

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

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

Twenty-first session

**Jeju KAL Hotel, Grand Ballroom (Jeju, Republic of Korea)**  
25 - 29 May 2009

[http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=6794&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=6794&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

**FINAL REPORT**

**I. Introduction**

1. The twenty-first session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme was held at the Jeju KAL Hotel, Jeju, Republic of Korea from 25 to 29 May 2009.
2. Participants included representatives of the following Members of the ICC as elected by the UNESCO General Conference at its 33rd and 34th sessions: Austria, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Latvia, Madagascar, Mali, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.
3. In addition, observers from the following Member States were present: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Portugal and Turkey.
4. The following organizations attended the session: Burnett Mary Regional Group (Australia), ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), IUCN, National Museum of Natural History (MNHN-Paris), Universidade Federal do Pará, WWF. The full list of participants is presented as Annex 1 to this report.

**II. Opening of the session**

5. Mr Henri Djombo, Minister of Forestry Economy of Congo and Chair of the ICC, who could not be present at this 21st session due to other commitments, had proposed Mr Chung-II Choi of the Republic of Korea, Vice-Chair of the MAB-ICC for Asia Pacific, to replace him as Chair of the session. Having been unanimously endorsed in this capacity by the Bureau of the MAB-ICC, Mr Choi declared the session opened and invited the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Natarajan Ishwaran, Secretary of the MAB Programme, to address participants of the session.
6. Mr Ishwaran read the message from Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO. Mr Matsuura thanked the Korean Government, specifically the local host, the authorities of the Special Self-Governing Province of Jeju, for their generous offer to host the 21st session of the MAB-ICC. Mr Matsuura noted that the main item of discussion at this session of the ICC would be the inclusion of new sites into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Two other topics of particular interest to the discussions of the Council are the "International Year of

Biodiversity" in 2010 and expanding the ERAIFT model both in West Africa and through the promotion of South-South cooperation on humid tropics in the Congo Basin, Southeast Asia and the Amazon. He noted that this is the first MAB-ICC in the history of the Programme which is being held in a biosphere reserve.

7. A representative of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea welcomed participants and highlighted the significance of holding this meeting on the Island of Jeju. The Republic of Korea had been active in UNESCO activities since it joined in 1950. The representative highlighted a proposal to launch an International Coastal and Island Biosphere Reserve Network to address issues of climate change and sustainable development. Green growth is an issue of special interest to the President of the Republic of Korea, and the representative hoped that the MAB Programme could be a tool for experimenting with such alternative economic growth models.

8. A welcome address was delivered by the Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province. He recalled that Jeju had benefitted from UNESCO's recognition. Jeju was first designated as a biosphere reserve in 2002. Since 2007, Jeju has been inscribed as a natural World Heritage site, and they are further endeavouring to have Jeju recognized as a Geopark in 2010.

### **III. Report of the Chair of the ICC**

9. Mr Germain Kombo of Congo presented a statement on behalf of the Chair of ICC, Mr Henri Djombo. He thanked Mr Choi for agreeing to preside over the 21st session of the Council and provided the following information on Mr Djombo's contributions towards the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan (MAP) and other MAB activities. The Council noted with interest the organization of the World Forum on Sustainable Development in Brazzaville (Congo) from 27 to 30 October 2008, and the active participation of UNESCO/MAB in that Forum. The Council also took note of the continuing collaboration efforts between the Chair, the MAB Secretariat, the African Development Bank and the Secretariat of the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) for increasing the chances of obtaining funds for the proposed UNESCO/MAB regional project on "Biosphere reserves as Centres of excellence and Learning Laboratories for Sustainable Development in the Congo Basin". In addition, the ICC Chair is facilitating the creation of a transboundary biosphere reserve with Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Mayombe region.

### **IV. Adoption of the agenda and timetable**

10. In response to questions about modifying the MAP in light of larger UNESCO reprogramming, the MAB Secretary responded that UNESCO considers the MAP adopted for 2008-2013 by the 20th session of the Council, and issues linked to UNESCO strategy, programming and budgeting could be discussed under agenda item 14. The MAB-ICC then adopted the agenda, as contained in Annex 2 to this report.

### **V. Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme**

11. The Secretary of the MAB Programme presented his report on activities implemented since the 20th session of the MAB-ICC held in Madrid in February 2008, which had been submitted to the MAB-ICC as document SC-09/CONF.207/INF.3. This report provided an introduction to the agenda items to be discussed over the course of the week and highlighted activities undertaken by the Secretariat and selected Member States to implement the MAP since the conclusion of the 20th session of the Council in February 2008. The Secretary pointed out MAB efforts to collaborate with other intergovernmental scientific programmes such as the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and underlined the significance of seeking the endorsement of the UNESCO

Executive Board and General Conference in using the WNBR as a UNESCO-wide platform for intersectoral collaboration during the last five years (2009-2014) of the UNDESD. In this regard, recognition and references of the work of MAB and WNBR are needed from ICC Member and Observer Delegations to the UNESCO General Conference in October 2009. Finally, with regards to future ICC sessions, the Secretariat proposed that the ICC meet every year so as to fully participate in annual decisions on new biosphere reserves and consider the 40th anniversary of the MAB Programme as a special occasion for hosting the 2011 session.

12. Several delegates confirmed support for the work of MAB and WNBR including the implementation of MAP. In view of the importance of economic issues of biosphere reserves, it was suggested that the work on quality economies in biosphere reserves be reinforced and the development of statutory frameworks for regional networks of biosphere reserves be given due consideration in efforts to review and update that of the WNBR. The Council called for action from the Secretariat to improve the visibility of MAB and WNBR to levels enjoyed by the World Heritage inscription; while the Council recognized the important role MAB National Committees play, they also called attention to the need for management committees at the individual biosphere reserve level. Furthermore the Council agreed that closer links between the work of WNBR and ESD could help in positioning WNBR as a significant tool to achieve UNESCO targets for the remaining years (2010-2014) of the DESD.

## **VI. Implementation of the Madrid Action Plan (MAP)**

13. The Secretariat introduced document SC-09/CONF.207/4 describing the agenda items and related working and information documents to be considered by the Council, and related to various aspects of the implementation of MAP.

14. Document SC-09/CONF.207/5 aims at completing and refining the information derived from a questionnaire survey on the assessment of the achievements of the Seville Strategy as required by MAP target 1 and action 1.1 and presented previously to the Bureau of the MAB-ICC in February 2009.

15. The Council decided to set a new deadline of 30 September 2009 for receipt of responses on the questionnaire, strongly urging all ICC and Observer Member States to facilitate the Secretariat's efforts to improve the response rate. National Commissions for UNESCO and regional/thematic networks should be called upon to support the Secretariat efforts to optimize the response rate to the questionnaire.

16. After reviewing document SC-09/CONF.207/6 that outlines the first phase of a study involving a survey sent to all MAB Committees (SC-09/CONF.207/INF.4) to collect information on the extent to which the biosphere reserve concept is included in national legislation frameworks, the Council requested the Secretariat to make information available from different countries that have incorporated the concept of biosphere reserves into the national legislative instruments and processes. Examples from countries such as Spain that has placed the biosphere reserve in a legal context to generate institutional, administrative and financial support for the management and co-ordination of biosphere reserves need to be documented and widely shared with other countries. The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a document for the next session of the ICC, which would group countries that have tried to integrate the biosphere reserve concept into various categories of legislations, for example nature conservation, environmental protection, sustainable development and provide brief descriptions of the outcome and lessons learned through such national efforts.

17. Communication is critical for the WNBR and can be significantly improved. The Council welcomed and adopted the integrated strategy for communications and the clearinghouse mechanism described in document SC-09/CONF.207/7 which aims at increasing the visibility of the WNBR, improving the access to information for biosphere reserves and facilitating interaction between biosphere reserves. The Council encouraged the Secretariat to work in partnership with

Member State institutions and regional and thematic networks as appropriate in the implementation of the integrated strategy. The Council took note of the Secretariat's wish to generate additional staff and financial resources to carry out MAP actions for creating an integrated communication strategy and clearinghouse mechanism.

18. The Secretariat introduced document SC-09/CONF.207/10 that proposes the replacement of the Informal Support Group (ISG) established by the Bureau at its meeting in April 2008 by a formal ad-hoc Committee, referred to as the International Support Group (ISG) under the aegis of the Chair of the MAB-ICC. The Council endorsed the idea, and the proposed TOR for the ISG as amended by the Council is included with amendments in Annex 3. The Council stressed that the meetings of the ISG were intended to share and exchange information with the Delegations of Member States to UNESCO and seek their support for implementing specific aspects of the MAP and Council decisions concerning MAB and WNBR but not for taking any decisions on behalf of the Council. The Council requested the Secretariat to inform Member States of the dates and the documents sufficiently in advance of the dates of the meetings to enable Member States to consult with national experts as appropriate in the preparation for the information exchange sessions effectively. The Council acknowledged the value of these meetings for raising the awareness of Permanent Delegations to UNESCO on the MAB Programme, the WNBR, implementation of MAP and other related issues and thereby enhancing their interest and ability to support MAB and WNBR during times between the Council sessions.

## **VII. Reports on actions undertaken by UNESCO Member States and by Regional or Ecosystem Networks**

19. The following ICC Member States made presentations: Egypt, Spain, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Republic of Korea, Gabon, Israel, Germany, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Madagascar, Austria, Latvia, Mali, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Indonesia. The following ICC Observer Member States made presentations: Mexico, Portugal, Turkey and Bulgaria. The following Regional and Sub-Regional Networks made presentations: IberoMAB presented by Mexico, ArabMAB by Egypt, EABRN by the Republic of Korea, EuroMAB by UK, Central Asia by the Russian Federation and AfriMAB by Mali.

20. The presentations of ICC Member and Observer States focused on activities related to the implementation of the MAP with special emphasis on updating the existing biosphere reserves to Seville criteria. There were a number of common themes in reports presented by countries:

- Many countries have established their own version of the MAP Implementation Plan.
- Countries presented the activities of their national networks and their respective National MAB Committees. For example, Spain, described its National Committee, which is comprised of around 50 people from all groups of civil society including the Central and Regional Autonomous Governments, research institutions and NGOs. This Committee is advised by a scientific council and a biosphere reserve managers council.
- Considerable emphasis was given to transboundary co-operation between biosphere reserves, and many Member States indicated that they intended to submit new transboundary proposals.
- Information on several new individual biosphere reserve proposals expected to be submitted in the coming years were indicated as well as on extension of designated biosphere reserves; in this context the case of the Chilean biosphere reserve extension that increases the area of the original biosphere area by fourteen times, was noted.
- African countries mentioned ERAIFT as an excellent tool for capacity building and gave credit to the different co-operative initiatives from European countries. Importance was given to South-South Cooperation, and in particular the emerging partnership for work linking activities of the Amazon Basin, the Congo Basin and South-East Asia on sustainable development in the humid tropics.

21. Presentations of Regional and Sub-Regional Networks focused on regional and sub-regional network meetings held in 2008 and in 2009. Of particular interest was the announcement made by Mexico to host the 1st Iberoamerican Congress of Biosphere Reserves in November 2010. All networks presented the activities achieved since the last ICC. The ArabMAB Network, after consultation with sister Regional MAB Networks, advocated for the creation of an informal inter-regional group of Regional MAB Networks to meet in conjunction with every MAB-ICC session. The Secretary of the MAB Programme invited the regional and sub-regional networks to ensure long-term financial sustainability to guarantee their functioning, such as that which currently applies to IberoMAB and EABRN networks.

22. All presentations that were submitted to the Secretariat in written form will be made available on the MABNet.

### **VIII. Proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions or modifications to designated biosphere reserves that are part of the WNBR**

23. The MAB Secretariat recalled that the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR), at its meeting on 9-11 February 2009, considered a total of 32 new biosphere reserve proposals and made recommendations thereon. The Bureau, at its meeting on 12 and 13 February 2009 in Paris, had, in principle, endorsed the recommendations made by the IACBR, and had decided that the final decision regarding the new biosphere reserves and extension to the existing ones, as well as the announcement of the new sites, be made by the MAB-ICC at its 21st session in May 2009 in the Republic of Korea.

24. The Bureau considered at its meeting on 24 May 2009 held in Jeju additional information received by the Secretariat on any one of the 32 sites it had considered at its February 2009 meeting and made recommendations concerning their inclusion or not in the WNBR for final approval by the Council.

25. Based on the recommendations of the IACBR and the MAB Bureau, the MAB Council approved the following sites for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves:

#### **Great Sandy, Australia**

26. Consisting of terrestrial, coastal, and marine areas, the site features the largest rainforest stand on sand in the world. It includes the natural site of Fraser Island with its freshwater dune lakes, which was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1992. The local community Burnett Mary Regional Group for Nature Resources Management has promoted the designation of the area as a biosphere reserve fostering ecotourism and niche organic agriculture.

#### **Mount Myohyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

27. This area is considered a sacred site as according to legend, it was the home of King Tangun, forefather of the Korean people. The scenic mountainous area rises nearly 2,000 metres above sea level. Its spectacular rocks and cliffs provide a habitat for 30 endemic plant species; 16 plant species that are globally threatened and 12 animal species that are also endangered. A wide variety of medicinal herbs also grows in the site.

#### **Bliesgau, Germany**

28. This site is applying the concept of the "in-between-city" approach to link two very contrasting landscapes, densely populated and urbanized in the north, in the town of St Ingbert, and sparsely populated and rural in the south. It supports extensive ongoing research on ecological changes in its urban, suburban and rural areas in the context of global climate change. The range of activities demonstrating sustainable development, including educational and environmental awareness initiatives, is a source of inspiration for the region. A special Biosphere Association has been established for the site.

**Schwäbische Alb, Germany**

29. This site is located in the European Jura, with beech forests and extensive orchards as well as pine and spruce forest, grassland and extensive meadows. Close to Stuttgart, it covers a total area of 84,500 ha and has a population of 150,000. Programmes for sustainable development for the biosphere reserve include agriculture and forestry, green businesses and ecotourism, as well as the promotion of local products and cottage industries and there are plans to bolster renewable energy use, notably for transportation. The biosphere reserve includes the Münsingen Military Training Area in the Hilly Alb, an area that was closed to the public during 110 years, until 2005. It remained undisturbed, retaining the characteristics of 18th and 19th century cultural landscapes and is one of the largest noise-free areas in Baden-Württemberg.

**Nokrek, India**

30. This site is a biological hotspot in the State of Meghalaya featuring undisturbed natural ecosystems and landscapes. Besides harbouring elephants, tigers, leopards and hollock gibbons, the area is also noted for its wild varieties of citrus fruit which may come to serve as a gene pool for commercially produced citrus.

**Pachmarhi, India**

31. Located in the heart of India, in Madya Pradesh State, the site includes tiger and other wildlife reserves. At the interface of several types of forest - tropical, moist and dry as well as sub-tropical hill forests - the area is considered the botanist's paradise. Through their social and cultural traditions, local tribes contribute to conservation of the forest while drawing on a variety of resources for nutrition, agriculture and income generation.

**Similipal, India**

32. This site is a tiger reserve in the eastern Indian State of Orissa, which used to be the hunting ground of the Maharajah of Mayurbhanj. This tropical environment abounds with tigers, elephants, panthers, deer and numerous plant species, making it a living laboratory for environmental scientists. The tribal inhabitants of the area depend on agriculture, hunting and collection of forest products for their livelihoods but additional sources of income are badly needed to alleviate their poverty.

**Giam Siak Kecil – Bukit Batu, Indonesia**

33. This site is a peatland area in Sumatra featuring sustainable timber production and two wildlife reserves, which are home to the Sumatran tiger, elephant, tapir, and sun bear. Research activities in the biosphere reserve include monitoring of flagship species and an in-depth study on peatland ecology. Initial studies indicate good potential for sustainable economic development using flora and fauna for the economic welfare of the inhabitants. The site is also an interesting experimental area regarding carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sequestration in the context of carbon-trade mechanisms.

**Jabal Moussa, Lebanon**

34. The site is located on the shoulders of the western slopes of the northern Mount Lebanon Chain facing the Mediterranean Sea to the west. It is a relatively large (6,500 ha), wild and unspoiled area, protected by municipal laws that aim to conserve its ecological integrity, natural systems and species. Jabal Moussa is renowned for the unspoiled historic Adonis Valley with its ancient agricultural terraces and trails that date back to Roman times. The valley features rivers and streams, rangeland with landraces, mixed forests with oak, pine and olive groves and many economically important plant species, as well as undisturbed wildlife habitats that are home to wolves, hyenas, hyaxes, birds and reptiles.

**Tasik Chini, Malaysia**

35. Located in the eastern region of the Malaysian peninsula, the site consists of a lake surrounded by a wetland area, which forms the core area of the biosphere reserve. It is a sanctuary for many endemic freshwater species that are subject of intensive research and monitoring carried out by various research institutions. Plants around the lake have been used by

the indigenous people to make handicraft including for the tourism industry. Efforts to use the resources sustainably need to be further encouraged.

#### **Lagunas de Montebello, Mexico**

36. This site is set in a hydrological region of high biological diversity. Its location - in the area that connects the Highland region of Chiapas and the coastal plain of the Gulf of Mexico, which corresponds to the central massif - makes it particularly important. The karst landscape and more than 50 lagoons of varying sizes give the area its scenic beauty. The site is critically important for water harvesting and climate regulation. Local communities are involved in the management of the site ecological resources. They practise a range of agricultural activities increasingly focusing on practices compatible with the conservation function. For example the traditional coffee production has shifted to organic production with organic conversion of the grain which, together with reforestation and tourism activities has emerged as alternatives which support the sustainable development of the area.

#### **Flores Island, Portugal**

37. Located in the western group of the Azores archipelago, the site represents the surface part of a seamount close to the Mid Atlantic Riff. It was created by volcanic activity which started less than 10 million years ago. The biosphere reserve includes the whole emerged area of Flores Island and some adjacent marine areas with significant landscape, geological, environmental and cultural assets. High cliffs dominate most of the coastline, which is dotted with islets. The area supports traditional fishing and attracts valuable tourism, specifically for diving, whale and dolphin watching and shore walking.

#### **Geres/Xures, Portugal/Spain (transboundary biosphere reserve)**

38. This site is a transboundary biosphere reserve situated between Portugal and Spain, and established on the basis of the biogeographical continuity of the Sierras Galaico-Miñotas and associated valleys shared by both countries. The importance of the site from an ecological standpoint is due to the richness of forest and peatland ecosystems and a high level of endemic species which had developed under both oceanic and Mediterranean climatic influences. With local communities forming an integral part of the regional landscape, sustainable development centres have been established in the biosphere reserve to support municipalities in their efforts to strengthen the environmental sustainability criteria in local development. With the joint management plan both countries will be able to benefit from each other's experience and cooperate in the sustainable management of ecosystems and related services of shared characteristics for the benefits of local communities.

#### **Shinan Dadohae, Republic of Korea**

39. This site comprises an island archipelago in the southwest of the country. It includes terrestrial and marine areas as well as large tidal flats, which are home to a great diversity of species and serve as resting places for rare migratory birds. Traditional forms of fishing (e.g. hand-fishing) and salt production are still practised in this area.

#### **Altaiisky, Russian Federation**

40. This site is located in the North-Eastern and Eastern Altaï along major mountain ranges. Noteworthy for its biodiversity and cultural heritage, it covers 3,532,234 ha and is home to 15,000 inhabitants. The core area is a part of the Golden Mountains of the natural UNESCO World Heritage site of Altaï. The site, which cooperates with the Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina Biosphere Reserve and the Khakassky national reserve, is important for tourism, including the development of green tourism. Established as a reserve in 1932, it is among the areas of the world least affected by human intervention and has rich flora and fauna. Indigenous populations living in the biosphere reserve transition area include Tubalars, Chelkants, Telengits, Kumandins and Teleuts.

#### **Vhembe, South Africa**

41. This site is world renowned for its rich cultural and biological diversity. It includes the northern part of the Kruger National Park, Makuleke Wetlands Ramsar site, the Soutpansberg and Blouberg biodiversity hot spots, as well as the Mapungube Cultural Landscape World Heritage site

and the Makgabeng Plateau with more than 1000 rock art sites. Human activities in the site are predominately agricultural, including production of subtropical fruits and vegetables, cattle and game farming and hunting. The Venda, Shangaan and Sepedi people, who are the main population groups in the area, have a rich history of traditional indigenous knowledge ranging from wood carving and drum making to traditional healing.

### **Fuerteventura, Spain**

42. This site is the second biggest island of the Canaries archipelago, close to the West African Coast. It includes a wide range of ecosystems from desert or semi-desert areas to coastal and marine habitats. While the island is characterized by a rich diversity of marine species, including dolphins and cachalots, as well as marine turtles that reproduce on its beaches, the biosphere reserve also represents one of the world's major geo-paleontological observatories. Development of sustainable ecotourism practices is the major focus of the population living on the island. The island is also investing in the increase of its renewable energy capacity, mainly through wind-based and solar energy production and is representing itself as one of the models for the implementation of the European Union's Directive on Renewable Energy.

### **Lajat, Syria**

43. This site is located in the southernmost point of Syria on the border with Jordan. It is known for its extremely diverse biological richness, and encompasses some of the most striking landscapes in the region. It offers significant opportunities for developing ecologically sustainable human activity, through existing rotation grazing schemes, landscape restoration and excavations, and development of the Lajat archaeological ruins. Lajat also provides educational opportunities to illustrate the importance of fauna and flora in local life and economy as well as interdependence of cultural and biological diversity.

### **Desnianskyi, Ukraine**

44. This site is located in Eastern Polesie, along the Desna River. With a total surface of 58,000 ha, the site covers a mosaic of ecosystems, including forests, rivers, lakes, flood plains, bogs. It is an important site for environmental research, including monitoring of rare species such as bears and lynx. The main human activities focus on agriculture, forestry, fishery and sport hunting. The main sustainable development activities include organic agriculture and green tourism on the Desna river as well educational activities developed in the context of the 'Desnianski Zori' ecological camp for schoolchildren. Transborder sustainable tourism is being developed in collaboration with the Russian Federation with efforts to establish a transboundary biosphere reserve between the two countries.

### **Delta del Orinoco, Venezuela**

45. Characterized by great biological diversity in its terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the site is home to more than 2,000 plant species and a wide array of land and water fauna. The biosphere reserve biodiversity is complemented by the cultural wealth of the Warao people. Promoting productive activities within the site creates opportunities for strengthening the Warao communities, securing their settlements and improving their living conditions.

### **Cu Lao Cham - Hoi An, Viet Nam**

46. This site is a coastal/island/marine site in the central part of the country, which is particularly known for its marine species such as corals, molluscs, crustaceans and seaweed. The biosphere reserve also contains Hoi An, a cultural world heritage site, which is an ancient trading port evidencing the fusion of Vietnamese and European cultures. The linking of cultural assets and natural values in terms of biodiversity, Cu Lao Cham-Hoi An is well poised in promoting sustainable ecotourism.

### **Mui Ca Mau, Viet Nam**

47. Located on the southern tip of the country, the site demonstrates ecological succession systems on new alluvial lands. Its conservation value is further marked by its role as the boundary between mangrove and *Melaleuca* forests, and as a reproduction and breeding area of marine species. Plans for the sustainable development of the site focus on ecotourism and cultural tourism



to showcase the inhabitants' rich heritage. Training is also planned to improve agriculture and fishing.

48. With the addition of the above-mentioned 22 biosphere reserves, the WNBR now consists of 553 biosphere reserves in 107 countries (with Malaysia and Syria having their first ever biosphere reserves included in the World Network in 2009).

49. The MAB Council also decided to defer the following site proposals following the recommendations of the IACBR and the MAB Bureau, and suggested that revised nomination dossiers be submitted to the MAB Secretariat for consideration by the Advisory Committee at its next meeting in early 2010:

#### **Naha-Metzabok, Mexico**

#### **Middle Zambezi, Zimbabwe**

50. The Council took note of the revised nomination form submitted by the Zimbabwean Authorities and appreciated the efforts made to clarify the three functions of the proposed site and the description of the proposed management committee. However, due to a lack of clear information on the zonation scheme, namely the outer limit of the transition area, the number of people living there and its integration in the proposed site, as well as the involvement of local communities in the management of the site, the Council recommended that this site be deferred and suggested to the Zimbabwean Authorities to consult the UNESCO Office in Nairobi for assistance in the preparation of the new nomination file. The Council also highlighted the importance of regional collaboration and therefore recommended that the Zimbabwean authorities seek advice from the neighbouring country of South Africa that has been very successful in establishing biosphere reserves.

#### **Nomrog, Mongolia**

51. The Council encouraged the Mongolian authorities to take into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and to resubmit the proposal, signed by all relevant authorities, to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

#### **Khangchengdzonga, India**

52. The Council noted with appreciation information received from the Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO stating that Eco-development Committees with the endorsement and involvement of local communities and stakeholders had been set up but formal, written information on this and other recommendations of the Bureau made at its February 2009 session could not be made before the deadline of 30 April due to the ongoing national elections in India. The Council thanked the Indian Delegate for informing the Secretariat of these encouraging steps and invited the Indian authorities to make available all information on these eco-development committees and the revised zonation scheme of the proposed site for the consideration of the Advisory Committee at its next meeting in early 2010.

#### **Manas, India**

53. The Council encouraged the Indian authorities to take into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and to resubmit the proposal to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

#### **Dena, Islamic Republic of Iran**

54. The Council welcomed the submission of new information received on the proposed site which strengthened the nomination dossier. However, the Council was of the view that a consolidated new biosphere reserve proposal be submitted for the consideration of the Advisory Committee at its next meeting which should also benefit from expert advice to be provided by the UNESCO Office in Tehran.

### **Tang Sayyad, Islamic Republic of Iran**

55. The Council welcomed the submission of new information received on the proposed site which strengthened the nomination dossier. However, the Council was of the view that a consolidated new biosphere reserve proposal be submitted for the consideration of the Advisory Committee at its next meeting which should also benefit from expert advice to be provided by the UNESCO Office in Tehran.

### **Kozjansko and Obsotelje, Slovenia**

56. The Council noted the additional information provided by the Slovenian authorities as regards clarification of the ownership of the core area and the new zonation map provided reflecting these changes. The Council recommended that this new zonation, which implies major changes for the size of the core area and buffer zones, should be examined at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee for its consideration and recommendations.

### **Roztochya Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine**

57. The Council acknowledged the new nomination form provided by the Ukrainian authorities, including a revised zonation which integrates larger landscapes and substantially increased the transition area. It also noted the inclusion in the transition area of an International Centre for peacekeeping and security, a military polygon which is used by military forces from NATO. The Council recommended that the new nomination be examined by the Advisory Committee for its recommendation.

### **Pushchino, Russian Federation**

58. The MAB Council also decided not to endorse the proposed Pushchino area nominated by the Russian Federation for inclusion in the WNBR and recommended that the Russian authorities consider the extension of the existing Prioksko-Terrasnyi Biosphere Reserve which would cover the Pushchino administrative area, and suggested that a new zonation map for the entire area be submitted to the IACBR at its next meeting. The Pushchino administrative area in an urban zone had been proposed as a biosphere reserve, with the expectation of creating an "urban biosphere reserve". Recalling discussion at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Madrid, Spain in February 2008, the Council emphasized that attention should be given to MAP target 23, i.e. promoting interactions between urban areas and biosphere reserves. The Secretariat must guard against creating expectations of stand-alone biosphere reserve proposals from cities that are unlikely to meet the essential criteria and conditions of a biosphere reserve.

59. Finally, the MAB Council decided to approve extensions or changes in zonation of existing biosphere reserves following the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the MAB Bureau as follows:

### **Mata Atlântica Phase VI Biosphere Reserve, Brazil**

### **La Campana-Penuelas Phase II Biosphere Reserve, Chile**

### **North Karelia Biosphere Reserve, Finland**

Extension and renaming of former "Dyfi Biosphere Reserve", United Kingdom into "Biosphere Dyfi Biosphere".

60. Regarding Branton Burrows-North Devon's Biosphere Reserve, the Council took note of a letter sent by the Chairman of the UK-MAB National Committee indicating that in accordance with the Bureau recommendation of 2002, the partnership that oversees the biosphere reserve has adopted a catchment-wide approach and includes the marine area to Lundy as part of its transition area. It noted that the transition area now operates with 376,800 ha of which 147,700 ha is marine.

It also noted that the population of the biosphere reserve is now on the order of 155,000 inhabitants. Finally, it also noted the change of name into "Braunton Burrows-North Devon's Biosphere Reserve".

61. In the morning of 27 May 2009, the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement regarding the proposed Dena and Tang-e-Sayyad biosphere reserves, which had been deferred by the MAB Council on 26 May 2009. In expressing her views on the special situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, she pointed out that if the biosphere reserve designation was already granted at this session it would help her Government to implement many of the Council's recommendations. The Chairperson, however, stated that the MAB Council's decision of the previous day could not be reopened for discussion and hoped that the revised nomination proposals for the two sites could be submitted within the next few months to the MAB Secretariat for the consideration of the IACBR at its next session in early 2010.

## **IX. Periodic review of biosphere reserves**

62. ICC Delegates provided comments on the status and experience of periodic review in their countries. Austria urged for developing strategies for handling first-generation biosphere reserves, specifically those sites that are not transformable into modern (post-Seville) biosphere reserves in line with MAP expectations but yet retain value for scientific research on MAB-related themes. Austria proposed establishing a new category for non-Seville-style biosphere reserves, perhaps as MAB research sites. This proposal was supported by some ICC Member Delegates. The Council called upon the Secretariat to prepare a list of pre-Seville (1995) sites and an assessment of the number of sites in that set which are unlikely to be re-designed to meet the Seville and MAP expectations as defined in MAP target 9 for submission to the consideration of the 22nd session of the Council.

63. The Council adopted the recommendation of the Bureau made at its meeting held at the Jeju KAL Hotel on 24 May 2009 that both the biosphere nomination and the periodic review forms required simplification and revision. The Council suggested that the revisions of both forms be undertaken, with the assistance of an electronic working group, in parallel. This would enable the linking of the process for reviewing the status of biosphere reserves to parameters and measurements agreed upon by the ICC at the time of including sites into the WNBR and allow the Secretariat to monitor changes with respect to integration of the conservation, development and logistic functions of biosphere reserves. The time interval for periodic review should also be reduced from 10 to every 4-6 years. The Secretariat must explore the feasibility of providing technical support for capacity building in conducting the periodic review process in co-operation with regional networks and other appropriate partners.

## **X. Biosphere reserves as learning platforms and places for sustainable development – a progress report and a proposed draft resolution for the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference**

64. The Council considered the merits of Member States submitting a specific draft resolution for the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference on the promotion of biosphere reserves as learning platforms and places for sustainable development as suggested in document SC-09/CONF.207/13.

65. The ICC expressed support for the proposal as a way of increasing support for the intersectoral and interdisciplinary nature of the work of MAB within UNESCO. This resolution could take advantage of connections between MAB and the DESD, potentially establishing MAB as a priority platform for activities of DESD during 2010-2014 as well as the legacy of the DESD beyond 2014.

66. The Council agreed that it accepted the submission of such a draft resolution in principle and invited willing ICC Member Permanent Delegations such as Madagascar and Viet Nam to explore with the Secretariat the feasibility of preparing and submitting such a draft resolution to the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference in consultation with all other ICC and interested Observer Member States.

#### **XI. Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management**

67. The 2009 winners of the Batisse Award made presentations about their work in biosphere reserves. Ms Boshra Salem briefed the ICC about her work in the SUMAMAD Project, and with an NGO and Toyota environmental grants using the Omayed Biosphere Reserve in Egypt as a learning site; Mr Yuriy Gorshkov from the Russian Federation presented a film about his work in the Raifa Forest Biosphere Reserve. The Chairman presented certificates for the two winners in recognition of their achievements.

#### **XII. Progress report on the review and updating of statutory documents of MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)**

68. The Council reviewed document SC-09/CONF.207/15 on progress made in the revisions of the following three documents to facilitate the implementation of MAP: (i) Statutes of the MAB-ICC; (ii) Rules of Procedures of the MAB-ICC; and (iii) the Statutes of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves. These documents will require further revision with the setting up of the ISG (see paragraph 18 above) and the Council decisions on the feasibility of holding annual sessions of the ICC to be discussed under agenda Item 17; thus the Council decided to provide general comments related to principles and policy and not to attempt detail re-drafting of the texts. Some Delegates suggested specific amendments on selected articles and paragraphs for consideration by the Secretariat during the next round of revisions and updates to the documents.

69. After considerable debate and discussions there was broad consensus on renaming the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme as "MAB Council" removing the word 'Coordinating'. Some ICC Members felt that referring to the Council explicitly as an "Intergovernmental Council" could facilitate the participation of Government Ministries and Departments, including the feasibility of attracting financial support from them at the national level.

70. The poor return rate of the questionnaire on periodic review was identified as a weakness of the Programme. Council members proposed that a time-limit for periodic reviews – a five-year interval with one year margin must be prescribed in the Statutes.

71. The role of the Advisory Committee as an "independent" body was strongly supported. There was some discussion on increasing interactions between this body and the Council, perhaps through the representation of the IACBR at the Council sessions.

72. The Council decided to invite further comments from ICC as well as Observer Delegates on the documents for an additional period of 60 days; discussion on the drafts of the documents at the meetings of the ISG with the participation of Permanent Delegates of Member States at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) was also encouraged. The Council noted that participation of ICC Member as well as Observer Delegates in discussions facilitating further revisions to the drafts of documents was preferable as the final versions of all documents must be adopted by the UNESCO General Conference where all UNESCO Member States participate in debates.

73. The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare up-to-date versions of the three documents referred to in paragraph 68 above for discussion and finalization at its 22nd session of the Council. It also asked the Secretariat to prepare for the same session revisions to the Statutory

Framework of the WNBR as well as a document on the implementation of MAB and WNBR activities at the national level, including guidelines for establishing MAB National Committees. The Council expressed the wish to submit final versions of all statutory documents for consideration and adoption by the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference in the autumn of 2011.

### **XIII. Future directions for MAB ecosystem-related and other cross-cutting activities**

74. After the MAB Secretariat had introduced the document (SC-09/CONF.207/16) pertaining to this agenda item, the Council considered a draft text entitled "MAB Futures" intended to serve as a mission statement for the MAB Programme as a whole. Council members and one Observer Delegate provided suggestions of modifications to the draft text and requested the MAB Secretariat to update the document in the light of the Council's discussion so that it could be reconsidered the following day. The final text of the statement, now entitled "MAB Programme for Sustainable Development", is attached to the MAB Council Report as Annex 4.

### **XIV. Methodology and approach for the mid-term evaluation of the MAP in 2010**

75. The Council considered document SC-09/CONF.207/17 on the proposed approach and methodologies to be used in the first evaluation of MAP in 2010 for the consideration of the Council.

76. Some delegates felt that the time schedule was too optimistic. However, the majority felt that it was better to adopt an optimistic schedule at this time to be modified later, as necessary. Electronic means of communication would be used wherever possible with full respect and agreement of the National Commissions for UNESCO in collecting information and data necessary to carry out the 2010 evaluation. The Council approved the proposed approach and timetable, and requested the Secretariat to submit a progress report to the 22nd session of the Council.

### **XV. MAB and WNBR activities in 35 C/5: UNESCO Programming and budgeting for the biennium 2010-2011**

77. The Council reviewed document SC-09/CONF.207/18 and agreed that, in order to increase support to MAB and WNBR, ICC Members as well as Observer Delegates need to fully brief their respective Delegations attending the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference and the 182nd session of the Executive Board on the importance of the work of MAB, WNBR activities including that linked to the implementation of the MAP. The Council also requested ICC Member States to facilitate the Secretariat efforts to engage with UNESCO Regional Groups of Member States in order to enhance awareness, and in consequence, support for MAB and WNBR activities through meetings of the International Support Group (ISG) and other modalities both before and during the forthcoming sessions of the Executive Board and General Conference as appropriate. The Council, after noting that discussions on programming and budgeting for the 2012-2013 biennium at the level of the National Commissions for UNESCO will begin quite early in 2010, requested the ICC Member Delegates to take steps to ensure adequate reflection of the importance of MAB and WNBR, including that of the implementation of MAP, in those discussions from the earliest possible stages. The Council requested the Secretariat to make a comparison between 2004 and 2009 concerning the evolution in the total number of biosphere reserves, the total areas they cover, as well as the total budgets allocated to MAB under the UNESCO Regular Programme. This comparative table, to be broken down according to regions, should be sent to all ICC Member States and Observer States attending the 21st session of the Council in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea as well as any other countries that may request it.

## **XVI. Capacity-building**

### **A. ERAIFT (Regional Post-graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands)**

78. The Council was very supportive of the work of ERAIFT, noting especially the significant progress made since its launch ten years ago at the University of Kinshasa (DRC). It acknowledged with satisfaction the efforts made by the Secretariat to effectively implement its recommendation aiming at strengthening ERAIFT. In this regard, the Council endorsed the Secretariat's initiative to carry out a feasibility study on the future legal status of ERAIFT in order to ensure ERAIFT's autonomy and sustainability.

79. The Council encouraged plans for the future development of ERAIFT as a pioneer capacity-building initiative of MAB and UNESCO in Africa stimulating the development of similar institutions in other parts of Africa, e.g. Côte d'Ivoire, and networking across the Amazon, the Congo Basin and Asian tropics with appropriate South-South and South-North-South partners. The Council also welcomed the emerging Earth Sciences Education Initiative in Africa and encouraged its development in a manner as to build linkages and partnerships amongst UNESCO's Intergovernmental and International scientific programmes, particularly MAB, IHP, IGCP and IOC.

80. The day was closed with an official launching of the French version of the "World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation" presented by Dr Sabrina Krief of the National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) in Paris. This atlas, realized by UNESCO/MAB in collaboration with the MNHN, the Association for the Development of Environmental Information (ADIE), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France (MAE) and the Ministry of Forests and Fauna of Cameroon, thanks to the French Funds for the Global Environment (FFEM), was regarded as a contribution to promote the "International Year of the Gorilla (2009)". A film on the youth-focused public awareness on great apes and the Great Apes Education kits produced by UNESCO/MAB and the MNHN was presented to the Council.

### **B. MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme**

81. Following a brief presentation by the Secretariat on the working document SC-09/CONF.207/20, the Council discussed possible modifications to the current criteria and the conditions for the selection of the MAB Young Scientists Award winners which were adopted by the 14th session of the MAB-ICC in 1996.

82. After a wide-ranging discussion on the subject, the MAB-ICC decided the following:

- The age limit of candidates for the MAB Young Scientists Award is fixed at 40 years of age for all applicants.
- To be eligible for the MAB Young Scientists Award, the proposed research projects have to be undertaken in a designated biosphere reserve or a potential biosphere reserve.
- The number of candidates that each MAB National Committee can submit each year to the MAB Secretariat is reduced from three to two.

83. The Council stressed that in countries where MAB National Committees do not exist or are not fully operational the selection at the national level will continue to be ensured by the National Commission for UNESCO of the country in question.

84. With regard to the selection of candidates at the national level, the MAB-ICC requested the MAB National Committees/National Commissions for UNESCO to make sure that the two applications submitted to the MAB Bureau for final selection meet the above criteria, particularly with regard to eligibility of research sites of the project proposals, i.e. the proposed projects must be undertaken in a designated biosphere reserve or in a site that has already been identified by the government as a potential biosphere reserve. In this context, the MAB-ICC also recommended that the selection process at the national level also ensure a gender balance in candidates submitted to the Secretariat.

85. Concerning the need to raise the visibility of the Award Scheme and its achievements, the ICC noted the need for mobilizing extra-budgetary funding, particularly for raising the annual number of awards and permitting the winners to present the awarded research projects through videos or presentations on different occasions such as during the meetings of the MAB-ICC.

86. Taking into account the above modifications adopted by the Council, the new criteria and conditions for the selection of MAB Young Scientists Award winners are presented in Annex 5.

### **C. Other opportunities**

87. This discussion considered less well-known capacity building opportunities available for MAB and WNBR associated personnel. The Council requested the Secretariat to investigate, in collaboration with selected UNESCO Chairs, appropriate UNESCO Category II Centres and other partner institutions, the feasibility to launch a collaborative programme for capacity building in sustainable development research and development in biosphere reserves that would generate well-designed and content-rich case study materials and other pedagogic resources during the last five years (2005-2014) of the DESD.

88. The Council welcomed the launch of the South-South Cooperation Network for capacity building for sustainable development in the humid tropics for which a memorandum of cooperation was signed at a special ceremony at 16:00 on Thursday 28 May 2009 at the Jeju KAL Hotel, Jeju Island, ROK. In outlining some of the activities of the Network, Dr Luis Aragon, Coordinator of the UNESCO Chair in South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA), Belém, Brazil described the interdisciplinary doctoral Programme on Sustainable Development of the humid tropics existing at the Centre for Advanced Amazonian Studies (NAEA) of that university since 1994. He further described partnership initiatives between that UNESCO Chair and Biosphere Reserves in the Amazon and through an emerging network of the nine (now ten) biosphere reserves of the Amazon region. Dr Raymond Lumbuenamo, Professor at ERAIFT and the University of Kinshasa, DRC expressed his pleasure at participating in the meeting and the network, and highlighted the benefits ERAIFT had received from twinning with the University of Belgium. ERAIFT is currently looking into opportunities to partner with the Chinese remote sensing Category II Centre, CEODE (Centre for Earth Observations and Digital Earth), to be considered for approval by the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2009. Dr Endang Sukara, Chair of the Indonesian MAB National Committee said the Indonesian Institute of Science was happy to be part of the South-South partnership. He committed to linking the partnership to many research and academic institutions working in Indonesia and in Southeast Asia on tropical forest issues.

89. Many ICC Delegates expressed support for the South-South Cooperation Network and expressed the wish that similar networks be considered for other ecosystems of the world. ICC Delegates of countries such as Sri Lanka indicated the wish to be part of the South-South Cooperation Network for the Humid Tropics established during the 21st session of the ICC as indicated in paragraph 88 above.

## **XVII. MAB and WNBR contributions to the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change**

90. As an introduction to the topic, the Chair invited the Delegate of the UK to show a ten-minute version of the BBC documentary entitled "Rising Tides" featuring current and potential future climate change impacts in the twinned North Devon (UK) and Malindi (Kenya) Biosphere Reserves. The Secretariat then introduced working document SC-09/CONF.207/22, information documents SC-09/CONF.207/INF.7 and SC-09/CONF.207/INF.8, as well as a document tabled by the Republic of Korea and Spain entitled "Proposal for the creation of a global network of island and coastal biosphere reserves contributing to action on climate change and sustainable development".

91. Several Delegates took the floor emphasizing the important challenges posed by climate change in their countries and the need to ensure that MAB in general and biosphere reserves in particular are mobilized to help to address them. The opportunity to position biosphere reserves as partners and learning platforms in the implementation of national climate change strategies, as well as the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change were emphasized. The opportunity to bring on board other UNESCO science programmes to collaborate with MAB and the WNBR in this context was also supported by the Council.

92. Delegates felt that the focus on mountain ecosystems in the MAP (target 24) preferably could be complemented by efforts by MAB to focus on other ecosystems, such as forests, drylands, river systems, peatlands, small islands and coastal ecosystems, as well as on critical biogeographical regions, such as the Great Rift Valley in Africa. The proposal to establish a global network of island and coastal biosphere reserves contributing to action on climate change and sustainable development as proposed by ROK and Spain was therefore welcomed by the Council underlining that other ecosystems could of course be subjects for similar climate change networking in the future.

#### **A. Creation of the Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves Contributing to Action on Climate Change and Sustainable Development**

93. The Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Government of the Republic of Korea launched the “Jeju Initiative: Asia-Pacific Inter-linkage of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves for Environmental Governance and Socio-economic Development” in 2006. As follow-up to the meeting on Insular Biosphere Reserves held in Menorca in 2008 immediately after the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, the Menorca Biosphere Reserve will develop an interpretation centre of island biosphere reserves. To carry out this project, the Government of Menorca has already acquired the land (mountain S'Enclusa) and has almost completed the construction of the centre facility. The project has funding committed by the *Consell Insular de Menorca* (€ 4,000,000), and the stakeholders look forward to finishing it in the shortest possible time.

94. In order to facilitate the work of the network, it is proposed that both the Jeju Initiative and Menorca Biosphere Reserve share leading roles. It is suggested that each project would choose a particular thematic focus when establishing and developing partnerships with island and coastal biosphere reserves. Concrete plans for activities would be elaborated by each project in close collaboration with relevant biosphere reserves, and overall co-ordination would be provided by the MAB secretariat at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) for the effective functioning of the global network.

95. The Council enthusiastically welcomed this proposal and decided unanimously to create this Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves Contributing to Action on Climate Change and Sustainable Development as one of the MAB Programme thematic networks.

#### **XVIII. Date and Venue of the 22nd session of the MAB-ICC**

96. The Council considered SC-09/CONF.207/23 which outlined the pros and cons, from economic cost/benefit as well as public outreach and communications perspectives, of convening MAB-ICC sessions at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) or elsewhere in response to invitations from Member States as it had been the case for the 21st session of the MAB-ICC held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea from 25-29 May 2009 at the invitation of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province in the Republic of Korea.

97. The Council recognized the benefits of having the inclusion of new biosphere reserves in the World Network in the presence of ICC Member and Observer Delegates as during its 21st session in Jeju island and hence decided that it should meet every year to decide on new entries to the World Network as well as on other important matters such as extensions/modifications to biosphere reserves already included in the World Network, periodic



review of biosphere reserves, MAB Young Scientists Awards, Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management, etc. Given considerations of costs and the advantage of having the full participation of Delegations of UNESCO Member States resident in Paris, the Council decided that in the future the venue for its annual sessions would alternate between Paris and interested Member States and that its 22nd session would be convened at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) during 2010. The Council requested that the Secretariat in consultation with Members of the Bureau propose dates for the 22nd session of the Council in 2010 to all ICC Members before 1st December 2009.

98. Recognizing that the 40th anniversary of the MAB Programme will be commemorated in 2011, the Council recommended that the Secretariat consult with ICC and Observer Member States, including their Delegations at UNESCO Headquarters, to explore interest among Member States to host the 23rd session of the MAB-ICC and associated events to commemorate the 40th anniversary of MAB.

99. The Delegate of Indonesia initially expressed the wish to host the 22nd session of the MAB-ICC session in his country in 2010. However, after listening to the Secretariat views on advantages of having the 22nd session of the Council in 2010 at UNESCO Headquarters, he offered to host the first meeting of the South-South Cooperation in the Humid Tropics jointly entered into by the Federal University of Pará, Belém, Brazil, ERAIFT, Kinshasa, DRC and the MAB National Committee of Indonesia in 2010 in connection with the International Year of Biodiversity. This invitation was unanimously accepted by the Council which instructed the Secretariat to co-operate with the Indonesian authorities in organizing a successful first meeting of this important South-South Co-operation initiative launched during the 21st session of the MAB-ICC in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea on 28 May 2009.

#### **XIX. Any other matters**

100. No specific issues were raised under this agenda item.

#### **XX. Adoption of the Report**

101. At the request of the Chair of the 21st session of the ICC, Mr Chung-II Choi, the Rapporteur of the session, Mr Valery Neronov of the Russian Federation, presented the draft report of the 21st session of the ICC to the Member and Observer Delegates section by section. Modifications, additions and deletions introduced by the Delegations were noted, and in many cases the Member States submitted written texts to replace the wording in the draft report. The Delegate from Colombia requested that in the future the parts of the report of the ICC session that were ready by the night before the last day of the ICC session be already distributed to allow more time for the Delegates to read the draft report. The draft report was adopted with the modifications, additions and deletions proposed by ICC Member and Observer Delegations during the reading of the report on 29 May 2009, the last day of the 21st session of the MAB-ICC held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea from 25 to 29 May 2009.

#### **XXI. Closing of the Meeting**

102. Delegations such as Chile, Latvia and UK who are completing their four-year tenure in ICC expressed their views on their membership experience and on the potentials for MAB and WNBR to be leading platforms for meeting global targets and goals linked to sustainable development. Other ICC Member Delegations, such as Egypt, spoke on behalf of their Regional Networks to thank the Government of the Republic of Korea and that of the Special Self-Governing Province of Jeju Island for their hospitality and effective organization of the 21st session. The Delegate of Congo transmitted a message of thanks from the Chair of the ICC, Mr Henri Djombo, to Mr Chung-II Choi, who presided over the 21st session of the ICC in lieu of Mr Djombo, thanking and

congratulating him for the efficient management of the meeting and its successful outcomes. The Secretary of the MAB Programme thanked the Chair, Mr Chung-Il Choi, for his excellent leadership in the conduct of the 21st session of the MAB-ICC, as well as the staff of the MAB Secretariat and the interpreters for the high quality of services rendered. Mr Chung-Il Choi, in his function as the Chair of the 21st session of the MAB-ICC, thanked all the organizers and the ICC and Observer Delegations for enabling him to conduct a cordial and constructive ICC session and declared the 21st session of the MAB-ICC closed.

**ANNEX / ANNEXE 1**

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

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

Twenty-first session / Vingt et unième session

Jeju KAL Hotel, Grand Ballroom, Jeju, 25 - 29 May 2009  
*Jeju KAL Hotel, Grand Ballroom, Jeju, 25 - 29 mai 2009*

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**  
**International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**  
Twenty-first session

**Jeju Kal Hotel, Grand Ballroom, Jeju**  
25 - 29 May 2009

[http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=7418&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=7418&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

**AGENDA**

1. Opening by the Chair of the ICC
2. Opening remarks of the Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO and welcome address by the Government of the Republic of Korea and of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
3. Report of the Chair of the ICC
4. Adoption of the agenda and timetable
5. Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme
6. Implementation of the Madrid Action Plan (MAP)
  - 6.1 Introduction by the Secretary of the MAB Programme
  - 6.2 Assessment of the Seville Strategy
  - 6.3 The biosphere reserve concept in the framework of national legislation
  - 6.4 Communication strategy and clearing house mechanism
  - 6.5 Reports on actions undertaken by UNESCO Member States
  - 6.6 Reports on actions undertaken by Regional and Ecosystem Networks
  - 6.7 Future of the Informal Support Group (ISG) established by the Bureau of the MAB-ICC in April 2008
7. Proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions/modifications to designated biosphere reserves that are part of the WNBR
8. Periodic review of biosphere reserves
9. Biosphere reserves as learning platforms and places for sustainable development – a progress report and a proposed draft resolution for the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference
10. Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management



11. Progress report on the review and updating of statutory documents of MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)
12. Future directions for MAB ecosystem-related and other cross-cutting activities
13. Methodology and approach for the mid-term evaluation of the MAP in 2010
14. MAB and WNBR activities in 35 C/5: UNESCO Programming and budgeting for the biennium 2010-2011
15. Capacity-building
  - 15.1 ERAIFT (Regional Post-graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands)
  - 15.2 MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme
  - 15.3 Other opportunities
16. MAB and WNBR contributions to the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change
17. Date and venue of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the MAB-ICC
18. Other matters
19. Adoption of the report
20. Closure of the session

## **INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP (ISG) FOR THE MAB PROGRAMME AND THE WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES OF UNESCO**

### **Terms of Reference**

The 21st session of the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, at its meeting held in the Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve of the Republic of Korea from 25 to 29 May 2009 decided to establish an International Support Group (ISG) as an ad hoc committee of the Council in accordance with the provisions of article V of the statutes and article V of the rules of procedure of the MAB-ICC.

ISG, under the guidance of its Chair and with the technical support of the Bureau of the ICC and the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves, shall facilitate the work of the MAB Secretariat at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) to ensure the effective implementation of the Madrid Action Plan (MAP) for 2008-2013 as adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the ICC convened from 4 to 8 February 2008 in Madrid, Spain, as well as to raise awareness and support for activities of MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in UNESCO Member States. The role of the ISG shall be to inform UNESCO Member States of the decisions and priorities set by the Council to implement the MAB Programme, but not to modify Council decisions or take decisions on any new issues.

ISG is open to participation of representatives from all 34 ICC Member States as well as Observer Delegations that are Member States of UNESCO which are not represented in the Council interested in contributing towards the implementation of MAP. Meetings of the ISG, shall be convened by the MAB Secretariat in accordance with the Bureau of the Council at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris). The Secretariat shall propose a provisional agenda for each of the ISG meetings and make available relevant documents necessary for deliberating on the agenda items in English and French at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Discussions during the ISG meetings shall be conducted in English and French.

The costs of interpretation and translation of documents in English and French for the ISG meetings shall be borne by the MAB Secretariat. The group is open to participation of ICC and Observer Delegations.

The rules of procedure of the ISG shall remain as informal arrangements already tested as part of the work of the Informal Support Group established by the Bureau of the ICC in April 2008 and which met twice, on 16 July 2008 and 19 March 2009, prior to the 21st session of the ICC on 25-29 May 2009. The Chair of the ICC may request, however, in consultation with the Secretariat, Bureau of the ICC and any other ICC or Observer Delegate as necessary that a particular ISG meeting be chaired by a UNESCO Member State identified by him/herself and shall inform the Secretariat of the reasons for his decision in this regard.

## **MAB PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Preamble***

The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme promotes UNESCO's mission to foster peace and security through interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration, research and capacity building to stimulate local responses to global problems. The MAB Programme provides a platform for partnerships at the interface between science, policy and management for sustainable development. MAB interdisciplinary research, while rooted in its ecological sciences origins, integrates knowledge from new and emerging disciplines, like ecological economics, socio-ecology and other areas of natural and social sciences and the humanities as well as traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities. It serves to attain Millennium Development Goals, and promotes sustainable development and human well-being through conservation of biological diversity, economic and social improvements and respect for cultural values.

### **World Network of Biosphere Reserves**

Biosphere reserves are complex land/seascape areas with a mosaic of natural and human influenced ecosystems where application of sustainable development principles demand collaboration between scientists, decision makers, resource management practitioners, local communities and other stakeholders. Biosphere reserves can foster peace between different communities as well as nations, in particular through transboundary biosphere reserves and twinning of sites. The MAB/IOC Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) initiative and comparable landscape level planning approaches are important contributions of MAB to demonstrate the use of biosphere reserves as learning platforms for sustainable development. More specifically core, buffer and transition zones of biosphere reserves provide opportunities for combining initiatives linked to minimizing biodiversity loss, mitigating and adapting to climate change and enhancing human well-being whose net sustainable development outcomes could be significant.

The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) is MAB's flagship contribution to research, capacity-building and networking in support of the UNESCO spearheaded UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). Individual biosphere reserves present specific ecological, socio-economic, cultural and political contexts to articulate research and capacity-building agendas to strengthen learning and practice of sustainable development alternatives through stakeholder dialogue and participatory decision-making. The MAB Secretariat in the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences of UNESCO (Paris), MAB National Committees, MAB and biosphere networks and a range of UN, NGO and private sector partners have committed themselves to the successful implementation of the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the MAB Programme in February 2008, in Madrid (Spain), a plan which is dedicated to the demonstration of the use of biosphere reserves as learning spaces for sustainable development.

### **Ecosystem-specific networks**

Ecosystem specific networks on mountains, coastal zones and small islands, and MAB research, capacity-building and educational projects in marine ecosystems, forests, drylands, urban areas, wetlands and agro-ecosystems provide valuable insights into climate change mitigation and adaptation, and contribute to implementing the UNESCO Climate Change Strategy. They also provide valuable knowledge inputs into global assessments such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and follow-up activities.

Networking at ecosystem, regional and sub-regional levels and context specific sustainable development learning in biosphere reserve land/seascapes shall constitute the two principal MAB modalities to support UNESCO contributions for enhancing sustainable development options in Member States.

Adopted at the 21st session of the  
MAB International Coordinating Council,  
Jeju (Republic of Korea), 25-29 May 2009

**CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS FOR SELECTION  
OF THE MAB YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARDS WINNERS:**

- To be eligible, award applications must be made on the MAB Young Scientists Award application form (in English or French) and be endorsed by the applicant's MAB National Committee\*, which may endorse only two applications per year from applicants who are not older than 40 years of age (at the closing date of the application).
- Priority is given to interdisciplinary projects carried out in biosphere reserves designated under the Man and the Biosphere Programme or potential biosphere reserves
- Applicants from developed countries are eligible for Awards only in exceptional cases.
- Awards are set at a maximum of US \$5,000 each.
- Research supported by an Award should be completed within 2 years.
- Candidates must accept to submit reports of Award funded research to the MAB Secretariat in Paris and to their MAB National Committees\*, and agree to the possibility of UNESCO publishing the results of their research.
- International travel expenditures are usually not covered under these Awards.

\* In countries where MAB National Committees do not exist or are not fully operational the selection at the national level will continue to be ensured by the National Commission for UNESCO of the country in question according to the above-listed criteria.