

# Introduction to the workshop on 'Scientific networking'

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# Networks in MAB

- 1971-c. 1990
  - Networks of scientists working in 14 ‘project areas’
    - 8 environments (forest, island, mountain, urban, etc.)
    - 6 themes (including ‘conservation of natural areas and of the genetic material they contain’)
- Since c. 1990
  - Main focus of MAB on Biosphere Reserves
    - World Network
    - Regional and Thematic networks
    - National networks

# (Re)creating a network of BR scientists

- Many scientists work within individual BRs
- Some scientists conduct comparative research across multiple BRs
- Some scientists work with BR coordinators/managers and/or other stakeholders
- How can scientists be more relevant in and for the MAB Programme
  - in its BRs
  - for BR coordinators/managers and/or other stakeholders?

# Possible benefits of a network

- Collaborative research
  - benefits in and for BRs and stakeholders
  - links to other research initiatives
- Sharing of research findings and good practice across BRs with similar issues
  - benefits for coordinators/managers in daily practice
- Funding for research projects
  - Publications
- Training and exchanges of scientists and students

# MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan

## MAB Strategy

- Expected result 3.2: ‘The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and stakeholders’
- Other expected results on:
  - research and monitoring
  - training and capacity building
  - Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
  - partnerships within and outside UNESCO

# MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan

## Lima Action Plan

- Outcome B7: ‘An active and open interdisciplinary network of scientists/knowledge holders sharing MAB vision and mission’
  - Action B7.1: ‘Establish an international network of scientists/knowledge holders, working in and with BRs, that engages with national and other international networks of scientists/knowledge holders’
  - Action B7.2: ‘Develop a joint research and knowledge agenda for the international network’

# MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan

## Lima Action Plan

- Outcome A4: ‘Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs’
  - 5 Actions
- Action A1.4: BRs as priority sites/observatories in relation to climate change
- Action B4.1: Opportunities for collaborative research, implementation and monitoring
  - in regional and thematic networks

# Objectives of this workshop

- Review experiences of scientific collaboration/networking within/across BRs
- Consider opportunities for networking
  - within UNESCO
  - with other international networks/structures
- Consider proposals for new MAB initiatives
- Discuss benefits, opportunities, modalities
  - Report to plenary tomorrow morning
  - Future actions