



Report of the AfrimAB Bureau Meeting PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE OF AFRIMAB

05th – 08th November 2011
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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Chairman of AfrimAB

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PRELIMINARY NOTE

The AfriMAB Bureau meeting was held from the 05th to the 08th of November 2011, at the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting brought together all the AfriMAB sub-regional coordinators and invited guests from Ethiopia MAB NATCOM, Tanzania MAB NATCOM and a representative from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The AfriMAB Bureau, according to the AfriMAB statutes, is comprised of the Chairman and sub-regional coordinators according UNESCO regional countries clusters.

This meeting followed the workshop on “Linking Knowledge within the Ethiopian MAB Programme”, which was organized by the Michael Succow Foundation (MSF) with funding from BfN through means of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). These three are German institutions partnering with AfriMAB on conservation matters through the MAB program. Most of the AfriMAB Bureau members participated in this workshop through invitation from the organizers. The AfriMAB chairman wishes to thank the three German institutions for the support in making this meeting possible.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Dr. Paul Makenzi – AfriMAB Chair – MAB NATCOM Chair – Kenya
2. Prof. Chris Magadza – AfriMAB Sub-Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa – MAB NATCOM member – Zimbabwe
3. Dr. Nouhou Diaby – AfriMAB Sub-Regional Coordinator for Western Africa – MAB NATCOM member – Senegal
4. Mr. Arnold Mapinduzi – per procuracionem AfriMAB Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa – MAB NATCOM Secretariat – Tanzania
5. Ms. Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa – Chief of Section Biosphere Networks and Capacity-Building – UNESCO Headquarter – France
6. Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis – Science Programme Specialist – UNESCO Office Addis Ababa – Ethiopia
7. Mr. Florian Carius – German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) – Germany
8. Mr. Solomon Getachew – MAB Focal Point at the Ministry of Science and Technology – MAB NATCOM secretariat – Ethiopia

Mr. Kebede Zewdie kindly assisted the meeting in logistical terms on behalf of the Michael Succow Foundation (MSF).

1 COMMUNICATION FROM THE AFRIMAB CHAIR

The AfriMAB Chairman Dr. Paul Makenzi called the meeting to order at 9.00am. He thanked the AfriMAB Bureau members and the invited participants for attending the meeting. He also thanked the Ethiopian MAB NATCOM and the German partner institutions for making this possible. He presented the agenda of the meeting (see Appendix 1), which the members adopted. Subsequently, he welcomed Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis from the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa who provided the venue for the meeting.

2 OPENING REMARKS

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis gave an outline of the activities of the Science Programme at the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa emphasizing specifically on the MAB program activities.

The keynote address was presented by Ms. Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa from the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

In her remarks, she gave an overview of AfriMAB as a regional network. Among others, she informed the members on the creation of AfriMAB in October 1996 and various subsequent meetings. She further highlighted language as one of the key challenges; i.e. subdivision in Anglophone vs. Francophone or subdivision into themes. All these did not help the network much. To address these challenges, members on their meeting in Nairobi agreed and decided to enhance unity and cooperation in the region. There will be only one common AfriMAB regional meeting in which translation facilities will be provided. The members further agreed on a common framework to the network activities which shows what is supposed to be done. One of the key elements in the framework was the issue of zonation. Thereafter the network developed a charter in 2006 and in 2007 the draft charter was presented and adopted by members in Madrid meeting. She further informed that the new style was born 2010 in Nairobi – whereby the charter was officially adopted. She also reminded on the obligation of members states to pay their annual contribution which is US-\$1,000.00, at least by every March of the subsequent year. If not paid, a member will not benefit from the network activities.

Members were also informed that since AfriMAB is not a legal entity, UNESCO will assist in its management. Hence, a Bureau was formed together with establishment of the sub-regional coordinators and the secretariat. At the moment, Kenya is offering the secretariat services.

Ms. Raondry Rakotoarisoa pointed out some of the key challenges/issues to be addressed by the meeting:

- Weakness of MAB National Committees
 - Need for MAB NatCom to be permanent as the current turn over affects the implementation. Proposed that some people to be in committee at their own capacities
- Update/Evaluation of Biosphere Reserves
 - BRs need to be updated as some of them were designated before the Madrid Action Plan (MAP). Noted that though countries had been requested to provide mid-term evaluation, some have not yet done so.

- Further informed that the final evaluation is by 2013 as the MAP ends by that time.
- Communication
 - She sighted with concerns that communication has been a major challenge, hence the network need to seriously work on the strategy.

The meeting was further informed that UNESCO was requested to develop an action plan for the period after 2013 and that now the idea is to change planning from bi-annual to four years work plans. She insisted on the need for strong partnership to link with government structure so as to be able to influence mainstreaming of MAB activities in the national development planning processes. She reminded the members on the need to move from thematic grouping to regional coordination and that UNESCO is going to restructure its operation to fit into regional cooperation, i.e. Regional economic communities.

3 AFRIMAB SUB-REGIONAL REPORTS

The Sub-regional coordinators and/or representatives presented a progress report on activities implemented in their Biosphere Reserves. The sub-regions are Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

3.1 Western Africa

This sub-region is comprised of the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The AfriMAB Bureau member, Dr. Nouhou Diaby, who is the Western Africa sub-regional coordinator, presented a detailed report (see below) as per the reporting format. The Bureau members adopted the report and requested Dr. Diaby to provide a template to be availed to other coordinators for use in preparation of country and sub-regional reports in future (see Appendix 3).

3.1.1 Biosphere Reserves

There are 20 BRs and two transboundary biosphere reserves (TBR) in the Western Africa sub-region by 2011 (see table 1). Two were declared in 2011: Songor BR in Ghana and Oti-Kéran/Oti-Mandouri BR in Togo. Senegal also submitted a nomination proposal for a new BR in September 2011.

Table 1: Summary of the BRs in West Africa sub-region

Country	Biosphere Reserves
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pendjari (1986) • “W” TBR - Benin - Burkina Faso - Niger (2002)
Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mare aux hippopotames (1987) • “W” TBR - Benin - Burkina Faso - Niger (2002)
Cote d’ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taï (1977) • Comoé (1983)
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bia (1983) • Songor (2011)
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mont Nimba (1980) • Massif du Ziama (1980) • Badiar (2002) • Haut Niger (2002)
Guinea Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boloma-Bijagós (1996)
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boucle du Baoulé (1982)
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta du fleuve Sénégal TBR - Mauritania – Senegal (2005)
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aïr et Ténéré (1997) • “W” TBR - Benin - Burkina Faso - Niger (2002)
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omo (1977)
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samba Dia (1979) • Delta du Saloum (1980) • Niokolo-Koba (1981) • Delta du fleuve Sénégal TBR - Mauritania – Senegal (2005)
Togo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oti-Kéran/Oti-Mandouri (2011)
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing process for Niuni BR

3.1.2 Efforts towards implementation of MAP in the sub-region

Several activities are being carried out towards implementation of the Madrid Action Plan’s (MAP) main domains for Africa.

Domain 1: Cooperation, management, communication

Benin has an integrated information and communication strategy between BRs, local communities and tourism stakeholders, developed through an association of ecotourism development.

Ghana started a periodic review process which is being undertaken for Bia BR to be submitted in 2012.

Senegal celebrated the 40th anniversary of MAB with a workshop on the state of the 4 Senegalese BR. 40 stakeholders including BR managers, population representatives, scientist and others experts attended the meeting.

Domain 2: Zoning, linking function to space

The zoning of Pendjari BR (Benin) and Bia BR (Ghana) were revised and updated in line to meet Seville requirements.

In Senegal a new zoning of Saloum Delta BR was done, but still needs validation from all stakeholders.

Domain 3: Science and capacity building

The Pendjari BR (Benin) management plan was revised and improved. The management plan for Bia BR (Ghana) also has been revised under the Protected Areas Management Program. This plan has greater community participation.

BR managers from Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal and Togo were part of the one week training on managing the challenges of African biosphere reserves, organized by BfN during the 40th anniversary celebration of MAB in Germany from June 27th until July 2nd, 2011.

Capacity building and training workshops were organized in Senegal, in the framework of the preparation of the nomination document for a new BR. Scientists from Dakar University made scientific studies of the new target zone.

Benin, Ghana and Senegal are also planning to participate with the Pendjari BR in the UNESCO initiative Barefoot College.

Domain 4: Partnership

In this domain, we can note the participation in the workshop "Managing Challenges of Biosphere Reserves in Africa" for all countries and some initiatives in Germany. Pendjari (Benin) - Arli (Burkina Faso) are further initiating their Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Ghana considered initiating collaboration between Saloum Delta (Senegal) and Songor (new BR) on mangroves and also between Bia and Tai (Cote d'Ivoire) who are supposed to be undertaking studies on climate change

Senegal and Gambia continue the TBR initiative process between Delta Saloum (Senegal) and Niimi (Gambia) funded by IUCN.

3.1.3 Action on AfriMAB priority MAP targets 2010-2013

The comparison of the activities with the priority targets 2010-2013 for AfriMAB, showed that some actions have been taken to implement MAP in Western African sub-region (see table 2).

3.1.4 Key issues

Few countries provided information about the MAB activities as was required; these were Benin, Ghana and Senegal. There was inadequate information from other countries.

It was evident that some MAP targets for Africa are not yet being addressed and efforts should be made to encourage the countries to do so.

Major challenges facing most MAB national committees include realization of TBR initiatives in the sub-region and sustainable financing of MAB activities especially within BRs.

Table 2: Actions taken to implement MAP in the Western African sub-region

Target	Actions
Improved financial mechanisms for biosphere reserves and regional networks	-
Transboundary Biosphere Reserves	Processes in Benin/Burkina Faso and Gambia/Senegal
Trained biosphere reserve managers and other relevant Stakeholders	Workshops organized in some countries (also in Germany)
Integrated information & communication strategy	Benin developed one
Mitigation in relation to climate change	-
Exchanges between biosphere reserves	Facilitated through the workshop and study trip in Germany
Biosphere Reserves to have research programmes on analyses of ecosystem services and their management through stakeholder participation	Senegal had a project in this issue in the framework of submission of new BR
Analysis of zonation of all biosphere reserves	New zonation in Pendjari (Benin) and Bia (Ghana)

3.2 Eastern Africa

The AfriMAB Bureau member Prof. Pierre Ravelonandro from Madagascar, sub-regional coordinator for Eastern Africa was absent with apology. However, the sub-region was represented by Mr. Arnold Mapinduzi from the National MAB secretariat of Tanzania. The AfriMAB chairman, Dr. Makenzi presented the status report. He gave an outline of the Eastern Africa countries within the sub-region: Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. The new state of South Sudan featured as having shown interest of being part of this sub-region. The Bureau observed that South Sudan should be encouraged to formalize its membership to AfriMAB under Eastern Africa sub-region following the UNESCO procedure of doing so.

3.2.1 Biosphere Reserves

There are 15 Biosphere Reserves in the sub-region of Eastern Africa (see table 3).

Table 3: Biosphere Reserves in the East African sub-region

Country	Biosphere Reserves	MAB National Committee status/host institution
Kenya	Mt. Kenya BR Mt. Kulal BR Amboseli BR Malindi-Watamu Marine BR Kiunga Marine BR Mt. Elgon BR (proposed as TBR) Marsabit BR (proposed)	Formalized and functional under KNATCO-UNESCO
Tanzania	Lake Manyara BR Serengeti- Ngorongoro BR East Usambara BR	Functional under TEMC
Madagascar	Mananara Nord Sahamalaza-Iles Ramada Littoral de Toliara	?
Ethiopia	Kafa BR Yayu BR Sheka Forest BR (nominated) Lake Tana BR (proposed)	Functional and formalized under Ministry of Science and technology. National MAB strategy in process.
Uganda	Queen Elizabeth BR Mt. Elgon BR (proposed as TBR)	Under UNATCO-UNESCO (?)
Rwanda	Volcans BR	?
Mauritius	Macchabe/Bel Ombre BR	?
Somalia	No BR declared	No MAB National Committees existent
Seychelles		
Comoros		
Eritrea		
Djibouti		

3.2.2 Efforts towards implementation of MAP in the sub-region

Few activities are being carried out towards implementation of the MAP main domains for the BRs in Eastern Africa. There is need for the Biosphere reserve managers to be trained on best practices of BR management, following the MAP domains.

It was evident that some MAP targets for Africa are not yet being addressed and efforts should be made to encourage the eastern African countries to do so.

Major challenges facing most MAB national committees include realization of TBR initiatives in the sub-region and sustainable financing of MAB activities especially within the BRs. They are all functional; Kenya and Tanzania have conducted periodic reviews of those BRs that were declared more than ten years ago.

Most of the countries have not formalized their MAB national committees apart from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Madagascar. Ethiopia is developing the first national MAB strategy in the sub-region. The sub-regional coordinator shall create awareness of the need to establish a national MAB committee, in those countries which did not report of any MAB activity.

On the implementation of MAP targets, it was reported that the establishment of Mt. Elgon TBR between Kenya and Uganda is progressing well. Plans for a TBR between Tanzania and Burundi are on-going.

3.3 Central Africa

The AfriMAB Bureau member Laurent Nsenga, coordinator for this sub-region, was absent with apology but sent the report for Central Africa sub-region.

It is comprised of the following countries: Congo, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe and Burundi.

In this sub-region a new BR has been proposed for Sao Tome and Principe.

Also, in Cameroon, Mr. Guy Broucke has been replaced (went to Harare) by Ms. Mama Plea from Mali. The UNESCO Office for Central Africa is now located in Cameroon.

AfriMAB activities were implemented by some actions in 2 main domains.

3.3.1 Science and capacity building

From September to October 2011, 30 ERAIFT African students achieved their field training in the Luki BR. These students are from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, Rwanda, Chad, Togo, Guinea, Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo. During this stage, a presentation was made on AfriMAB. They asked to put them in contact with MAB Focal Points or responsible in their countries, so they can contribute to Biosphere Reserve activities.

3.3.2 Partnership

Luki Biosphere Reserve (DRC) received funding in the amount of 2,340,000 Euro from the ADB-CBFF to finance its REDD+ project. Based on the experience of Luki BR, a process is underway to develop a similar project in Dimonika BR at Congo – Brazzaville.

The Yangambi BR (DRC) has a project with the University of Gent in Belgium for the installation of two flux towers which can help the DRC to measure forest carbon.

An initiative is underway with Gabon. A Gabonese delegation will come to visit the Luki BR (DRC) to see the model in order to implement the first BR in that country.

Burundi has a new initiative for a wetland TBR with Tanzania. It has been well researched so far but the BR concept has to be applied to the area.

In Congo, a meeting was organized in Brazzaville (2011) to push South-South cooperation (Amazonia, Congo, East Asian Basin) with high level political support. The aim is to develop partnership to protect tropical forests and develop REDD projects.

Two challenges are actually important in the Central Africa sub-region:

- Revitalization / Implementation of MAB National Committees in each country;
- Completion of periodic reviews of biosphere reserves.

3.4 Southern Africa

The AfriMAB sub-regional coordinator in charge, Prof. Chris .Magadza, presented the reported.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe lacks a legal instrument for the establishment of BRs.

Middle Zambezi BR is a large area with poor people. It is much affected by climate change and quite well researched. There was a problem with delineation of buffer and transition zone. There is a problem with Chinese settlers, who are not in line with environmental sound infrastructure (near World Heritage area). Fish catch in Lake Kariba has decreased since early 1990s. There were no intentions to eradicate tsetse flies in the core zone of the BR, but in the surrounding area. There has been a shift from biological measures to chemical insecticides. But this brings no sustainable solution for the problem.

Monovale wetland inside Harare: Pressure on infrastructure development → habitants want the area to be protected → intend to apply the BR concept.

Management governance: Management through a management committee. Problem: who is the chair/manager? There is need for a full time person to manage the BR (all committee members have other duties). Maybe start with an intern.

South Africa

Six BRs, all with different formats. A new BR has been nominated.

Angola

Considers establishing BRs. A nomination is in process.

Working on a TBR with DRC and Congo, which is well advanced (Cabinda causes a political problem).

Botswana

Successful meeting in Botswana in 2011 for bringing them into the MAB Programme. Interim MAB NATCOM established. Possible location of BR identified: Okavango region.

Zambia

There could have been a BR already, but the politician's priority was to develop infrastructure.

Possibility of a TBR in the region between Zambia and Malawi (Lwanga region).

Namibia

CBNRM Programme is similar to MAB Programme, but more focussed on wildlife conservation.

Lesotho

NATCOM is interested in establishment of BRs. Drakensberge is a candidate for a TBR with South Africa. There is not yet a MAB NATCOM.

General

BRs only exist in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The sub-regional coordinator wrote a letter to the countries' NATCOMs, to invite them to advance the MAB programme implementation.

The concept of National Parks is much more popular than the MAB Programme. Southern Africa is the most difficult sub-region for the MAB implementation. So this will be a priority of AfriMAB.

Sub-regional meeting needs to be held this year (UNESCO regular programme money has to be spent this year). This can be applied to other sub-regions.

4 THE AFRIMAB SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The AfriMAB chair, Dr. Makenzi informed the meeting, that since Kenya was given the mandate to host AfriMAB secretariat, taking over from Madagascar during the AfriMAB General Assembly in 2010, the next General Assembly will be held in Nairobi.

The following activities have been implemented:

- Establishment of AfriMAB secretariat steering committee;
- Securing AfriMAB secretariat office at the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO in Nairobi;
- Development of the AfriMAB work plan.

4.1 International involvement

- Participation in MAB-ICC 23rd session and 40th MAB anniversary conference in Dresden, Germany.
- Partnering with BfN in the organization of International Experts Workshop on "Managing Challenges of Biosphere Reserves in Africa" held in Rhön in Germany.
- Participation in the REDD+ training in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

4.2 AfriMAB Work plan

The Bureau members reviewed and revised the AfriMAB work plan (see Appendix 2).

5 KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED AND WAY FORWARD

5.1 The Case of South Sudan

The Bureau noted that the new state of South Sudan had expressed interest to be considered by the UNESCO under the Eastern African sub-region and hence be part of the AfriMAB regional network.

Agreed: The AfriMAB chair explores together with Ms. Raondry Rakotoarisoa the UNESCO procedure of having the new state of South Sudan considered under the Eastern Africa sub-region countries. It needs to be explored how MAB activities can be used as post-independence conflicts resolution tools.

5.2 The AfriMAB LOGO

AfriMAB has been using a temporary logo in 2011 (see cover page of this report). There is a need to develop a permanent one.

Agreed: The MAB secretariat is requested to give a list of associated schools within biosphere reserves in Africa. In those schools a competition is going to be organized for developing an AfriMAB logo. The best logo is going to be approved by the AfriMAB General Assembly. UNESCO is expected to facilitate this. The logo should reflect Africa and MAB as key element. In the meantime, the temporary logo can be further used.

5.3 Partnerships

Members observed that there was need for AfriMAB to initiate more South-South, North-South and North-South-South partnerships. They noted the new partnership between German institutions and AfriMAB. BfN and MSF were acknowledged for their good gesture of involving AfriMAB in their on-going and planned activities.

On BfN's cooperation with AfriMAB, Mr. Carius expressed the commitment of BfN to support MAB activities in Africa. He acknowledged Europe's past and present responsibility for environmental problems in Africa, particularly in terms of climate change. He confirmed the German government's intension to empower its partners to foster sustainable development in the region. BfN considers the UNESCO MAB programme to be a promising tool in this regard and seeks to promote the development of BRs through strengthening AfriMAB. The cooperation between BfN and AfriMAB started with the organisation of the successful workshop with committed African biosphere reserve managers as a side event of the MAB 40th anniversary events in Germany in 2011. BfN aims to provide an opportunity for exchange of experiences in the development of BRs in Sub-Saharan Africa. BfN is looking forward to improved North-South cooperation with a focus on model regions for sustainable development that is based on mutual learning.

Members welcomed BfN's commitment to continue working with AfriMAB in fostering networking between BRs and MAB NATCOM activities in Africa.

Mr. Carius informed the meeting that Mr. Walter Kemkes, manager of the Bliesgau BR in Germany (www.biosphaere-bliesgau.eu), is interested in North-South cooperation, preferably with a BR in Southern Africa. The Bliesgau BR is well developed in the following fields which might be potential areas of collaboration:

- Environmental sound forestry (FSC/PEFC certification)
- Organic agriculture & regional marketing
- Climate protection and participatory approach
- Renewable energy: Biogas, solar, wind
- Eco-tourism

A suggestion was accepted from Mr. Carius that an opportunity exists for African BRs to get support by the Africa Group of German Geoscientists (ADG) which is chaired by Prof. Dr. Bernd Meissner from the Beuth University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. Members of this group are active in many different African countries in different fields of geosciences. They can provide technical assistance, for instance

related to GIS which could be of particular use when it comes to the required zonation concepts based on habitat modelling. Mr. Carius accepted to play a mediatory role and the Bureau agreed to encourage BR managers in their respective regions to send requests for support to ADG through Mr. Carius who will forward the request to an appropriate person from ADG.

5.4 The AfriMAB Biosphere Reserves Interactive Geo-reference CD

This project is being coordinated by Ms. Raondry Rakotoarisoa and is meant to make it easy to access information on BRs in Africa online.

The interactive geo-reference CD was presented to the meeting by Mr. Vincent Mtaroni, GIS Officer at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). The tool is still being edited, after that there will be training for all BR managers. By mid 2012, the CD should be ready for use.

Agreed: The Bureau members encourage all countries in their respective sub-regions, which have biosphere reserves (especially those whose BRs were recently approved), to ensure that information is submitted to UNESCO for inclusion in the interactive Geo-reference CD.

5.5 The future of AfriMAB

5.5.1 MAP implementation

The Bureau observed that the future of AfriMAB depends on the implementation of the MAP which is clearly spelt out in the AfriMAB charter and its statutes.

Agreed: AfriMAB as a regional network should intensify its efforts in bringing on board those African countries which are not as yet members and those without National MAB committees should be encouraged to establish and formalize them. The UNESCO MAB Secretariat should keep updating the data base with emerging information, especially from the newly approved biosphere reserves and new MAB NATCOMs in Africa.

5.5.2 AfriMAB Strategic Plan

Members observed that many MAB NATCOMs in Africa have as yet not developed a strategic plan. They commented Ethiopian MAB NATCOM for having developed a comprehensive national strategy. They expressed concern that the AfriMAB secretariat operates without a strategic plan.

Agreed: There was an urgent need for AfriMAB to have a strategic plan. A consultant should be identified to assist in developing the strategic plan for AfriMAB. It was agreed that this could be done by sub-regional coordinators sitting with a consultant to develop the strategic plan.

The AfriMAB Chair through Ms Raondry Rakotoarisoa can approach BfN to explore the possibility of getting the consultant to assist in the matter.

5.5.3 Capacity building

Members observed that the issue of capacity enhancement as emphasized in the MAP still remains of concern in most MAB NATCOMs in Africa. It was noted that

there was a need to explore more ways of organizing sub-regional Capacity building workshops for enhancing capacity, especially for BRs managers.

Agreed: A Manual on BR management should be developed. The African countries with biosphere reserves should be prepared to provide information of their experiences and challenges in managing their BRs. This can be done whenever there are MAB events at sub-regional or even at country levels. With such information, it will be possible and develop a tool kit for BR management. The Bureau members should be involved in MAB events in their respective sub-region to capture this information for submission to the AfriMAB secretariat.

5.5.4 Communication

Members observed that despite the latest development in information technology, effective communication in Africa is still a problem. It was further observed that networking within BRs and NATCOMs can only be effective if there is proper communication means.

Noted: There is a need to explore more means for effective communication. Skype communication was encouraged as effective communication means, but it was noted that the AfriMAB Secretariat and its Bureau need to be equipped to be able to effectively communicate through Skype.

Mr. Carius presented BR 2.0, an online communication platform for BR stakeholders (www.biosphere-platform.net). The platform is developed and coordinated by the Global Research Centre for Biosphere Reserve Advancement and funded by BfN. This is a worldwide platform intended to foster cooperation between BR practitioners. It is a kind of a social network but for MAB stakeholders and with enhanced functionalities for technical exchange.

Members noted the benefits of this platform and were concerned that it can be misused because it is not moderated.

5.5.5 Fund raising for AfriMAB activities

The chairman informed the members that funding for running AfriMAB planned activities, including the secretariat itself, remains a big problem. Even the chairman's office itself has no budget for communication.

Agreed: There is a need for AfriMAB to have a kit, where funds can be drawn from. Bureau members will encourage MAB NATCOMs in their respective sub-regions to ensure the annual US-\$1,000 subscription is paid to AfriMAB Paris account.

Ms. Raondry Rakotoarisoa will remind the African delegates in Paris of the same.

A consultant needs to be approached by the Chairman and Ms. Raondry Rakotoarisoa to pursue the AfriMAB e-fund-Action.

Members agreed on other ways to explore for fundraising for AfriMAB:

- AfriMAB trust fund;
- Contributions to AfriMAB kit from on-going research and projects;
- Associate/co-operate membership;
- Organizing informal special sessions at UNESCO headquarter for permanent delegates to support the AfriMAB kit.

Prof. Chris Magadza was designated the AfriMAB's e-fund and other fund raising focal person, assisted by Dr. James Njogu of the AfriMAB secretariat in Nairobi. Ms.

Raondry Rakotoarisoa to link them with various possibilities of funding sources, at regional and international level.

5.6 Planning for the next AfriMAB General Assembly

Agreed: The venue for the next AfriMAB General Assembly (GA) will be in Kenya, Nairobi, or Mombasa. The GA will possibly be held in September or October 2012.

Logistics:

- Ms. Raondry Rakotoarisoa to assist the secretariat with details of logistics including the budget from the previous GAs records;
- Each country is expected to pay for at least one delegate.

Proposed subjects for the GA:

- AfriMAB: Past, Present and Future
- The future of biodiversity: contributions from BRs
- BRs as tools of integration
- Conserving Africa's ecosystems
- BRs in the changing climate
- BRs for the green societies

AfriMAB should explore the possibility of how UNESCO should consider positively the request and the desire of the new Republic of South Sudan to be part of the AfriMAB regional network.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA FOR THE AFRIMAB BUREAU MEETING

Day	Time	Activities	Responsibility	Facilitator
Day 1 Saturday 5th Nov.	3.00 -5.00 AfriMAB Secretariat and Bureau Consultative meeting.			
Day 2- Sunday 6th Nov.	8.30	Departure from Pacific Hotel		
	9.00-9.15	Registration	Secretariat	Mr. A. Mapinduzi
	9.15-9.30	Welcome remarks and introductions	AfriMAB/Session Chair	Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis
	9.30-9.40	Adoption of AfriMAB Bureau meeting agenda/program and designation of session chair	--do--	Dr. P. Makenzi
	9.40-10.10	Key note address: Overview of AfriMAB as a regional network	Chief - Biosphere Reserve s Networks and Capacity Building	Ms. Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa
	10.10-10.30	General discussion	Session Chair	Dr. P. Makenzi
	10.30-11.00	Health Break		
	11.00-1.00	Review of AfriMAB Activities	Session Chair	Dr. Nouhou Diaby
	11.00-11.30	Presentation of the 2010 Nairobi AfriMAB report	Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa	Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa
	11.30-12.00	AfriMAB Nairobi secretariat activities report	Secretariat	Dr. Paul Makenzi
	12.00-12.30	Discussion	Session chair	Dr. Nouhou Diaby
	12.30-2.00	Lunch		
	2.00-4.30	AfriMAB sub-regional activities reports	Session Chair	Prof. Chris Magadza
	2.00-2.30	Western Africa sub-region	AfriMAB Sub-regional coordinator	Dr. Nouhou Diaby
	2.30-3.00	Eastern Africa sub-region	AfriMAB Sub-regional coordinator	Dr. P. Makenzi
	3.00-3.20	Discussion	Session chair	Prof. Chris Magadza
	3.20-4.00	Discussion on the AfriMAB logo and the Case of	Session chair	Prof. Chris Magadza

		South Sudan		
	4.00-4.30	Health Break		
	4.30-5.00	Report of the AfriMAB participation in the 40 th anniversary of MAB and MAB /ICC conferences in Dresden/Germany	AfriMAB Chair	Dr. P. Makenzi/ Mr. Florian Carius
	5.00-5.20	Discussions	Session chair	
END OF DAY 2				
	Time	Activity	Responsible	Facilitator
Day 3: Monday 7 th Nov.	9.00-10.00	AfriMAB Sub-regional reports	Session Chair	Mr. Arnold Mapinduzi
	9.00-9.10	Recap of Day 2	Session chair	Mr. Arnold Mapinduzi
	9.10-9.40	Southern Africa sub-region	Sub-region Bureau coordinator	Prof. Chris Magadza
	9.40-10.10	Central Africa sub-region	Sub-region Bureau coordinator	Dr. Paul Makenzi
	10.10-10.30	Presentation of the interactive CD on the African BRs	Session chair	Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa/Vincent Mtaroni
	10.30-11.00	Health Break		
	11.00-1.00	Review and Adoption of AfriMAB work plan	Session Chair	Dr. Paul Makenzi
	11.00-11.30	Presentation of AfriMAB work plan	Secretariat	Dr. Paul Makenzi
	11.30-12.30	Discussion on the Work plan and partnerships	Session Chair	Dr. Paul Makenzi
	12.30-2.00	Lunch Break		
	2.00-4.00	The future of AfriMAB	Session Chair	Ms. Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AfriMAB and implementation of MAP, AfriMAB Charter and Statutes. Sub-regional Capacity building, workshops and development of BR Manager's manual Enhancing communication and networking within the AfriMAB 	--do--	--do--
			--do--	--do--
		--do--	Mr. Florian Carius: BfN Platform featuring AfriMAB	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds raising for AfriMAB activities 		
		Discussion		
4.00-4.30		Health Break		
4.30-5.30		Planning for the next AfriMAB biannual General Assembly	Session Chair	Dr. Paul Makenzi
4.30-5.00		Discussions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Venue, date and logistics Theme of the GA 	--do--	--do--
5.00-6.00		Way forward, Bureau meeting report and closing	Session chair	Dr. Paul Makenzi
END OF THE MEETING AND DEPARTURE				

APPENDIX 2: AFRIMAB REVISED WORK PLAN FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 2010 - SEPTEMBER 2012

No	ACTIVITY	SUB-ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	EXPECTED OUTCOME	TIME FRAME	COST (KSHS)	Cost (US\$)	ACTION BY	REMARKS
1	Setting up of AfriMAB Secretariat	Reconstitution of Kenya MAB National Committee to serve as AfriMAB Secretariat	Minutes of meeting Proposed list of secretariat Appointment letters	A functional Kenya MAB National Committee serving as AfriMAB Secretariat	Oct- Nov. 2010	12,000	150	AfriMAB chair, KNATCOM-UNESCO, K/MAB NC	Well done
		Clarification of TOR for Secretariat	TOR for the Secretariat	A Streamlined operations of Secretariat	November 2010	12,000	150	AfriMAB chair, KNATCOM-UNESCO, K/MAB NC	In place
		Preparation of Work plan for the Secretariat	Draft Work plan	Rationalized work plan	Dec 2010- Jan 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB chair, KNATCOM-UNESCO, K/MAB NC	Done
2	1 st Secretariat Meeting	Finalization of Work plan	Work plan	Clear road map for Secretariat	January 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat	Done
3	2 nd Secretariat Meeting	Communication to Member States and Bureau Members on operations and activities of AfriMAB	-Letters of communication -minutes of meeting	Streamlined operations of AfriMAB	3 rd February 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat	Not yet done
4	Implementing the AfriMAB activities as prioritized in the MAP Promotion of Transboundary BR initiatives	Kenya-Uganda Meeting on Mt. Elgon BR	-invitation to the Uganda MAB -Revised MOU -management plan	Functional TBR	2012	800,000	10,000	AfriMAB Secretariat/Uganda MAB /UNESCO Nairobi Office	Ongoing, to be continued

5	Fundraising for AfriMAB	-Establish partnership with potential donors -proposal writing workshop -training on fundraising	-list of potential collaborators and donors -Trust Fund -workshop report	-functioning AfriMAB Network	Feb-Oct 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	Ongoing
6	3 rd Secretariat Meeting	Preparation for the Bureau meeting	-invitations -agenda of Bureau Meeting -List of working documents	Effective participation in the Bureau meeting	10March 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	done
7	1 st Bureau meeting	Hosting of Bureau meeting	-list of participants -report of Bureau meeting	functioning AfriMAB Network	11March 2011	600,000	7,500	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB/UNESCO Nairobi Office	Not done, proposed skyping for future communication; AfriMAB requests UNESCO for support
8	4 th Secretariat Meeting	Preparation for the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme in Germany	-AfriMAB interventions	Effective participation in ICC-MAB meeting	April 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	Done
9	Participation in the ICC-MAB Meeting in Germany	-preparation of interventions Preparation of report	-list of participants -Report on activities of AfriMAB	Effective participation in the ICC-MAB Meeting	May 2011	700,000	8,750	AfriMAB Secretariat/UNESCO Nairobi Office	Done in June/July thanks to support from BfN/Germany
10	5 th Secretariat Meeting	-follow up on resource mobilization	-proposals developed	Funding for BRs	May 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	Ongoing (2 AfriMAB Secretariat members went for AfriMAB fundraising related trainings in Addis & Mombasa)

11	6 th Secretariat Meeting	Preparation of 1 st Half Year report	-report of activities	Effective implementation of activities	June 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	Ongoing to be released in Dec 2011
12	Preparation of an AfriMAB strategy	-Preparation of TORs for the strategy Engagement of a consultant	-TOR for the consultant -consultant firm identified	Effective functioning of the BRs	June – December 2011	160,000	2,000	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB/UNESCO Nairobi Office	Ongoing; UNESCO will fund the advocacy after Rio+20 meeting to be presented on the next biannual AfriMAB meeting
13	7 th Secretariat Meeting	-follow up on the development of the AfriMAB strategy	Progress report	Effective preparation of the AfriMAB strategy	July 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	Done, preparation of the strategy ongoing
14	8 th Secretariat Meeting	-follow up on the development of the advocacy strategy	Progress report	Effective performance of the AfriMAB activities	August 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	Done, preparation of the strategy ongoing
15	-9 th Secretariat Meeting -2 nd Bureau Meeting	-Preparation for 2 nd Bureau Meeting -Hosting of Bureau Meeting	-Report of the Secretariat -Agenda of meeting -Draft Report of meeting	-Effective hosting of the Bureau meeting -effective implementation of AfriMAB activities	September 2011	600,000	7,500	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB/UNESCO Nairobi Office	Done in November (thanks to MSF, BfN, MoST, UNESCO)
16	10 th Secretariat Meeting	Finalization of the report of the Bureau meeting	-final report	Effective coordination of AfriMAB activities	October, 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	To be finalized by December
17	11 th Secretariat Meeting	-Preparation of the annual AfriMAB Report	Progress report	Effective implementation of the AfriMAB activities	November 2011	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	To be released in January 2012
18	12 th Secretariat Meeting	Revision of the Activities for 2012	Revised Work plan	Effective coordination of the AfriMAB activities	January 2012	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB/UNESCO Nairobi Office	

19	Implementation of the advocacy activity within the AfriMAB strategy	-identification of the target group -strategies for implementation	-groups identified -proposed strategies	Political, economical and conservation support	February – August 2012	2,000,000	25,000	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB/UNESCO Nairobi Office	To be implemented after the release of the strategy
20	13 th Secretariat Meeting	Preparation for the Bureau meeting	-invitations -agenda of Bureau Meeting -List of working documents	Effective participation in the Bureau meeting	February 2012	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	
21	3 rd Bureau Meeting	Hosting of the 3 rd Bureau meeting	Agenda of meeting -Draft Report of meeting	effective implementation of AfriMAB activities	March 2012	600,000	7,500	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB/UNESCO Nairobi	Bureau meetings as side events of sub-regional workshops or via Skype
22	14 th Secretariat Meeting	Finalization of the report of the Bureau meeting	-final report	Effective coordination of AfriMAB activities	April 2012	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	
23	15 th Secretariat Meeting	Preparation for the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme	-AfriMAB interventions	Effective participation in ICC-MAB meeting	April 2012	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	
24	Participation in the ICC-MAB Meeting	-preparation of interventions Preparation of report	-list of participants -Report on activities of AfriMAB	Effective participation in the ICC-MAB Meeting	July 2012	700,000	8,750	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB/UNESCO Nairobi Office	
25	16 th Secretariat Meeting	preparation of the annual report	-report of activities	Effective implementation of activities	June 2012	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	
26	17 th Secretariat Meeting	Review the implementation of advocacy strategy	Report	Enhance visibility of the BRs in Africa	July 2012	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	Upon release of the AfriMAB strategy
27	18 th Secretariat Meeting	Preparation for AfriMAB Bureau and Regional Meeting	Report of secretariat	Effective preparation for the General Assembly	August 2012	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	

28	4 th Bureau and AfriMAB General Assembly in Nairobi	Hosting of Bureau Meeting and AfriMAB General Assembly	Agenda of meeting -Draft Report of meeting -List of participants	effective implementation of AfriMAB activities	September – October 2012	4,800,000	60,000	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB/UNESCO Nairobi Office	
29	19 th Secretariat Meeting	-Finalization of the AfriMAB General Assembly Report -Preparation of Handing over report	Report of the AfriMAB General Assembly	effective implementation of AfriMAB activities	October 2012	12,000	150	AfriMAB Secretariat MAB	Report should be prepared for the GA
30	TOTAL					11,212,000	133,400		

Adopted by the AfriMAB Bureau on 7th November 2011

NOTES

- i. Kenya National MAB Committee was adopted to serve as the Secretariat of AfriMAB
- ii. Ordinary Secretariat Meetings to be held at least once a month
- iii. Two Bureau meetings annually (March and September)
- iv. There will be Progress Reports (June and November)
- v. Cost of hosting secretariat meeting (Fuel for Chairman, Kshs. 5,000, lunch@700 for 10 persons)

APPENDIX 3: AFRIMAB SUB-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORTING FORMAT

Sub-region.....

Year.....

1. Biosphere Reserves and MAB National Committee within the sub-region

Countries	Biosphere Reserves and year of nomination	Periodic review (Yes/No)	Name and Contacts of the national Focal Point	Functional National MAB Committee (Yes/No)
Country 1				
Country 2				
Etc.				

2. Actions taken to implement the Madrid Action Plan

Main Domains	Countries	Actions Implemented
Cooperation, management, Communication	Country 1	
	Country 2	
	Etc.	
Zoning , linking function to space	Country 1	
	Country 2	
	Etc.	
Science and capacity building	Country 1	
	Country 2	
	Etc.	
Partnership	Country 1	
	Country 2	
	Etc.	

3. Action on AfriMAB priority targets 2010-2013

Target	Actions
Improved financial mechanisms for biosphere reserves and regional networks	
Transboundary Biosphere Reserve	
Trained biosphere reserve managers and other relevant Stakeholders	
Integrated information & communication strategy	
Mitigation in relation to climate change	
Exchanges between biosphere reserves	
Biosphere Reserves to have research programmes on analyses of ecosystem services and their management through stakeholder participation	
Analysis of zonation of all biosphere reserves	

Name of reporting officer/person:

Date: