



Slovenský výbor programu Človek a biosféra

Slovak National Committee for the Programme on Man and the Biosphere

Comité slovaque national pour le Programme sur l'homme et la biosphère

Report on Activities of the Slovak MAB Committee in 2015

In 2015, main effort of the Slovak MAB Committee was concentrated on working with the biosphere reserves, State Nature Conservancy and the Ministry of the Environment on addressing recommendations of the ICC MAB and reporting on actions taken for improving status of the Slovak biosphere reserves.

There are four biosphere reserves in Slovakia – Slovak Karst (1977), Polana (1990), Tatry (1992) and East Carpathians (1992,1998), of which Tatry and East Carpathians are transboundary reserves. Biosphere Reserves are referred in the national Nature and Landscape Conservation Act as areas of international importance and coordinated through regional offices of the State Nature Conservancy.

In January 2015, new comprehensive Management Plan for Polana Biosphere Reserve (developed in participatory manner already in 2014) was approved by the Coordination Board of the Biosphere Reserve. This most recent plan was inspired by the Action programme for the Entlebuch Biosphere Reserve (Swiss) that have partnership with Polana BR. Management Plan is the four year plan for the period 2014 – 2017.

In consultation with stakeholders, proposal for extension of the Polana Biosphere Reserve (its transition zone) was completed and submitted to UNESCO MAB. Main purpose of the extension was to create conditions for better implementation of the Biosphere Reserve development function

On the occasion of 25 years of existence of Polana BR, day-long stakeholder event was held on 29 October 2015 combining excursion through most notable parts of the Biosphere Reserve and celebration dinner accompanied with presentations on the past and present of the Polana BR.

In the Slovak Karst Biosphere Reserve, Coordination Board for Biosphere Reserve has been established. In the Board, currently there have been 10 representatives of municipalities, local interest groups and NGOs. In terms of its composition, it is a flexible structure that is opened to possible participation of other stakeholders not yet represented in the Board. The mission of the Board is to coordinate activities and initiatives within the biosphere reserve and facilitate stakeholders participation in implementing BR functions.

“Biosphere Reserve Open-Door Day” was held in all four Slovak Biosphere Reserves. This has been traditional event aimed at promoting biosphere reserves among local communities and serving as a forum for discussing matters related to biosphere reserve functions.

Slovak MAB Committee cooperated with Slovak UNESCO Commission in organising public event on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. Event entitled “We Love UNESCO” was organised at Comenius University in Bratislava on 24 November 2015.

Slovak MAB Committee, via consultation process run by the MAB Secretariat, contributed to developing MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan.

Last but not least, in 2015 Slovak MAB in cooperation with the State Nature Conservancy started to develop project supporting implementation of the MAB strategy in coming years.