

The Creation of a Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)

A proposal of the National MAB Committee
Republic of the Philippines



Rationale

Draft Lima Action Plan Strategic Action Area B advocates an *“inclusive, dynamic and result-oriented collaboration and networking within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.”*

More specifically Section B7.1 calls for the establishment of *“an international network of scientists, working in and with BRs and engaging with national networks of scientists”*

B7.2 calls for the development of a *“joint research and knowledge exchange agenda.”*

The Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)

Rationale

Such a network of scientists would require a formal organizational vehicle to develop and implement such an agenda of research and knowledge exchange.

For this purpose, it is proposed to create a **Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)**.

The Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)

Nature

an international learned organization of scientists working in the area of biosphere science

membership based mainly on the scientific achievements of the individual

a “*programme unit*” within UNESCO, which shall be responsible for the administration of funds and staff

The Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)

Headquarters

The Academy shall be incorporated and headquartered in the Philippines, whose government, through its Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall provide land, building and local operational expenses.

The Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)



Proposed GABS Site

- Approximately 70 km south of Manila
- At the foot of Mt. Makiling (Forest Reserve)
- Inside University of the Philippines Los Banos campus

The Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)



Objectives

1

Develop and implement an agenda for transdisciplinary biodiversity research anchored on “*linking of biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being*” and “*sustainable development actions in biosphere reserves*”;

2

Recognize, support and promote “*research and experimentation on the ground to build new knowledge and capacity on practice-based sustainable development*” and “*share such knowledge globally*”;

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Objectives

3

Encourage and provide local communities opportunities to contribute to best practice for community engagement with a view to attain resilience in the face of global and local change;

4

Facilitate interaction, collaboration and networking among individual scientists and institutions working in the field of biosphere science;

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Objectives

5

Support the Man and Biosphere International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC) in its role of “*recommending research projects to countries*”;

6

Give free, independent and authoritative scientific advice to the MAB-ICC and its WNBR and to individual countries whenever necessary; and

Objectives

7

Contribute in other ways as a learned organization to the attainment of the vision and mission of UNESCO's MAB Programme.

The Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)

Activities

organize scientific gatherings and training programmes

publish scientific materials

grant fellowships and research fund

give prizes and awards

partner with other academies of science and other organizations as necessary and mutually beneficial

The Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS)

Organization

General Membership: highest governing body; policy-making; meet biennially

Executive Council: 15 members; elected by the General Membership; implement policy; formulate and implement plans; draw up the budget; and oversee administration of programs, projects and activities.

Nominations for membership shall be submitted by at least two members to the Executive Council, which shall endorse such nominations to the General Membership for consideration and approval during its regular biennial meetings.

Organization

Officers: President, *Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee chairs*; elected by members of the Executive Council members from among themselves

Committees: *membership; nominations and elections; publications; awards.* all chaired by members of the Executive Council; all members drawn from the General Membership and appointed by the Executive Council through the President.

The Global Academy of Biosphere Science (GABS) Organization

Executive Director: full time; appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Council

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Funding

Local operational expenses, which shall include Personnel Services (PS) and Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), shall be shouldered by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines through its Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Hosting expenses of the general membership meetings, which may be held outside of headquarters, shall be borne by the government of the country in which the meeting is being held.

Project funds shall be raised from contributions of WNBR states and other parties.

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Funding

Representatives of the Philippine government and UNESCO shall meet annually with the Executive Council to discuss financial and staff matters.

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Steps to Establishment

1

The proposal is endorsed to and approved by the MAB-ICC.

2

The MAB-ICC shall form a Steering Committee to implement the proposal

3

The MAB-ICC shall request UNESCO for GABS to be one of its programme units.

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Steps to Establishment

4

The MAB-ICC and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall sign a hosting agreement.

5

The MAB-ICC shall call for nominations of founding members, and MAB National Committees shall make the nominations. The MAB-ICC shall select the founding members from among the nominees.

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Steps to Establishment

6

The MAB-ICC shall organize the founding meeting of the general membership, which shall be held in the Philippines and hosted by the Philippine government. The Philippine National MAB Committee shall serve as the local organizing committee.

7

During this First General Membership Meeting, the founding members shall elect from among themselves a 15-member Executive Council. The Executive Council in turn shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Chairs from among themselves.

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Steps to Establishment

8

During this First General Membership Meeting, the founding members shall finalize the GABS Charter based on this proposal.

9

The President shall recommend an Executive Director for approval by the Executive Council.

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Steps to Establishment

10

The Executive Director shall cause the incorporation of GABS in the Philippines with the founding members as the incorporators.

11

The MAB-ICC shall assign relevant parts of the hosting agreement to the GABS.

