies borisii-regis*.

The core area size is 1,638.1 ha with surrounding buffer zone that covers an area of 701.3 ha and was established in 1985 according to national legislation. There is no transition area and no people are living in the biosphere reserve. The activities in the area are related to conservation, research and biodiversity monitoring. Tourism activities are restricted.

The biosphere reserve is managed by the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Blagoevgrad. The draft for management plan of the nature reserve has recently been elaborated. There are no activities neither implemented nor planned for promotion of sustainable development.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Bistrishko Branishtë Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed this first periodic review of Bistrishko Branishtë Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1997. Bistrishko Branishtë is located on the south-eastern slope of Mount Vitosha and it is distinguished by centuries-old natural spruce forests. The biosphere reserve covers an area of 1061.6 ha. There is only a core area. It is a part of Vitosha Nature Park. The management authority is the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Sofia.

There are no people living in the site. The vicinity of the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia results in a large number of tourists visiting marked trails. It noted that there is no data on monitoring of tourism activity and its impact. Currently, local population is involved in drawing up of the management plan through public hearings and consultation. Local community are regularly involved in different eco-events in Vitosha Nature Park, e.g. cleaning along the marked tourist trails in the reserve and campaigns for raising public awareness on environmental issues.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Tchouprené Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed this first periodic review of Tchouprené Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1977. Tchouprené was declared as a strict nature reserve with an area of 936.5 ha by Order No 358/09.02.1973. In 1979 the surface area of the reserve was enlarged to 1,439.2 ha. In 2011 as a result of more precise measuring, the area of the reserve was estimated to 1,451.9935 ha. It was initially established to protect the only compact *Picea abies* forest in the Western Stara Planina Mts. in their natural state, as well as to protect some rare animals, e.g., the Western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), the Red crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), and the Wildcat (*Felis sylvestris*). The reserve is situated in the Western Stara Planina Mts (the Balkan Range) just next to the Bulgarian-Serbian border.

A buffer zone was designated in 1986 according to the national legislation. The site is managed by the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Montana. The Advisory Committee noted that regular scientific research has been carried out. Research for elaboration of Management Plan has been carried out for the past two years.

There are no people living in the biosphere reserve. The tourist activity in the biosphere reserve is limited to hiking in one marked trail. During the periodic review process, Tchouprené Municipality was contacted to provide information. Representatives of the local communities are currently not involved in the work of the biosphere reserve with the rare exception of cases of extinguishing fires and restoration works after other natural disasters.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Kamtchia Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed this first periodic review of Kamtchia Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1977. The site is located in south-eastern Bulgaria, on the northern Black Sea coast around the mouth River Kamtchia. The area is distinguished by floodplain forest and large number of bird species. The biosphere reserve covers a total area of 849.7531 ha and a buffer zone of 230 ha. There is no transition area. The site is managed by the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water in Varna. There is no staff engaged in management nor rangers present. There are no people living in the site. The local communities are not actively involved in the management of the biosphere reserve. Due to financial constraints, educational activities are limited.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Parangalitza Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed this first periodic review of Parangalitza Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1997. The site occupies part of the south-western slopes of Rila Mountain, and it is located within the borders of Rila National park. It encompasses some of the oldest spruce forests in Europe, presenting habitats for the 290 higher plants and numerous animal species protected by law and listed in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria. Springs of the river Maritza are located in the site as well as 120 natural lakes of glacial origin.

The surface of Parangalitza Biosphere Reserve is 1,509.0 ha, and includes only a core area consisting of four nature reserves; Parangalitza, Central Rila Reserve, Ibar, Skakavitsa, Rila monastery forest. There are no buffer zone and transition area. There are no people living in the biosphere reserve. The biosphere reserve is managed by Rila National Park Directorate. The biosphere reserve has well developed conservation and logistic function, but no development function nor proper zonation scheme.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Doupki Djindjiritza Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this sites established in 1977. The Advisory Committee appreciated the project aimed at revitalizing the biosphere reserves in Bulgaria that was implemented in 2008-2009, and the establishment of working groups by the MOEW in 2012. These initiatives focused on promoting the implementation of the Seville Strategy, and strengthening the role of local stakeholders. The Advisory Committee, however, regretted that these initiatives have not resulted in a follow-up in the Doupki Djindjiritza Biosphere Reserve.

The zonation of the current site does not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework. The site lacks buffer zones and transition areas. According to the authorities, there is a potential for revising of Doupki Djindjiritza diritsa Biosphere Reserve by considering the whole territory of Pirin National Park (40,356 ha) as well as the adjacent municipalities. The Advisory Committee recommended exploring this possibility, but only if this is combined with a clear view of what the objectives would be in terms of the three functions of the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Boatin Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this site established in 1977. The Advisory Committee appreciated the efforts made through the Operational Program Environment 2007 – 2013, which funded several projects to improve tourist information and infrastructure in the site, the restoration of degraded habitats, and the elaboration of a new management plan for the biosphere reserve.

It noted that the next cycle of the Operational Program envisages the funding of a comprehensive study of the opportunities for adjusting the site – as well as other biosphere reserves that are part of the Central Balkan National Park - to meet the requirements of the Statutory Framework. The study will be conducted within the process for elaboration of management plan for the Central Balkan as a Natura 2000 site. It also noted that the zonation of the biosphere reserve does not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework as it lacks buffer zones and transition areas. The Advisory Committee expressed concerns, however, about the possibilities of aligning the Natura 2000 criteria with those of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Tchervenata Sténa Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this site established in 1977. The Advisory Committee appreciates the efforts made through the Operational Program Environment 2007 – 2013, as well as the efforts made to use the biosphere reserves territory for local socio-economic development, notably through the establishment of small family-run guesthouses and the promotion of local organic production. These operations benefit from the nearby presence of the Bachkovo Monastery.

Currently, the zonation of the site – with only core and buffer zones, and no transition zone – does not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework. The authorities remark that the next cycle of the Operational Program Environment (2014-2020) includes a study on the possibilities of opportunities to adjust the requirements of the Seville Strategy.

The Advisory committee recommended exploring this possibility, and the submission of an extension of the site, but only if this is combined with a clear view of what the objectives would be in terms of the three functions of the biosphere reserve and the participation of local communities in the management of the site. The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Djendema Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this site established in 1977. The Advisory Committee appreciated the efforts made through the Operational Program Environment 2007 – 2013, which funded several projects to improve tourist information and infrastructure in the site, the restoration of degraded habitats, and the elaboration of a new management plan for the biosphere reserve.

The next cycle of the Operational Program envisages the funding of a comprehensive study of the opportunities for adjusting the site– as well as other biosphere reserves that are part of the Central Balkan National Park - to meet the requirements of the Statutory Framework. The study will be provided within the process for elaboration of management plan for the Central Balkan as a Natura 2000 site.

It noted that the zonation of the site does not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework; as it lacks buffer zones and transition areas. The Advisory Committee expressed concerns, however, about the possibilities of aligning the Natura 2000 criteria with those of the Statutory Framework of the Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

Consider withdrawal of the current site as there are no inhabitants, that the three functions are not being implemented and that the zonation is not meeting the criteria.

The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to prepare a new proposal for a biosphere reserve that would include local communities and of a sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

Ouzounboudjak Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this site established in 1977. The Advisory Committee appreciates the implementation of the project entitled 'Collaboration for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Local Development in Strandzha', which was conducted between 2009 and 2012, and aimed at demonstrating benefits for local people from Pas and their participation in biodiversity conservation.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the initiative to revise the zonation of the biosphere reserve by including buffer zones and transition areas, including 26 protected areas and 19 settlements with a total of 12,300 residents. The periodic review report mentions that the nomination form for an extended biosphere reserve has been filled in.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to submit the nomination form, as the present zonation of the site does not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework. The nomination form should also contain detailed information on the participation of local communities in the management of the proposed extension. The Advisory Committee also recommended further exploration of the possibility of establishing a transboundary biosphere reserve in cooperation with Turkey.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the relevant authorities to comply with the MAB Programme requirements and considered that the region has great potential to become a functioning biosphere reserve. Despite these efforts, the Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee recommended to the national authorities to submit to the MAB Secretariat the new proposal for extension by 30 September 2016 using the nomination form, which would include the involvement of local communities. The proposed site should be of sufficient size to ensure that all three functions can be fully implemented.

General recommendation to Cameroon

The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report of Benoué Biosphere Reserve (BR) and Waza Biosphere Reserve established respectively in 1981 and 1979. The recommendations of MAB ICC following the submission of the periodic review of both biosphere reserves in 2006 stated that the zonation should be reviewed, the collaboration with stakeholders fostered especially through implementation of participatory management plans. The advisory committee noted that the zonation of both sites still does not meet the criteria of the statutory framework of the world network of biosphere reserves and needs further improvement with regards to the definition of the three categories: core area, buffer zone and transition area which are not clearly identified in any of the maps provided. The advisory committee acknowledged the participatory process of the periodic review.

Waza Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon) The Waza Biosphere Reserve is located in the Chad depression in the extreme north of Cameroon. The area is characterized by low relief without any permanent rivers, with rocky outcrops around Waza village rising to over 500 meters. Lake Chad once covered part of the area, while today the Yaéré floodplains with perennial grasses are vital to the carrying capacity of the Waza region. The fauna is rich and varied with large numbers of giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), aardvark (*Orycteropus afer*) and warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*). Many animals move to the Yaéré plains towards the end of the dry season.

The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the management plan 2015-2019 which includes programmes on Conservation; research and monitoring and participatory management and Eco development. The advisory committee acknowledged the participation of representative of communities in the various entities in charge of the management of the biosphere reserve. However, the transition area is not established (section 7.5.6; p. 23) and the buffer zone and the core area are managed by the Ministry in charge of Forest. Moreover, the zonation map indicates “macro-zones” with no clear definition.

The Advisory Committee considered that the Waza biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the statutory framework of the world network of biosphere reserves especially with regards to the zonation. The national authorities are requested to implement the following by 30th September 2016:

Finalization of the zonation of the biosphere reserve using the standard terminology of the biosphere reserves

Provision of proper information with regards to the population living in each areas/zone

Improve governance structure of the biosphere reserve by involving key stakeholders, in particular local communities.

Benoué Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon) The Benoué Biosphere Reserve is located on the Benoué River plain, at the foot of the Adomaoua plateau in northern Cameroon. Tropical woodland savannah and dry open forests are the major habitats. More than 300 bird species can be found in the area as well as several mammal species including elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and velvet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*).

The Advisory Committee commended the national authorities for the number of biological and socio-economic research activities in support of the management of the biosphere reserve. It is noted that since 2014, the communities are increasingly involved in the management of the biosphere reserve through community based organizations.

The Advisory Committee noted with concerns the on-going threats related to poaching and illegal mining and grazing in the area. The management plan of the biosphere reserve should have been updated in 2006. The Advisory Committee noted that a zonation with an updated transition area was not yet finalized.

The Advisory Committee considered that the Benoué biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the statutory framework of the world network of biosphere reserves especially with regards to the zonation.

The national authorities are requested to finalize the zonation of the biosphere reserve by 30th September 2016 and to provide a road map for updating the management plan.

Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve – Renaming of former Georgian Bay Littoral Biosphere Reserve (Canada) The Advisory Committee welcomed the comprehensive approach to the periodic review adopted by the authorities.

The periodic review process included the writing of a self-study, an on-line survey, and peer reviews. There were parallel processes happening in 2014 that contributed to the overall reflection exercise: (1) a resilience assessment study by Brock University researchers coordinated by GBBR staff to engage 30 stakeholders in surveys and a workshop; (2) the visit of a Canadian documentary film team that arranged stakeholder interviews; and (3) GBBR Inc.'s own internal organizational strategic planning for 2015-2018.

The self-study reports that livelihood strategies within the biosphere reserve have been diversified, so there is less dependency on resource extraction. Sustainable forestry is practiced, for which a certificate has been obtained. The Advisory Committee also appreciated the implementation of initiatives such as 'State of the Bay' and 'Lessons-in-a-backpack'. The Advisory Committee shared the concerns about government budget cuts that affect the planning of the biosphere reserve, as these have impacts on the capacity to enforce legislation and monitoring. However, at the same time, the authorities indicated that the biosphere reserve budget has stabilized and funding sources have become more diversified.

While the authorities cite many examples of projects conducted for and with local communities, NGOs, and academic institutes, the GBBR does not have a representative board. The reviewers of the self-study equally raised the question about the extent to which local interests are reflected in the management of the biosphere reserve (under the heading 'Building conservation from the inside out'). The Advisory Committee recommended to establish such a board, to increase local participation in the management of the biosphere reserve.

Linked to this, the Advisory Committee concurred with the reviewers and encouraged the authorities to highlight the cultural values of the areas in the biosphere reserve to First Nations communities who might value the areas for reasons other than tourism. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework.

To foster further positive developments in the site, the Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to take up the recommendations made by the reviewers as detailed on pages 15 to 18 of the periodic review report.

The biosphere reserve management organization requested a formal name change to “Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve.” The reason provided for this change is that it facilitates communication with a wider audience. The Advisory Committee recommended to approve the name change.

Bogeda Biosphere Reserve (China) The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of the second periodic review for the Bodega Biosphere Reserve, the first biosphere reserve in Xinjiang province, which was designated in 1990 and congratulated the authorities for taking action on all the recommendations of the previous periodic review report.

The reserve covers a total area of 2,170 square kilometres, extending from Bogda Peak (5,445 metres, the highest peak in east Tianshan Mountains) to the south edge of the Gurbantonggut Desert. By virtue of its special location, it has a complex of unique ecosystems that are representative of the arid zones in the hinterland of Eurasia and home to a large variety of unique biological resources. As a region of the vastest area, the most varied and complete natural landscape belts and the most diverse ecosystems in the Chinese temperate desert region

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the multidisciplinary approach used to conduct the periodic review and the extensive research and consultations invested in the review process. While there have been no changes to the zonation of the biosphere reserve, the Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the reduction in the human population in the core and buffer zones by 25% and 20%, respectively, through ecological migration, and for sustainable development activities such as the establishment of an information centre and exhibition hall for specimens, media and pictures, research publications, staff training, a co-management programme with the communities and tourism development which contributed to attaining World Heritage status in 2013.

The Advisory Committee noted that the zonation map, topographic and vegetation maps submitted with the report were not legible to inform whether or not the zonation conforms to the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Copies of the management plans referred to in the report were not submitted. The Advisory Committee recommended the submission of more legible higher resolution zonation maps with legend written in English of the whole biosphere reserve and the two separate sub-reserves. All the relevant management plans for the reserve including the requested maps should be submitted to the MAB Secretariat by 29 February 2016. The authorities were further encouraged to implement all the recommendations of the national review of the biosphere reserve which was conducted by an expert group from the Chinese MAB National committee in June 2014.

Xishuangbanna Biosphere Reserve (China) The Advisory Committee congratulated the authorities of China for submitting a second periodic review for the biosphere reserve and for taking action to implement the recommendations of the first periodic review.

The Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve has eight natural vegetation types (i.e., the tropical rainforest, tropical monsoon forest, sub-tropical evergreen broad-leaved forest, deciduous broad-leaved forest, warm coniferous forest, bamboo forest, shrubbery and grass) has 2,772 species of vascular plants belonging to 1,003 genera and 212 families, including 262 species of ferns belonging to 90 genera and 40 families, and 2,510 species of seed plants belonging to 913 genera and 172 families.

The Advisory Committee noted the changes in the dimensions of the three zones in line with the recommendation of the last periodic review resulting in a proposed zonation comprising a core area of 107,242 km², a buffer zone of 72,602 km² and an experimental area of 62,484 km².

The Advisory Committee noted the eco-migration programme which had resulted in the population of core area being reduced by 20% and buffer by about 90%. The establishment of a museum for science and environmental education in 2012 had also led to patronage by over 7 million visitors. The Advisory Committee commended the integration of benefit sharing in the tourism development and the initiation of co-operation with Laos for a future transboundary biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee, however, noted with concern that some sections of the core area were not protected by a buffer zone and there was no management plan to provide information of the level of involvement of communities or the coordination structure.

The Advisory Committee was not able to conclude whether this biosphere reserve meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the authorities submit a higher resolution zonation map for the whole biosphere reserve and the five separate sub-reserves. The Advisory Committee also requested for copies of all relevant management plans (if any). The authorities are requested to submit these documents to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Trebon Basin Biosphere Reserve (The Czech Republic) The Advisory Committee welcomed this second periodic review for this biosphere reserve, established in 1977. Trebon Basin is located in the South of the Czech Republic near the Austrian border. Semi-natural landscape comprises 460 artificial fishponds and lakes that were constructed in the 15th and 16th century and now present important part of Czech fish-farming industry. The Trebon fishponds and Trebon peat lands are also wetlands of international importance of Ramsar Convention. The biosphere reserve is also classified as European Important Bird Area (IBA)

The Advisory Committee commended the management authority on the very well prepared periodic review report. The biosphere reserve is managed by the “Administration of the Trebon Basin Biosphere Reserve and Protected Landscape Area”. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction that following the previous recommendation, proper funding from the Ministry of environment has been allocated as well as an increase in staff. It noted that there is a cooperation with local communities, initiated with the negotiation of the management plan. It also noted that long-term social ecological monitoring has been established.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the management authority to continue the implementation of participatory approach in the management of the biosphere reserve, and strongly recommended the establishment of a biosphere management authority which allow for local cooperation in the very near future. It recommended to the authorities to pursue the involvement of local communities in the management of the biosphere reserve. It further recommended to actively participate in the WNBR and to provide further information on the measures and procedures taken for reducing the pressure of intensive fish farming and extraction of sand and gravel deposits.

Yangambi Biosphere Reserve (Democratic Republic of Congo) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report of Yangambi Biosphere reserve which was designated in 1977. The Yangambi Biosphere Reserve is situated within the Congo River Basin west of the City of Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The site is very important from a biodiversity point of view since it hosts about 32,000 tree species. The elephant

(*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), the river hog (*Potamochoerus porcus*) and monkeys (*Cercopithecus* spp.) are among the most threatened species.

The recommendations of ICC following the submission of the periodic review of the BR in 1998 stated that the zonation should be reviewed to include a transition area and a participatory management plan be elaborated. The Advisory Committee noted that the periodic review report is a desk study and that the process does not involve the stakeholders at national, regional and local level.

The Advisory Committee noted that the transition zone of 90,305 ha has been added to the biosphere reserve. However, the map which is provided does not give a clear zonation of the biosphere reserve. The report refers to a management plan in support of conservation, promotion of sustainable production systems, research (agriculture) and biological and ecological monitoring. The advisory committee noted with concern that one objective of the management plan is the eviction of population living in the core area.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the Yangambi Biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves with regards to the zonation which needs further improvement. The Advisory Committee requested that a new nomination form for the extension be submitted by 30th September 2016 in order for the MAB ICC to approve the extension of the transition zone. It should include a zonation map with clear delineation of the three categories: core area, buffer zone and transition area and provide information on the population of the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee strongly recommended that efforts be made to ensure the appropriation of the biosphere reserve approach and principles by public authorities, communities and other relevant stakeholders at national, regional and local level.

Lufira Biosphere Reserve (Democratic Republic of Congo) The Advisory Committee welcomed the third periodic review report of Lufira Biosphere Reserve which was designated in 1982. This biosphere reserve is located in the south-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Miombo woodland is the dominant vegetation type of the Central African plateau and comprises ecosystems in the seasonal tropics dominated for example by the tree genus *Brachystegia*. There is a dense and mature river system, marshlands and papyrus beds. The species diversity is extraordinarily high.

The Advisory Committee noted that the periodic review report is a desk study and that the process does not involve the stakeholders at national, regional and local level. With regards to the recommendations of the MAB ICC following the submission of the periodic review of the biosphere reserve in 2004, the Advisory Committee noted that the staffing of the biosphere reserve has been addressed. However, none of the other recommendations (public awareness, pollution of Panda river, extension of the biosphere reserve to protect the entire ecosystem, reinforcement of the biosphere reserve status and revision of the zonation) have been implemented.

The Advisory Committee noted that the no map (p. 8) and no management plan (p. 12) are available for Lufira biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee noted with concern that the site after three periodic reviews and 35 years of existence, is still not managed as a biosphere reserve, does not implement the three functions and does not meet the basic requirement such as zonation, participative governance structure, research, environmental education. The site has been constantly reported as undergoing serious degradation due to timber exploitation, agricultural and fishing activities even in the core area. No update of this situation has been provided.

Therefore, the Advisory Committee concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria of the statutory framework of the World Network of the Biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee suggested that the authorities may consider withdrawing the site.

Northeast Greenland Biosphere Reserve (Denmark) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information report on this biosphere reserve. The biosphere reserve is the largest biosphere reserve in the world, covering 972,000 km². Located in north-east Greenland, this biosphere reserve was designated in 1977. The national Park Administration is in charge of its coordination. There is no permanent settlement in the biosphere reserve. The landscape is a mix of inland ice and fjords. In summer, the area is a key place for breeding birds. A long-term monitoring programme for responses of arctic plants to changing environmental conditions linked to the climate changes. The main ecosystems are tundra communities and barren arctic deserts.

The Advisory Committee noted that during the periodic review process the national authorities organized in mid-September 2014 a workshop to establish working groups to involve stakeholders in discussions about visions, objectives and zonation. All relevant stakeholders (ministries, state agencies, municipalities, tourism organizations, research groups, mining industries, environmentalists and archaeology/cultural organizations) were involved to map the stakeholders' interests and the role of the biosphere reserve in relation to the three functions. A draft of a cooperation plan was shaped. A subset of the stakeholders was involved to focus on zonation issues. A synthesis is expected early 2016 to establish the foundation for the new zoning of the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the information related to the progress made in terms of updating the functioning and governance of the biosphere reserve. It noted the strong political will and engagement of the government in the process, its involvement and participation in the NordMAB network and its visit to the Canadian Manicouagan Uapishka Biosphere Reserve to exchange knowledge and know-how related to biosphere reserve management.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee strongly encouraged the authorities to continue the process of reviewing and upgrading of the biosphere reserve and requested that the authorities submit the following by 30th September 2016:

- the periodic review form;
- a new zonation map of the biosphere reserve;
- clarification on the involvement and engagement process of stakeholders;
- description of the governance and management committee for the biosphere reserve, in line with the new zonation system;
- a management plan with clear objectives for the biosphere reserve by integrating the different land use plans included in the biosphere reserve;
- a plan to promote and improve the collaboration within the NordMAB network.

Sumaco Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve which was designated in 2000. The Advisory Committee noted the activities implemented to involve local community with the setting up of working table as original management mechanism to achieve the objective of the Biosphere Reserve mechanism since 2008. In spite of that the management structure is promoted by the manager of the core area composed by the National Park, it included "Buen Vivir" national principles that affected to the entire Biosphere Reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The national authorities are encouraged to update the management plan for the entire biosphere reserve with a digital mapping system. They are also requested to provide information on the thematic working group *mesas temáticas*.

Archipiélago de Colón Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report for this biosphere reserve which was designated in 1984. The first periodic review was examined by the International Coordination Council in 2000. This site has a

very important international recognition within the frame of the Natural World Heritage (1976) and Ramsar (2001) sites.

The Conservation activities are well performed to reduce the tourism pressure that has this site. The Terrestrial and Marine protection is ensuring with the National Park of Galapagos and the Marine Reserve of Galapagos. It is promoting eco-tourism as well as bio-agriculture to increase the autonomy with inland region. The new management plan and structure is ensuring the connection with others recognitions and it is promoting local participations following the “Buen vivir” principles.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserve. The Advisory Committee requested that the national authorities submit to the MAB Secretariat a clearer zonation map with a digital/paper mapping system.

West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve (Estonia) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review of this country’s only biosphere reserve which was designated in 1990.

It commended the country for its effort to address recommendations formulated by the MAB Council in 2005. In this regards the biosphere reserve zonation has been slightly changed in favor of core areas (both terrestrial and marine) due to legislation changes in protection status and efforts to add additional islands to the biosphere reserve. The biosphere reserve representatives have been taking more active part in sharing their experience through participation in the MAB Council session (2012), EuroMAB 2013 and ultimately by organizing EuroMAB meeting in Estonia in 2015.

In addition, Estonia engages in cooperation with NordMAB. The closest cooperation has taken place with Finland’s Archipelago Sea Biosphere Reserve and Latvia’s North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve and there was close cooperation with several German biosphere reserves in Rügen and Schleswig-Holstein (2005-2007).

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the participation in creation of the Sustainable Development Act based on the concept of biosphere reserves and the approval of the “Sustainable Development Program for West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Program Area 2014-2020”.

It acknowledged that the site is managed by the Environmental Board, in close conjunction with West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Program Area Council, which includes various stakeholders and work on mutually agreed five-year action plan. It noted with appreciation the cooperation among various stakeholders, based on partnerships and specific projects targeted, alongside nature conservation, towards sustainable economy models for processing of local resources, based on local heritage (both on land and in the coastal waters). All the three functions of a biosphere reserve are being fulfilled.

Among the successful projects, the Advisory Committee noted local food competitions, training in use of sustainable energy sources and use of timber, the “Act4MyBalticSea” project designed to increase the attention paid to clean coastal waters or the project “Green Islands” that involved observation of waste handling, energy and water resource consumption and waste water treatment issues on Muhu Island.

The Advisory Committee recommended improvement of the visibility and promotion of the biosphere reserve (e.g. dedicated biosphere reserve website) to enhance the communication of the MAB Programme agenda. The Advisory Committee welcomed the appointment of a local coordinator for managing the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee considered that it would need more clarification with regard to the lack of buffer zones around certain core areas and requested that these clarifications be provided by 30 September 2016, in order for the Advisory Committee to assess if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Vallée du Fango Biosphere Reserve (France) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report for this site, designated in 1977, after the first periodic review report submitted in 1988..

The Advisory Committee noted with appreciation the activities developed in the biosphere reserve in terms of water management and fire control, as well as the inclusion of two Natura 2000 zones in the biosphere reserve – with a 3rd in the process of being established. Eco-tourism has been promoted, but with attention to the negative impacts tourism could have. The Advisory Committee, however, noted that while the promotion of sustainable agriculture is mentioned as one of the biosphere reserve's objectives, concrete actions are less visible in the periodic review report. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to strengthen this aspect of the site management.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the renewed attempts to establish a Charter for the biosphere reserve, including a marine component in the site (provided the stakeholders agree with the extension), and to become an experimental site within the PNRC, and to redevelop the area in cooperation with local stakeholders.

The Advisory Committee recommended that this opportunity is used to revise the zonation of the biosphere reserve to meet the requirements of the Statutory Framework, and improve the linkages between the core area, buffer zones and transition areas, as well as strengthen the participation of local stakeholders in the management of the biosphere reserve. It noted that the approval of the new Charter is expected by the end of 2016, early 2017. The Advisory Committee recommended the development of a new management plan soon thereafter and to pay especially attention to the development function.

It also noted that the report mentions the establishment of a Local Biosphere Reserve Committee which was established in 2013 in response to a survey. The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities clarify the role of this committee in the management of the biosphere reserve and strengthens its role. The Advisory Committee took note of the proposal to change the name of the Biosphere Reserve to Fangu, as this reflects the local denomination of the area. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the name change.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and strongly encouraged the authorities to submit the following elements by 30th September 2016:

- A new management plan and the charter;
- Clarification of the role of the local biosphere reserve committee in the management of the biosphere reserve and strengthens its role;
- An updated zonation map.

Mount Olympus Biosphere Reserve (Greece) The Advisory Committee welcomed this second periodic review of Mount Olympus Biosphere Reserve, established in 1981, with a periodic review report submitted in 1999. The Advisory Committee took note of the efforts of the biosphere reserve to fulfil the recommendation of the MAB Council.

It noted that a Management Authority was established, including Board of Directors with 11 members, representing the local and regional authorities and stakeholders. It also noted with concern that the funding and functioning of this body is uncertain after December 2015.

It also noted that a scientific committee was established in order to coordinate research and monitoring. It welcomed the implementation of a new zonation which includes small village and army skiing facility. It also noted that the impact of recreational activities is included in monitoring programme of the Management Authority and that a management plan was still not adopted. The biosphere reserve is implementing the conservation function, as well as logistic objectives, but is still weak in implementing the sustainable development function.

The Advisory Committee therefore concluded that the biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

It further requested the authorities to submit the following information by 30th September 2016:

Confirm that the management authority will be functional after December 2015;

Provide legal document on the approval of the updated zonation;

Clarify the zonation (i.e. buffer zones) so the terminology used is fully consistent with the statutory framework;

Provide a draft of management plan with activities for implementing the function of sustainable development.

General recommendation to Kenya

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the effort of the national authorities to fulfill the requirement of the exit strategy by providing the periodic review of three sites which never submitted a report since their approval.

The Advisory Committee fully recognized the effort made by Kenyan authorities to extend Mount Kenya, Malindi Watamu and Kiunga Biosphere Reserves. However, this has to be reflected in a new proposal. Therefore, the advisory committee encouraged national authorities to submit a new nomination form for the three sites by September 2016.

Malindi Watamu Biosphere Reserve (Kenya) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for Malindi Watamu Biosphere Reserve which was designated in 1979. The area, one of the main recreational and tourism centers in Kenya, is located 100 km from Mombasa with a core area of 42,827 ha, a buffer zone of 84,422 ha and a transition area of 330,940 ha.

Notable physical features of this biosphere reserve are rock platforms, cliffs and sandy beaches. Mida Creek comprises tidal mud flats with fringing mangrove swamps and the biosphere reserve area also includes coral reefs and sea-grass beds. This region is one of the main recreational centers of Kenya and local communities benefit from tourism activities.

The periodic report shows that in addition to the two marine reserves of the initial nomination, an extension of the core area now includes the Arabuko Sukoke forest (41,094 ha) which is the largest and most intact coastal forest in East Africa, with 20% of Kenya's bird species, 30% butterfly species and at least 24 rare and endemic bird, mammal and butterfly species.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the national authorities for the updated zonation of the reserve and the methodology used for conducting the periodic review for submission in compliance with the MAB exit strategy. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the intensive research, environmental education and public awareness programmes undertaken to control upstream pollution and poaching of turtles through the introduction of an incentive programme. The committee noted with concern the increasing temperatures and shoreline recession reported and encouraged authorities to integrate climate change mitigation, adaptation and monitoring in all management plans.

The Advisory Committee further noted that a lot of sections of the form were not filled and it was, therefore, unable to determine if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserve due to insufficient information.

The Advisory Committee requested the national authorities to:

prepare and submit a new nomination form for the extension be submitted to UNESCO by September 30, 2016
 submit all relevant management plans for the various sections of the reserve or an integrated management plan, if available
 submit the awareness materials with signed agreement granting non-exclusive rights to UNESCO for their use

Mount Kenya Biosphere Reserve (Kenya) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for Mount Kenya which was designated in 1978. The area includes Mount Kenya National Park and extends across Nyeri, Meru and Laikipia, Kirinyaga, Tharaka Nithi and Embu counties for which it constitutes a major water reservoir and the main contributor to the upper Tana, lower Tana and Ewaso Nyiro river ecosystems.

The main vegetation types are afro-montane forest, moorland and grassland with a rich faunal diversity including amphibians, reptiles and large mammals such as the giant forest hogs, leopards, eland, buffalo. The Advisory Committee noted the updated zonation from the previous national park covering an area of 71,759 ha to a core of 99,147 ha and the inclusion of a proposed buffer zone of 173,666 ha and a transition zone covering 434,037 ha.

It was observed that the legal framework covering the core area had been improved and 32 community forest associations (CFAs) formed with neighbouring communities. Hence the increased human population had not impacted negatively on the functioning of the biosphere reserve. The management of conflicts over water had been addressed through the formation of Water Resource User Associations (WRUAs). With support of government, there had been an increase in agricultural (dairy and tea), fishing, construction and tourism activities. Research and educational activity had also improved in the past ten years.

The Advisory Committee noted with concern the gradual decline of traditional knowledge and values due to modernization such as the destruction of the sacred Mogumo tree despite the diversity of ethnic groups in the area. The management plan for the reserve had not been completed. The Advisory Committee recommended that a new nomination form for extension be submitted to UNESCO by 30th September 2016.

The national authorities are encouraged to:

complete and submit in the near future a comprehensive management plan for the biosphere reserve integrating traditional knowledge and all the forest and water management plans,
 build the capacity of the CFAs
 develop and implement a framework for benefit sharing,
 ensure a coordinated management structure
 explore other sources of funding for management such as through partnerships with the private sector.

Kiunga Biosphere Reserve (Kenya) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for Kiunga Biosphere reserve, which was designated in 1980. Kiunga Biosphere Reserve is located on the northernmost part of Kenya's coast, about 16 km south of the Somali border. On the coastal strip, there are sandy beaches with sand dunes and dry coastal shrubby forest. Old and living reefs forms a chain of about 50 calcareous islands composed of coral and organic debris. In-between the islands and the coast, there are sheltered and calm water habitats. The biosphere reserve is important for nesting seabirds, green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and dugongs (*Dugong dugong*) and hosts relatively pristine mangroves.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the reported change in the core area and the multi stakeholder approach used in the preparation of the report. The Advisory Committee noted, with concern, the fact that most sections of the periodic review were not filled and there was insufficient information to determine whether the site meets the criteria or not.

The Advisory Committee requested the national authorities to resubmit the periodic review form with all the outstanding information, together with copies of any management plan with clear zonation by 30th September 2016.

Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 1986. The first periodic review was done in 1999.

The Advisory Committee noted the progress achieved in order to reply to the recommendations made during the previous periodic review and the three functions of the Biosphere Reserve. The recommendations of the previous report were: (1) Clarify the area of the three zones, with a map showing their extent; (2) Improve public awareness, in order to minimize some threats to conservation; (3) Pursue their effort to establish better connections with other biosphere reserves in the region. The biosphere reserve improved the zoning system and the connectivity with the surrounding protected areas, the Biological Mesoamerican Corridor and promoted the participation of local communities.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site meets the criteria. However, it suggested that the national authorities include in the biosphere reserve the national biosphere reserve Arrecifes de Sian Ka'an.

Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2003. The Advisory Committee noted that the size of the transition zone has been increased to include a large number of communities that are benefiting from the area and be part of the conservation activities and its sustainable uses.

The main economic activities are fishing and tourism. Fishing is done with authorization, and tourism has low impact due to the few number of tourist in the area (563 per year). The total area is about 300,000 hectares including the transition zone. There are about 1,500 inhabitants that live in the transition zone.

The Advisory Committee noted with appreciation the collaboration with Belize and Honduras in line to coordinate the management of the Mesoamerican coral reef and suggested the possibility of creating a future transboundary biosphere reserve with Belize.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site meets the criteria.

El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report (first 2005) for this biosphere reserve, designated in 1993, and thanks for the work that is reflected in the periodic review document to achieve the tree function of the Biosphere Reserve. The recommendation made of presenting a clear zonation of the reserve was attained. Total area, including the transition zone is about 280,000 hectares. The total population in 2010 was about 50,000 people, living mainly in the transition zone. The Main economic activities are: coffee production, agroforestry, and production of non-timber forest products.

The Advisory Committee noted the inclusion of a clear zoning system with a transition area that is also part of its management plan. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2004. The Advisory Committee noted with appreciation the work that has been undertaken to achieve the three functions of the biosphere reserve. The Committee noted the collaborative activities that is implementing as a marine corridor with the neighbour protected areas in line with humid biological corridors. The total area including the transition zone is about 230,000 hectares. Total population is about 10,000 people mainly living in the buffer zone. The Management Plan is being implemented mainly with government resources. Contacts were made to enlarge the Biosphere Reserve joining other national biosphere reserve. The main economic activities are: agriculture, cattle rearing, salt production, fisheries and tourism.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee suggested that the national authorities reinforce the connectivity activities within the possibility to enlarge the Biosphere Reserve.

Ría Celestún Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve which was designated in 2004.

The Advisory Committee commended the work undertaken to achieve the three functions of the biosphere reserve. The total area including the transition zone is about 131,000 hectares. The total population is about 37,000 living mainly in the transition zone. The Advisory Committee noted the justification provided for two biosphere reserves, Ria Celestun and Ria Lagartos to remain separate. Main economic activities: Fishing, salt production and tourism. The Action Plan is being implemented and the Management Committee has been established. The Advisory Committee noted the possibility to enlarge this area by including the national protected area, the Mexican Biosphere Reserve Los Petenes, in line with their actual work to promote biological corridors.

The Advisory Committee considered that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

General recommendation to Mongolia

The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review reports of four biosphere reserves in Mongolia. However, the Mongolian authorities submitted simple activity reports or periodic review reports of special protected areas, not of biosphere reserves. Therefore, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Mongolian authorities submit official forms of periodic review reports, focusing on the whole biosphere reserve, not just on special protected areas. It also requested the Mongolian authorities to submit clear zonation maps of the biosphere reserves with English legends together with digital files of the maps. It also requested the authorities to develop management plans for the whole biosphere reserve and submit them to the MAB secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Bogd-Khan Uul Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia) This biosphere reserve was designated in 1996 with a total area of 67,300 ha consisting of 41,651 ha as core area, 13,433 ha as buffer zone and 12,216 ha as transition area. The Advisory Committee noted with concern that the national authorities did not submit a full periodic review report using the official periodic review form. Also, the report submitted did not refer to the site as a biosphere reserve but as the Bogd-Khan Mountain Strictly Protected Area (SPA)

The report explains the zonation and administration of the SPA, the main activities ongoing within the SPA, and current states of ecosystems and biodiversity conservation. Also of concern is the fact that the zonation maps provided were not clear and the legend was not written in English.

The Advisory Committee concluded that without the official periodic review form, it is not possible to assess whether the biosphere reserve meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the

World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Therefore, the Advisory Committee requested the authorities to submit a periodic review report using the official form with clear zonation map of the biosphere reserve, together with relevant information clarifying the name of the site by 30 September 2016.

Uvs Nuur Basin Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia) This biosphere reserve was designated in 1997. It was later on enlisted as a World Heritage site in 2003 and giving the recognition as a Ramsar site in 2004. The Advisory Committee noted that this submission is a three-page report outlining some activities that have been undertaken in the biosphere reserve from 2009 to 2014.

The Advisory Committee concluded that without a full periodic review report using the official form, it is not possible to assess whether the biosphere reserve meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Therefore, the Advisory Committee requested that the national authorities submit a report review report using the official form. The periodic review report should include other relevant supporting information such as the zonation maps and management plan. The national authorities were requested to submit the requested documents to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Great Gobi Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia) The Advisory Committee welcomed this first periodic review report of Great Gobi Biosphere Reserve. The Advisory Committee noted that the report contained specific details information on the management and activities carried out in this biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee however observed that some basic data such as the size of the biosphere reserve and the name indicated in the periodic review report do not match with the information given in the original nomination document. It also noted with concern that a zonation map was not provided in the report.

The Advisory Committee concluded that without a zonation map and clarification of the data provided it is not possible to assess whether the biosphere reserve meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Therefore, the Advisory Committee requested the national authorities to submit a clear zonation map of the whole biosphere reserve and a revised report clarifying the inconsistency in the data.

The Advisory Committee also requested the national authorities to focus on the whole biosphere reserve, and not on the specific protected area, in the revised report. It also encouraged the authorities to establish a comprehensive management plan for the biosphere reserve which will be different from the management of the special protected area. The national authorities are advised to submit the requested documents to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Dornod Mongol Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia) The Advisory Committee congratulated the authorities on the submission of the first periodic review report for the reserve which was approved in 2005. The biosphere reserve lies in the Great geomorphologic zone of Central Asia and the sub zone of Nukht Davaa of Mongolian Eastern zone. The terrain is characterized by medium-sized low steppe mountains above 890 to 1,099 m hummocks, knolls and narrow feather-grass valleys between them, with few flat plains and rich in biodiversity including diverse birds, wolves, the Mongolian gazelle, reptiles and amphibians.

The Advisory Committee commended the approaches used to promote sustainable development of the area such as partnership with local communities, training on range management, organization of educational camps, and public awareness for schools especially the Young Naturalists Club. The promotion of indigenous values and relationship with local communities through the empowerment of communities in protection of local springs, the creation of an information centre employing local people and the formulation of an Act of law concerning the negotiated costs for hunting wolves was appreciated.

The Advisory Committee noted, with concern the different nomenclature used for the area (SPA, EMPAA, etc.) and its management zones in the report, which did not conform to the biosphere reserve concept. The zonation map provided was not in English and did not have the functional zones of a biosphere reserve. Therefore, the Advisory Committee was unable to determine whether or not the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee requested the authorities to provide a translated and more legible zonation map and any management plan(s) for the reserve by 29 February 2016 or 30 September 2016, indicating measures being used to manage the environmental impacts of oil exploration, illegal hunting of the gazelle and marmot.

General recommendation to the Russian Federation

The Advisory Committee recommended that all periodic review reports include clear zonation map, in line with the typology of the zonation defined by the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves as well as clear unit and surface for each zone.

Voronezhskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report on this biosphere reserve, designated in 1984.

The biosphere reserve is located in the south-east of Moscow, which features undulating plains, rivers, and one of the largest forest areas in the steppe. Some 69,000 permanent residents live mostly in the transition area and mostly depend on farming and livestock breeding. The tourism activities increased by 5 times during the last decade. The major habitat is mixed forests (pines, oaks, lindens), flood plain forests, marshlands, meadows.

It noted that in 2011, the core area increased from 16,811 ha to 17,039 ha and the buffer zone decreased a bit from 14,242 ha to 14,014 ha due to transfer of land for protection. The transition zone was enlarged from 14,032 ha to 31,000 ha. During the periodic review process, the biosphere reserve readjusted the zonation system following the recommendations of the MAB Council based on coordination unit staff and experts, and local governments. Overall improvement in the economic situation in the region and a significant strengthening of the state policy in the field of protected areas management, are the main factors positively influencing the development of the whole territory of the site.

It also noted that the biosphere reserve is developing cooperation with research institutes in Ukraine, Mongolia and Moldova. It also welcomed the information on studies of alien plant species, beaver breeding and training of specialists in the nature conservation as core activities. The Advisory Committee welcomed the huge increase of the federal budget in the current budget of the biosphere reserve. Although the biosphere reserve does not have yet its own management plan, the Advisory Committee noted that the biosphere reserve implements conservation, sustainable development, research and education activities.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, the Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities:

- Define a management plan with clear objectives for the biosphere reserve by integrating the issues of illegal harvesting, illegal occupation of land and illegal construction;
- Better define the cooperation with local stakeholders and users;
- Promote research with local stakeholders on social-ecological changes and dynamics;
- Implement studies and monitoring of social, economic and ecological impacts of tourism industry development.

Kedrovaya Pad' Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report on this biosphere reserve, designated in 2004.

The biosphere reserve is located in the Russian Far East near the borders with China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The landscape is made of two main mountain ridges (400 m above sea level) and river valleys. The core area of the biosphere reserve is the oldest Russian reserve created in 1916. The area is a biodiversity hotspot due to the overlapping of southern and northern species of plants and animals. Despite major damages from human activities, the biosphere reserve is the only area in native conditions and is a unique example of south-Ussury taiga. The forest contains species from northern taiga and subtropical forests. The key species are the Amur tiger, the Amur leopard and the Himalayan bear. Some 10,000 permanent residents live mostly in the transition area and mostly depend on forestry, agriculture, coastal fisheries, and salmon breeding. In 2008 two new refuges were established, and these two protected areas were combined to become the transition area of the biosphere reserve. In 2012 the National Park "Land of the Leopard" was established. The territory of the national park included the federal refuge and some adjacent areas. The tourism activity development is the main aim of the federal and local authorities. The local population is actively involved in the biosphere reserve activity. Most of them are working in Land of the Leopard National Park established and the State Nature Biosphere Reserve. The core area of the biosphere reserve covers 18,045 ha.

It noted that the biosphere reserve manager considers the National Park territory as a mix of buffer and transition zones, the whole National Park is totalizing 261,884 ha. The main activities of the biosphere reserve and national park staff are patrol activity, anti-poaching activities, scientific research and monitoring and environmental education. During the last decade scientific cooperation in the field of transboundary research and monitoring of Amur leopard and Amur tiger and their habitat were developed with China and Republic of Korea. Aiming to promote the development function by providing new income opportunities for local people e.g. in eco-tourism and other rural development business, the National Park "Land of the Leopard" performs the eco-tourism function while Kedrovaya Pad' reserve remain intact and conserve the unique forests of Primorskii krai with its rare plant and animal species.

During the periodic review process, the biosphere reserve readjusted the zonation system following the recommendations of the MAB Council based on coordination unit staff and experts. Although the biosphere reserve does not have yet its own management plan, the Advisory Committee noted that the biosphere reserve implements conservation, sustainable development, research and education activities.

The Advisory Committee commended the progress made by the Kedrovaya Pad' biosphere reserve since the designation of the biosphere reserve but concluded that this site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities:

- Clarify the zonation of the biosphere reserve, especially the buffer zones and transition areas.
- Provide a map with a clear delineation of the 3 zones of the biosphere reserve;
- Define a management plan with clear objectives for the biosphere reserve zones by integrating the issues of poaching, habitat management, land use and tourism development.
- Better define the involvement of local stakeholders and sustainable activity development;
- Promote research with local stakeholders on social-ecological changes and dynamics;
- Implement studies and monitoring of social, economic and ecological impacts of ecotourism development.

Laplandskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report of this biosphere reserve, designated in 1985. The biosphere reserve is located in the western part of the Kola Peninsula at 120 km north of the Arctic Circle and 120 km south of Murmansk. The landscape is a mix of forested plains and glaciated mountains (peak 1,114 m) with permafrost patches, with mountain tundras, rivers, lakes and marshes. The emblematic species are lemmings, beavers, otters, elks, wild reindeers, wolverines

and brown bears or white-tailed eagles and snowy owls. Only 20 people live in the core area while some 766,000 permanent residents live mostly in the transition area and depend on forestry, stone mining, hydroelectric power production and industry.

The transition area is the place of large industrial enterprises such as Metallurgical Company and also an Atomic power station. Local authorities, enterprises, indigenous people, educational and cultural organizations have been taking part in increasing of development function of the reserve by developing trails and visitors' facilitations, reconstructing settlement and repairing roads. A management plan is implemented in the core area and communication and activity plans are implemented in the two other zones. The international cooperation was developed with Finland and Norway and is based on tourism development with a focus on their common cultural, biological and geological heritage. A private-public partnership in Barents region-2 led to the development of natural and geological tourism in Barents region. In this context a tourist information center was opened on the site.

The Advisory Committee noted that the biosphere reserve readjusted the zonation system following the recommendation of the MAB Council but regretted that no information is provided concerning how the review was conducted and with whom. It noted that the biosphere reserve implements conservation, sustainable development, research and education activities.

The Advisory Committee commended the progress made by the Laplandskiy biosphere reserve since the last periodic review but concluded that this site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities submit the following information by 30th September 2016:

- Clarify the zonation of the biosphere reserve, especially the buffer zones and transition areas by providing a more detailed map including the exact surface for each zone;
- Clarify the impact or exclude from the transition area all the heavy industries and settlements and exclude the nuclear plant from the transition area;
- Clarify the social-ecological interactions between the 3 zones;
- Clarify the method used for the periodic review;
- Better define the involvement of local stakeholders especially Sami people, and sustainable activity development;
- Promote research with local stakeholders on social-ecological changes and dynamics;
- Implement studies and monitoring of social, economic and ecological impacts of tourism development and the surrounding heavy industry.

Tsentral'no-chnozem Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report of this biosphere reserve, designated in 1978. The biosphere reserve is located 500 km in the South of Moscow near the border with Ukraine. While most of the black and fertile soil (chnozem) of this steppe region have been intensively cultivated and transformed in farmlands, the core area protects the last remaining of undisturbed steppes in Europe. The meadow steppes have a high plants diversity. Dynamics of a biodiversity of the reserve over the last 10 years is defined mainly by an increase in species of lichens, fungi, insects, birds and mammals.

The buffer zone comprises 4,586 inhabitants and is managed following a management plan that regulates agricultural practices limiting the use of pesticides and fertilizers. The transition area's landscape is a mix of intensive agriculture, mining and industrial activities. During 15 years of development of excursion and tourist activity in the site, the excursion programme has been developed, the second equipped ecological track was open, in 2003 the Eco-information center was open, the permissible load was calculated on an eco-trail, release of advertising and publishing and souvenir products has been expanded. The Tsentral'no-Chernozem Biosphere Reserve purposefully and systematically works with all groups of the population in the region.

The Advisory Committee noted that the periodic review was based on meetings and consultations and involved the deputy directors and the head of municipality. It noted that the

biosphere reserve implements conservation, sustainable development, research and education activities.

The Advisory Committee commended the progress made by the Tsentral'no-Chernozem Biosphere Reserve since the last periodic review but concluded that this site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities submit the following information by 30th September 2016:

Clarification of the zonation of the 3 areas of the biosphere reserve by providing a more detailed map;

Clarification of the surface area of each zone by using ha or km² as measure units;

Clarification of the land use and land covers changes inside and outside the biosphere reserve;

Clarification of the social-ecological interactions between the 3 zones;

Provide or give more detailed information on the management plans and other planning tools that are implemented to manage the whole area of the biosphere reserve;

Description of the involvement of local stakeholders and sustainable activity development;

Plan to promote research with local stakeholders on social-ecological changes and dynamics;

Plan to implement studies and monitoring of social, economic and ecological impacts of tourism development and the surrounding agro-food and farming industry.

Golija Studenica Biosphere Reserve (Serbia) The Advisory Committee welcomed this second periodic review of Golija Studenica Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2001, with first periodic review report in 2012. Golija Studenica site is located in the mountain Tara, which is a refuge of the tertiary flora in Serbia and is important for genetic, species and ecosystem diversity in the Balkans and in Europe. It is characterized by the abundance of water and a variety of wildlife

The biosphere reserve management authority is a working unit of National Park Golija that adopted a special scheme of Biosphere Reserve Council as decision making body, Golija interested parties forum and Municipal forum. The Protected Area Management Plan for 2011-2020 was adopted. The area of "Golija-Studenica" Biosphere Reserve is included in Forest Management Plans, adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

The Advisory Committee noted that the management of the site was improved, that education programmes started for stakeholders. It also noted that a programme for monitoring and for harmonizing the tools available for nature protection at national level was implemented. It considered that the conservation function is well implemented, that the logistic function is also progressing along with initiatives for implementation of sustainable development. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the quality of the periodic review report.

However, the Advisory Committee considered that the biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves as regards the zonation.

The Advisory Committee requested the authorities to submit the information below by 30th September 2016:

To provide rationale on why some core areas (west, north and central parts) are not surrounded by buffer zones;

To provide information on measures and procedures related to the infrastructure project South Adriatic;

To provide information on ski resorts in the area and possible impacts;

To provide action plan for biosphere reserve that will demonstrate the harmonization between management plan for national park and biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the biosphere reserve authority consult the new MAB Strategy and implement the Lima Action Plan once adopted, and encouraged them to participate in WNBR and establish cooperation with biosphere reserves in the region and in the EuroMAB network.

Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve (South Africa) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report of Cape West Coast Biosphere reserve (CWCBR) established in 2000. The Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve is situated in the coastal zone north of Cape Town. Located in the Cape floristic kingdom, this biosphere reserve is known for its mosaic of diverse ecosystems and habitats which include marine, beach and frontal dune environments, pans, wetlands and rocky outcrops.

The Advisory Committee noted that the periodic review report has been elaborated by a consultant firm and followed a participatory process involving many stakeholders including institutional and non-institutional entities as well as individuals. The Advisory Committee noted that the management plan comprises of 3 different documents; Strategic Management framework (2003-2004: including strategic and business plans), Spatial Development Plan (2007) and a Framework plan (2010). It is strongly recommended that the management of the CWCBR be summarized in a single document.

The conservation, development and logistic functions of the biosphere reserve are clearly described and fully satisfactory. The governance structure which is composed with representatives of national institutions, municipalities, conservation bodies and land owners is highly participatory.

However, the Advisory Committee noted that the Koeberg Nuclear Plant (p.11) is located in the southern part of the CWBR. It is stated that “the major portion of the CWCBR falls within the area of nuclear influence of the Koeberg and Koeberg site includes a dedicated biodiversity conservation area which contributes to the conservation function of the CWCBR” but this nuclear plant nor the conservation area are clearly indicated in the zonation map.

The Advisory Committee would like to recall and draw the attention of the national authorities on recent discussions and decision taken by the MAB ICC with regard to the presence of nuclear plants or facilities within biosphere reserves. Therefore, the Advisory Committee requested the national authorities to provide a detailed map showing the location of the Koeberg nuclear plant within the CWCBR before the 29th February 2016 or 30th September 2016 in order to enable the MAB ICC to decide whether the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Alto Bernesga Biosphere Reserve (Spain) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2005. The total area is about 33,000 hectares with a permanent population of about 4,700 people living in the transition area. The biosphere reserve suffers of depopulation, principally because of outmigration, and older people remain. Main economic activities: mining (canteras), construction, commerce, some agriculture and rural tourism. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the actions implemented to improve the participation of women in the activities of the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site meets the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, it recommended to reinforce the collaboration between the two municipalities of the site.

Área del Allariz Biosphere Reserve (Spain) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2005. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the implementation of several activities to encourage the economic development of the site, especially in the tourism sector, and also to improve the participation of women in the activities of the Biosphere Reserve. The total area is 21,842 hectares (0.7% in 8 subareas of the core zone) and the total population is 9,941 people in 2011, mainly living in the

transition zone. There exist a management committee, but there does not exist a management plan. It is recognized in the Report that a new zonation is needed, enlarging the core zone including some protected areas of the BR. The lack of a management Plan is also a requirement to achieve the functions of the Biosphere Reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **does not meet** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and strongly supports the idea of revising the zonation as was mentioned in the report. The Advisory Committee also requested that the national authorities prepare a management plan for the biosphere reserve. The requested documents should be submitted to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016

Gran Canaria Biosphere Reserve (Spain) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve which was designated in 2005.

The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the development of promotional and information activities during this period to show the achievements made by the biosphere reserve. It also recognized the research activities implemented in the marine area of the biosphere reserve. It covers an area of 37,353 hectares and the total population is 19,781 people in 2010. The main economic activity is tourism. There is a functional management committee and management plan.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Los Argüellos Biosphere Reserve (Spain) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve which was designated in 2005. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the existence of a Management Plan, and also the important communication material prepared to give more visibility about the functions of the Biosphere Reserve. The total area is 33,260 hectares, and the total population is 1,276 inhabitants, all living in the transition zone. However, a significant reduction of the budget has affected the full implementation of the Management Plan. The most important economic activities are: tourism, small scale agriculture and cattle raising.

It also noticed the existence of touristic installations in the core area, and that the zonation is not adequate to the geographical features.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, the Advisory Committee recommended the following to the national authorities:

To include in the Management Committee representatives of the different stakeholders involved in the biosphere reserve.

To consider the possibility of revising the zonation in accordance with the designation of national protected areas and land-use practices.

Sierra del Rincón Biosphere Reserve (Spain) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve which was designated in 2005.

The total area is 7,625 hectares and the total population is 713 inhabitants living in the transition zone. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the educational activities developed by the managers of the biosphere reserve, and the contribution of the government bodies during this period. The main economic activities are small scale agriculture, forestry and cattle raising.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Valles de Omaña-Luna Biosphere Reserve (Spain) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve which was designated in 2005. The total area of this biosphere reserve is 81,159 hectares and has a population of 3,577 inhabitants all living in the transition zone.

The most important economic activities are: tourism, forestry and cattle raising. The Advisory Committee noted a deficient operation of the governing bodies that resulted in some coordination problems between the municipalities included in this Biosphere Reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this site **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, the Committee recommended the following to the national authorities:

- revise the governing bodies to ensure the coordination of all the municipalities involved in the biosphere reserve;
- consider the possibility of revising the zonation in accordance with the designation of national protection areas, and land-use practices;
- provide an updated management plan according to the recommendation mentioned above.

Dinder Biosphere Reserve (Sudan) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report from Dinder Biosphere Reserve which was designated in 1979 and acknowledged with appreciation the biosphere reserve's efforts over the years to comply with the biosphere reserve concept in line with the Seville Strategy.

Dinder Biosphere Reserve has been very successful in working with the National MAB Committee and developing collaborations with several universities and international agencies as well in raising funds for the monitoring, protection of and education on its rich biodiversity (including large mammals, birds and reptiles). Efforts have also been made to ensure the sustainability of crucial watersheds and forests, as for instance through the development of a Community Watershed Management Project, and to improve the vegetation cover in deforested areas through the establishment of community forests.

The Advisory Committee congratulated the biosphere reserve for the successful implementation of a pilot co-management and benefit sharing of natural resources model with local communities in ten villages at the northern side of the reserve. Similar initiatives to include local populations have been undertaken such as the formulation of Village Development Committees, meetings with the local community for better communication and the participatory establishment of a transitional zone in Rahad. Considering the challenges, the site is facing due to increased human settlement after extended droughts and civil strife in the Darfur State, the Advisory committee highly supported the stated objectives for the coming years to integrate even more local communities living inside and along the borders of Dinder Biosphere Reserve, in order to ensure the sustainable use and management of the natural resources of the reserve.

Given the location of this biosphere reserve and interactions with neighboring Ethiopia, in particular through animal species seasonal migrations, the site is already collaborating with Ethiopian colleagues. In this regard, the Advisory committee suggests considering the opportunity to propose a transboundary biosphere reserve with Ethiopia in the future.

In light of the aforementioned positive developments and ongoing work for further enhancements, the Advisory Committee concluded that Dinder Biosphere Reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve (Sweden) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 2005. Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve is located in the southernmost landscape of Sweden, Skåne. The area covers the lower catchment area of the River Helge å in Kristianstad Municipality and the coastal areas of the Hanöbukten bay, which forms part of the Baltic Sea. The area, which covers c.

105,000 ha, contains cultural landscapes and biological components of international, national and regional importance. It includes various types of ecosystems, such as wetlands of great importance for resting, nesting and wintering wetland birds, contains valuable flora and is home to many red-listed fish species.

The Advisory Committee noted the detailed findings of the on-site ten-year review carried out by the biosphere reserve staff with the consultation group for the biosphere reserve and involving stakeholders in workshops and interviews. This process revealed the achievements and lessons learned in the last ten years in the biosphere reserve, and also the challenges regarding the good status of 29 water bodies in the context of the EU water framework directive. It noted that no change occurred concerning the zonation of the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee commended the establishment of the arena for dialogue and cooperation and named Consultation Group but also the completion of the visitor centre in 2010, which was visited by 500,000 people. The Advisory Committee noted also that the conservation work has been successful during the ten years of the biosphere reserve. Several new nature reserves have been established (2,275 ha), and the work related to sandy grasslands and freshwater and marine areas has been developed and the conservation issues have been better integrated with the work related to sustainable activities development.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and encouraged the biosphere reserve to share their knowledge in the EuroMAB and World Network and to develop more cooperation for comparative research on social-ecological dynamics. It recommended that the periodic review report be considered as a model to be shared among the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

General recommendation to Tanzania

The Advisory Committee fully recognized the effort made by Tanzanian authorities to extend Serengeti-Ngorongoro, Lake Manyara and East Usambara Biosphere Reserves. However, this has to be reflected in a new proposal. Therefore, the advisory committee encouraged national authorities to submit a new nomination form for the three sites by 30th September 2016.

Serengeti Ngorongoro Biosphere Reserve (Tanzania) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for the biosphere reserve in compliance with the MAB Exit Strategy and congratulated the authorities for the extensive stakeholder consultations and consensus-building approach used in conducting the review. Designated in 1981, this biosphere reserve covers part of the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in the north of Tanzania. The plains of the Serengeti are mostly formed by crystalline rocks overlaid by volcanic ash with numerous rock outcrops; tropical grasslands and savanna are the main ecosystems.

The Advisory Committee observed the 66.4% increment in the size of the area originally nominated and the acquisition of a buffer and transition zone through negotiation with communities and the proposed reduction of the core area which would require the submission of a new biosphere reserve nomination form to cover the extension. The national authorities were commended for involving communities in the delineation of the new boundaries and for implementing programmes to enhance cultural tourism and gender equality with indigenous ethnic groups.

The Advisory Committee noted, with concern, the provision of partial data for the buffer zone and the management challenges arising due to different management plans being used by the different institutions collaborating in management and the fact that a significant section of the core area had no buffer.

The Advisory Committee requested national authorities to submit a new nomination for the current extension by 30th September 2016. The Advisory Committee encouraged the national

authorities to further extend the buffer zone to protect the entire core area and to elaborate a management plan for the entire biosphere reserve in the future.

Lake Manyara Biosphere Reserve (Tanzania) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for LMBR which was designated in 1981, in compliance with the MAB Exit strategy. This biosphere reserve is situated in the depression of the East African Rift Valley in the Lake Manyara Basin in northern Tanzania. Below the rift wall, perennial springs in the north support a ground water forest (characterized by *Trichilia roka* and *Croton macrostachyus* or the yellow fever tree (*Acacia xanthophloea*), but also riverine habitats, swamps, woodland and alkaline grasslands characterize the area.

The authorities were commended for revising the zonation scheme from that of a national park of size 8,550 ha to a biosphere reserve with a core area of 64,400 ha including the Marang catchment Forest, a buffer zone of 56,800 ha and a transition area of 266,600 ha. The Advisory Committee appreciated the authorities for their considerable efforts in resource use conflict resolution, the development of the Manyara Trust Land Conservation Area management plan which provides a common platform for NGOs, District authorities, ranchers enterprises and the village government to participate in management and for the implementation of two general management plans.

The Advisory Committee noted, with concern, the increased population in the biosphere reserve with a diversity of 120 ethnic groups and observed that the delineated buffer zone does not protect the entire core area from activities of the increasing human population.

The Advisory Committee requested national authorities to submit a new nomination for the current extension and to revise the zonation scheme to enhance the buffer zone and to initiate the development of a participatory management plan for the entire biosphere reserve by 30th September 2016.

East Usambara Biosphere Reserve (Tanzania) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report for East Usambara Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2000. The Usambara Mountains in the northeastern part of the country are fairly unique in East Africa with their natural regions still covered by tropical forests, which otherwise continentally remain primarily in Western Africa. Considered as ecologically significant, a biodiversity hotspot, there are many protected zones throughout the range, which are being expanded and supported by the Tanzanian government, associated NGOs, research teams, and donor countries such as Norway. Several species are endemic to the Usambara forests, including the Usambara eagle-owl (*Bubo vosseleri*), the Usambara akalat (*Sheppardia montana*), the Usambara weaver (*Ploceus nicolli*), the African violet (*Saintpaulia ionantha*), the tree species *Calodendrum eickii*.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the research, education, awareness and ecotourism programmes undertaken and the follow-up actions taken on recommendations by UNESCO for the development of a management plan after designation in 2000. It was reported that that management plans had been finalized for three core areas and drafted for five others, with plans for the acquisition of 770 ha more of forest for addition to the core area from the Kwantili Estate.

The Advisory Committee noted with concern, inconsistencies in the proposed extensions to the core area (an additional 30,000 ha presented in the spatial configuration table) and lack of information on the current population.

Copies of the management plans and the current and proposed zonation maps were also not provided. The Advisory Committee was, therefore, unable to determine if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserve due to insufficient information.

The Advisory Committee requested the national authorities to submit a new nomination form for the extension including the current and proposed zonation maps, information on current

populations in the biosphere reserve as well as all relevant management plans by 30th September 2016. The authorities were also encouraged to initiate action for the development of an overall participatory management plan for the entire biosphere reserve.

Shatskyi Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report of this site, designated in 2002, extended in 2011, and part of the West Polesie Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in 2012. The biosphere reserve is located North-western Polesie lowlands dominated by flat terrain, extensive development covering sandy sediments, a large number of lakes with low banks of pine forests, meadows, farmland and significant spread of wetlands.

The Advisory Committee noted that the creation of the Shatsk Interdepartmental Scientific and Research Laboratory is helping to develop a joint Strategy for cooperation between the institutions of the three countries, responsible for natural environment conservation within the Polish-Belorussian-Ukrainian borderland as well as preparation of these institutions for designing common projects.

It also noted the work in the field of environmental education through the establishment of a Visitor Centre, as well as information points on the most visited places and eco-educational paths and the publishing of popular scientific brochures and posters, the biosphere reserve website, the cooperation with universities and teams for environmental education in biosphere reserve schools.

It also noted, that some of the core areas in the western part of the biosphere reserve seem to lack buffering. The Advisory Committee regretted the lack of detailed information on the management structure, stakeholder involvement and more in-depth information on the biosphere reserve projects to foster all biosphere reserve functions.

The Advisory Committee requested the authorities to submit the following information to the MAB Secretariat by 30th September 2016:

- a more comprehensive and detailed periodic review form including detailed explanation on zonation as regards why all core areas are not being surrounded by buffer zones;
- further clarification of the coordination structure with a special emphasis on the composition of the administration of the biosphere reserve and the coordinating council and their position within other management structures;
- to provide more concrete and practical examples of how local authorities and communities support the activities of the biosphere reserve and their involvement in the management of the site;
- to provide detailed examples of projects and activities at the local level as well as the status of on-going cooperation within the West Polesie Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. The Advisory Committee looks forward to receiving the joint periodic review report from the three countries which is due in 2022.

North Devon Biosphere Reserve - Renaming of former Braunton Burrows-North Devon (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report for this biosphere reserve, designated in 1976 and extended in 2002. The site is located north-west of Exeter. The core area protects 1,300 ha of dune system recognized as one of the best examples in the northern hemisphere. The rest of the coastline has some of the most diverse rocky foreshore habitat in Great Britain. The landscape is also made of cliff tops and coastal grasslands grazed by sheep and cattle, intertidal mudflats and salt marshes that are key habitats for waterfowl and rare plants. Grey seals and basking sharks can also be spotted along the sea shore. The terrestrial core area covers 1,333 ha, the buffer zone 2,956 ha and the transition area covers 229,206 ha. There is presently no marine core area but 1,341 ha of marine buffer zone and 148,397 ha of marine transition area. The 170,000 permanent residents are mostly in the transition area while the buffer zone is the place of 820 people. The biosphere reserve contributed to the UK biodiversity Action Plan, EU Habitat directive, marine

spatial planning and policy, and EU water framework directive. The biosphere reserve involved and engaged stakeholders in the management of the site. The site implements the 3 functions.

Following previous MAB Council recommendations and aiming to address river watershed related issues, the transition area was extended to cover the catchments draining to the north Devon coast. The transition area was extended too into the marine environment to encompass Lundy. The name also changed from Braunton Burrows (the name of the core area) to North Devon's biosphere reserve which was agreed with stakeholders.

The Advisory Committee noted the great value to compare the condition of the biosphere reserve with the outside area to better appreciate its impact. It also welcomed the elaboration of the new biosphere reserve strategy during the review process and based on the state of the biosphere reserve report. The Advisory Committee recommended that the biosphere reserve strategy could be shared within the WNBR. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the quality of this periodic review report.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and encouraged the Biosphere reserve (i) to twin with other biosphere reserves dealing with catchment issues, (ii) to share their knowledge in UK and in the EuroMAB network, especially concerning participatory process and stakeholders' involvement in the context of a whole catchment area; (iii) and to enlarge the core area by including the wetland special areas of conservation, enlarge the buffer zone and to create a marine core area where it is possible.

Rocky Mountain Biosphere Reserve (United States of America) The Advisory Committee welcomed the resubmission of this periodic review report for this biosphere reserve which was designated in 1976. It noted that the first report for this biosphere reserve was submitted in 2014.

The biosphere reserve is situated 100 km north-west of Denver, on the continental divide in Colorado, and it includes both Colorado and Missouri river watersheds. The altitude range is from 2,300 to 4,400 m above sea level. The landscape is a mix of montane forests, meadows and grasslands, and alpine tundra. The area is very rich in terms of plant diversity and is the habitat of wapiti, bighorn, and mule deer.

The Advisory Committee commended the progress made by the biosphere reserve staff (i) to use the official periodic review form, (ii) to clarify the zonation map by showing clear defined core area, buffer zone and transition area, and (iii) to revise the management plan aiming to reflect the integration of these zones in the biosphere reserve. The core area is made of three Research Natural Area totalizing 9,665 ha, the buffer zone is made of the national park (107,980 ha) and the transition area covers 2,600,000 ha in 4 counties. The 650,000 permanent residents are mostly in the transition area while the buffer zone welcomed each year c. 3.4 million visitors. The site contributes to several frameworks of cooperation including multilateral twinning agreements. Researches, studies and monitoring are developed to feed management decision and development choices. A diverse set of stakeholder groups are informed, invited to engage in significant management decisions. The Advisory Committee considered that the biosphere reserve implements the 3 functions of the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and encouraged the biosphere reserve to share their knowledge in the USA, as well as in the EuroMAB network, especially concerning participatory process and stakeholders' involvement.

Socotra Archipelago Biosphere Reserve (Yemen) The Advisory Committee welcomed the first periodic review report from Socotra Archipelago Biosphere Reserve which was designated in 2003 and acknowledged the special situation of the site due to political instabilities. Socotra has become a governorate with more administrative and financial independence and thus currently experiencing an institutional transition.

Socotra Archipelago has been supported by international agencies to implement several monitoring programs of its biodiversity. The Advisory Committee supports the site's further conservation objectives targeting to decrease the selling of land on coastal areas and the export of biological resources, as well as to facilitate research collaborations.

The Socotra Management Plan has been established on the occasion of the island's designation as UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008, but there is no specific management plan for the Socotra Archipelago Biosphere Reserve aiming at implementing the biosphere reserve concept. Many touristic activities are for instance reported to happen in the core areas and their sustainability would critically need to be assessed. Further, though the Advisory Committee acknowledged the biosphere reserve's efforts to promote traditional knowledge among decision makers, it however also noted the absence of participatory and consultative processes, involving local communities in the management of the site.

Given the site's transitional situation, the Advisory Committee concluded that Socotra Archipelago Biosphere Reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities formulate a management plan for the biosphere reserve and to engage the local communities' participation in the management of the site.

Annex 2 Follow-up to ICC recommendations considered by the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves during its 22nd meeting held at UNESCO Headquarters, 25-28 January 2016

Country	Name of the site
ALGERIA	Chr�a
	Djurdjura
ARGENTINA	(Laguna Oca y Herraduras del R�o Paraguay)
	Costeros del Sur
	Laguna Blanca
	Nancu�an
	San Guillermo
CANADA	Long Point
	Waterton
	Mount Arrowsmith
	Charlevoix
	Niagara Escarpment
	Riding Mountain
	Southwest Nova
FRANCE	Archipel de la Guadeloupe
GERMANY	Waddensea of Hamburg
	Wadden Sea and Hallig Islands of Schleswig-Holstein
	Waddensea of Lower Saxony
GREECE	Gorge of Samaria
HUNGARY	Aggtelek
	Fert� lake
	Pilis
	Hortob�gy
	Kiskunsag
ISRAEL	Mt. Carmel
ITALY	Tuscan Islands
KENYA	Mount Kenya (included in the PR report)
MONGOLIA	Hustain Nuru
POLAND	Bialowieza
	Slowinski
POLAND/SLOVAKIA/ UKRAINE	East Carpathians TBR
POLAND/SLOVAKIA	Tatra TBR
PORTUGAL	Pa�l do Boquilobo
ROMANIA/UKRAINE	Danube Delta TBR
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina
	Darvinskiy
	Sokhondinskiy
	Tzentralnosibirskii
	Astrakhanskiy
	Baikalsky
	Kavkazskiy
	Kronokskiy
	PriokskoTerrasnyi
	Sikhote Aline
	Nijeegorodskoe Zavalje
Okskiy	

	Pechoro-Ilychskiy
	Tsentral'nolesnoy
	Barguzinskiy
	Daursky
	Taimyrskiy
	Vodlozersky
	Teberda
	Katunskiy
	Visimskiy
	Commander Islands
	Nerusso-Desnyanskoye Polesye
	Far East Marine
SLOVAKIA	Polana
	Slovenský Kras
SLOVENIA	The Karst
SPAIN	Sierra de las Nieves y su Entorno
	Marismas del Odiel
SWITZERLAND	Val Mustair-Parc Naziunal
THAILAND	Mae Sa – Kog Ma
	Hauy Tak Teak
UKRAINE	Carpathian
	Askania-nova
	Chernomorskiy

Chr a Biosphere Reserve (Algeria) At its 20th session in 2014, the Advisory Committee, while recognizing the good work undertaken over the years in the Chr a Biosphere Reserve, as outlined in the periodic review of 2013, concluded that the site did not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework, and that in order to do so, the Advisory Committee invited the Algerian authorities to consider enlarging the biosphere reserve to extend it beyond the national park, with a clearly delimited buffer zone and transition area. The extended biosphere reserve should be accompanied by an integrated biosphere reserve management plan involving local communities and the private sector.

In reviewing the Algerian follow-up to these recommendations, the Advisory Committee took note with appreciation of the expansion of the biosphere reserve that now includes areas also outside the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee examined the proposed new zonation, provided on relevant maps, which results in an expansion of total area of the biosphere reserve from 12,400 ha to 38,000 ha; the management of which will encourage the involvement of a broader range of stakeholders. Therefore, the Advisory Committee considered with appreciation that all its recommendations have been met and that the site now **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee also recommended that the MAB ICC approves the expansion of this biosphere reserve

Djurdjura Biosphere Reserve (Algeria) At its 26th session in 2014, the MAB ICC, while recognizing the good work undertaken over the years in the Chr a Biosphere Reserve in the follow-up to its recommendations stemming from the 2011 periodic review, concluded that the site did not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework, and that in order to do so, the Council requested the Algerian authorities to clarify the biosphere reserve zoning, which includes one national park, to facilitate the inclusion of human populations, to systematically conduct impact studies for new infrastructure developments and for important existing installations; to identify legal and regulatory means for enabling the biosphere reserve and national park to engage in, or benefit from, commercial activities to meet their operating expenses.

In its review of the materials submitted by the Algerian authorities in response to this request, the Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the proposal of extension of the biosphere reserve. In addition to the extension, which was the main recommendation in 2014, the Advisory Committee was also satisfied that management policies for the extended biosphere reserve would successfully engage with key public and private stakeholders. Therefore, the Advisory Committee considered with appreciation that recommendations of the Council have been met and that the site now meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee also recommended that the MAB ICC approve the extension of this biosphere reserve.

Laguna Oca y Herraduras del Río Paraguay (Argentina) The Advisory Committee acknowledged the report submitted by the national authorities. The Advisory Committee however observed that the additional information requested by the MAB ICC in 2014 has not been provided. Therefore, the authorities are requested to:

Provide clearer maps about the current extent of the zones and the proposed extension.

Re-evaluate the importance of the buffer zone along the river as an element connecting different landscapes and contributing to maintaining biodiversity and ecological restoration in the urban, rural and natural environments.

Elaborate a management plan which will reflect all the changes in the biosphere reserve.

The requested information should be submitted to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Costeros del Sur Biosphere Reserve (Argentina) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Argentinian authorities on the recommendations endorsed by the MAB ICC in 2000. The Advisory Committee noted the activities in progress and the achievements of this biosphere reserve. However, the Advisory Committee requested that the national authorities present a new periodic review report in line with the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee also requested that the authorities provide a clear zonation map.

The requested information should be submitted to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Laguna Blanca Biosphere Reserve (Argentina) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Argentinian authorities on the recommendations endorsed by the MAB ICC in 2000. The Advisory Committee noted the activities being implemented and the achievements of this biosphere reserve. However, the Advisory Committee requested that the national authorities present a new periodic review report in line with the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee also requested that the authorities provide a clear zonation map.

The requested information should be submitted to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Nancuñan Biosphere Reserve (Argentina) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information received by the Argentinian authorities on the recommendations endorsed by the MAB International Coordination Council in 2000. The Advisory Committee noted the activities being implemented and the achievements of this biosphere reserve. However, the Advisory Committee requested that the national authorities present a new periodic review report in line with the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee also requested that the authorities provide a clear zonation map.

The requested information should be submitted to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

San Guillermo Biosphere Reserve (Argentina) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information received by the Argentinian authorities on the recommendations endorsed by the MAB International Coordination Council in 2000. The Advisory Committee noted the activities being implemented and the achievements of this biosphere reserve. However, the Advisory Committee requested that the national authorities present a new periodic review report in line with the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee also requested that the authorities provide a clear zonation map.

The requested information should be submitted to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Long Point Biosphere Reserve (Canada) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information with regard to the MAB Council recommendation of 2014.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged that a segment of local landowners believed that delineation of a buffer zone would impact their land rights. The Advisory Committee acknowledged also that there is a local feeling that rejecting the addition of Bachus Woods to the core area for a question of buffer zone might be considered as a huge step backwards in the growth and community acceptance of the UNESCO biosphere reserve program in the Long Point area. The Advisory Committee also acknowledged that the new proposed core area is being buffered, and therefore recommended the approval of the new core area.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Waterton Biosphere Reserve (Canada) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information with regard to the MAB Council recommendation of 2014. The Advisory Committee noted that the formalization of zonation regarding the transition area, was still in progress and not yet finalized. It appreciated the provided information concerning the participatory process to elaborate delineation and to organize cooperation. It also acknowledged that the staff will continue during the next months to work with all partners to complete the Cooperation Plan to guide the future work of the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee considered that the site does not meet the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to pursue their progress in the update of the zonation and preparation of the cooperation plan. The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities:

Finalize the zonation revision and explore the possibilities that the integration of the brown areas in the transition area (lands managed by the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, the Piikani Nation, and the Blood Tribe) could be considered at a later stage in the process in order to avoid further delays;

Provide a high-quality map giving a clear explanation of the functions for each zone, to meet the criteria;

Provide the cooperation and management plan for the biosphere reserve.

The national authorities are requested to submit the above information to the MAB Secretariat by 30th September 2016.

Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve (Canada) The Advisory Committee welcomed the progress report related to the activities undertaken since the last review in 2014.

The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the new design of the governance with a new start based on the memorandum of understanding between Vancouver Island University and the city of Parksville succeeding the foundation. The Advisory Committee appreciated the update and adaptation of the strategy and action plan, and noted the creation of a university-based research

institute that is directly associated with the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve. New research actions and events had been developed. The Advisory Committee noted that the biosphere reserve joined the EuroMAB indigenous working group and the new authorities engaged partnerships with local communities and First Nation members.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to pursue their efforts and to implement the planned actions outlined in the strategic and action plan (2013-2018).

The Advisory Committee considered that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Charlevoix Biosphere Reserve (Canada) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information with regard to the MAB Council recommendation of 2014. The Advisory Committee noted the change in the zonation and appreciated the explanations and the new provided map. The proposed area is made of 4 core areas with a total of 905 km², a smaller buffer zone of 3,115 km² and transition area of 3,209 km². However, the information provided is not consistent concerning the zones and their related surface, and should be addressed. The new map should also update the legend with the wording of UNESCO for the zonation. The authorities should also explain why there is no buffer zone surrounding the new integrated core zone that is a Marine Protected Area (Parc Marin). The Advisory Committee requested the authorities to delineate a buffer zone that would totally or partially surround this new core area.

The Advisory Committee commended all the efforts to create a new collective dynamic in the governance of the biosphere reserve. It also appreciated the progress made to answer the recommendations made by the experts in charge of the last periodic review report. The Advisory Committee noted the engagement of the local authorities to find funding to provide an adequate coordination of the site.

Based on the information in the report the Advisory Committee concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserve is high. However, the Advisory Committee requested the authorities to provide to the Secretariat rationale on the absence of buffer zone around/adjacent to the marine core area and to provide them with a clear zonation map by 30th September 2016.

Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve (Canada) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information with regard to the MAB Council recommendation of 2014.

The Advisory Committee appreciated that its recommendation was implemented and that the biosphere reserve refrains from modifying the status of the “escarpment protection” areas from the buffer zone to core area until the legal status of this latter new core area was secured in 2015. Concerning the transition area, the Advisory Committee noted that the authorities acknowledged the interest of extending its boundaries beyond the present Niagara Escarpment Park area, in order to explore cooperation with adjacent watersheds authorities.

The Advisory Committee noted the progress made to promote the sustainable development function of the biosphere reserve based on a more balanced vision between human needs and nature conservation, and on collaboration with stakeholders with the organization of a conference and the appointment of a NEBR representative to develop social and collaborative networks.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the participation of the NEBR representative to the EuroMAB Network and the efforts made to promote understanding of the function of biosphere reserves to local communities and institutions in charge of development and nature conservation. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to pursue their engagement for the biosphere reserve and its human and non-human residents.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve (Canada) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information with regard to the MAB-Council recommendation of 2014. The Advisory Committee appreciated the progress made and information provided. The core area is the riding mountain national park that covers 308,924 ha, the new buffer zone (locally called cooperation area) completely surrounds the core area and covers 465,354 ha and the transition area covers a total area of 737,356 ha.

The Advisory Committee took note of the recognition by the boards of directors of an expansion of membership and the work in progress to reinforce the management committee and to facilitate community dialogue. The adoption of an integrated model as a framework for the coordination plan was appreciated as the completion of a comprehensive work plan. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to pursue their efforts to conciliate local communities' well-being, biodiversity conservation and sustainable activity development

The Advisory Committee concluded that the biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve (Canada) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information with regard to the MAB-ICC recommendation of 2014. It noted with satisfaction that the authorities maintained a high level of engagement despite the dramatic change in the local economy and the lack of funding for the coordination of the biosphere reserve. It also noted the implementation of most of the local recommendations and appreciated the new management plan adapted to its current financial status. The Advisory Committee noted the information provided regarding the engagement with local communities, conservation and cultural heritage. It pointed out, however, that the provided zonation map is still not clear.

Without clear zonation map the Advisory Committee could not assess if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee therefore requested clear zonation maps showing all areas, as well as clarification of their impact on implementation of the biosphere reserve's three functions. The requested information should be submitted to the MAB Secretariat by 30th September 2016.

Archipel de la Guadeloupe Biosphere Reserve (France) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the authorities of Guadeloupe on the status of the implementation of the 2015 recommendation by the MAB Council.

The Advisory Committee appreciates the efforts made to (further) develop the management plan. This plan appears to be quite detailed, and seems to have received the support from many of the local communities – through the local government institutions. Nevertheless, in the schedule detailing the activities and the time plan, it appears that most activities relating to community development and support (especially relating to objective 4) have not yet started.

The Advisory Committee also appreciated the efforts made to increase the linkages with enterprises through labelling processes, and the efforts made to develop projects together with local communities – 28 have been financed since July 2014. Details on the kinds of projects that were supported are, however, missing. However, it is not clear whether local communities are actively participating in the management of the biosphere reserve. Research and monitoring seem to have been improved significantly, with the support of many different partners. The development of the Atlas is highly appreciated.

The Advisory Committee understands the difficulties experienced in expanding the biosphere reserve to include local communities. The map provided does indicate that zones of 'adhesion' (support) have been delineated and adhesion signatures have been collected from local municipalities but it is not clear whether local communities are actively participating in the management of the biosphere reserve

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that further information is sent on the participation of the local communities in the management of the biosphere reserve.

General recommendation to Germany

The Advisory Committee expressed appreciation for the presentation made by the German delegation to explain rationale and progress in changing zonation scheme in the three sites in order for them to meet the criteria. It also welcomed the information provided on the plan to create one biosphere reserve under one joint management structure. It took note that this effort may request additional time. It requested the authorities to provide updated information and progress made on the zonation on the three sites by 30th September 2016.

Waddensea of Hamburg Biosphere Reserve (Germany) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve and request from the MAB Council. It noted that for reasons previously mentioned in the periodic review reports of 2004 and 2014, the Wadden Sea of Hamburg Biosphere Reserve cannot establish its own transition area, as the Wadden Sea belonging to Hamburg is already a designated biosphere reserve with a core area and a buffer zone.

It welcomed that the authorities present a Strategy for the Wadden Sea of Hamburg Biosphere Reserve to support a transition area for the Wadden Sea of Lower Saxony Biosphere Reserve in the Cuxhaven area (2015-2023). It states that the administration of the Wadden Sea of Hamburg Biosphere Reserve will support the transition area in Lower Saxony adjacent to the existing biosphere reserve, based on the functional links between the two biosphere reserves. The core areas and buffer zones of the two biosphere reserves are already connected. Moreover, the mainland around Cuxhaven (Lower Saxony) is adjacent to the south-east and forms part of the proposed transition area. Both biosphere reserves plan to work together to develop this site into a formal transition area with the participation of the municipalities in a bottom-up process. The goal is to establish a transition area on the mainland adjacent to the two existing biosphere reserves.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to continue the revision and supports the proposed change to the current zonation.

Wadden Sea and Hallig Islands of Schleswig-Holstein Biosphere Reserve (Germany) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve and request from the MAB Council.

The response includes further information on sustainable development activities and cooperation with local stakeholders. The Advisory Committee also noted that the potential of this marine biosphere reserve to increase the transition area almost reached its limits as the current transition area comprises nearly the whole of the terrestrial area managed by humans. However, the authorities indicate the continuation of the process of enlarging the transition area in cooperation with the neighbouring municipalities.

The Advisory Committee also received clear zonation map, indicating that the zonation scheme does not meet the criteria as some of the core areas lack the presence of buffer zones and are adjacent to the biosphere reserve border or to the transition area. In one case, the transition area is embedded into a core area.

The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the authorities should continue the revision of the zonation in order that the core areas are properly buffered and/or provide rationale on the absence of the buffer zones. It further encouraged the authorities to continue the process of the enlargement of the transition areas.

Waddensea of Lower Saxony Biosphere Reserve (Germany) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve and request from the MAB Council.

It welcomed the information about the effort to increase the transition area. It noted that the negotiations have been started in July 2014 and municipalities in the region have been invited to join in the process, some of them already confirming to participate in creation of a new transition area. These municipalities would represent increase of 50% of terrestrial transition zone. The additional information provided includes evidence of activities with regards to the development function. It also noted that the authorities suggested that the process of agreeing on the revision of the zonation and creation of a formal transition area with the coastal municipalities will be concluded in 2016. It noted that the new zonation of the Wadden Sea of Lower Saxony Biosphere Reserve will be submitted to UNESCO. The Advisory Committee also received with thanks a clear zonation map.

Despite praiseworthy and needed efforts to increase the transition area, the zonation scheme does not meet the criteria as some of the core areas lack the presence of buffer zones and are adjacent to the border of the biosphere reserve or the transition areas. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the authorities continue the revision of the zonation in order that the core areas are properly buffered and/or provide rationale on the absence of the buffer zones. It further encouraged the authorities to continue the process of enlargement of the transition areas.

Gorge of Samaria Biosphere Reserve (Greece) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the second periodic review report for this biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and it therefore requested that the authorities:

Provide a rationale for the absence of buffer zones at the north part of the core area;
Send to the Secretariat a copy of the revised management plan with a zonation map in concordance with the criteria set by the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserve.

It requested that all these elements be sent to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2016.

Aggtelek Biosphere Reserve (Hungary) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information on follow up of the recommendations made by the MAB Council. It acknowledged that the zonation now meets the criteria in the Statutory Framework. It also noted with appreciation that the Aggtelek Biosphere Reserve has implemented several actions to cooperate with stakeholders along the line of a newly developed management plan.

It however noted that the active participation of local communities in the management and in decision making process is not yet finalized in a management structure as requested by the MAB Council.

The Advisory Committee noted that the authorities designed a management structure to make the reserve more inclusive of stakeholders and to ensure the direct participation of stakeholders in managing the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee considered that the site **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Lake Fertő Biosphere Reserve (Hungary) The Advisory Committee welcomed additional information provided by this biosphere reserve. It noted that the managers are involving stakeholders in some promotion and education activities but recommended that the site further

develop the participatory process for engaging communities in the biosphere reserve management. It welcomed the finalization of the management plan.

The Advisory Committee therefore considered that, the site **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Pilis Biosphere Reserve (Hungary) The Advisory Committee welcomed this additional information provided by the biosphere reserve, following the MAB Council recommendation.

It acknowledged that the authorities provided a management plan and conducted assessments of the impact of tourism on the area and provided explanation on how tourism was managed in the area. It also noted with satisfaction that the cooperation is maintained through well-developed educational activities and conservation actions as well as involvement of volunteers and local people is the Vadonleső (“Wildwatcher”) Programme.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the proposal for changes in zonation but noted that the revision is still in the planning process. It noted that the discussion started in 2015 with the local government. It also noticed that some parts of the core area are not adjacent to buffer zones in north and that the buffer zone in western part are not adjacent to transition areas.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee requested additional information on the rationale for this planning. It further encouraged the authorities to work on the zonation and to provide a zonation map with clear boundaries for the biosphere reserve by 30th September 2016.

Hortobágy Biosphere Reserve (Hungary) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information on follow up of the recommendations made by the MAB Council. It acknowledged the finalization of the management plan that address local economy. It noted that the authorities stated that stakeholders and cooperation partners are active in the management of the site and regretted that no detailed information is provided on the participatory approach.

The Advisory Committee therefore considered that the site **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the biosphere reserve to pursue the involvement of local people and present detailed information on the procedures for involving local communities in the management of the biosphere reserve.

Kiskunság Biosphere Reserve (Hungary) The Advisory Committee welcomed this additional information following the MAB Council’s recommendation.

It acknowledged with thanks the receipt of a zonation map that still need to be shared with local municipalities for consultation and that this new zonation map is uniting the different clusters into one entity. It also welcomed the finalization of a management plan for the entire area.

It concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, the Advisory Committee congratulated the authorities for all the progress made and requested that once the consultation on zonation with local municipalities have been finalized, that the authorities submit the revised zonation by 30th September 2016 in order for the changes to be endorsed by the MAB Council.

Mt. Carmel Biosphere Reserve (Israel) The Advisory Committee welcomed the efforts made to implement the 2015 recommendation by the MAB Council. It considered that much progress has been made in ensuring the tangible engagement of the local communities in the biosphere

reserve management. It welcomed the meetings that have taken place between the MAB national committee and the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) representatives.

It also noted that the national authorities have indicated that the inclusion of local communities in the biosphere reserve management will come into effect provided that (a) the biosphere reserve's management plan, prepared jointly and in full cooperation of the INPA and the local communities is in place by September 2016, and (b) a joint biosphere reserve management mechanism in which the local Druze communities are represented, is in place by September 2016. In September 2016 representatives of the INPA and of the Druze communities of the Mt. Carmel Biosphere Reserve will assess their achievements with respect to both targets.

The Advisory Committee welcomed this positive development and strongly encouraged the authorities to jointly implement the management plan and activities with the local communities, especially the local Druze communities and to implement the joint biosphere reserve management mechanism as soon as possible.

The Advisory Committee further recommended that further decision-making will take place on the basis of the outcomes of the joint assessment by the Druze communities and the INPA. The Advisory Committee requested that outcomes of the meetings, possible examples of activities deriving from the discussions and the joint management of the area are submitted to the Secretariat by 30th September 2016 in order for the MAB Council to decide if the site is meeting the criteria.

Tuscan Islands Biosphere Reserve (Italy) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow up information related to recommendations from 2015.

The Advisory Committee commended the authority on very well prepared explanations and elaboration of documents requested. It noted that the monitoring and assessment of impacts of tourism was presented as well as the study of ecosystem services, compiling the research studies addressing the sustainable development.

The revised zonation is meeting the Statutory Framework criteria. It noted that the management plan is being prepared through participatory process that is well established. It also noted with appreciation that the communication strategy is finalized and creates opportunities for involvement of local people.

The Advisory Committee considered that the biosphere reserve **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and further encouraged the site to participate in WNBR.

Hustain Nuruu Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia) The Advisory Committee recalled that the Mongolian authorities submitted a report on this biosphere reserve in 2015 covering activities implemented from 2004-2014. The Advisory Committee also noted that the MAB Council in 2015 was not able to conclude whether this biosphere reserve meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves due to the lack of a zonation map. Hence, the national authorities were advised to re-submit the periodic review report using the official periodic review forms with clear zonation maps.

The Advisory Committee noted with appreciation the re-submission of the periodic review report using the prescribed form and accompanied by a clear zonation map, showing the limits of the core area, buffer zone and transition area. The Advisory Committee also noted the submission of a management plan for the Hustain National Park.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and encouraged the national authorities to update the management plan to include the whole biosphere reserve.

Bialowieza Biosphere Reserve (Poland) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up to the MAB-ICC recommendations of 2014. This report also comes in response to the recommendations made in 1998 and 2013. The Advisory Committee underlined the high biodiversity value of Bialowieza Biosphere Reserve and its importance within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. In 2014 a steering committee for the site was established to set up the basis of the agreement to establish a transboundary biosphere reserve with Belarus. It welcomed the management plan detailing the management of each area of the biosphere reserve. The involvement of stakeholders, the research, and collaborative activities contributed also to the development function of the site, especially tourism activity.

The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction that the previous recommendations have been addressed and therefore considered that the biosphere reserve meets the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to pursue their efforts to engage local stakeholders and to develop a transboundary biosphere reserve.

Slowinski Biosphere Reserve (Poland) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up to the MAB Council's recommendations of 2014. The Advisory Committee commended the new proposed zonation of the biosphere reserve that covers a total area of 1,040.23 km². The expansion of the core area to the external borders of the National park, and the expansion of the transition area to the borders of the neighbouring municipalities is not yet finalized. The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information on the state of, and future plans for, sustainable use of renewable energy.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve does not meet the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged that actions to enlarge and to establish a good governance of the site have been undertaken. It encouraged the authorities to continue engaging in constructive efforts towards achieving sustainable development in the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee requested that the authorities provide the letters of support and submit the nomination form by 30th September 2016.

East Carpathians Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Poland/Slovakia/Ukraine) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up to the MAB Council recommendations of 2014. It acknowledged with satisfaction that the Coordinating Council of the transboundary site provided additional information regarding previous comments and recommendations related to scientific studies.

The Advisory Committee underlined the high level of activities in term of researches in the site. It appreciated the adoption of the management plan by the coordination council in 2015 and the series of measures developed to address local issues related to tourism, culture conservation and promotion. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to pursue their efforts to promote a sustainable development of their biosphere reserve and congratulated the authorities for the progress made and achievements obtained.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the transboundary biosphere reserve does address the Pamplona recommendations for transboundary biosphere reserves.

Tatra Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Poland/Slovakia) The Advisory Committee welcomed this follow-up to the MAB Council recommendations of 2014.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the provided information related to human population change. It noted that an intensive participatory management planning process is ongoing on Slovak and Polish sides of the biosphere reserve. As the management plan is expected to be

completed by the end of 2016 or in early 2017, the Advisory Committee requested to receive the final version of the plan by 2017.

The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to pursue the engagement of local stakeholders and requested update and detailed information on the intensive participatory management planning process ongoing as well as endorsement by local stakeholders about their participation in the biosphere reserve management by 30th September 2016.

Paúl do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve (Portugal) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information provided by the Portuguese authorities with regard to the recommendations of the MAB ICC in 2014.

The Advisory Committee noted that the requested map with appropriate zonation has been submitted. The management of the biosphere is being undertaken by two entities: the Executive Council (the most important body) constituted by representatives of the communities, NGOs and the government; and the Monitoring Committee, consisting of several local agents, as well as agents from areas concerned with the environment and nature conservation, economic activities, public administration institutions and different scientific fields.

The Advisory Committee also noted that the biosphere reserve has developed a well-defined participation plan for the local communities. The plan incorporates a variety of financial resources to implement the proposed projects and activities.

Taking into account these submissions, the Advisory Committee concluded that this site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Danube Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Romania/Ukraine) The Advisory Committee welcomed this follow-up to the MAB Council recommendation of 2014. The Advisory Committee recognized the high ecological and cultural value of the transboundary site and its importance in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee noted that despite recent efforts from the authorities the joint management structure is not yet established to coordinate joint activities and projects for the benefits of local communities and managers. The Advisory Committee appreciated also the new provided map using the same methodology and terminology for both sides. The map reflects the existence of the transboundary biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee noted the progress made by the authorities to increase the visibility of the transboundary site in the various projects being implemented and planned. It noted with interest the objectives of the outlines of the action plan.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **does not address** the Pamplona recommendations for transboundary biosphere reserves but encouraged the authorities to pursue their efforts and requested that the authorities submit the following information by 30th September 2016:

To provide a joint working plan with specified objectives, milestones and vision for the transboundary biosphere reserve, especially as regards scientific projects and sustainable development activities and implementation of the results in practice;

To establish the joint management structure;

To document processes of involvement of individual sites and stakeholders in the management of the site.

The Advisory Committee further encouraged the authorities of both countries to initiate cooperation with other transboundary biosphere reserves within the WNBR.

General recommendation to Russian Federation

The Advisory Committee welcomed the efforts made by the Russian authorities to provide elements and information to address the previous recommendations made by the MAB Council.

It also acknowledged the unique contribution of the Russian biosphere reserves to conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems as well as their contribution to scientific research. It also commended the efforts made by the authorities to create transition areas and involve local communities where possible. It recommended to the authorities to consider the withdrawal of the sites that cannot meet the criteria and encouraged the submission of new proposals.

Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed this follow-up to the MAB-ICC recommendation of 2010, following the periodic review of 2007. The Advisory Committee noted that information on zonation was provided presenting only 4 of the core areas (O-Shynac, Ubsur–Nuur, Tsuger Els and Yamaalyg) and that a transition area has been established. It noted that the management plan has been prepared for State Nature Biosphere Reserve Ubsunorskaysa Kotlovina for 2008 – 2012.

The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction that the cooperation between Russian Federation and Mongolia is on-going. It welcomed the preparation of a Joint Plan of Management of Transboundary Protected Areas of the Russian Federation and Mongolia “Ubsunorskaya Kotlovina” for 2010-2015. It also welcomed the information that a transboundary biosphere nomination file will be submitted.

The Advisory Committee requested that the comprehensive zonation map with all nine core areas be submitted by 30th September 2016 in order to assess if the site meets the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Darvinskiy Biosphere Reserves (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve and request from the MAB Council in 2014.

It noted with satisfaction that all requested information has been provided, concerning the zonation and that a map was provided. It also welcomed the description of industrial activities in Cherepovets and the monitoring of their impact. The Advisory Committee noted that the management plan has not yet been finalised. It also noted that information on communication policy was provided. It also welcomed information on participation of local population, engaged in meetings and annual presentation of the work of the biosphere Reserve and the plan to establish the Coordinating council for future cooperation.

The Advisory Committee therefore concluded that the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Sokhondinskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve and request from the MAB Council in 1998. The Advisory Committee considered the zonation is not in line with statutory framework, since one of the core area is not surrounded/adjacent to a buffer zone and that the buffer zone located in the north is not large enough. It requested that the authorities provide further clarification on these issues and consider possible extension of the buffer zones. The Advisory Committee noted that the preparation of a management plan in cooperation with the local population is on-going.

The Advisory Committee requested that the above mentioned information regarding the zonation be submitted by 30th September 2016 in order to assess if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Tzentralsibirskii Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed this additional information provided by the biosphere reserve, following the MAB Council recommendation in 2005. The Advisory Committee noted the involvement of the local people and rangers activities as well as cooperation of the biosphere reserve authority with local authorities. It noted that the information provided on the zonation is not in line with the statutory

framework. The core area is not surrounded by a buffer zone which is only located in the south western part. The transition area is divided in different types of areas that are not connected.

The Advisory Committee therefore concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee requested the authorities to provide additional clarification on the above mentioned issues, as regards the rationale of the zonation, especially concerning the absence of the buffer zone and the fragmentation of the transition area. The national authorities are requested to submit the information to the MAB Secretariat by 30th September 2016.

Astrakhanskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve and request from the MAB Council in 2005. The Advisory Committee acknowledged the involvement of local communities, local and regional authorities, scientific and educational institutions as well as NGOs environmental organization in preparation of the Management Plan 2010 – 2015. It welcomed the information on the participation of local communities in activities for nature conservation and education. It also noted information provided on the process of changing the actual zonation of the biosphere reserve to assure the sustainable use of natural resources in Volga's delta. The Advisory Committee noted the legal instruments and support of regional authorities are facilitating the process that is expected to be finalized by 2017-2018.

The Advisory Committee also noted the zonation map, showing that the zonation does not meet the criteria as some of the core areas lack the presence of buffer zones and are adjacent to the biosphere reserve border. The terminology used is not in line with the Statutory Framework. The transition area is not delineated and does not provide a connection among three core areas.

The Advisory Committee concluded that due to the current zonation, this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee therefore recommended to the authorities to continue the revision of the zonation in order that the core areas are properly buffered. It further encouraged the authorities to continue the process of enlargement of transition area. It requested the authorities to provide an updated zonation map and clarification on the above mentioned issues by 30th September 2016.

Baikalsky Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the 2005 recommendation made by the MAB Council. It noted that the basic information is provided on the zonation of the biosphere reserve with a map showing that the zonation is meeting the criteria.

It also noted that the authorities briefly described activities in the field of sustainable development, with mention of the Programme of small business credits (2007 – 2010) as a result of work of stakeholders, participating in the Coordination council. This Coordination Council was created within the framework of Programme development of sustainable livelihood for people living on the territory of Baikalsky Biosphere Reserve cooperation". It also noted that tourism coordination work of "South of Baikal Association" leading to Tourism development program of Kabansky district, supporting environmentally friendly tourism.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Kavkazskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the 2005 recommendation made by the MAB Council. It noted that according to the current zonation, the whole biosphere reserve is a core area. It noted that the zonation could be extending with buffer zone and transition areas but it is indicated this extension would not be welcomed by surrounding communities.

It also noted that the management policy or plan was not finalized and the authorities indicated that there is no such management tool in place. It also noted that there is no population inside the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee noted that there is mention of cooperation with other biosphere reserves.

The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee recommended that the national authorities consider withdrawal of the site.

Kronoktskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the 2005 recommendation made by the MAB Council. It noted that the authorities did not address the issues raised in the previous recommendation and requested that the authorities submit a zonation map as well as detailed information on development function, activities in transition area and the involvement of local communities in the site.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria. It requested that this information be provided at latest by 30th September 2016.

Prioksko Terrasnyi Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the recommendation made by the MAB Council in 1999. It noted that the authorities expressed difficulties to establish a transition area with reference to the Russian Federal legislation, however it is suggested that the transition area is made of the territory of municipal district of Serpukhov Moscow region.

It noted that the management policy/plan for the whole area as a biosphere reserve, including mechanisms for local participation and the promotion of sustainable development is not reported in details as only minor activities are mentioned.

The Advisory Committee requested the authorities to provide more information on progress achieved as regards the implementation of the management plan and evidence of the implementation of the development function as well as clarification on the status of the transition areas, including a clearer zonation map. It requested that the above mentioned information be provided by 30th September 2016 in order to assess if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Sikhote Alin Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the recommendation made by the MAB Council in 2005. The Advisory Committee welcomed the zonation map and the establishment of core areas and praised the consultation of local population in the definition of the zonation. It further encouraged the authorities to pursue this dialogue in the revision of the zonation.

The Advisory Committee requested the following information to be provided by 30th September 2016: i) finalize the revision of the zonation and clarify the reasons for the definition of the transition area; ii) define a management plan/policy and implement it with involvement of local population; iii) provide information on the implementation of the development function in order to assess if the site meets the criteria.

Nijeegorodskoe Zavolje Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the efforts made by the authorities to implement the 2015 recommendation made by the MAB Council with regards to the inclusion of populations in the biosphere reserve and the management of it, and the strengthening of the research function.

The Advisory Committee understood the difficulties in changing legislation, and welcomed the efforts to take a first step by concluding agreements concerning cooperation and joint activities in promoting the sustainable development of the biosphere reserve with the authorities of the Voskresensky district of Nizhny, and the Novgorod Semenovskiy district of Nizhny Novgorod. The Advisory Committee also appreciated the establishment of a Coordinating Council in which the

population is said to participate. However, it regretted that information on how the participation is regulated is not provided.

The Advisory Committee concluded that with the lack of a management plan – which the authorities indicate cannot be developed due to lack of funding – and a zonation map that still not conform requirements, the site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee recommended that detailed reports are sent on how local populations are represented and included in the Coordinating Council, as well as endorsements from representatives of local communities by the 30th of September 2016.

Okskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee appreciated the efforts made to implement the recommendations made by the MAB Council in 1998, and noted that the zonation of the biosphere reserve has been adapted to include a transition area.

However, the Advisory Committee expressed concern about the small size of the transition area. It noted that in terms of participation of the local communities, details are missing on their involvement in the management of the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee also noted that the remarks about the development function of the biosphere reserve do not provide enough details either.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework.

The Advisory Committee recommended that detailed reports on the above mentioned issues: i) size of the transition area; ii) details on the involvement of local communities; iii) development functions are provided by the 30th of September 2016.

Pechoro-Ilychskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided as a reply to the 2015 recommendation by the MAB Council. It welcomed the information provided on the importance of the forest in the core area, and the programme to reintroduce reindeer.

One of the recommendations concerned a request to study the possibilities of expanding the transition area, and adapt the zonation to conform to the criteria of the Statutory Framework. However, the Advisory Committee noted that the authorities indicate that an expansion of the transition area is not envisaged, and the zonation therefore still **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee noted that the authorities mentioned a business plan that had been drawn up in 2010, which also included plans to support the traditional mode of life and culture of the local population. The response, however, does not provide any details on the business plan, nor on whether or in what ways local communities are involved in the management of the biosphere reserve.

The Advisory Committee concluded that since no transition area is foreseen to be created in the near future despite request from the MAB Council, the Advisory Committee concluded that the biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the Network of Biosphere Reserves and recommended to the authorities to consider the withdrawal of the site from the WNBR.

Tsentral'nolesnoy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided as a reply to the 2015 recommendation by the MAB Council.

The Advisory Committee noted that the response contained some statements on the expansion of the transition/cooperation area, but in the text there is some confusion about the boundary

between this area and the buffer zone. Without a zonation map, it is not possible to verify whether the zonation meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework.

The Advisory Committee noted that the authorities indicated that harmonization of the Administration of the Tver region with the Russian MAB national committee mid-term management plan has taken place, and that a significant part of the planned activities have been conducted. However, information on the specific management plan for the biosphere reserve is missing. It concluded that the biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities submit the management plan and a revised zonation map before the 30th of September 2016.

Barguzinsky Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the 2012 recommendation by the MAB Council. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information about the expansion of the buffer zones. It welcomed the zonation map provided in the document, however, the Advisory Committee noted that the map still does not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework. No information is provided on the transition area as requested by the MAB Council in 2015.

The Advisory Committee noted the very brief (bullet points) description of the management plan and activities planned for all three zones. Details, however, are lacking, and the Advisory Committee considered difficult to ascertain how, for instance, businesses and social organizations are engaged in the development of ecotourism or environmental education.

In response to the MAB Council's request for more information on the status of biodiversity in the three zones, the Advisory Committee noted that numbers of species are mentioned – and these do indicate high levels of biodiversity – but these are very broadly classified; information on whether these species are threatened or vulnerable are missing. It concluded that the biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee recommended to the authorities to submit a revised zonation map, as well as a detailed management plan including details on the participation of local communities and enterprises by the 30th of September 2016.

Daursky Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the 2010 recommendation made by the MAB Council. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided on the zonation of the biosphere reserve, as well as the discussion to redefine the transition area as a zone of cooperation. It acknowledged the zonation map.

It also welcomed detailed information about a survey that was conducted among local residents about their high appreciation of the biosphere reserve, and the ways in which residents wish to interact with the biosphere reserve. These modes of cooperation as well as activities supported by the residents are now in the process of being implemented. It noted that the biosphere reserve's management takes into account regional development plans which are discussed with representatives of local communities, and reserve staff are involved in working groups at local government level.

The Advisory committee welcomed the on-going discussions as well as joint activities that have been developed with the Mongolian and Chinese Biosphere Reserves. A Transboundary World Heritage Site is in the process of being established, involving Russia and Mongolia.

The Advisory Committee recommended that a zonation map be provided with further clarification on the status of the two federal refuges within the statutory framework criteria terminology and

that this map and clarifications be submitted by 30th September 2016 in order to assess if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Taimyrsky Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the 2010 recommendation by the MAB Council. The Advisory Committee welcomed the initiative taken to cooperate with reindeer herding brigades and the development of environmental education activities with students. The Advisory Committee also welcomed the attempt to adapt the zonation of the biosphere reserve but noted confusion between the transition area and the biosphere reserve polygon, as well as the absence of resident human population inside the transition area. It concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities submit a new zonation map with an extended transition area that does include population as well as a detailed plan on how to involve these populations in the management of the biosphere reserve by 30th September 2016.

Vodlozersky Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided as a reply to the 2012 recommendation by the MAB Council.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the development of a buffer zone as well as a transition area/ zone of cooperation included in the biosphere reserve. The authorities also mentioned the development of a polygon, which partly overlaps with the buffer zone and transition area, but seems to have different functions from the buffer zone and transition area. The Advisory Committee considered the zonation map does not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the information about environmental education programmes that have been initiated, and the development and promotion of tourism activities. However, contrary to the recommendation of the MAB Council, no provision is made for community participation in the management of the biosphere reserve; the reason provided is that there are no issues that require the involvement of residents. The Advisory Committee considered that this reply indicates that the site will not meet the criteria.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the biosphere **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and recommended to the authorities to consider the withdrawal of the site from the WNBR.

Teberda Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided as a reply to the 2010 recommendation by the MAB Council with a periodic review report.

It noted that information provided mentions the development of a buffer zone as well as a transition area. In the periodic review however, it is indicated that neither of these zones is inhabited. The core area is inhabited by 200 people, which is more or less the number of staff members – from the periodic review report it is not clear whether these are the same people. The periodic review report also mentioned local people as consumers of some ecosystem services and participating in the management of the site. The periodic review report mentions tourism as the only development activity, but it is not clear whether this involves those residents mentioned as consumers and co-managers.

It also noted that no management plan is available but that the authorities mentioned that one could be provided in 2016. However, the periodic review report mentions a plan that does not need to be changed.

On the basis of the information provided, the Advisory Committee concluded that the biosphere reserve **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the Network of Biosphere Reserves and recommended to the authorities to consider the withdrawal of the site from the WNBR.

Katunsky Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve in 2014—and the follow-up information received in 2015 with the recommendation by the MAB Council that the site meets the criteria.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the zonation map provided.

The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction that the nomination file for the establishment of a transboundary site with the Republic of Kazakhstan and further encouraged the cooperation between the two countries.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities submit a zonation map with further clarification on the status of zone of traditional land use, zone of strict protection and zone of recreational development within the statutory framework criteria terminology.

Visimskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed this follow-up to the MAB-ICC recommendation of 2015. It welcomed the updated zonation map that presents the added biosphere polygon on the southern part of the core area.

The Advisory Committee took note of the several projects related to education, cooperation with tourist organizations, and with universities. It also welcomed that the continuous ecological educational program was developed with Urals State Pedagogical Universities in order to strengthen the development and logistic function of the biosphere reserve. The Advisory committee still requested that more detailed information as regards development and logistic functions be submitted.

The Advisory Committee also noted that local communities are involved in the management of biosphere reserve through a volunteer programme as well as in educational activities. It also acknowledged with satisfaction that the establishment of Supervisory Board that would include local authorities, NGOs and local population is planned for 2016.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities provide a zonation map using the statutory framework criteria terminology.

Commander Islands Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed this additional information provided by the biosphere reserve, following the MAB Council recommendation of 2015.

The Advisory Committee noted the plan to involve local community, local and regional authorities, experts and various stakeholders in preparation of the Integrated Management Plan, to be finalized by 2015–2016. It also welcomed information about projects successfully implemented in the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee also noted the intention to involve local communities in the Scientific and Technical Council. It requested to receive updated information on the involvement of the local communities in the integrated management once approved.

The Advisory Committee therefore considered that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Nerusso-Desnyanskoye Polesye Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve and request from the MAB Council.

The Advisory Committee noted that the periodic review report on the updated form was not sent as requested. It also took note of the reply from the authorities as regards the suggestion of the MAB Council to enlarge the buffer zone to include Skripinsky State natural sanctuary was not possible due to existing legislation.

It noted the information on the process of preparing a management plan as well as the creation of a Coordinating Committee for the biosphere reserve. It also noted that information was provided on several project related to nature conservation and activities related to monitoring.

The Advisory Committee therefore requested that the authorities provide the periodic review report using the updated form with a zonation map by 30th September 2016 in order to assess if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Far East Marine Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information following the periodic review report for this biosphere reserve and request from the MAB Council in 2014.

The Advisory Committee noted that the village Vitjaz is now included in a buffer zone. It took note that information was provided on the ecological education activities implemented in the biosphere reserve. It noted that local population is involved in the work of biosphere reserve through meetings and consultation and there is intention of strengthening this involvement.

The Advisory Committee therefore requested that the authorities submit: 1) a new zonation map with the village inclusion; 2) the endorsement letters of the local authorities of the Vitjaz village to be part of the biosphere reserve; 3) a detailed plan for sustainable development activities; 4) a plan for participatory management of local communities in the biosphere reserve by 30th September 2016 in order to assess if the site meets the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere

Polana Biosphere Reserve (Slovakia) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information on follow up of the recommendations made by the MAB Council in 2001 and 2013.

It noted that the management authority of the site established cooperation with local tourism agencies and clubs, NGOs and local entrepreneurs in order to promote sustainable development and improvement of tourism infrastructure.

It also noted that a Biosphere Reserve Coordination Board was established in 2014 and consists of representatives of local stakeholders, research community, local community and interested stakeholders and Polana Protected Area Administration, acting as a coordinator. Within the Coordination Board, some working groups were established to address issues for different activities. A specific working group was established to address the socioeconomic research and a long-term programme is in preparation.

It also welcomed the development of a new management plan along a Biosphere Reserve Action Plan, through a participatory process and which was approved in 2014 by the Coordination Board. It also welcomed the information provided on participation of the site in the Network at local and international levels. It also welcomed the information provided on the local participation in economic development. And it finally noted that there was no change in the size of the biosphere reserve but that an extension may be considered and submitted in the future.

The Advisory Committee therefore considered that the site **meets** the criteria in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Slovensky Kras Biosphere Reserve (Slovakia) The Advisory Committee welcomed the response to the 2015 recommendation by the MAB ICC. The Advisory Committee appreciated the detailed information provided about the different gradients of human influences on the landscape, as well as the environmental importance of the area. The Advisory Committee also noted the detailed information about the zonation. It noted that the text on the zonation, however, does not seem to match the map – the legend of the map is also not very clear.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the information provided about the three functions of the biosphere reserve, including the development function. It details the economic situation in the area – including high levels of unemployment due to the closing of mines – and provides examples of how the biosphere reserve aims to improve this situation. The authorities do mention a number of research and monitoring activities, however, these could be expanded beyond monitoring by the government.

The Advisory Committee noted that in 2015 a Coordination Board was established, which includes ten representatives from local municipalities, interest groups and NGOs, but allows for the participation of more stakeholders should these present themselves. A management plan has been developed for the area, and the response indicates that various legislation adopted already was applicable in the different zones.

The Advisory Committee concluded that some information is lacking which makes it difficult to assess whether the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework.

It therefore recommended that the authorities submit an updated zonation map which will match the descriptions provided in the response to the recommendations. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommended to the authorities to submit the new management plan, as well as endorsements from the representatives serving on the Coordination Board, as well as detailed information on the procedures of their involvement in the management of the biosphere reserve by 30th September 2016 in order to assess if the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Karst Biosphere Reserve (Slovenia) The MAB Council concluded in 2014 that the site meets the criteria and can be used as a model.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the response provided by the authorities with regard to the possibility of extending the biosphere reserve to municipalities in the north, east and south. The Advisory Committee is looking forward to receive the results of the discussions with the relevant stakeholders at local and national levels as announced by the authorities. The Advisory Committee requested for more information about the alignment between the extension of the biosphere reserve with existing plans to create other designations (i.e. geoparks, world heritage).

Sierra de las Nieves y su entorno Biosphere Reserve (Spain) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information provided by the Spanish authorities with regard to the recommendations of the MAB ICC in 2007.

The Advisory Committee noted that the requested management committee was clearly defined in an agreement signed in April 2014. However, the biosphere reserve is still working on its management plan.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the management plan be submitted by 30 September 2016.

Marismas del Odiel Biosphere Reserve (Spain) The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information provided by the Spanish authorities with regard to the recommendations of the MAB ICC in 2004.

However, the Advisory Committee noted that the biosphere reserve is still implementing the recommendation made by the Council in 2004 regarding the proposed extension and, in particular, the enlargement of the outer transition area, including marine zones and urban centres, in order to meet the criterion concerning ‘approaches to sustainable development at a regional scale’.

The Advisory Committee requested the Spanish authorities to submit the new extension proposal by 30th September 2016.

Val Mustair-Parc Naziunal Biosphere Reserve (Switzerland) The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the authorities and appreciated the efforts made by the authorities to extend the site as per recommendation of the MAB Council.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the extension of the biosphere reserve, in particular the extension of the buffer zone in the Central Western part of the site and the fact that one community has voted in favour of the establishment of this buffer zone. The Advisory Committee recommended that the authorities submit the management plans before 30th September 2016, as indicated in the letter responding to the recommendations.

Mae Sa - Kog Ma Biosphere Reserve (Thailand) This biosphere reserve was designated in 1977. The first periodic review report was submitted in 1999, however it did not have a transition zone then. The Advisory Committee welcomed this revised second periodic review report for this biosphere reserve in response to the recommendations of the MAB ICC in 2014.

The Advisory Committee noted with appreciation that the above recommendations have been addressed in this periodic review report. The Advisory Committee concluded that this biosphere reserve meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Hauy Tak Teak Biosphere Reserve (Thailand) This biosphere reserve was designated in 1977. The first periodic review report was submitted in 1999 and the second in 2014.

In 2014, the MAB ICC concluded that this site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves but noticed that there was a mistake in the legend of the zonation map. Hence, the national authorities were advised to resubmit a corrected version of the map.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged with appreciation the submission of the revised map.

Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information provided the periodic review report and recommendation from the MAB Council.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged that the national authorities provided information on the extension mentioned in the periodic review report. It noted that that a Decree of the President of Ukraine "On the extension of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve" was adopted to increase the area by 4,405.8 ha in Rakhiv district of Transcarpathian region. The newly-joined area was assigned for the direct use of the reserve from the state forest enterprises and the main purpose was the inclusion of the critical biodiversity areas and also increase of the transition area.

The information provided also included information related to zonation. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve currently consists of 8 sections, which are the basis of the regional ecological network. These sections are linked by ecological corridors that are not parts of the site. The Advisory Committee strongly supports the authorities' considerations to include ecological corridors to the biosphere reserve as transition areas which would increase the biosphere reserve's ecological integrity as well as the problem of fragmentation of the site. It welcomed that the authorities mentioned that it is planned to discuss and sign the Memorandum with local governments to include the ecological corridors to the transit zone of CBR at the beginning of 2016.

It welcomed that the CBR participated in the international project "Bioregio-Carpathians: Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians" that sets the ground for establishment of the Romanian-Ukrainian Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, with the existing CBR and the Maramures Mountains Nature Park in Romania. It also welcomed that the administrations of both protected areas signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the

establishment of transboundary biosphere reserve in May 2014 and currently Romania works on the nomination form in coordination with local communities. It also noted that additional information was provided on the compliance of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve with the Statutory Framework criteria.

The Advisory Committee concluded that with the absence of transition areas and until the finalization of the revised zonation, the site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The Advisory Committee further encouraged the authorities to pursue the changes of the current zonation in the way described by the authorities, using ecological corridors to connect the fragmented biosphere reserve sections and expand its transition area and submit these elements by 30th September 2016.

Askania Nova Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information provided as a follow-up to the periodic review report and recommendation from the MAB Council. It thanked the authorities for providing a map clearly showing the biosphere reserve zonation as requested.

It noted that the zonation scheme includes all three required zones, but the Advisory Committee required more explanation as some parts of the core areas lack the presence of buffer zones and are adjacent to the transition areas. It requested that this information be provided by 30th September 2016 in order to assess if the site meets the criteria.

Chernomorskiy (Black Sea) Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information provided as a follow-up to the periodic review report and recommendation from the MAB Council.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided and a new zonation map but considered that the new zonation is not clear as regards the extension of the transition area and the creation of a buffer zone around the terrestrial core area.

It also noted that some information was provided on the involvement of local communities, including on the current composition of the biosphere reserve coordinating council which includes representatives of the scientific curator, local governments, non-governmental organizations and the local communities.

The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided on long-term monitoring, including on opportunity to use wind energy as an alternative source of energy. The Advisory Committee noted the management policy aimed at preserving the typical and unique socio-ecological system. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided and the steps taken to create a new zonation and to improve management of the entire biosphere reserve.

However, the Advisory Committee considered that the site **does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The terrestrial core area is not surrounded by or adjacent to a buffer zone.

The Advisory Committee requested that the authorities provide by 30th September 2016: a) a new zonation map, enlarging the transition area to encompass farmland, and create a buffer zone around the terrestrial core area; b) detailed information on the involvement of local communities in the coordination council and how they participate in the decision-making process.