

# 2017 MAB YOUTH FORUM

## Post-event Survey Report



May 2018

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REPORTING TEAM

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*Group photo of the 2017 MAB YOUTH FORUM*

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*This report is the product of a collaborative effort under the overall leadership of Philippe Pypaert, with the involvement of Jing Fang in the conception and dissemination (by email) of the online survey, Chorong Ahn in the online Google form accounting and monitoring of responses, and Jing Fang, Chorong Ahn and Eun-Young Hwangbo in the analysis of the responses received and the elaboration of the present report.*

## Foreword

The 2017 MAB Youth Forum was held from 17-23 September 2017 in different places spread over the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve in Italy. 278 youth delegates from over 138 Biosphere Reserves in 84 countries and 33 volunteers represented their own Biosphere Reserve and took an active part in a process aimed at finding shared solution, common ways and strategies to involve more effectively young people in the MAB programme and its network of Biosphere Reserves.

An online post-event survey was conducted with 91 MAB Youth contributing to it, a rate of response (33%) which we consider satisfactory. The aim of this survey was not only to collect participants' feedback on its organization, but to further explore their opinion on the method of work, the results attained, their concerns for the future of Youth engagement in the MAB Programme, the actions they have already undertaken at various levels (BR, MAB National Committee/Network, WNBR).

To this end, the post-forum survey was built around 47 questions grouped in 3 different sections. The **first section** is referred to the general organization of the MAB Youth Forum, including the logistics, the bottom-up process adopted with 50 parallel workshops in total and the contribution of the facilitating team. The **second one** was intended to investigate their participation in terms of main results attained during the forum (insights on the MAB programme, networking, exchanges, inspiration), while the **third one** is related to the follow-up actions they could have conceived or already implemented in their own context, mainly at the Biosphere Reserve level, but also at the national or international level, to move on with the MAB Youth community world wide.

The *2017 MAB Youth Forum post-forum survey report* provides important feedbacks on the whole initiative and, at the same time, important inputs about Youth engagement in the MAB Programme, its governance and its activities at various levels. Together with the reports already published on the pre-event survey and on the main outcomes of the Forum (including its final declaration), it is part of a set of descriptive and analytical documents made available to the Members of the MAB-ICC for their deliberation during the 30<sup>th</sup> MAB ICC session (Indonesia, July 2018), as well as to the MAB Youth Community and any MAB representative, manager or partner interested in the issue.

The MAB Youth community is a reality, and demonstrated during the Forum to be already very active within the framework of the MAB Programme and in their Biosphere Reserves. MAB Youth showed during the Forum a very high level of energy and motivation, a great sense of commitment to the values of the MAB Programme and its WNBR, and an infinite will to contribute more to the Programme. They ask for more consideration of their role, more support to their actions, a voice in the governance of the

programme, in order to further boost their contribution to the implementation of the Lima Action Plan and, further, the achievement of SDGs.

We urge everyone to read these reports, take their essential messages to heart, and let us know their thoughts and suggestions on the way forward.

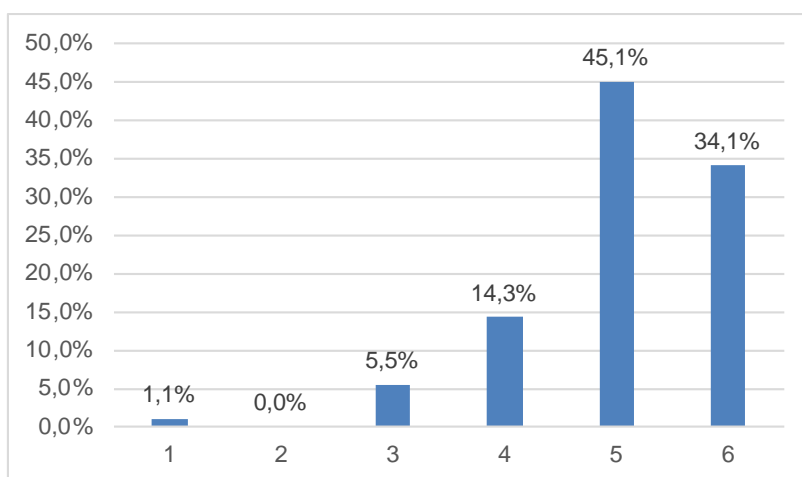
*Philippe Pypaert*

*May 2018*

## SECTION 1: ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MAB YOUTH FORUM

### 1.1 On a scale from 1 to 6, how would you rate the overall organization of the Forum (1 = bad, 6 = excellent)?

91 valid responses

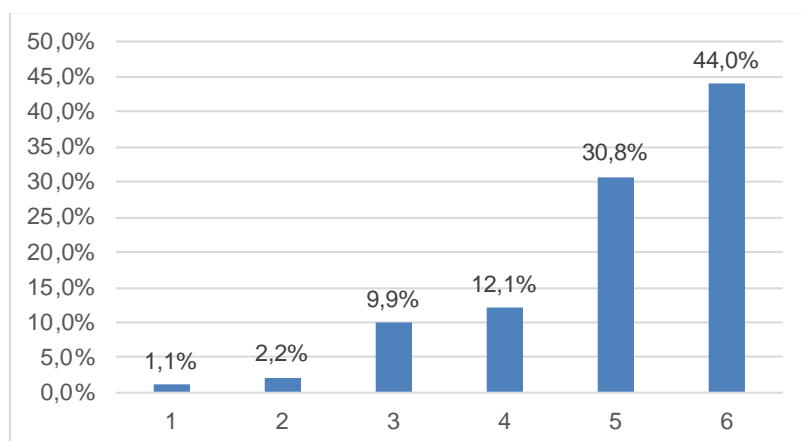


Comment: Positive opinions are overwhelmingly dominant. 93,5% of participants (scale 4 to 6) felt that the overall organization of the forum was satisfactory. More details could be found in the following questions/responses referring to different aspects of the organization including transfer, food, accommodation, staff, cultural event and excursions so that readers could get a better understanding of the contribution of each element to the overall evaluation of its organization.

### 1.2 On the same scale of values, how would you rate in particular:

#### 1.2.1 Transfers?

91 valid responses

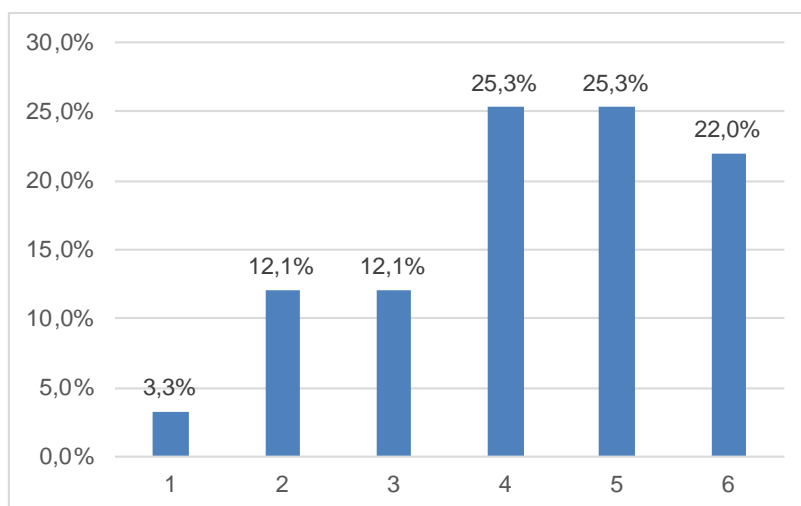


Comment: Around 75% respondents ranked their transferring experience as "excellent" (scale 5 to 6), adding positive comments on the flexibility and efficiency of the organization in moving that huge

number of participants in the wide territory of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve. Those expressing a negative opinion raised issues such as "*slightly overloaded transportation*" or "*it might not be reasonable to rely solely on the buses*".

## 1.2.2 Food?

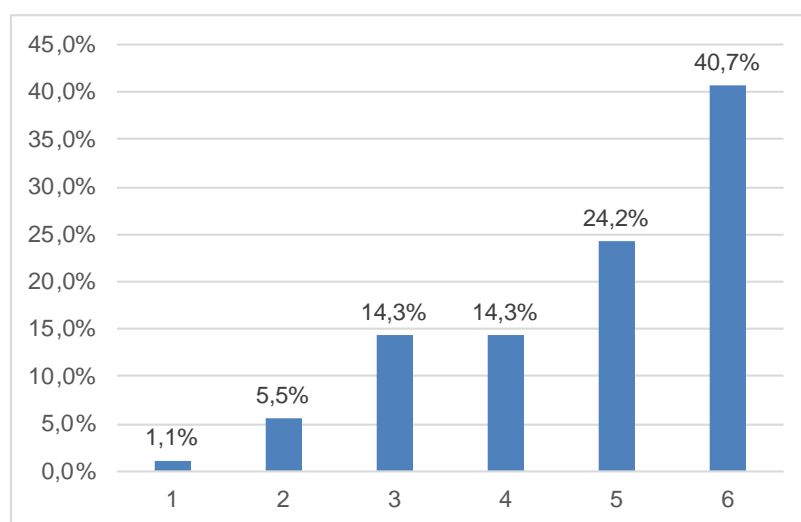
91 valid responses



Comment: The responses are a bit dispersed in this regard, even if positive opinions hold the majority. 47.3% respondents rated the food as excellent (scale 5 to 6), while around 15.4% believed the opposite (scale 1 to 2). With such an international audience, it is never easy to satisfy everyone on such a sensitive issue. We know there has been a problem with the lunches served the first day through the distribution machines provided by the partner Piùinforma (not all appreciated the organic food served that way, in a very eco-friendly manner), but it was then solved by using the services of local restaurants.

## 1.2.3 Accommodation in bungalows?

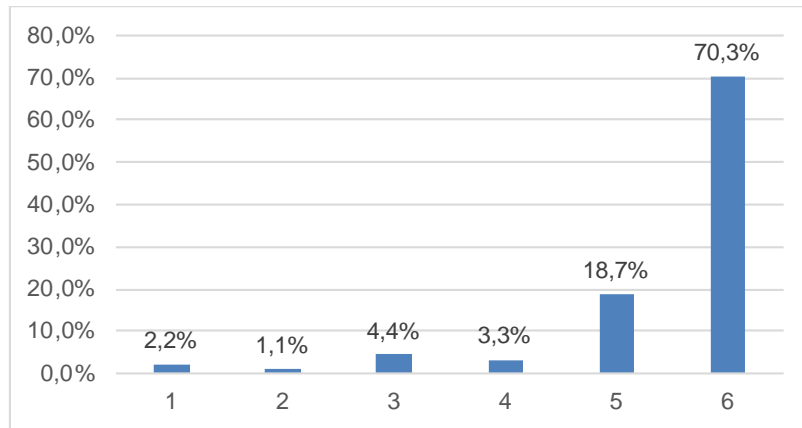
91 valid responses



Comment: Again, positive opinions hold the majority of 64.9% (scale 5 to 6), a confirmation that most participants appreciated the experience of being accommodated in small groups in bungalows, an eco-friendly choice which also contributed to the

### 1.2.4 Staff and volunteers?

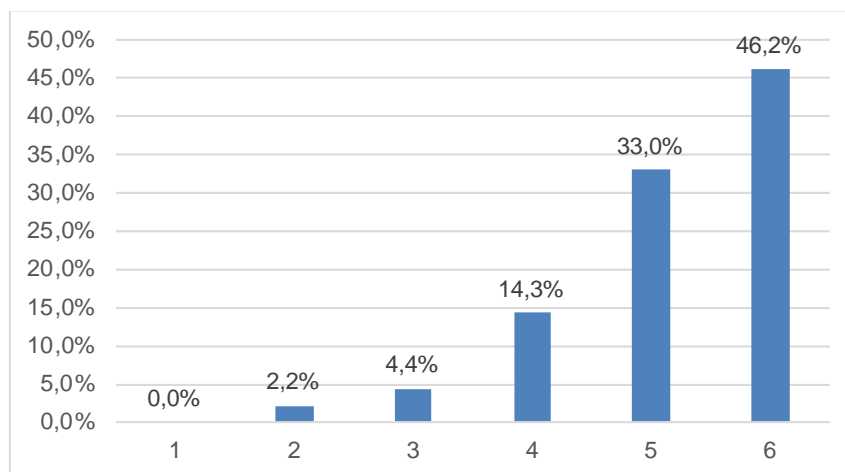
91 valid responses



Comment: A large majority (89%) of the respondents expressed great appreciation for the work and efforts made by the UNESCO staff and volunteers who dedicated much time and energy to the forum in all aspects of its organization, which would not have been possible without their contribution.

### 1.2.5 Cultural events?

91 valid responses



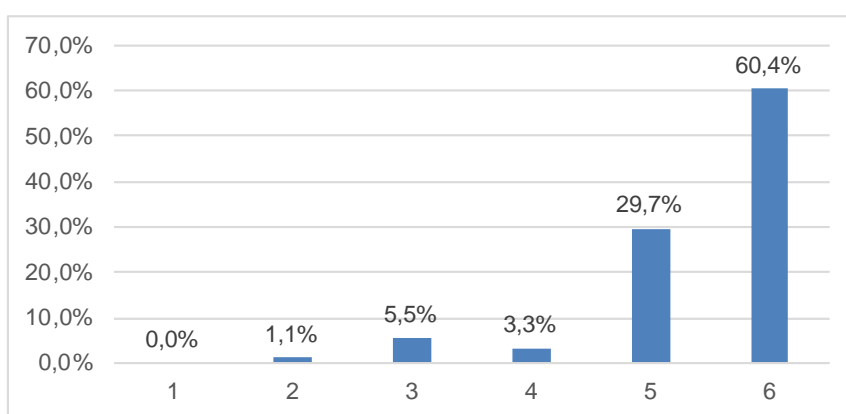
Comment: Positive responses are clearly dominant with nobody rating it as a bad experience. Participants considered the cultural events as enriching, exciting and well organized. It is worthy of



noting that some respondents expressed their willingness and plan to conceive and organize more similar cultural events in their Biosphere Reserve.

### 1.2.6 Excursions?

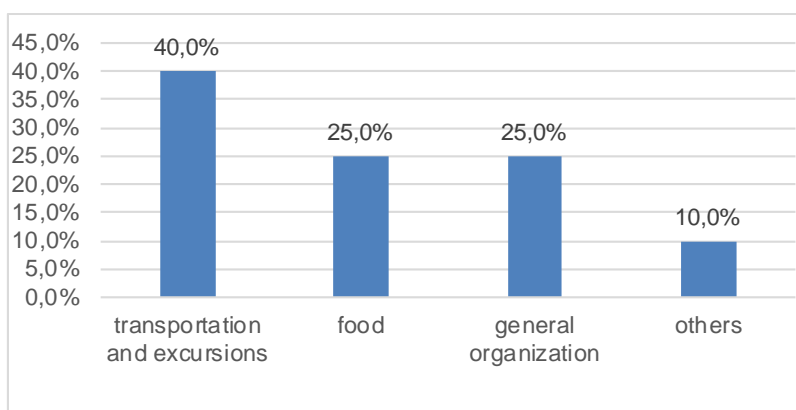
91 valid responses



Comment: Overwhelmingly, positive comments dominate. In comparison with other aspects of the organization, "excursions" has the highest appreciation rate (90.1% on scale 5 to 6). The "excursions" were considered as "well organized, impressive, enriching, and amazing", well "linked with the issues of Biosphere Reserve and youth empowerment" and referred to "every aspect of Biosphere Reserve management".

### 1.2.7 Comments if any (on all organizational aspects):

23 valid responses

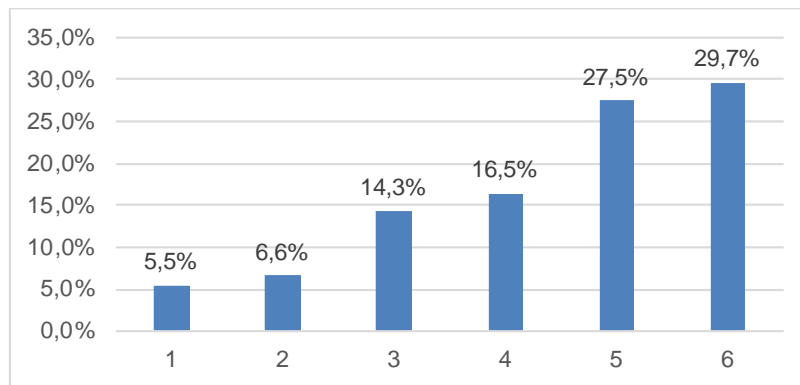


Comment: The 23 open responses received have been grouped in 4 main categories, as they related many to the organization of "transportation and excursions" (the most frequent category mentioned by

40.0% of respondents), "food" (25%), "general organization" (25%), then "others". Comments in the "transportation and excursions" category were generally positive (66.7%), including comments such as *"being surprised that organizers handled with complicated transportations in this wide BR"*, *"Everything was perfect to discover Po Delta's natural and human features"*, while negative ones (33.3%) were mainly referred to *"too much transportation"* and *"little problems with buses occurred"*. Considering the "general organization", positive comments dominate on negative ones in a similar proportion (60-40), since most of the respondents considered that *"all the services and assistance offered was professional and timely"*, while negative ones focus on an *"agenda was a bit overloaded and tiring"* (which is a matter of facts, the programme was rich and each and every part of the hosting Biosphere Reserve wanted to be actively involved and visited). As for "food", negative comments are dominant (75%) and this is mainly related to the issue already raised about the low appreciation of organic lunches initially delivered by Piùinforma (this issue has then been solved during the Forum itself – see also point 1.3 here below).

### 1.3 How much did you appreciate the system adopted by Piùinforma to distribute organic snacks and drinks through vending machines (1 = not at all, 6 = highly)? Any comment?

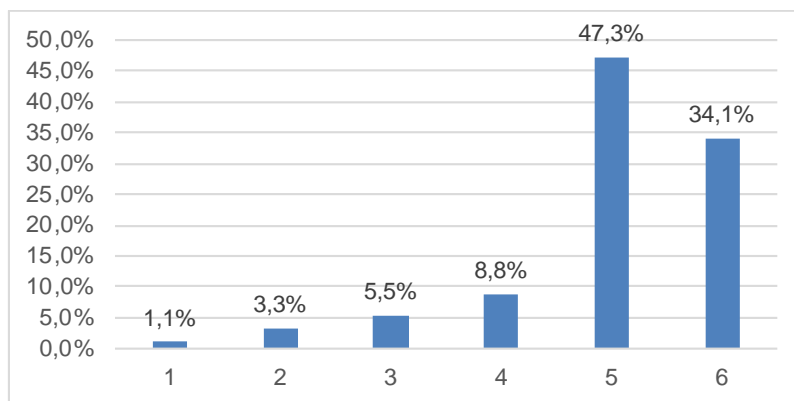
91 valid responses



Comment: If scale 4 to 6 include the most appreciative evaluation, scale 1 to 3 include the less appreciative, and 73,6% of respondents agreed that the system adopted by Piùinforma was a good way to distribute organic snacks and drinks, while 26,4% expressed the opposite judgement. It could have been not understood by all that all packaging wastes and plastic glasses/bottles were to be entirely recycled, and the food and beverages offered this way were totally eco-friendly and organic.

### 1.4 The Forum was announced to be based on truly bottom-up and participatory processes? Do you think this promise has been kept (1 = poorly, 6 = beyond expectations)?

91 valid responses

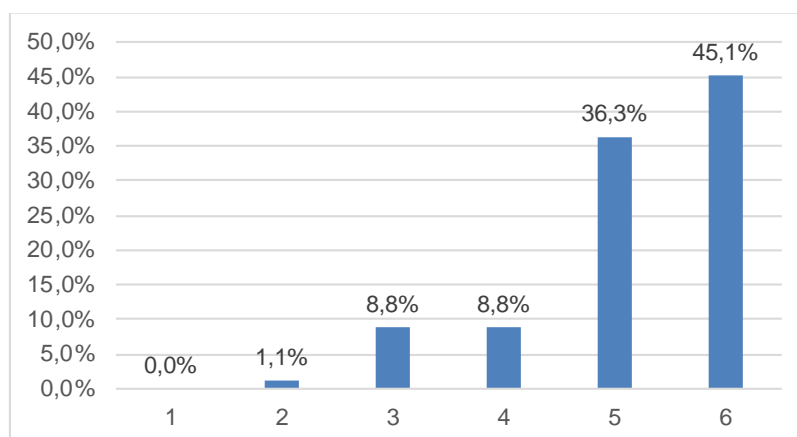


Comment: Apparently positive evaluations are dominant (81,4%) while for one third of respondents their appreciation went much beyond their expectations (34,1%). Those few expressing lower appreciation would have expected even more interactions in the workshops. Similar judgments could also be related to a relatively low level of preparation to come to the Forum (participants had been asked to read documents such as the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 or the Lima Action Plan, etc.) as well as linguistic barriers (while all participants had been requested to have with a sufficient knowledge of English, it is a matter of fact that not all were fluent in its use and needed the intervention of interpreters).

## 1.5 In this regard, how would you rate the intervention of the facilitating team involved in the running of the parallel workshops and drafting of final declaration (1 = poor, 6 = excellent)?

### 1.5.1 Competence of the team?

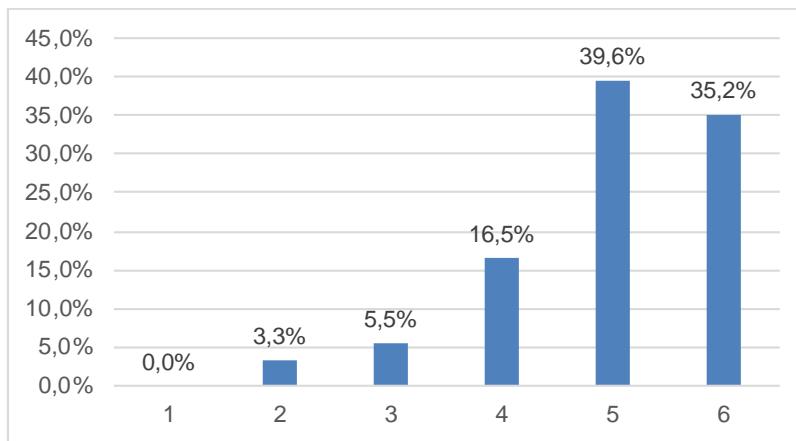
91 valid responses



Comment: Positive responses are dominant with nobody having rated level 1 (poor). This indicates that respondents recognized the competence of the facilitating team, as they also generally appreciated the approach adopted (see below).

### 1.5.2 Method of work?

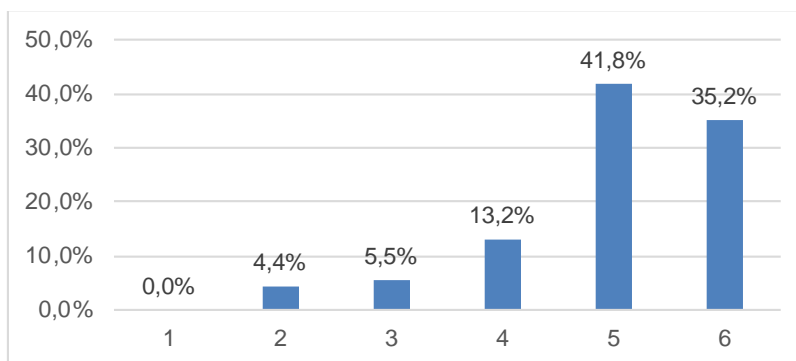
91 valid responses



Comment: As anticipated positive judgements dominate with more than 70% of the replies, and if constructive comments and suggestions were made ("*using butcher paper makes people less creative*", the "*SWOT analysis could be finished as a pre-forum work by participants*" to save time, etc.), they were to indicate how things could have been managed in a perfect way. To manage and facilitate the work of such a huge and diverse group of participants was a challenge, and the overall results attained are there to show it can be considered as won.

### 1.5.3 Results attained?

91 valid responses



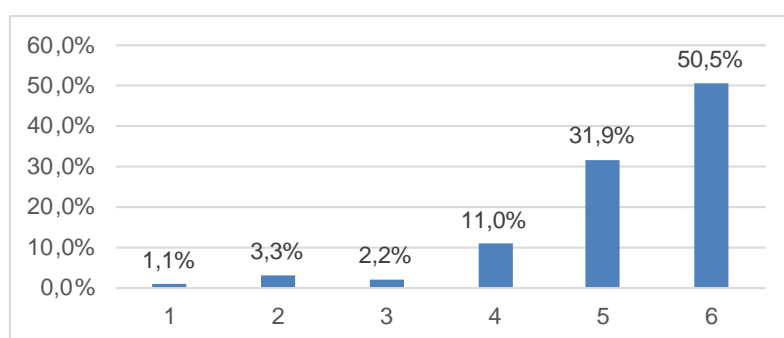
Comment: A majority of respondents (77%) express great appreciation for the results attained and consider that the facilitating team was very helpful in achieving this. This shows that respondents considered the forum to be fruitful and productive, providing bases for following-up activities in their BRs. The few negative assessments are related to the fact that some participants would have loved to contribute more to the formulation of the final declaration (to make sure their points were taken), while in practice this was not possible. Some of them were expecting a kind of democratic selection of those who would have worked in the drafting group (which was then also involved in the public reading of the declaration during the closing ceremony) while this was just not possible because of time constraints. It should be noted however that the declaration is the fruit of the work done in parallel workshops, and that the drafting group worked mainly on the correct formulation of contents which had been decided by all the participants at the end of 3 days of intensive debating and working together. Before it was

disseminated as “final”, all participants have been asked to comment/amend it by e-mail in the days following the forum, and it is a matter of facts that no comments were received by the organizing team.

## 1.6 Did you appreciate to work in parallel workshops disseminated in the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve (1 = not at all, 6 = highly)?

### 1.6.1 Did this help you discovering the Po Delta BR?

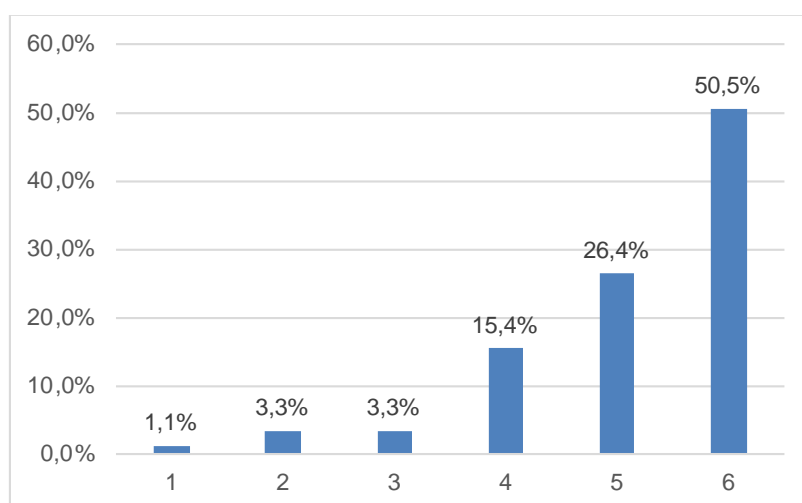
91 valid responses



Comment: A large majority of respondents (82,4%) expressed positive opinion on this, even if this implied much time for transportation. Organizers tried their best to design and carry out the most appropriate solution with the least side effect in the forum.

### 1.6.2 Did this contributed to improve/facilitate interactions?

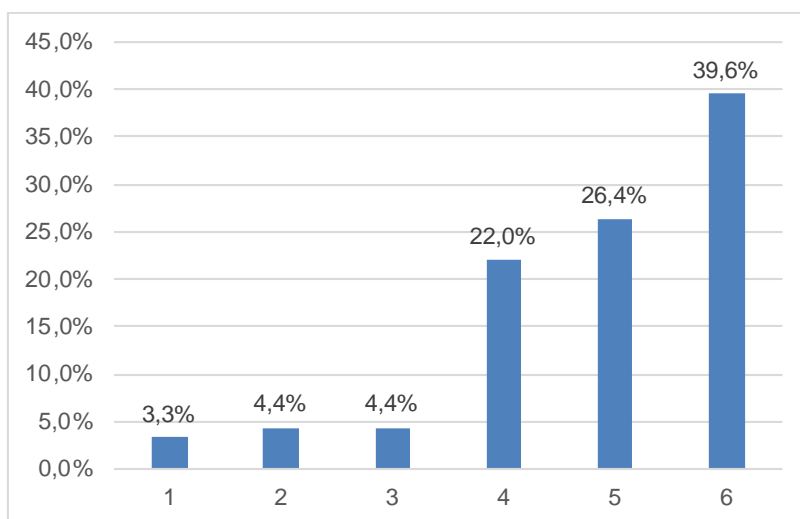
91 valid responses



Comment: The majority of respondents (76,9%) expressed a positive opinion. Parallel workshops contributed to improve and facilitate interactions (see also next point).

### 1.6.3 Did this contributed to the achievement of your goals?

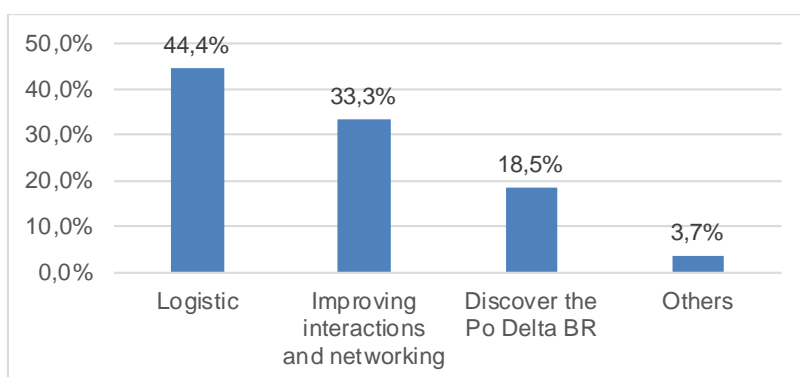
91 valid responses



Comment: The response is positive for a great majority of the respondents, also in consideration of the fact that among their main goals attending the forum were to have more exchanges and networking opportunities, to learn more from each other, to identify opportunities and challenges in their Biosphere Reserves, which obviously could be easily achieved through the highly interactive and participative method of work proposed by the organizers.

### Comments if any:

19 valid responses



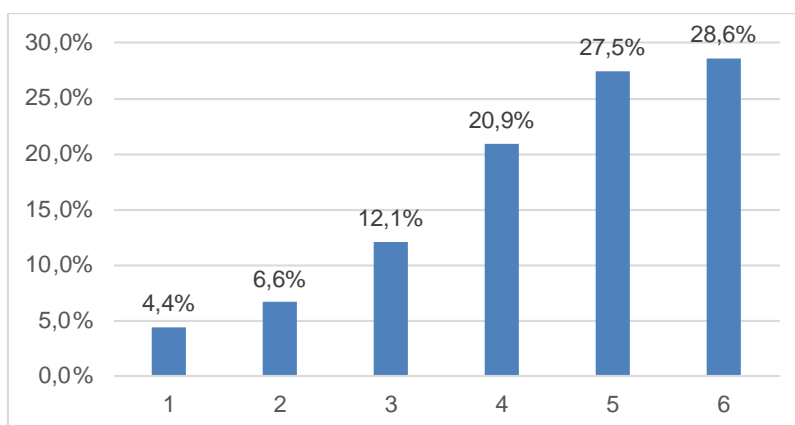
Comment: The 19 open responses received have been grouped in 4 main categories, as they were related mainly to the "logistic" aspects, to the opportunities of "improving interaction and networking", to the possibility offered to "discover the Po Delta" and "others". Comments on "logistic" aspects were generally positive, with around 25 % negative comments related mainly to "too much transportation and less free time". As explained before, enriching programme with parallel workshops helped participants to discover the Po Delta BR (82,4%), improve/facilitate interactions(76.9%) and globally to achieve their goals (66%). Inevitably, it gave rise to much transportation and less free time, even if the

costs/benefits balance remains very positive. One third of the respondents stressed the fact that the forum helped them improve their interactions and networking opportunities.

## 1.7 On the same scale of evaluation, did you appreciate (1 = not at all, 6 = highly)?

### 1.7.1 The training provided on communication tools?

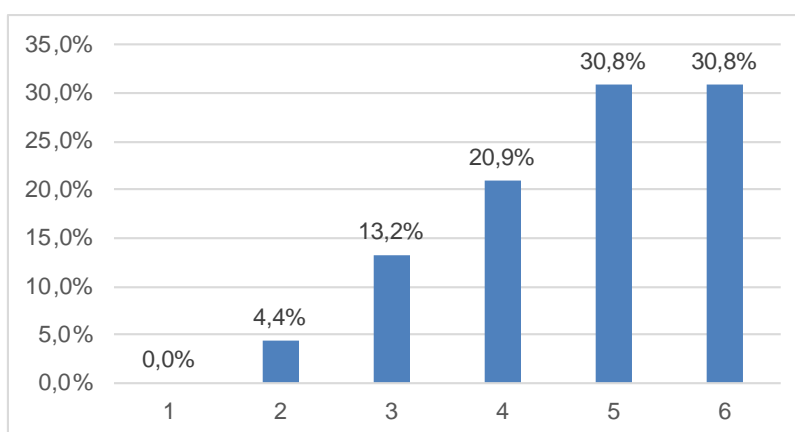
91 valid responses



Comment: Positive responses hold the majority (77,8% on scale 4 to 6), even if responses also indicate that there would be room for improvement. The focus on social media was not understood/appreciated by all, and this could be related to the fact that not all parts of the world have the same opportunities/capacities to use them in their communication about the life of Biosphere Reserves or the MAB programme more in general.

### 1.7.2 The information session on the MAB communication strategy?

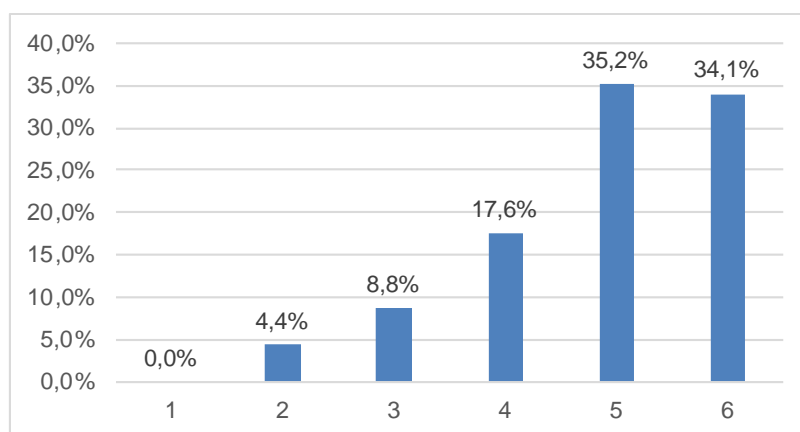
91 valid responses



Comment: Here also positive responses dominate (82,5% from scale 4 to 6). Reaching a better understanding of the MAB Programme was among the main expectations of most of the participants, and visibly this specific session contributed effectively to attain this objective.

### 1.7.3 The information session on BRs and SDGs – The Swedish case?

91 valid responses



Comment: More than three quarters of the respondents express their appreciation for this session, and considered it a great source of inspiration for their future work in their own BRs.

### 1.7.4 Comments if any (on all sessions):

9 valid responses

Comment: Most of the respondents felt it was a great experience, in particular because of the opportunity which was offered to them to learn more about the MAB programme and Biosphere Reserves around the world, as well as to get more acquainted with information and communication issues and tools

## 1.8 Summarize your experience in one sentence:

No.	Opinions
1	<i>The forum was the beginning of a youth "revolution".</i>
2	<i>I met so many fascinating people, that's what I appreciate the most.</i>
3	<i>An exceptional opportunity which exposed to knowledge and networks about BRs and SDGs and provided me with developmental &amp; professional skills to positively influence others towards impactful action on BRs and SDGs.</i>
4	<i>A great space to share and build relationships.</i>



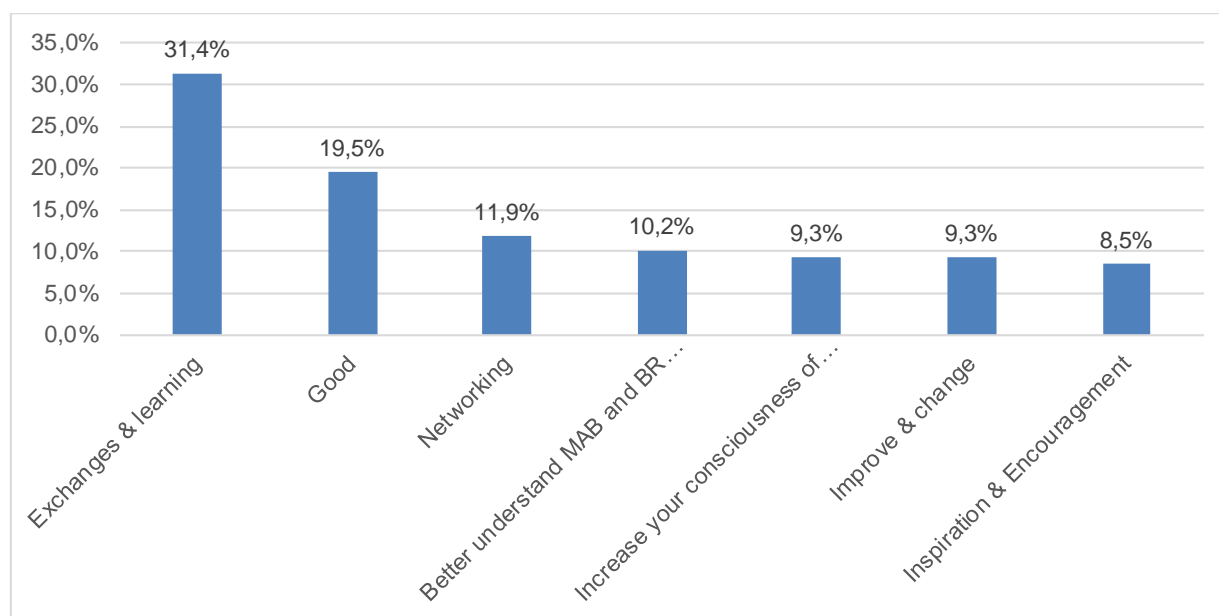
5	<i>I would love to be more involved on the other events representing the region I supported. Also was VERY difficult after the forum to have a participation within my BR. The BR was not so open to new ideas. I also would like to continue to work with the Azores BR, but work conditions were not so good, and after the forum I came to work in France. Here I find a bit easier to involve with the MAB community. In my opinion was difficult to have a continuation of the work started in the Azores, somehow I felt I was just representing for the region, but I want to do MORE. I would like to create something such as an association made by Youth in Delta. I also would like to continue working with the MABYF team to improve this situation and involve more Azorean Youth (once they are "disappearing" from the reserves).</i>
6	<i>A truly enriching experience with many professionals from all around the world, many exciting discussions and interesting places, which I will definitely remember for a very long time.</i>
7	<i>Amazing.</i>
8	<i>It was a really stimulating experience.</i>
9	<i>It was once- in-a-life-time experience. Thank you so much for making it possible.</i>
10	<i>The experience I had was beyond my expectations because I could have a clear worldwide perspective about what happens in different Biospheres around the globe.</i>
11	<i>I was pleased and honoured to be part of the 1st MAB Youth forum which allow me to share with other young people around the world living and experimenting Biosphere Reserve and to build together SOMETHING to improve the implementation of MAB programme and build capacity among our youth community !</i>
12	<i>It was wonderful!!!</i>
13	<i>Now I know my territory has an high value!</i>
14	<i>An experience wildly mind-opening, immersing and expanding on horizons, ideas and connections, with motivated and dedicated people from all over the world.</i>
15	<i>MAB Youth Forum was such an event where I learned to more exchange and keep a leadership mind between diverse cultures.</i>
16	<i>A great opportunity to learn, share experiences and meet incredible people</i>
17	<i>Inspiring</i>
18	<i>Great experience which provide me exchanging ideas, learning new things, improving my English, making new friends worldwide, getting familiar with other cultures and cuisines and spreading the achievements of my country in management with protected areas.</i>
19	<i>I re-discovered my land of origin (Po Delta area) through other eyes and I really appreciate it!</i>
20	<i>This forum was enlightening, intense, unforgettable and gave us a strong motivation and hope as we know that we are part of the MAB family :)</i>
21	<i>The MAB youth forum was an amazing experience full of discovery, learning, sharing, networking and fun!</i>
22	<i>It was awesome to be a participant as this forum as given me wider scope on biosphere reserves worldwide.</i>
23	<i>Because we are the present and the future, for the conservation of the biodiversity and for future generations, that is why we fight!!! In peace and harmony with the purest love and respect for life.</i>
24	<i>My experience at the forum opened me to new perspective on my view for BR as it was interactive through the bottom up approach in drafting the declaration.</i>
25	<i>Unique opportunity to connect with the world.</i>
26	<i>It was a very good experience overall that allowed for very interesting exchanges between different biosphere reserves.</i>
27	<i>It was and amazing experience, I really appreciate the opportunity to share with people to all the world, and discuss about the reality of our RB.</i>
28	<i>Incredibly inspiring!</i>

29	<i>This was unique and great experience; hope will have opportunity to participate again.</i>
30	<i>A great first youth forum, with the hope there will be more with increasing people edition after edition 1.</i>
31	<i>Very good opportunity for exchange of experience and communication.</i>
32	<i>An excellent learning and interactive platform.</i>
33	<i>Being on a time machine into the future, where the celebration, preservation and restoration of the diversity of all life is our common connection; the world's biosphere reserves offer tangible places and people driven to collaborate on the role the concepts of gender, ethnicity and culture play in protecting the ecology humans need to live sensibly and sensitively for sustainable development.</i>
34	<i>For sure the best international experience of my life!</i>
35	<i>Life changing experience. Can't wait to attend next Forum!</i>
36	<i>This enriching experience allowed me to meet people and get valuable skills.</i>
37	<i>Wonderful days.</i>
38	<i>The Forum has been a real hub of ideas and best practices exchange, highly interactive and committing but also great fun.</i>
39	<i>We are all part of the MAB family and this was just the beginning of our adventure together.</i>
40	<i>Great experience, I loved the knowledge sharing.</i>
41	<i>Great opportunity to meet other professionals and to think globally about challenges we are all dealing with.</i>
42	<i>The important aspects of the Forum (i.e. workshops and learning about the Po Delta) were well organized, and the outcomes met the overall goals of the Forum.</i>
43	<i>Good experience but sometimes I felt like in the school.</i>
44	<i>In this event I discover what I want to do the rest of my life, my mission in the world.</i>
45	<i>It was a very good experience. It lived up to my expectations.</i>
46	<i>It was a unique professional and human experience.</i>
47	<i>It was a great experience, but I missed some transparency on the participatory process, and the chance of choosing our representatives, among others. I also missed a quick team presentation of who was who at the beginning (volunteers, facilitators, coordinators and the aim of each one of those teams).</i>
48	<i>Incredible and awesome MAB youth forum.</i>
49	<i>I learned so much about the world and truly appreciated the opportunity to speak with fellow delegates from other countries, because it reinforced the idea that we all have similar goals for our own BRs and the world as a whole.</i>
50	<i>Making a difference world wide.</i>
51	<i>The Forum was unexpectedly informative and inspiring.</i>
52	<i>This was a very useful and important experience that gave me the opportunity to better understand the MAB Programme, the challenges and the difficulties of people living in the BRs and to share ideas with other young participants.</i>
53	<i>The forum was not suited for participants &gt;30 and with several years of working experience, i.e. young professionals.</i>
54	<i>It was a great experience consisting of sharing ideas with other young people that are interested in these topics as well as to understand the dynamics of everything is going on behind BR structures.</i>
55	<i>Wonderful.</i>
56	<i>The Youth Forum was an exciting, informative and motivating experience.</i>
57	<i>I get a better idea of other biosphere reserves - how they work, what development strategies they have, how they partner with the local populated, etc.</i>

58	<i>Enriching</i>
59	<i>MAB Forum was a unique opportunity to meet like-minded young people from around the world, I value the time spent in the Po Delta and am excited to bring our dynamic ideas to my biosphere.</i>
60	<i>Rich and memorable.</i>
61	<i>It was an enriching experience, and an opportunity to meet people and their projects in their BRS.</i>
62	<i>Unique.</i>
63	<i>It was rewarding have young people from so many different countries developing together common sustainable development goals.</i>
64	<i>Ma participation au forum m'a permis de mieux comprendre l'importance de l'aménagement dans les réserves de biosphère pour le développement de l'écotourisme.</i>
65	<i>Educational and fun.</i>
66	<i>My experience was very memorable and valuable that lessons learned from other BRs can greatly contribute to our local BR and the forum was a venue that made the youth realize our role to make our BRs work and be improved.</i>
67	<i>MAB YOUTH FORUM 2017 was an amazing experience. I enjoyed my time in Italy, possibly could have been even better had we been offered the tour of the city of Venice.</i>
68	<i>The importance of adapting the methodologies regionally, is that it is inclusive, Latin America can not be seen as a developed country, this takes us out of the discussion, it can not be provided when the realities are different.</i>
69	<i>Improve my leadership</i>
70	<i>Great experience, would love to see the forum results conveyed and used at the highest level of BR work.</i>
71	<i>The MAB youth forum was awesome.</i>
72	<i>Great event!</i>
73	<i>It was a relevant experience and unforgettable moments that I can use in my daily life with our biosphere reserve.</i>
74	<i>It was a rich experience full of sharing, discovering and building an action plan coming from youth on BR.</i>
75	<i>The 2017 Youth Forum was an amazing opportunity to connect with youth from other Biosphere Reserves around the world and troubleshoot solutions for real world problems. Po Delta was beautiful, and the conference was well facilitated.</i>
76	<i>Best time to share experience with different nationalities.</i>
77	<i>J'ai eu une excellente expérience et si c'était à refaire je revisite Venise.</i>
78	<i>Great experience and chance for meeting new people, learning new thing, getting familiar with other cultures and ways of management of BRs around the world.</i>
79	<i>Excellent experience.</i>
80	<i>A memorable experience that may chance once a life. I had a great experience on exchange information between the participant and BR.</i>
81	<i>The people I have met at the conference made the 20h flights there and back worth it.</i>
82	<i>One of a life time experience worth every penny and effort.</i>
83	<i>Meeting people from so many countries in one week was an incredible experience and was the best part of the forum.</i>
84	<i>Great event that helped the growth of the network of MAB Youth and the expression of our vision on MAB.</i>
85	<i>Discovering new aspects of BR, SDGs and MAB through meeting new young BR members.</i>
86	<i>It was a unique and great experience.</i>
87	<i>Extraordinary experience.</i>

88	<i>Great exchange of experiences and knowledge while discovering great and interesting people and working all together.</i>
89	<i>My experience was great.</i>
90	<i>MAB Youth Forum has given me the greatest opportunity to learn about MAB Program and BR around the world as well as to engage with other youths towards exchanging ideas and experiences in working on sustainability program.</i>
91	<i>The experience was very rich in professional aspects and I hope I can contribute to the biosphere reserve in the future in the similar events and practices. I had the opportunity to work as a team with participants from all over the world, sharing visions and experiences and learning about other contexts of BR's in the world, and share much of my knowledge about the Peru.</i>

91 valid responses



Comment: Just one comment, to highlight the fact that, as the “exchange, learning and networking” aspects of the Forum were among the main expectations of participants (see the pre-event online survey report), not surprisingly these are also among the main aspects mentioned when summarizing their experience. As this was also one of the declared objectives of the organizers to facilitate such processes, one could conclude that the event was successful in achieving them. Good to note also that many respondents are spontaneously mentioning important aspects such as having a better vision/understanding of the “big picture”, increasing consciousness of global issues at stake and of how to take them on board while working for the MAB Programme and Biosphere Reserves.

## SECTION 2. ABOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MAB YOUTH FORUM

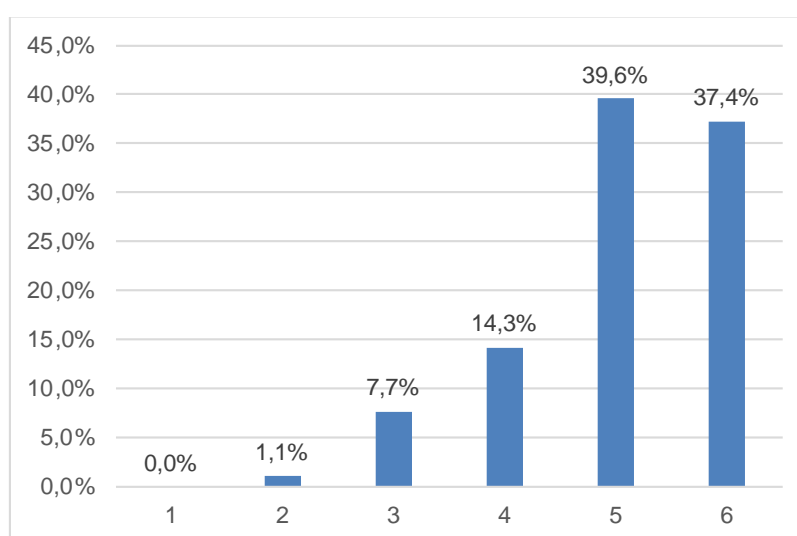
2.1 Through the pre-event survey, you had expressed the following priority expectations about the Forum:

- A. Exchanges & learning (56%)
- B. Networking (30%)
- C. Better understanding of MAB programme, Lima Action Plan and BR (9%)
- D. Inspiration to action (5%)

How would you rate your achievement in each of these categories (1 = null, 6 = full)?

### 2.1.1 Exchanges and learning?

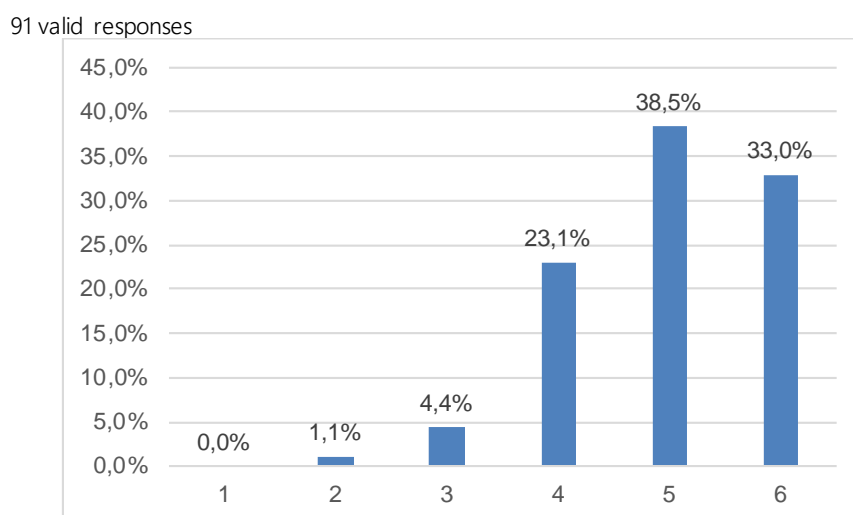
91 valid responses



Comment: Positive responses are clearly dominant. 77% of the respondents were satisfied with exchanges and learning during the forum. Most of them felt that it was a rich experience full of sharing and discovering. As expressed by one of the participants, *"I get a better idea of other biosphere reserves - how they work, what development strategies they have, how they partner with the local community, etc."* It is interesting to note that participants believed that during exchanges, lessons learned from other BRs could greatly contribute to their local Biosphere Reserves and made the youth realize their role in the Biosphere Reserve's work.

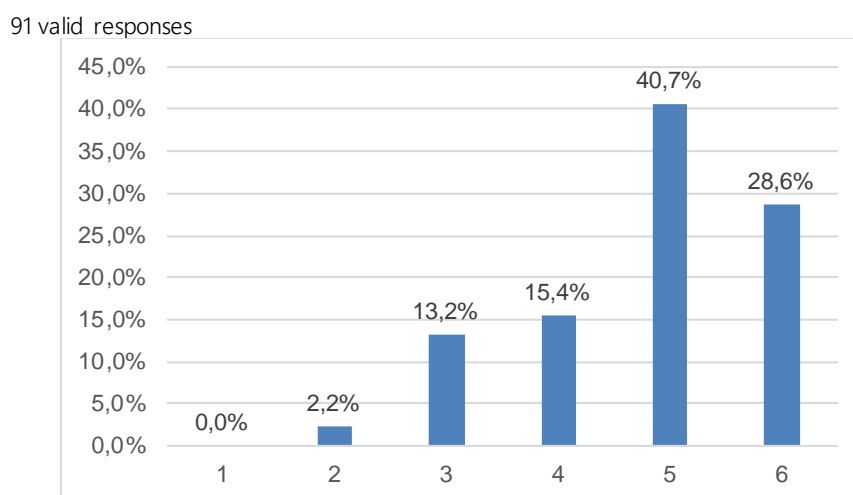
It is worth noting that all this was achieved without any traditional presentations made by participants (considering the high number of participants, this was just not possible and could have consumed all the available time and avoid any deep discussion and elaboration of contents), but entirely through the participative and interactive processes put in place throughout the whole forum, parallel workshops in particular.

## 2.1.2 Networking?



Comment: Respondents who thought that they took advantage of the forum to meet young people and realise wonderful networking are dominant (71.5%). For the participants the MAB Forum was a unique opportunity to meet like-minded young people from around the world and to build connections for the benefit of their own Biosphere Reserve. According to one participant, *"it was a great event that helped the growth of the network of MAB Youth and the expression of our vision on MAB"*.

## 2.1.3 Better understanding of MAB programme, Lima Action Plan and BR?

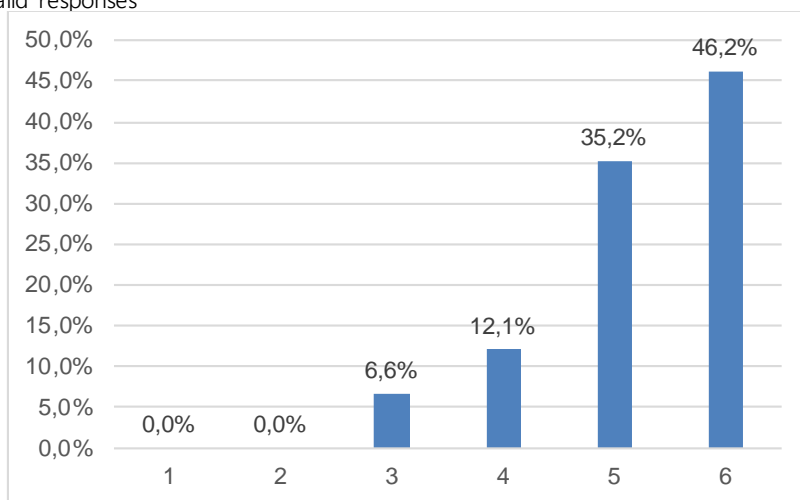


Comment: Those respondents considering that the MAB Youth Forum helped them have a better understanding of the MAB programme, Lima Action Plan and BR concept, are a large majority. It is worthy of noting that, in the pre-forum survey, around 35% of respondents had expressed that they were definitely not very well familiar with these concepts and related documents (Lima Action Plan in particular). Seems there has been a real improvement and this is one of the tangible results of the Forum. This could be related to the presence in the programme of specific information session, but also to the fact that selected participants were requested to read some of the fundamental texts before attending

the forum itself. In any case, their better understanding of these elements will positively determine their potential further engagement in the programme.

### 2.1.4 Inspiration to action?

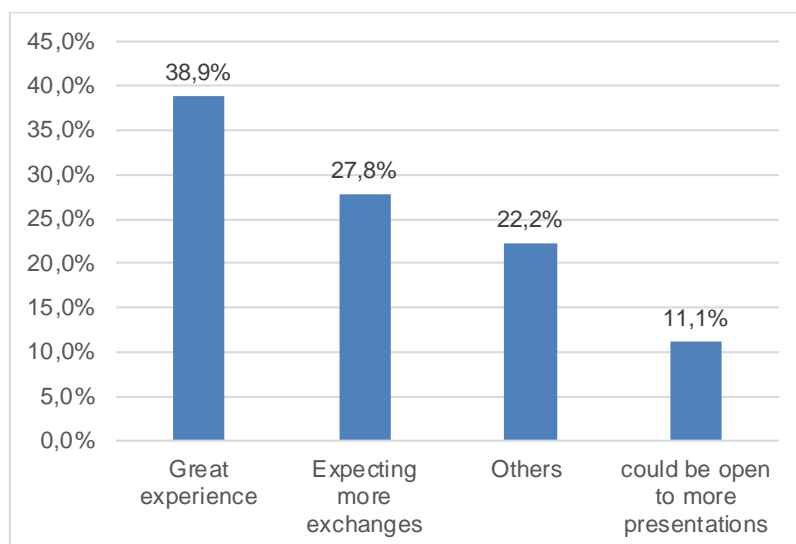
91 valid responses



Comment: Positive responses hold the majority. Around 81.4% of the respondents believe they have gained inspiration and encouragement from the forum, which is the highest ratio if compared with other three groups of pre-forum main expectations. Most participants appreciated the opportunity to speak with and meet fellow delegates from other countries, because it reinforced the idea that they all have similar goals and issues to address. They feel they have also been deeply encouraged to think globally and to unite their force for achieving a common vision (SDGs).

### 2.1.5 Comments if any:

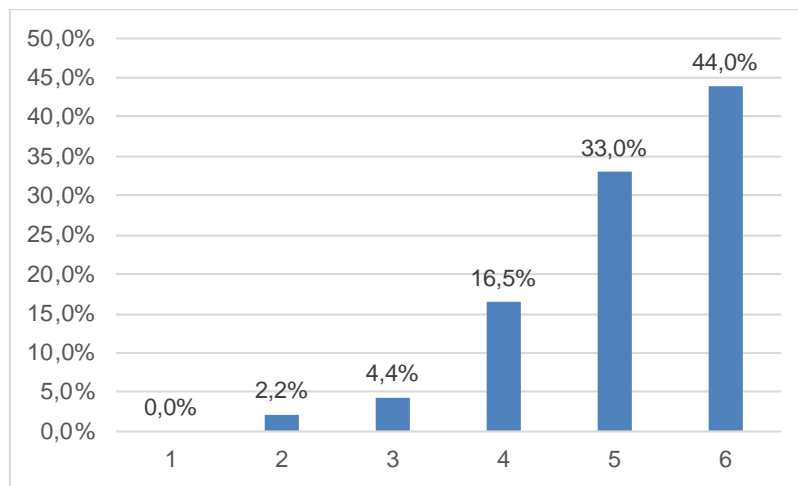
18 valid responses



Comment: A majority of the respondents (66.7%) appreciated this forum experience and regarded it as a very efficient platform for networking and exchanging ideas. It should be also noted that 11.1% of the respondents suggested that it could have been open to more presentations on their experience in their respective Biosphere Reserve, sharing concrete cases and learning good practices. We already explained why this was just not feasible and could have consumed much of the available time which was used for discussions and collective elaborations.

## 2.2 On a scale from 1 (poorly) to 6 (highly), to what extent are you satisfied with your involvement in the forum?

91 valid responses

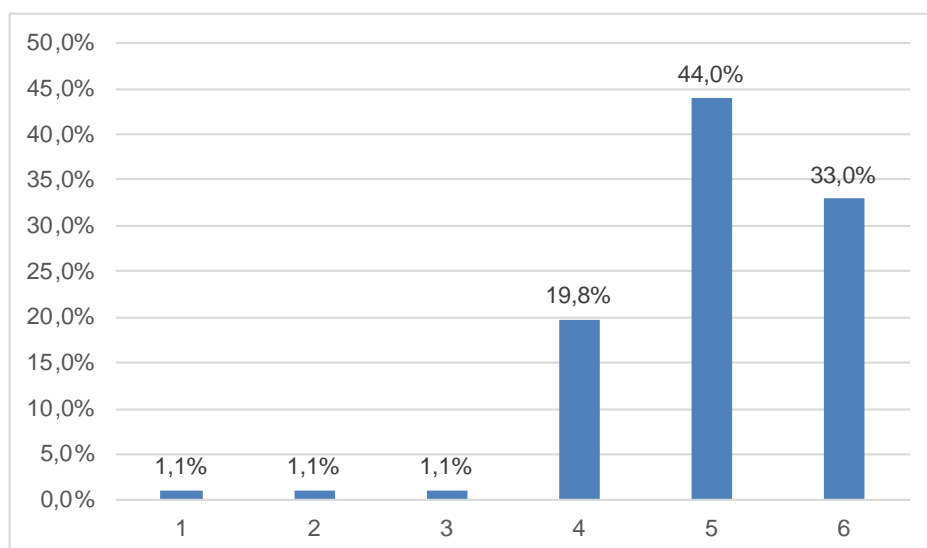


Comment: A large majority is expressing a very positive self-assessment of their involvement in the Forum. This can be confirmed by feedbacks from the facilitation team who reported high levels of participation in the workshops aimed at formulating final recommendations.

## 2.3 On a scale from 1 (not at all) to 6 (beyond expectations), did you had the opportunity to communicate and exchange ideas or lessons learned?

91 valid responses

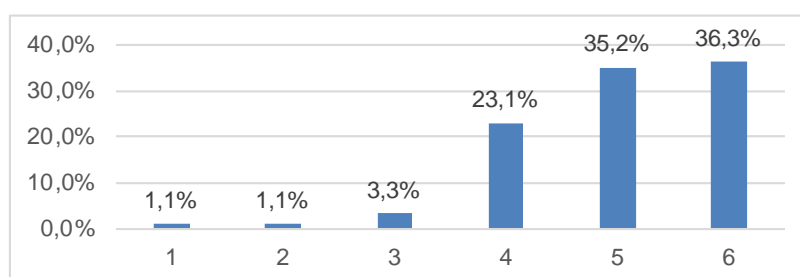




Comment: Almost all respondent consider this aspect very positively (96.8% on scale from 4 to 6), even if, as already explained, this was not achieved through traditional sessions for individual presentations.

## 2.4 Do you feel that you did your best to take advantage of meetings, activities, interactions, etc. (1 = not at all, 6 = beyond expectations)?

91 valid responses



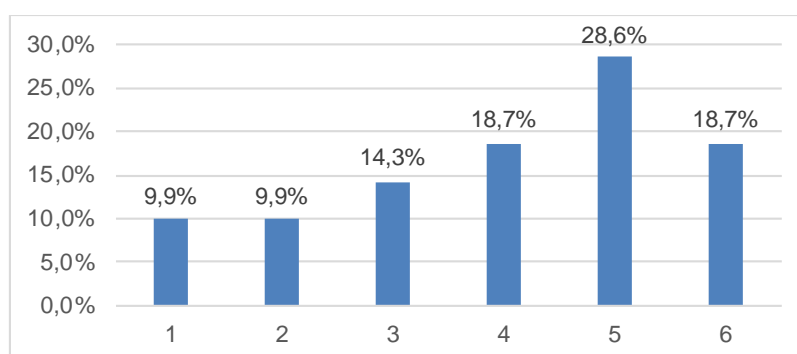
Comment: If you look at the graph above, nearly 95% of respondents felt that they did their best to take advantage of interacting with each others. The largest portion of responses is on scale 6 by 36.3%, which indicates that they used the occasion to communicate.

## 2.5 Through the pre-event survey, you had expressed the following main understanding of the MAB Programme, as:

- A. The provider of opportunities and tools for local sustainable development (32%)
- B. A tool to outreach with sustainable development models (27%)
- C. An opportunity to increase your consciousness of global issues (22%)
- D. A scientific programme of UNESCO as described on the web ("Man and Nature working together") (19%)

### 2.5.1 Did what the MAB programme means to you change after the forum (1 = not at all, 6 = most significantly)?

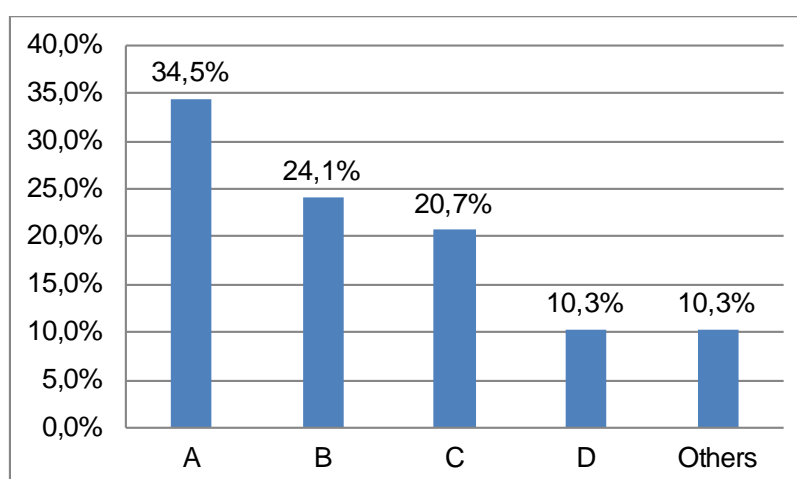
91 valid responses



Comment: The majority of respondents - about 66% (scales from 4 to 6) – consider that not only they have gained a better understanding of the MAB Programme, but that the way they look at it, its meaning to them, has been modified thanks to their participation in the Forum. We try to explain in which direction this vision has changed in the following section of the report.

### 2.5.2 If any change in your vision, in which direction (Please refer to the above A, B, C and D categories)?

26 valid responses



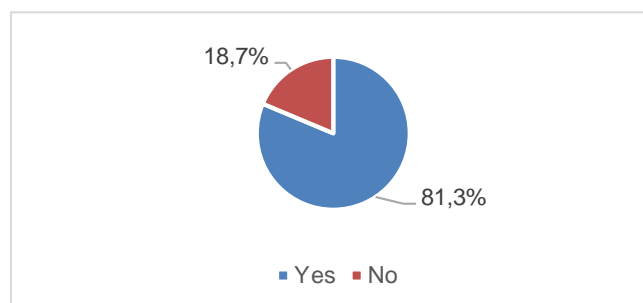
Comment: The interpretation of these results is not easy or immediate, as only a quarter of the respondents have tried to explain how/in which direction such change occurred. Respondents had already a quite articulated vision of the MAB Programme, its value, its goals and achievements, and it is interesting to note that if that vision has changed for a majority of them, it is in the direction of seeing the MAB Programme still more related to Sustainable Development issues, a tool and an opportunity to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs at very concrete levels, and outreach with models of such development looking at the urgency of global issues. Our interpretation of this is that the Forum

contributed for sure to increase their consciousness of being part of a programme and a network. Their conviction grew up that, together, they really can make a change in their own reality as well as, collectively, much beyond the borders of their Biosphere Reserves. That is what the Forum aimed at achieving!

## SECTION 3. ABOUT THE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS YOU ARE TAKING

### 3.1 Did you elaborate and present a report of your participation to the MAB Youth Forum? If yes, to whom did you present it (more than one choice possible)?

91 responses



Comment: Most of the participants have undertaken to report about their participation in the MAB Youth Forum, a very positive data which is also a promise that follow-up actions could probably be implemented.

#### TO WHOM?

3.1.1 MAB Youth fellows at your place/BR?

3.1.2 Biosphere Reserve manager?

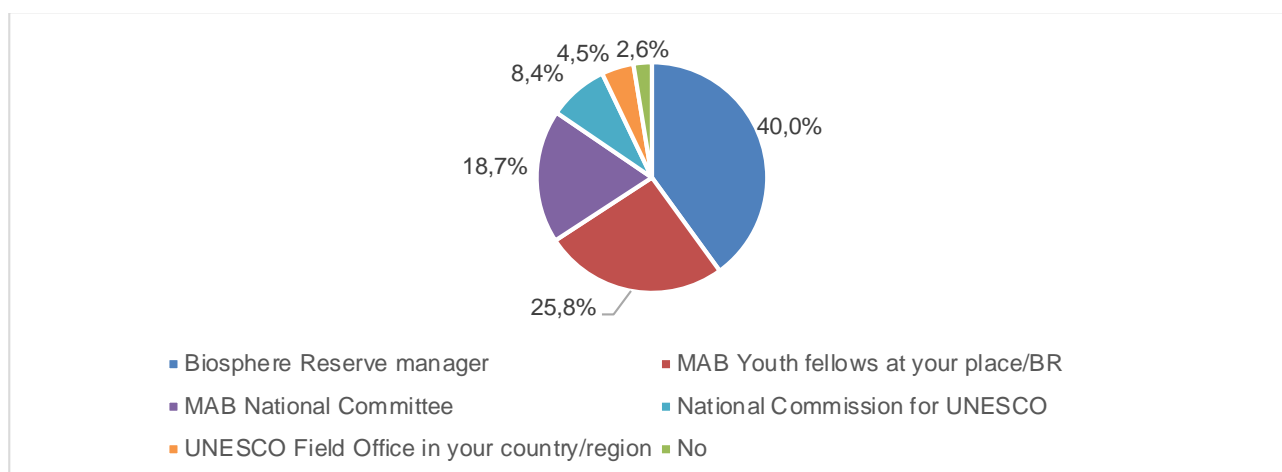
3.1.3 MAB National Committee?

3.1.4 National Commission for UNESCO?

3.1.5 UNESCO Field Office in your country/region?

3.1.6 Other? Please specify

155 responses (including multiple responses as it was of course possible to respond to more than 1 point)

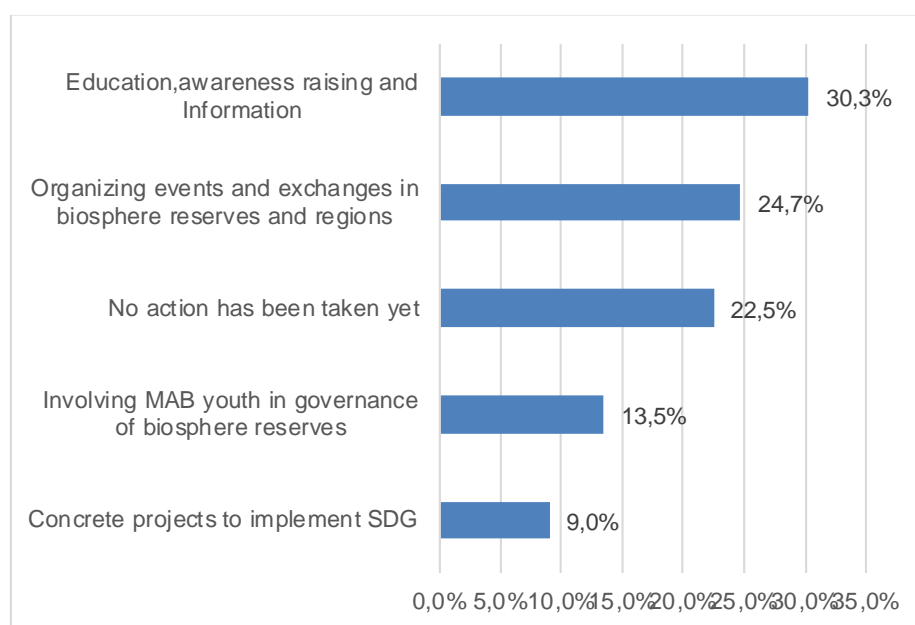


Comment: Participants reported first of all to their MAB Youth fellows and authorities at the local level (Biosphere Reserve), and this can be seen as confirmation that the links to the entities who nominated/mandated them to participate are real and vivid. *Compare to many other UNESCO related Youth Forums, this represents for sure the very unique characteristic of the MAB Youth Forum, which mobilized participants which are closely connected to a network of territories, were already probably*

*active at that level and have been stimulated to even do more in the future!* The potential to move from talks and ideas to action is higher than in many other occasions. Some of the participants also reported directly to UNESCO-MAB bodies at the national level, while it is expected that BR managers who supported participants would do the same at some point.

### 3.2 The Final Declaration of the Forum includes a series of actions to which participants have committed themselves. Is there a particular follow-up action to which you have committed yourself? If yes, please describe:

91 valid responses



Comment: As a confirmation of the comments made at the point above, three quarters of the respondent confirmed to have the intention to undertake, or to have already undertaken follow-up actions in various directions. A third of them will concentrate their efforts on educational, awareness raising and information actions. This is understandable and our wish that the knowledge and consciousness gained during the forum could be shared and spread around. At the same time, this data is also the confirmation that MAB Youth are not to be seen anymore exclusively as the beneficiary of educational efforts undertaken within the framework of the Programme: they wish and have the capacity to be actors/protagonists of such efforts!

They also intend to organize and participate in events, forums and exchanges in Biosphere Reserves and in their regions (24.7%). They for sure have been stimulated during the MAB Youth Forum, have experienced the benefits arising from such a kind of gathering, and would like to contribute to expand its impact around them.

It is good also to read that on the top of that, a portion of them want to undertake concrete sustainable development actions (tourism, agriculture, eco-design of buildings and infrastructures, etc.) and that they also want to engage more in the governance of their Biosphere Reserve. Some of them (Costa Rica, France, Italy, South Africa, Spain, etc.) report to have even established formal MAB Youth Associations or Councils!

### 3.3 Which concrete action(s) have you been taking since the MAB Youth Forum in September 2018? If any, please describe referring to the following possible categories (more than one choice possible):

- 3.3.1 Implementing Sustainable Development action at BR level?
- 3.3.2 Establishing a MAB Youth Association at BR/National level?
- 3.3.3 Liaising with MAB Youth fellows at national/international level?
- 3.3.4 Advocating for MAB programme and WNBR in international fora?
- 3.3.5 Developing research project at national/international level?
- 3.3.6 Other?

91 valid responses

No.	Concrete Actions
1	<i>MY Delta Association (Italy).</i>
2	<i>Interview and essays for local newspapers explaining the leaning of MAB and its importance, as well as raising awareness about biosphere reserves in the region.</i>
3	<i>Reaching out to the Kenya UNESCO National Committee to request on how I can contribute more towards BRs in the country and MAB programme. I also attended the African Wildlife Foundation Youth Forum and pitched for the MAB programme to fellow participants. I also interact with other MAB Youth delegates in the WhatsApp group and have connected a MAB Youth delegate from Zimbabwe (Rumbi) working on human wildlife conflict to Ewaso Lions Kenya in working on a research study &amp; assisted/exchanged with another MAB Youth delegate from Egypt (Fawzia) on birdwatching activities.</i>
4	<i>Support in the implementation of associative bio-entrepreneurship.</i>
5	<i>Creation of Communication Platform@youthsdgs on Twitter and Instagram.</i>
6	<i>Through our work we have tried to raise awareness among young people about their BR and sustainable development in general through educational workshops and webinars. In addition, we have tried to create a link between young people and public officials in their respective BR.</i>
7	<i>I am participating in the creation of some strategy with MAB Committee, and telling some person about MAB youth forum, to disclose information.</i>
8	<i>Stay in contact with other youth participant.</i>
9	<i>Implementing sustainable tourism ideas in BR.</i>
10	<i>Often in touch with the fellows for further opportunities to the conservation of the BRs.</i>
11	<i>Potential partnership with MAB France : creation and facilitation to youth network among MAB France and French BR Network to build capacity in BR level to youth reps and be able to be part of decision-making and promote sustainable solution from/by youth (still in discussion, co-designing and fundraising).</i>
12	<i>We're elaborating Sustainable Development action plan at our BR.</i>
13	<i>I didn't do it.</i>

14	<i>Got in contact with fellow BR representatives both on national and international level, exchanging ideas and thoughts on problems we face and possible opportunities. The MABYF was a great opportunity to not only get in touch with fellows internationally, but on a national level also.</i>
15	<i>Creation of the touristic circuit of the Badiar BR, and a touristic village.</i>
16	<i>I am continuing a research project about the WNBR.</i>
17	<i>Developing research initiatives and establishing youth forum.</i>
18	<i>Raising the awareness for the meaning of BR.</i>
19	<i>We created a newborn association for promote our Po Delta BR</i>
20	<i>We established or MAB Youth Association called Co'MAB at national level and participated the general assembly of our national committee so that French BRs know about our existence and that we can help them to involve youth of their territory.</i>
21	<i>I am trying to gather other young people involved or passionate about nature and environment to start a MAB Youth association in my country.</i>
22	<i>Same as above 3.2.</i>
23	<i>Education, conservation and investigation.</i>
24	<i>The establishment of youth association is aimed at familiarizing youths and communities with the Mab program in the sustainable development but this has not yet materialized as I still await for the go ahead from the National committee to whom i submitted my position with regards to the actions to be taken.</i>
25	<i>I work in a BR.</i>
26	<i>n/a</i>
27	<i>Be part of the new networking of BR, and moderate a workshop with represents of the four different BR of the country to build the actions that we can do it in 2018. Also, since my job, we try to include the topic in all the things that we do, because our action area is the BR.</i>
28	<i>We created the My Delta association in the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve and we are working with all the main social networks (facebook, twitter, instagram) to promote the activities in the BR.</i>
29	<i>Was made thesis , about water monitoring at BR.</i>
30	<i>I'm a member of MY Delta, the association born in Po Delta BR after the MY Forum, we would like to organize a national MAB Forum and involve people in our vision of a sustainable development</i>
31	<i>Establishing a Coordination Center for the BR.</i>
32	<i>By organizing periodical events on cultural, ecological, economic topics involving local stakeholders and communities.</i>
33	<i>I have initiated the first local stakeholder community meeting within the Cascade Head BR reporting on the Youth Forum and using my facilitation skills developed from the Youth Forum. I'm going to Costa Rica for a retreat on the Inner Dimensions of Climate Change put on by the Global Peace Initiative of Women, where I will present on the forum to 25 young ecologists and others at the University for Peace. I will also use the trip to meet with youth delegates from Costa Rican BR's.</i>
34	<i>We are establishing the first Young Council in our park.</i>
35	<i>We created an association that wants to promote our BR through sustainable tourism, education projects, local awareness increasing.</i>
36	<i>n/a</i>
37	<i>Create student exchange under different RB in Africa.</i>
38	<i>The aim of the group is to raise awareness, enhance networking both between citizens and stakeholders in order to better live the territory and also promote it, especially for sustainable tourism development.</i>
39	<i>About our association, see: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/assoCoMAB/">https://www.facebook.com/assoCoMAB/</a> We are still in touch with many friends we met during the MYF, trying to help each other and build partnerships.</i>
40	<i>I have been, developing the protection of our vegetation, even in the most urbanized areas.</i>

41	<i>Organizing an event in BR to promote MAB programme; cooperation with other professionals on national level how to increase participation of all stakeholders; planning an international project together with BR manager and BR from other country.</i>
42	<i>I have been coordinating bi-monthly conference calls with US MAB Youth Representatives, and organized a lecture in my BR on MAB awareness.</i>
43	<i>Knowing different BR and their way of doing.</i>
44	<i>IberoAmerica MAB Youth Network (Project).</i>
45	<i>I finished my PhD thesis with a RB as a case of study. We are working to create a network of young people in Argentina and I am developing my new research project on sustainable development in RB.</i>
46	<i>Evaluate opportunities to boost value chains and Labeling / Networking with participants of the forum who work on the same themes as me.</i>
47	<i>Coordinating the VIII Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (22-26 May 2018).</i>
48	<i>Community participation in the Ranthambhore.</i>
49	<i>I have been in regular contact with the other MAB Youth Forum delegates from the USA, and we are in the process of planning national events to increase our visibility.</i>
50	<i>Ensuring projects are achieving Sustainable Development Goals.</i>
51	<i>We have written an article about MAB youth forum in Russian journal about science in reserves.</i>
52	<i>I've participated to BR's meetings to talk about my experience at the MAB Youth Forum and I've tried to promote the BR and the MAB Programme through the local media.</i>
53	<i>My PhD work is about strategic sustainable development at local and regional level and how municipalities and regions can go about the challenges.</i>
54	<i>I'm part of a membership, MY Delta association, created right few months after the Forum.</i>
55	<i>Just work with DRC BR.</i>
56	<i>I am now in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve board representing the youth and i have managed to set up a local youth forum.</i>
57	<i>I am involved in the management of the Central Balkan National Park, which is part of the Central Balkan Biosphere Park. My work is related to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by monitoring species living in protected areas.</i>
58	<i>Organization of a forum for local young people in the Monviso BR, with the Monviso Park.</i>
59	<i>n/a</i>
60	<i>I am engaged, with the BR managers, in a project aiming to guarantee the integrated and sustainable management of the BR's marine area. As part of my research, I am working on a participative approach model of the local stakeholders in order to guarantee their effective engagement.</i>
61	<i>We made 2 presentations in the BRs directed to young people explaining what we did in the MAB youth forum and suggesting what actions could be implemented in the BRs.</i>
62	<i>Environmental education programs in the secondary school.</i>
63	<i>Any</i>
64	<i>Sensibilisation et accompagnement des populations sur leur projet ecotouristique.</i>
65	<i>None</i>
66	<i>We are conducting intensive communication campaigns in our BR.</i>
67	<i>Embarked on a project on the Preservation of medicinal plants within the biosphere reserve to avoid extinction because of the cruel mode of harvesting the body parts of plants used to treat various ailments.</i>
68	<i>Transmitting word of mouth information to publicize the BR in the region.</i>
69	<i>1-I organized seminars and conferences and articles; 2-Create the forum of ambassadors and promote within universities the program.</i>
70	<i>We are working on a climate change BR network in the region.</i>



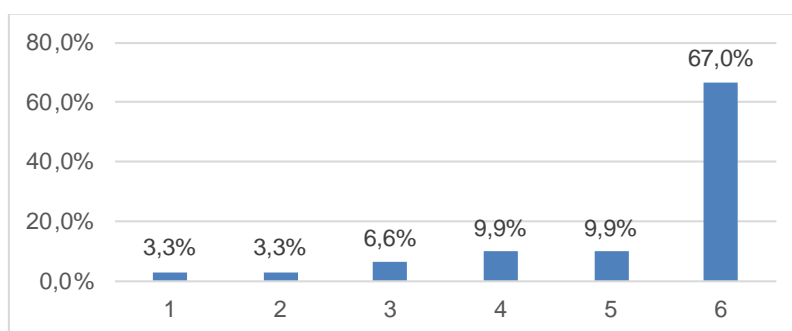
71	<i>Giving awareness programs.</i>
72	<i>Involved in projects, presented MAB Network on external event.</i>
73	<i>Sharing information learned during the forum in my office, training of our biosphere reserve manager, participating in #proud to share.</i>
74	<p>1- Dans le but de maintenir ce label RBOSM qui traduit la reconnaissance de l'UNESCO des oasis de Sud du Maroc comme une réserve de biosphère et dans le souci de développer des actions de valorisation du patrimoine culturel local et de diffuser les valeurs de l'identité culturelle de la RBOSM et des savoir-faire locaux, l'ANDZOA en étroite collaboration avec la direction du patrimoine culturel (Ministère de la Culture) a contribué à l'élaboration et la constitution du dossier Marocain relatif aux pratiques culturelles liées au palmier dattier;</p> <p>2- Le projet Unité itinérante de sensibilisation « Sauvons nos Oasis » est mis en place par l'AOFEP en partenariat avec l'ANDZOA. Le projet d'une durée de 4 ans, de 2015 à 2019, se fixe comme objectif global « la Contribution à la sauvegarde des oasis du Maroc à travers un programme pédagogique de sensibilisation des acteurs locaux ». Il se propose d'appuyer les acteurs locaux des oasis du sud-est marocain, représentés par diverses catégories, pour la sauvegarde des milieux oasiens à travers la sensibilisation et la conscientisation et en se basant sur le savoir-faire et le savoir être local. Le projet vise spécifiquement à présenter aux différents acteurs les richesses de l'écosystème oasien, clarifier les diverses menaces qui pèsent sur ce territoire, et identifier et partager les pistes de réflexion autour de la valorisation et la sauvegarde des oasis du Maroc.</p>
75	<i>Continued to work on educational tool for sustainable development.</i>
76	<i>I find Sustainable Development factors in my BR.</i>
77	<i>Sensibiliser les gens.</i>
78	<i>I tried to implement the sustainable development practices to the management body of our BR.</i>
79	<i>Presentation of my biosphere in Tunisia and the relationship between the biosphere and the habitat.</i>
80	<i>Make a programme with the biosphere reserve committee and aborigines.</i>
81	<i>Researching environmentally conscious farmer groups in Biosphere reserves.</i>
82	<i>We now focusing on mining policies within biospheres and sustainable harvesting especially on sand mining.</i>
83	<i>I am working with partners in North Devon to write a funding proposal for to get 16-19yr olds from socioeconomic deprived areas accessing the Biosphere as a value for money preventative treatment for mental health and wellbeing.</i>
84	<i>We have already proposed a MED project. In addition, we have organized a meeting with other national MAB Youth Fellows.</i>
85	<i>Teaching elementary school children once a week from April. Main theme will be local living + community, and the very entry part of sustainability and SDGs.</i>
86	<i>I will do researches and events to promote them.</i>
87	<i>I shared the Sustainable Development in my little country.</i>
88	<i>We are working in different international programs (from the Biosphere Reserve Agency) in order to promote ecotourism and, at the same time, we are developing different studies on biodiversity at the national level.</i>
89	<i>Networking with fellow youth.</i>
90	<p><i>Volunteering in social projects on environmental development such as "Gerakan 1000 Arsa" which means "One Thousand Hope" to raise funds to build a bridge in isolated area in Kalipasis-Lampung, Indonesia (so that the villager could have easier mobilization), renovation of an elementary school sink, renovation of school paint walls that have weathered, and socialization about climate change, and basic environmental science.</i></p> <p><i>I am now in the middle of doing a research about effective and efficient youth empowerment method suitable for exchanging best practices between urban and rural youth in regional level.</i></p>

**91** *I've reported the MAB program and its objectives at Youth forums such as "Youth the Americas Summit" and "Millennials to change" program held by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung where potential young politicians are meeting to develop their skills and knowledge on macro-policy to enhance their abilities as national leaders. In order to raise awareness among young people about the importance of the biosphere reserves.*

### 3.4 Would you be interested in (1 = not at all, 6 = highly)?

#### 3.4.1 Participating in the next MAB ICC meeting (Indonesia, July 2018)?

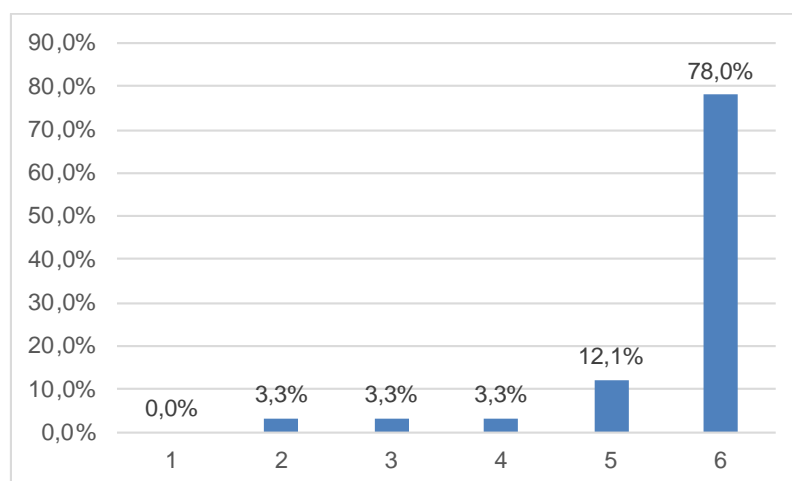
91 responses



Comment: Most of the respondents would be interested in participating in the next MAB ICC meeting in Indonesia. One could read this as a confirmation the interest of MAB Youth in actively taking part in the life of the Programme through particular meetings is great.

#### 3.4.2 Participating in a regional network meeting (EuroMAB, ArabMAB, AfriMAB, IberoMAB, etc.)?

91 responses

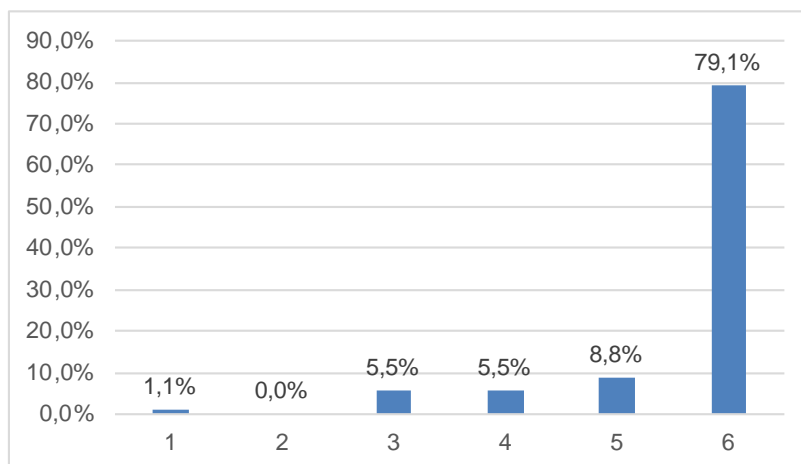


Comment: Most of respondents expressed a slightly greater interest in attending MAB related events at the regional level, which for sure would have the advantage of being more accessible to them (for

various reasons, from more affordable travel costs to linguistic issues). The challenge is now on the organizers of such events to find a way to involve more MAB Youth in their gathering!

### 3.4.3 Participating in a second Global MAB Youth Forum?

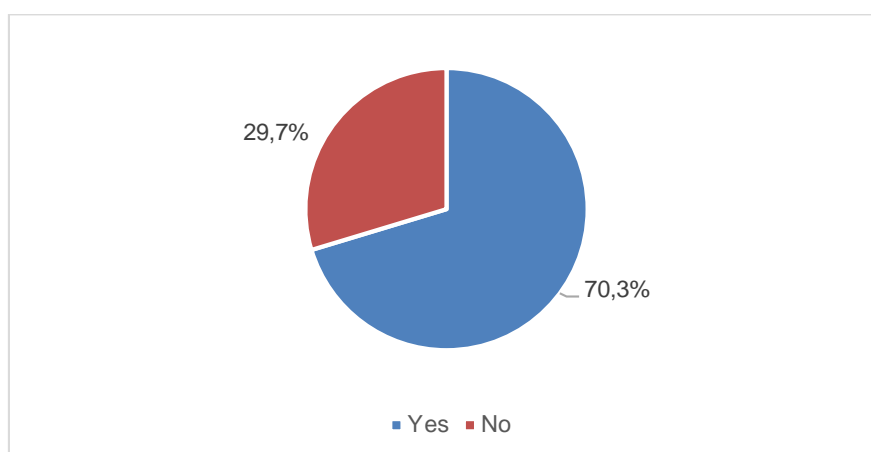
91 responses



Comment: An even greater proportion of respondents is just waiting for the next global MAB Youth Forum to be organized, which can be read as a confirmation of the globally positive appreciation they all make of their first experience at that level.

### 3.5 Would you be interested in organizing / hosting a MAB Youth related event at your place / in your country (1 = not at all, 6 = highly)?

91 responses



Comment: 70.3% of the participants expressed their desired/willingness/availability to be involved in organizing and/or hosting a MAB Youth event at their place or in their country. This of course should

be negotiated with and confirmed by managers, authorities and local or national UNESCO-MAB bodies, in order to mobilize the necessary support such events require. It is good to know however that the strong will exist to keep the whole MAB Youth Community moving on!

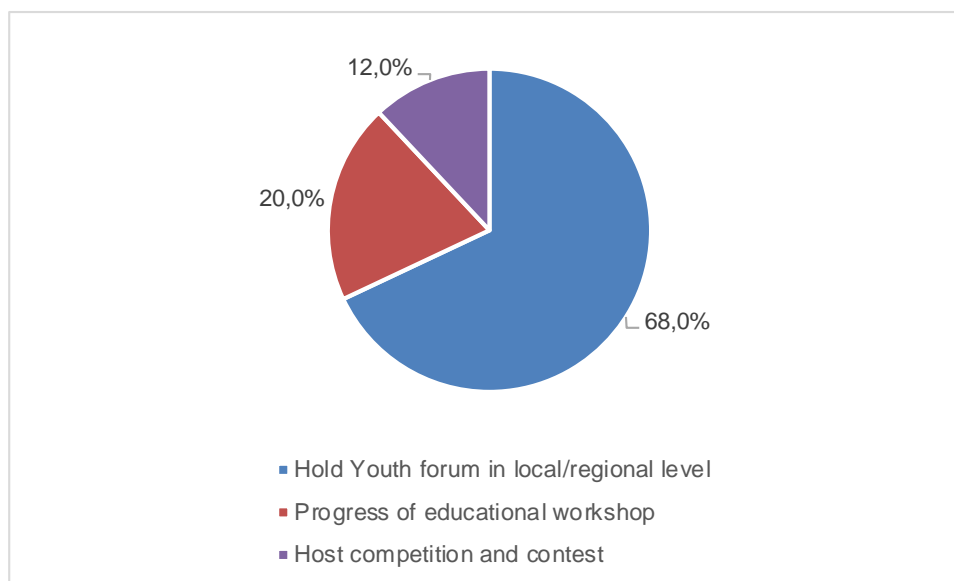
### 3.5.1 If YES, tell us the name of the BR and the country:

27 responses (64 respondents had responded YES to question 3.5)

Country	The name of BR
Algeria	Gouraya National Park
Benin	Pendjari National Park
Bulgaria	Chervenata stena
Burkina Faso	Mare aux hippopotames
Costa Rica	Cordillera Volcánica Central
Democratic Republic of Congo	Yangambi
Ecuador	Galapagos Archipelago de Colón
Indonesia	Lore Lindu
Italy	Po Delta
	Appennino Tosco-Emiliano
	Monviso
Japan	Mount Hakusan
Malaysia	Tasik Chini
Mexico	Sierra de Huautla
Republic of Guinea	Badiar
Republic of Macedonia	Ohrid - Prespa
Republic of South Africa	Vhembe
	Kruger 2 Canyons
Spain	Menorca
United States	Cascade Head
	Rocky Mountain
	Champlain-Adirondack
Uruguay	Bañados del Este

### 3.5.2 If YES, which kind of MAB Youth related event would you have in mind?

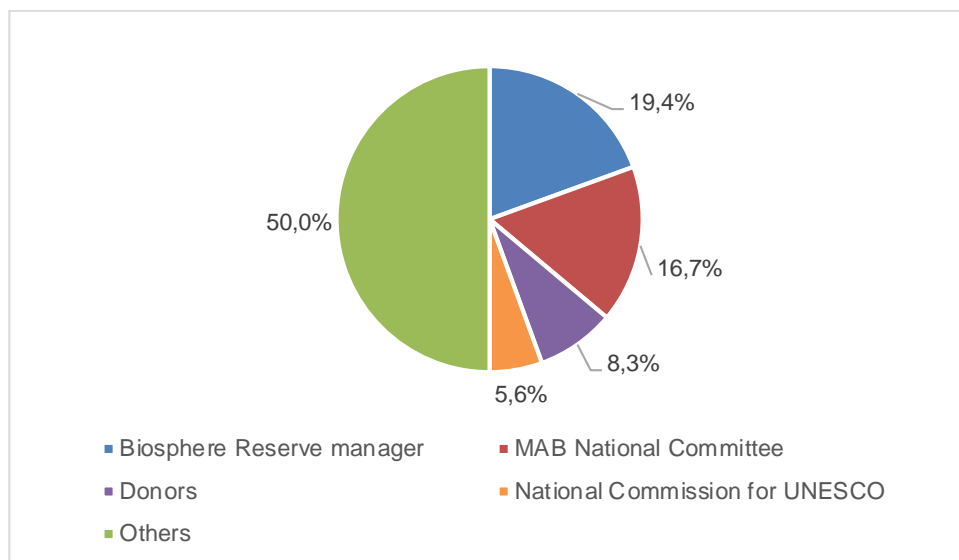
25 responses (64 respondents had responded YES to question 3.5)



Comment: Building on their positive experience at the MAB Youth Forum, 68% of respondents to this question expressed their willingness to hold Youth forum at local and regional levels. 20% of respondents to this question answered that they are planning to organize information/educational workshops to share MAB related strategies and policies, to stimulate and involve youth within their BR, and to explore job opportunities. 12% of them talked about competitions and contests in and between BRs, as a tool to let people to meet, communicate, share experiences and strengthen their links.

### 3.5.3 If YES, is this an idea you have already shared with stakeholders at your place (BR manager, MAB National Committee, National Commission for UNESCO, donors, others)?

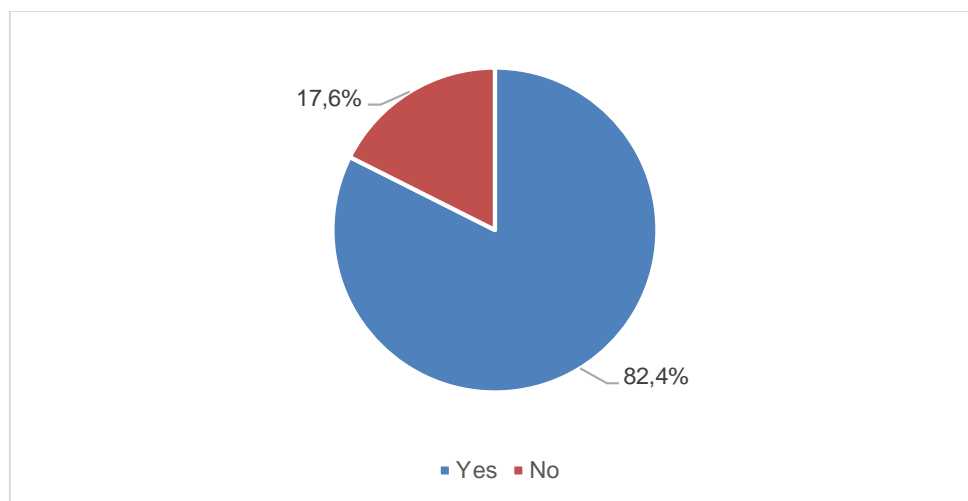
36 responses (64 respondents had responded YES to question 3.5)



Comment: Half of the respondents responded “Yes” but unfortunately without clarifying with whom they had talked about their ideas. 19.4% of the respondents shared their ideas with Biosphere Reserve managers and 16.7% of them with their MAB National Committee. Only 8,3% of them already approached potential donors.

### 3.6 Would you be interested to become a MAB Youth focal point in your country (1 = not at all, 6 = highly)?

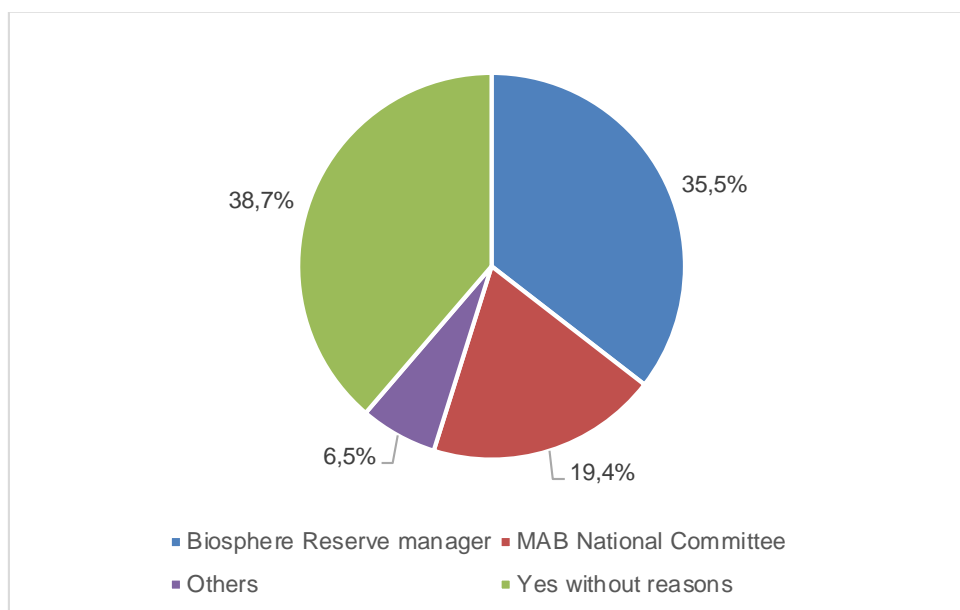
91 responses



Comment: Such a “position” does not yet exist within the framework of the MAB Programme, but it is very interesting to note that a large majority of respondents would be ready to take it if necessary and possible!

### 3.6.1 If YES, have you already discussed this idea with relevant stakeholders (BR manager, MAB National Committee, National Commission for UNESCO, others)?

31 responses (on 75 positive responses to the previous question)



Comment: We can understand from those responses that the “idea” of Mab Youth national focal points has started circulating among the most approachable MAB entities at the local level (managers, 35,5%) and national level (MAB NC, 38,7%), which is quite logical. It will be interesting to note how this question could be then brought by these entities at the attention of bodies such as the regional networks and the MAB ICC itself...