



United Nations
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Man and
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Programme

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Thirty-first Session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room IV (Fontenoy Building)

17 - 21 June 2019

ITEM 13 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Implementation of the Lima Action Plan

1. With the objective to ensure the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025), the 28th MAB ICC adopted the Lima Action Plan (LAP) for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025) containing 62 Actions grouped under five Strategic Action Areas.¹

2. After its adoption, MAB ICC Members and observers started to share their initial experiences related to the implementation of the LAP at its 29th session. Prior to its 30th session, the MAB Secretariat posted an on-line LAP Implementation Form on the MABnet. 150 submissions were received and the overall results were presented at the 30th session with further details provide in the July 2018 LAP Implementation Monitoring Report.² According to the report, some 7 percent of the respondents were of the opinion that excellent overall progress had been achieved in the implementation of the LAP actions that they were responsible for. 50 percent reported good process and 41 percent limited progress (the remaining two percent reported no progress or that they lacked information thereon).

3. In order to update the 31st MAB ICC on progress made since the 30th session, representatives of Member States, regional and thematic MAB and biosphere reserve networks were invited to provide the MAB Secretariat with written reports focusing on the implementation of the LAP (SC-19/CONF.231/5). The MAB Secretariat has also made available an on-line 2019 LAP implementation form. Information collected through this form up to 15 June 2019 will be summarized and presented by the MAB Secretariat at the 31st MAB ICC. The MAB Secretariat will also be rolling-out a new section on the MABnet dedicated to facilitate the sharing of experiences of LAP implementation among stakeholders.

4. According to LAP Action E3.2, a mid-term evaluation shall be undertaken, presented and discussed in 2020. In conformity with LAP Action E3.2, the MAB Secretariat has approached the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) concerning the mid-term evaluation. IOS will undertake this as an independent evaluation of both the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan between the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020. For this

¹ The full text of the LAP, together with the MAB Strategy and the Lima Declaration is available on the MAB web site (i.e. the MABnet) in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian from page: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/strategies-and-action-plans/new-mab-strategy-and-action-plan/documents>

² Available on the MABNet:

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/images/LAP_Implementation_Monitoring_Report.pdf



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purpose, IOS will contract an external consultant or team of consultants to undertake this evaluation on its behalf.

5. While the precise methodology and scope of the evaluation will be defined in consultation between the MAB Bureau, the MAB Secretariat and the IOS Evaluation Office, it is expected that this evaluation will examine aspects such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of LAP interventions. The evaluation will be conceptualised through a theory of change and operationalised through an evaluation matrix, which will indicate how the agreed evaluation questions will be addressed by appropriate research methods. It is foreseen that a representative of IOS will attend relevant sessions of the 31st MAB ICC and its Bureau when the LAP is discussed.

6. In the process of this evaluation, the MAB Council is invited to share and discuss their LAP implementation experiences, lessons learnt and good practises, and to provide its view regarding effective LAP implementation and related reporting and evaluation modalities going forward.