

# **The MAB concept as a guide to sustainable natural cities**

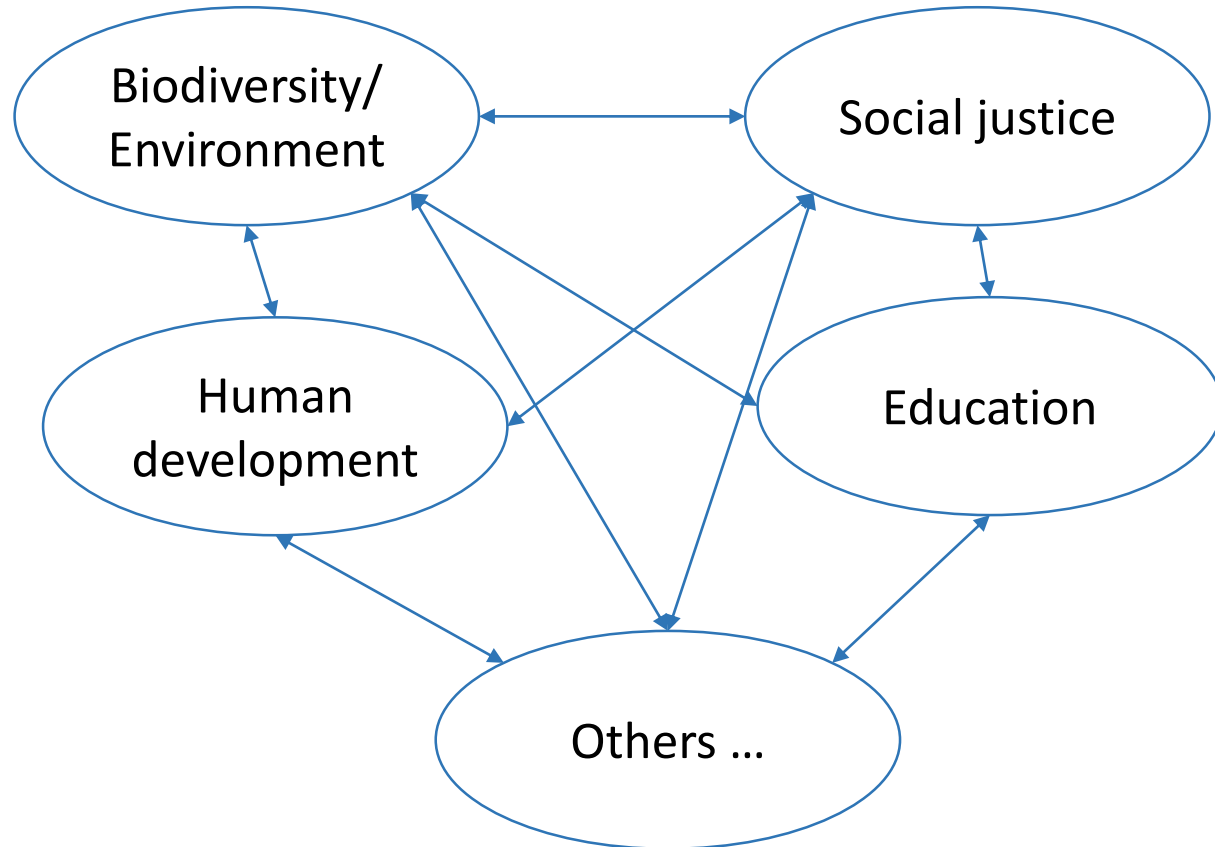
# Nature in the cities is important for environmental and social sustainability

Due to their spreading on natural habitats, cities tend to become **specific places for global biodiversity conservation**

Nature and biodiversity in the cities provide **ecosystem services** to city dwellers, at local scale

As cities home the majority of Earth inhabitants, and, more importantly, because the political decision-making processes are in there, **environment concern of city inhabitants is of huge importance for the sustainable future of the Planet.**

# Biodiversity and social issues must be addressed together



MAB Program



Comprehensive vision of sustainable human development



*BR concept = toolbox for ecological and social urban planning and governance ?*

# Biodiversity and sustainable development

## BR's values and Criteria

**Protect Life:** Building conditions for humans and nature living together

**Zonation :** *Ensure biodiversity management in multi-use areas with the objective of sustainable development.*



## Urban planning and governance

Increasing the presence of biodiversity in the cities

Making biodiversity and socio-economic issues of equal priority.

Increasing ecological solidarity between city centers and suburbs

A1.5. Promote green/sustainable/social economy initiatives within BR  
A 7.1. Identify ecosystem services (...) health and well-being

# Relationships between all stakeholders and local governance

## BR's values and *Criteria*

**Make communities autonomous:** Building reliable future for all people

**Being part of a whole:** Our success depends on the strength of the relationships

***Organizational/governance arrangements :***  
*Involvement of all actors in management-making processes*



## Urban planning and governance

Promoting participatory processes to build shared values

Acknowledging the existence of various representations and relations to urban nature

A4.1 and 2 Establish to partnership with universities and research, with educational and training institutions  
B1.2. Organizing regional education, capacity building and training programs

# New solutions for novel visions

## BR's values and *Criteria*

**Find and invent solutions:** Building reliable future for all people

*New forms of **institutional cooperation** and links between different levels of political, economic and scientific decision making.*



## Urban planning and governance

Cities as new areas for experimentations

- Urban agriculture and gardening
- New cooperation within cities and with surrounding areas
- New cooperation between urban stakeholders and inhabitants
- New vision of cities and inclusive social-ecological systems

A1.6. Socio-ecological systems in BRs are well conserved ad maintained

**Thank you for your attention**

Zina SKANDRANI

MAB-secretariat

Dr in conservation sciences

[zina.skandrani@unesco.org](mailto:zina.skandrani@unesco.org)

Anne-Caroline PREVOT

French MAB-comittee

Researcher in conservation sciences

[acpj@mnhn.fr](mailto:acpj@mnhn.fr)