

31st International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme

*17-21
June 2019
Paris, France*



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 II (Fontenoy Building)
17 – 21 June 2019

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Introduction by the Chair of the ICC
2. Opening remarks Opening remarks by:
 - Deputy Director General of UNESCO
 - Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO
 - President of the 39th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (to be confirmed)
3. Report of the Chair of the ICC
4. Adoption of the agenda and timetable
5. Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme
6. Reports on actions undertaken by Member States / regional and thematic MAB Networks in the context of MAB with a focus on the Lima Action Plan
7. Implementation of the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR as well as Quality Improvement of all Members of the World Network'
8. Periodic Review Reports and follow-up information received since the last MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC) Meeting
9. Proposals for new Biosphere Reserves and extensions/modifications/ renaming to Biosphere Reserves that are part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)
10. Update on the MAB Communication Strategy and Action Plan
11. MAB Young Scientists Awards Scheme
12. Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management
13. Implementation of the Lima Action Plan
14. Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR)
15. MAB Youth Activities and MAB Forum 2019
16. Date and venue of the 32nd session of the MAB-ICC
17. Other matters
18. Adoption of the Report



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19. Closure of the session



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PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Item	Title	Document
1	Introduction by the Chair of the ICC	
2	Opening remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director General of UNESCO • Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO • President of the 39th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (to be confirmed) 	
3	Report of the Chair of the ICC In his report, the Chair informs the Council of specific activities/initiatives he had contributed towards the implementation of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and other aspects of World Network of Biosphere reserves (WNBR) activities since the 30th session of the MAB-ICC.	
4	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	SC-19/CONF.231/1 SC-19/CONF.231/2 SC-19/CONF.231/3
5	Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme The Secretary provides an overview on actions and activities undertaken by the MAB Secretariat since the 30th session of the MAB-ICC.	SC-19/CONF.231/4
6	Reports on actions undertaken by Member States / regional and thematic MAB Networks in the context of MAB with a focus on the Lima Action Plan Member States, regional and thematic MAB Networks will be given the opportunity to provide brief reports on their activities since the last MAB Council session, with a focus on	SC-19/CONF.231/5



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	<p>the implementation of the Lima Action Plan. Written reports received prior to the session will be available on the MAB website.</p>	
7	<p>Implementation of the "Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR as Well as Quality Improvement of All Members of the World Network"</p> <p>This documents contains an update as regards the sites concerned by the excellence process as well as an update on sites that are not meeting the criteria and were not included in the Exit Strategy (for the period 2014-2017).</p> <p>The MAB ICC is invited to take note of the implementation progress and to provide guidance for sites not meeting the criteria for the period 2014-2017.</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/6
8	<p>Periodic Review Reports and Follow-Up Information Received since the last MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC) Meeting</p> <p>This document contains the recommendations concerning the periodic reviews on individual biosphere reserves considered by the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR) in February 2019. The MAB-ICC is invited to consider the IACBR's recommendations.</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/7
9	<p>Proposals for New Biosphere Reserves and Extensions/ Modifications/ Renaming to Biosphere Reserves that are Part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)</p> <p>This document contains the recommendations on proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions/modifications to existing biosphere reserves considered by the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves in February 2019. The MAB ICC is invited to consider those recommendations as well as the additional information received by the Secretariat since February 2019 and to decide on the complete list of new sites that will be designated as biosphere reserves in 2019 and extensions or changes to biosphere reserves that are already part of the WNBR.</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/8
10	<p>Update on the MAB Communication Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>The document provides an update on the global communication strategy and action plan, including the presentation of the new MAB website. No decision to be taken.</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/9



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11	<p>MAB Young Scientists Awards Scheme</p> <p>The document announces the 2019 winners of the MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme as suggested by the Bureau of the MAB-ICC. The MAB-ICC is invited to consider and endorse the proposed winners of the MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme of 2019.</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/10
12	<p>Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management</p> <p>The document introduces the 2019 winner who will present her/his case study</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/11
13	<p>Implementation of the Lima Action Plan</p> <p>The MAB ICC is invited to examine results achieved under the the Lima Action Plan and to provide its guidance for future implementation efforts.</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/12
14	<p>Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR)</p> <p>The document presents the progress report towards the development of TGBR since the 30th session of the MAB ICC. The MAB ICC is invited to endorse the decision of the MAB Bureau pertaining the content of the Technical Guidelines pertaining to the four thematic areas: zonation, Policy, Monitoring and Governance</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/13
15	<p>MAB Youth Activities and MAB Forum 2019</p> <p>The Secretariat will report in detail on the Youth activities carried out since the 30th session of the MAB-ICC and will present the MAB Youth Forum 2019 to take place in China. The MAB Council is invited to discuss these inputs and elaborate recommendations for the strengthening of youth engagement in the MAB Programme.</p>	SC-19/CONF.231/14
16	<p>Date and venue of the 32nd session of the MAB-ICC</p> <p>The Council is requested to decide dates and venue for the convening of the 32nd session of the MAB-ICC.</p>	
18	<p>Other Matters</p>	
19	<p>Adoption of the Report</p>	
20	<p>Closure of the Session</p>	



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PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE
31st SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)
OF THE MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAMME

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room II (Fontenoy Building)
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Monday, 17 June	
9:00	Registration opens
9:00-10:00	MAB Bureau Meeting (Room VI)
10:00-11:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction by the Chair of the ICC 2. Opening remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director General of UNESCO • Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO • President of the 39th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (to be confirmed) 3. Report of the Chair of the ICC 4. Adoption of the agenda and timetable 5. Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:40	6. Reports on actions undertaken by Member States / regional and thematic MAB Networks in the context of MAB with a focus on the Lima Action Plan
12:40-13:15	Opening of the Exhibitions “Our Biosphere, Our Future. Local Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals” and “Forest Art in Biosphere Reserves and in NPA” sponsored by the Abertis Foundation and the UNESCO International Category II Centre on Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves



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	Monday, 17 June
13:15-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:15	6. Reports by regions/ regional and thematic MAB Networks in the context of MAB s (cont.) 7. Implementation of the "Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR as Well as Quality Improvement of All Members of the World Network"
16:15-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:00	7. Implementation of the "Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR as Well as Quality Improvement of All Members of the World Network" (cont'd)
18:15 – 19:30	<i>MAB ICC Welcome Cocktail sponsored by the Abertis Foundation and the UNESCO International Category II Centre on Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves (Conference foyer)</i>



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	Tuesday, 18 June
9:00-10:00	MAB Bureau Meeting (Room VI)
10:00-11:15	8. Periodic Review Reports and Follow-Up Information Received since the Last MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC) Meeting
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	8. Periodic Review Reports and Follow-Up Information Received since the Last MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC) Meeting (cont.)
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:15	10. Update on the MAB Communication Strategy and Action Plan 11. MAB Young Scientists Awards Scheme
16:15-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:00	12. Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management 15. MAB Youth Activities and MAB Youth Forum 2019



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Wednesday, 19 June	
9:00-10:00	MAB Bureau Meeting (Room VI)
10:00-11:15	9. Proposals for New Biosphere Reserves and Extensions/ Modifications/ Renaming to Biosphere Reserves that are Part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	9. Proposals for New Biosphere Reserves and Extensions/ Modifications/ Renaming to Biosphere Reserves that are Part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) (cont.)
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:15	13. Implementation of the Lima Action Plan
16:15-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:00	Panel on biosphere reserves' goods and services
18:15 – 19:00	Fair on Biosphere Reserve Goods and Services (Pas Perdus Hall)
19:00 – 21:00	Taste and Discover Italian Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO canteen, 7 th floor)



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Thursday, 20 June	
10:00-11:15	14. Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR)
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	16. Date and venue of the 32 nd session of the MAB-ICC 17. Other matters
13:00-15:00	Cocktail lunch organized by the Republic of Korea (Conference foyer)
15:00-16:15	Panel on 'Biosphere Reserves and Peace' Organized by the Republic of Korea and the MAB Programme
16:15-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:45	18. Adoption of the Report 19. Closure of the session
17:45 – 19:00	Side event organized by the Jane Goodall Institute on the research that has been carried out in the Gombe Masito Ugalla Biosphere Reserve, Tanzania (all delegates are invited to attend)
19:00 – 21:00	Cocktail organized Jane Goodall Institute (UNESCO canteen, 7th floor)

Friday, 21 June	
8:00 – 18:00	Excursion to the Marais Audomarois Biosphere Reserve, sponsored by MAB France and the MAB Programme

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ITEM 5 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme

1. This report provides the MAB Council with a brief overall update on the development of the MAB Programme since its last session in Palembang, Indonesia, in July 2018. The report is accompanied by a PPT presentation and is available on-line with other MAB ICC documents.

2. Statutory duties and procedures related to MAB and WNBR

2.1 At the 30th session of the MAB-ICC, which took place in Palembang, Indonesia in July 2018, 24 new biosphere reserves were nominated, including two new countries – Moldova and Mozambique. In addition, the session granted two extensions and/or re-namings of existing reserves, and accepted seven withdrawals (five biosphere reserves in Australia, one in the Netherlands and one in the United States of America). The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) now comprises 686 biosphere reserves in 122 countries, including 20 trans-boundary biosphere reserves.

2.2 The MAB-ICC decided to finalize the Exit Strategy by 2020 and to institute a 'Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network'. All biosphere reserves have until 30 September 2019 at the latest to become fully functional and report to the Council if they wish to remain in the Network. An exception is made for biosphere reserves in conflict zones.

2.3 The MAB Council adopted the Global Communication Strategy and Action Plan of the MAB Programme and its WNBR.

2.4 The 25th session of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR) was held in February 2019, its recommendations communicated by the Secretariat to the MAB Bureau and all the Member States concerned in a timely manner. Among the 20 new biosphere reserve nominations received were three countries aspiring to be included in the WNBR for the first time: the Kingdom of Eswatini, Norway and Zambia.

3. Highlight of MAB activities since the 2018 MAB ICC

3.1 MAB regional and thematic workshops and meetings:

- 6th UNESCO Training Course for Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserve Managers, which took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea from 1 to 3 October 2018.
- 12th meeting of the Southeast Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (SeaBRnet) in Legazpi City, Philippines from 25 to 29 March 2019.



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- EuroMAB 2019, from 2 to 5 April 2019 in Dublin, Ireland.
- 9th meeting of the South and Central Asia MAB Network(SACAM) in Bhutan from 25 to 27 April 2019.
- 1st meeting of the Central American Biosphere Reserves from 7 to 9 May 2019 in Copán, Honduras.

3.2 BIOPALT. One of key partnership is the BIOSphere and Heritage of Lake Chad (BIOPALT) project, which is funded by the African Development Bank to the amount of USD 5.6 million. Project activities are managed jointly by the UNESCO MAB Programme, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the World Heritage Centre. The main goal of BIOPALT is to create a transboundary Biosphere Reserve in the Lake Chad Basin. BIOPALT is a technical partner of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), a country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of land in Africa by 2030. BIOPALT also participated in BAPA+40, the United Nations' Second High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, which took place in Buenos Aires, from 20 to 22 March 2019.

3.3 A project on ecosystem restoration has been implemented in the La Selle Biosphere Reserve, Haiti, funded by Spanish Cooperation (AECID) and the Autonomous Authority for National Parks (OAPN) from Spain. The objective of this project is to contribute to sustainable human and economic development in the La Selle Biosphere Reserve.

3.4 The First IberoMAB Youth Forum took place in the Transboundary Bosques de Paz Biosphere Reserve, located between Ecuador and Peru, from 5 to 8 December 2018. The forum highlighted the importance of youth participation and rejuvenating MAB biosphere reserves. Eighty-nine participants from 43 biosphere reserves from 23 countries in Ecuador met to discuss the roles of young people who work, study or live in biosphere reserves.

3.5 BRESEP. 'Biosphere Reserves as a Tool for Coastal and Island Management in the South-East Pacific Region', which is coordinated by the MAB Programme with the financial support of the Flemish Government of Belgium. The project was launched in 2014 and ended in December 2018. The BRESEP project aimed to create and strengthen existing biosphere reserves in coastal zones and islands in the South-East Pacific in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, as well as to promote biosphere reserves as a tool of sound innovative practices from a social, cultural and environmental viewpoint that bring added value to local socio-economic activities and, in this way, improve the livelihoods of the region's populations. The main results of the project consisted of the creation of the first transboundary biosphere reserve in South America – Bosques de Paz (Ecuador-Peru), the extension of four biosphere reserves to include coastal or marine areas, the improvement of governance in six biosphere reserves through the creation of a management committee/plan, the organization of over 15 training courses and meetings, the celebration of the first forest fire workshop for biosphere reserves, support for the first IberoMAB Youth Forum, and joint work with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to improve marine and coastal planning. The second phase of the project is under discussion with the donor.

3.6 IPBES. The 7th Plenary meeting of IPBES took place at UNESCO HQ from 29 April to 4 May. UNESCO MAB participated in the work of the platform since the start through mobilizing its experts, knowledge holders and network of biosphere reserves for the assessment, capacity building as well as communication functions. The first intergovernmental interdisciplinary global scientific report on the state of biodiversity was adopted on 4 May by 132 member states and the report launched at UNESCO on 6th May with the participation of the Director general of UNESCO. Human activities are the main threats to biodiversity loss but local and indigenous



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knowledge are recognized as key to conservation of biodiversity. Solutions include for governments to promote and use more multifunctional and connected sites such as biosphere reserves. The MAB programme will enhance its participation, including in the second work programme and in the scoping phase of the new assessments.

3.7 LVMH new partnership with MAB to support Biodiversity One week after the launch of the IPBES global biodiversity assessment, UNESCO signed a five year partnership with Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (LVMH) group to support the work of the MAB programme on biodiversity. Within the scope of this partnership, the LVMH group will be present alongside UNESCO at major international events in the next two years. This agenda includes the IUCN World Congress and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in November 2020 in Kunming, China. UNESCO MAB will provide scientific support for LVMH Maisons to advance their sustainable sourcing programs via its network of 686 biosphere reserves, as well as the international scientific expertise aggregated via the MAB programme and network.

3.8 GRASP. UN Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), a unique alliance of nearly 100 national governments, conservation organizations, research institutions, United Nations agencies and private companies, coordinated by UNEP and UNESCO. More than 7% of the total range area of great apes is situated in biosphere reserves. Last year, Gombe Masito Ugalla in Tanzania – the area where Dr Jane Goodall began her pioneering study of wild chimpanzees – became a biosphere reserve. On 21 March 2019, an information meeting on the protection of great apes and the current and future role of UNESCO took place at UNESCO Headquarters, in the presence of UNESCO's Director-General and the Director of the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle (France). The 13th meeting of the Executive Committee took place at UNESCO, HQ from 2 to 3 May 2019.

3.9 MAB contribution to UNESCO activities on climate change. The 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held from 2 to 15 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. MAB representatives participated in several UN side events and sessions organized at national pavilions at the COP, highlighting the contributions of biosphere reserves as climate change observatories, and promoting climate science, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation actions in line with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

3.10 The 3rd Huangshan Dialogue on UNESCO Sites and Sustainable Development was held in Huangshan, China, from 31 October to 3 November, and focused on the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)-related activities in UNESCO biosphere reserves.

3.11 The MAB Secretary participated in the 4th Meeting of the Coordination Board for the Establishment of the Transboundary Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve, which took place in Velika Polana, Slovenia, in January 2019. The meeting forms part of the process for the establishment of the first transboundary biosphere reserve to encompass five countries: Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia.

3.12 'Economic valuation of ecosystem services in biosphere reserves' (EVAMAB), which is funded by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO). The project is testing effective rapid assessment methods in four selected African biosphere reserves: Pendjari Biosphere Reserve (Benin), Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve (Ethiopia), Mount Elgon Biosphere Reserve (Uganda) and Lake Manyara Biosphere Reserve (Tanzania). The project aims to assess the economic value of ecosystem services. The closing workshop of the project was held in Lake



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Tana BR, Ethiopie from 13th to 17th May 2019. A Manual for Valuation of Ecosystem services for african BR will be one of the may output of this project. .

3.13 Furthermore, The Congo Basin Forest Partnership held its 18th plenary meeting in Brussels in November 2018. This followed by the International Conference of Ministers in charge of Defence, Security and Protected Areas on the fight against poaching and other cross-border criminal activities, which was held in N'Djamena, Chad, on 23–25 January 2019. Explicit mention was made of UNESCO and its MAB Programme in the N'Djamena Declaration, as responsible for facilitating 'the setting up and operation of a transhumance consultation framework which would make it possible to analyse the fundamental questions transboundary transhumance and to develop appropriate solutions'.

4. Improving participation, quality and the related instrumentation of WNBR

4.1 Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR). The MAB Secretariat has been directed to develop an electronic and open access web-based living document compiling contributions and experiences from the MAB community on specific items. An online draft prototype is accessible for demonstration purposes only. The 30th session of the MAB Council approved the ToRs and road map of the Working Group (WG), highlighting the synergy between the WG and the IACBR. The composition of the WG has been finalized and is now operational. All groups are well balanced in terms of gender and regional representation.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The implementation of MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan continues as foreseen, following the overall targets of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

5.2 It is very important for the MAB and its WNBR to keep this continuity, finalise the excellence strategy next year and to establish the Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves. The MAB agenda continues to mobilise all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global level.

5.3 The MAB Programme seeks constantly for new partnerships, like LVMH, in order provide full support to its stakeholders, particularly young people involved in the programme. MAB continues constantly to invest in new ideas and concepts for the implementation of the SDGs.

5.4 Concerning the WNBR, and following the appeal of the Director General of UNESCO, the MAB Programme would like to invite all Member States of UNESCO to join actively the Programme by establishing MAB National Committees and more and larger Biosphere Reserves dedicated to biodiversity conservation and integrated sustainable development.

5.5 The last IPBES 7 Meeting held in Paris a month ago highlights the importance of integrated concepts for biodiversity and engagement of local population. The possible loss of 1 million species in the coming years is an alarming signal that urgent action is needed to preserve the world's biodiversity. Biosphere Reserves are excellent tools in this process as well as other UNESCO designations. It is not too late to act and urgent action is needed



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6. The MAB Council is invited to review the report and guide the Secretary to improve the service of the Secretariat in all aspects concerned.



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ITEM 6 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Reports on actions undertaken by Member States / regions/ regional and thematic MAB Networks in the context of MAB with a focus on the Lima Action Plan and discussion on collaborative and research projects

1. Representatives of Member States, regional and thematic MAB and biosphere reserve networks are invited to make succinct presentations on their respective activities since the last MAB ICC. All Member States and networks are also invited to provide the MAB Secretariat with written reports that will be placed on the MABnet in the languages received. Member States and network representatives are invited to focus their reports on the implementation of the Lima Action Plan (LAP) for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025).
2. In addition to outlining past activities, Member States and network representatives are also invited to summarize their planned future activities and to identify related cooperation opportunities with other Member States, networks or the MAB Programme at large.
3. In order to facilitate an informed discussion on the reports and on related collaborative thematic and research projects, Member States and network representatives are encouraged to submit their reports well in advance of the Council session.
4. Representatives of institutions which would like to propose future cooperation with the MAB community are encouraged to participate in the debate on this item.
5. The MAB ICC is invited to take note of national and network reports presented and/or made available on the MABnet and to discuss their content, conclusions and suggestions for possible future cooperation, notably in the context of the MAB Strategy and the LAP.

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ITEM 7 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Implementation of the "Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) as well as Quality Improvement of All Members of the World Network"

Part A : Background

1. In June 2017, at its 29th session, the MAB Council adopted a **'Process of excellence and enhancement of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) as well as Quality Improvement of all Members of the World Network'** (see Annex 2). It decided to complete the "Exit Strategy" in 2020 and to institute this process to ensure that biosphere reserves serve as models for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. In July 2018, at its 30th session the MAB Council decided to establish an ad-hoc group working on the "Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network" in order to take advantage of the opportunities of the process beyond 2020 (see Annex 1).
3. The Ad hoc working group members (see Annex 1) met virtually four times and prepared a proposal for the consideration of the MAB Council, **including a decision to be considered by the MAB council at this session, contained in page 7 of this document.**

Part B : Proposal from the excellence ad hoc working group

General principles

When a site is designated within the MAB programme of UNESCO, the Member states commit to ensuring high quality features for nominated sites and to the implementation of the Statutory framework, the MAB principles and to UNESCO values;

The MAB Council, taking stock of the lessons learnt and results from the "exit strategy", as well as the periodic review process, have decided to develop and implement a "Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network" in order to take advantage of the opportunities of the process beyond 2020;

Since their designation, some biosphere reserve have encountered or may encounter difficulties in management and need to be helped and supported;

The main purpose of the excellence process is to ensure continuous high-quality across the WNBR, which will be a network of well-functioning biosphere reserves that conform to the Statutory Framework and current Plan of Action;

The excellence process is thus designed to facilitate management and development of each individual biosphere reserve, and thus the entire WNBR;

Consequently, it is a long-term endeavor that aims to create a sustainable support mechanism for biosphere reserves that may face difficulties in conforming to the statutory framework;

If biosphere reserves are to be considered as « models for sustainable development» enhancing the quality and excellence of the biosphere reserves and of the WNBR is crucial, if the WNBR is to make a significant contribution to the implementation of the SDGs and agenda 2030;

Biosphere reserves entail key features embracing conservation, management and sites for promoting human well-being that no other designation possesses.

The experiences, skills and competences of the biosphere reserves, regional networks and the WNBR can be mobilized to help the implementation of this excellence process.

The MAB Programme needs to reinforce its links with Biodiversity and Sustainable Development related frameworks and agreements, as well as with Science-policy interfaces such as Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);

There are opportunities to increase the contribution of the WNBR especially in the context of Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity with the concert of « Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)» and work with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the framework of their territories of life and community conserved areas (ICCA).

Biosphere reserves and the WNBR need to work in cooperation with the core mandate of UNESCO and field of competences: Education, Science and Culture;

A short and easy review mechanism, coordinated by the MAB national committee and/or focal point, 5 years after the designation, or last periodic review report, will help to monitor the progress of biosphere reserves especially in implementing the Lima Action Plan and the SDGs;

The excellence process should be linked to the on-going work on the technical guidelines, especially as regards the implementation of the statutory framework criteria.

Communication is key for supporting the individual biosphere reserve and the WNBR. Support should be provided for regular, quality and efficient communication between the biosphere reserves in a country; between the biosphere reserves and the national level; between the

biosphere reserves, the national level and the regional networks; between biosphere reserves and MAB national committees with the MAB secretariat and UNESCO field offices.

In terms of financial support, liaison from Member states to existing organizations, mechanisms and donors such as Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund, European Union, World Bank, etc. are suggested to help prioritize actions/programs/projects in biosphere reserves.

The MAB Council could suggest that UNESCO consider becoming, if possible, an Implementing Organisation or Accredited Entity to the Green Climate Fund. National Commissions, National Authority or MAB National Committee would be able to profit from that situation in submitting projects and attract funds.

These general principles are translated in the following concrete recommendations as adopted by the MAB Council in 2017 and updated by the ad hoc excellence-working group. These recommendations are based on existing practices and process such as the periodic review report and aim to enhance their efficiency and impact for the benefit of the individual biosphere reserve and of the WNBR.

Recommendations to support individual biosphere reserves especially in the context of conforming to the Statutory Framework

The role of the MAB national committee is key in the excellence process for quality control, support and for sharing information in between the periodic review reports.

Support to biosphere reserves that are not conforming to the Statutory Framework or have difficulties in reporting the results of their periodic review process from the MAB national committee are suggested through:

- **Encouraging** national authorities to link the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and Lima Action Plan (2016-2025) with that of Sustainable Development Goals;
- **Identifying** the difficulties and defining the processes and mechanisms to resolve typical issues faced by biosphere reserves and solutions, using the diversity of the WNBR, and the technical operational guidelines where appropriate;
- **Suggesting** a few indicators of excellence that are simple, clear and aligned to existing plans such as the Lima Action Plan and MAB strategy at each MAB Council session to track the implementation of this process. Such indicators could include a baseline set of data provided to each MAB Council session to review how many sites are not meeting the criteria and/or are asked additional information; how many of these sites have benefited from support from national/regional/international MAB constituencies;



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- **Encouraging** Indigenous peoples and local communities practices, supporting their current actions, strengthening their involvement and encouraging their participation in the development of their biosphere reserve;
- **Organizing** specific technical workshops targeting difficult issues such as zonation and governance. Host countries would need to cover the costs of such workshops. Such workshops would ideally be systematically organized and facilitated at regional network meetings (use the regional networks meetings with a support desk workshop being organized for new biosphere reserve proposals and periodic review reports);
- **Encouraging** eligible UNESCO National Commissions and MAB national Committees to apply for financial support through the UNESCO Participation Programme;
- **Requesting** existing UNESCO Chairs and Centres linked to the MAB programme to provide courses and training facilities to requesting sites and countries;
- **Mobilizing** existing expertise and human resources for technical and support missions, including inviting experts of the International Advisory Committee (active and from previous mandates), other biosphere reserves staff, the UNESCO Secretariat and UNESCO field Offices; whenever possible the costs of travel and lodging should be supported by the host countries, with support from UNESCO where available, and no fees should be provided as per common practice in the MAB Programme;
- **Using** peer support in preparing periodic reviews. A biosphere reserve that already meets the criteria can support and guide a site that is having difficulties to undertake the periodic review exercise. This peer process would be undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Roles in support of the implementation of the excellence process

The texts below summarize the role of each constituency of the MAB Programme in the implementation of the excellence strategy/process at different levels:

Biosphere Reserve

- Responsible for sharing contact information with the MAB national committee and MAB Secretariat, including on the website;
- Responsible to alert the MAB national committee/national authority of any difficulty in meeting the Statutory Framework criteria;
- Responsible to provide support to the individual biosphere reserve to meet the Statutory Framework criteria;
- Responsible to monitor the quality of the periodic review forms received from biosphere reserve;



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- Responsible to conduct a mid –term review every 5 years to ensure that progress is being made and that any major issue is being dealt with in time;
- Request technical assistance to the MAB national committee, MAB Secretariat and /or UNESCO field offices;
- Participate in regional networks meeting and World congress;
- Complete and submit on time the periodic review report.

MAB National Committee/MAB focal point /National Authority

- Responsible to provide support to National Authority and the individual biosphere reserve to meet the statutory framework criteria;
- Responsible to provide support in mobilizing resources;
- Responsible to monitor with the National Authority the quality of the periodic review forms received from biosphere reserve;
- Participate with the National Authority in conducting a mid –term review every 5 years to ensure that progress is being made and that any major issue is being dealt with in time;
- Responsible to facilitating easy review mechanism of progress and implementation and alert the MAB Secretariat if any issue in time;
- Responsible to seek for guidance and support from UNESCO in case of difficulties.

UNESCO national commission

- Support requests from MAB National Committee or the National Authority for technical help to the individual biosphere reserve to meet the statutory framework criteria;
- Responsible to provide support in mobilizing resources;

Regional networks

- Responsible to provide support to the individual biosphere reserves by sharing good practices and organizing support help desk workshops at each regional meeting;
- Responsible to organize workshops to review the implementation of the LAP;
- Responsible to facilitate peer review and joint collaborative projects, including twinning.

UNESCO field Offices

Support requests for technical help (mission, information exchange) and in mobilizing resources for national biosphere reserves;

MAB Secretariat

- Support requests for technical help (mission, information exchange);



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- Mobilizing resources for the WBRN;
- Ensure smooth communication between the different MAB constituencies including through a regularly updated website;
- Supporting synergies and cooperative agreements with frameworks and agreements including SDGs, OECM and ICCA, IPCC, IPBES and biodiversity-relevant MEAs through the Biodiversity Liaison Group.

International Advisory Committee

Provide explicit evaluations and clear recommendations to the National Authority and biosphere reserves and alert the MAB Council on emerging issues of concern shared by several biosphere reserves.

MAB Bureau

- Review the Advisory Committee recommendations and recommend final and clear decisions to the MAB Council;
- Support the implementation of the LAP, monitoring and evaluating;
- Mobilize resources for the WBRN;
- Reinforcing links with Biodiversity and Sustainable Development related agreements and Scientific bodies such as IPCC, IPBES;

MAB Council

- Monitor the overall excellence process and agree on indicators to measure progress in the implementation;
- Organize support for biosphere reserve and countries if difficulties persist.

Proposed decision to the MAB Council

Based on the lessons learnt from the exit strategy and results achieved, and following its decision taken at its 30th session in 2017

The MAB Council decides that:

The process of excellence will be introduced from 1 January 2020, and the process will follow the recommendations and roles in support outlined above;

To help the financial cost of implementing the Process of excellence, Member States are **invited** to contribute to the MAB Fund to support some of the activities mentioned above, in order to make the WBRN available as a powerful tool to enhance the credibility and quality of its sites, and demonstrate cooperation and solidarity in action; and

Request UNESCO to consider becoming, if possible, an Implementing Organisation or Accredited Entity to the Green Climate Fund.

Annexes

Annex 1 TOR's ad hoc working group (MAB Council report 2018)

The Council decided to establish an ad-hoc group working on the “Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network” in order to take advantage of the opportunities of the process beyond 2020.

1. The Working group has following mandate:

- To further develop the “Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network” and its implementation;
- To prepare input for discussion and to allow a decision on the Excellence Process and its implementation to be taken by the 32nd Session of the MAB-ICC in 2020.

2. The Council requested the working group to take into consideration the decision taken at the 29th MAB Council session on the “Exit strategy” (see below Annex 2) and the lessons and results learnt from this strategy as well as the Periodic Review Process in general.

3. It furthermore requested the WG to present its findings and recommendations for discussion and consideration to the next 31st Session of the MAB Council as to provide further guidance to the process.

4. The Council also requested the Secretariat to call on the Member States to nominate the representatives to the ad-hoc working group by early September.

5. The Members shall be as follows:

- 2 ICC-members by UNESCO Regional Group
- The Chairperson of the ICC
- The Chairperson of IACBR

6. The Secretariat indicated that after the approval of the periodic review and follow up recommendations by the MAB Council, 64 sites in 31 countries were still concerned by the excellence process. Delegates expressed their satisfaction on the progress made so far and the need to pursue the efforts in the implementation of the excellence process.

Members of the 2019 Excellence ad hoc working group

Group 1 : Europe and North America

- 1 – France : Mr Didier Babin
- 2 – Sweden : Ms Johanna Mac Taggart

Group 2 : Europe

- 1- Russian Federation : Mr Valery Neronov
- 2- Slovakia: Mrs. Zuzana Guziova

Group 3 : Asia and Pacific

- Australia: M. Peter.Bridgewater
- Republic of Korea : Ms. Shim, Suk-kyung

Group 4 : Arab States

- Oman : Dr. Thuraya Said AISareeri
- Sudan : Dr. Suad Ali Mirghani

Group 5: Africa

- Madagascar : Dr BAOHANTA Rondro
- South Africa: Dr. Vongani Maringa

Group 6: Latin America and the Caribbean

- Haiti : M. Dieufort DESLORGES
- Mexico : Mrs. Maria Pia Gallina Tessaro

- President of the MAB Council : Prof Enny Sudarmonowati, Indonesia
- Chair of the Advisory Committee: Petr Cupa, elected on 25th February 2019
- MAB Secretariat : Meriem Bouamrane

Annex 2. Extract on the decision on the “Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network’ (2017 MAB Council report)

The MAB Council decides to complete the “Exit Strategy” in 2020 and to institute a ‘Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network’, to ensure that they serve as models for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The MAB Council decides the following with regard to the sites concerned by the “Exit Strategy”:

1. **For sites which have provided information and meet the criteria**, the MAB Council warmly congratulates the Member States concerned and expresses its thanks to all stakeholders who have engaged in this important process.

2. Furthermore, the MAB Council encourages the MAB Secretariat, the National Commissions for UNESCO, the National MAB Committees and the concerned biosphere reserves to convey positive messages that inform about and celebrate this success.

3. The Council further acknowledges that certain Member States have decided to withdraw sites under their jurisdiction from the World Network and congratulates them on showing their commitment in this way.

4. **For BR in conflict zones**, the MAB Council decides that these sites remain in the WNBR as long as these conflicts continue. These sites should not be obliged to send a report. The Secretariat and the WNBR will support the BR concerned to the extent possible. When the conflict ceases, the BR should be supported by the National Committee and the Secretariat, the Regional networks and the WNBR including an evaluation of the conditions to advise the BR and the national Committee on how the BR can fulfil its obligations under the Statutory framework.

5. **For transboundary BR**, the MAB Council adopts the following process:

- a. The Member States must submit the national periodic report by 30 September 2017;
- b. This information will be evaluated by the IACBR and then the MAB Council in 2018;
- c. Member States will have the option to provide complementary information after evaluation by the IACBR;
- d. The MAB Council will determine in 2018 whether the site meets the criteria;

- e. The MAB Secretariat and the World Network will support the transboundary biosphere reserves in their specific challenges.

6. For BR which have provided comprehensive information, which has been evaluated by the IACBR and the MAB Council, but the site does not meet the criteria, the Council adopts the following process:

- a. The Member States must submit additional information/answers to the MAB Secretariat by 30 September 2017 or 2018;
- b. This information will be evaluated by the IACBR and then the MAB Council in 2018 and/or 2019;
- c. Member States will have the option to provide complementary information after the evaluation by the IACBR;
- d. The MAB Council will determine in 2018 and 2019 whether the site meets the criteria;
- e. In the case the Biosphere reserve meets the criteria, the Council will formally recognise this;
- f. Member States will have the option to submit a new nomination by 30 September 2018 or 2019;
- g. Member States will have the option to request an extension in area, by 30 September 2018 or 2019, as appropriate;
- h. The decision, that the site does not meet the criteria and will therefore no longer be referred to as a biosphere reserve which is part of the Network, will be effective as of the closure of the MAB Council session in 2020.

7. For BR which have provided a Periodic review report or other appropriate information that has not yet been evaluated by the IACBR and the MAB Council, the Council adopts the following process:

- a. The Periodic review report/information received will be evaluated by the IACBR and then the MAB ICC in 2018;
- b. Member States will have the option to provide complementary information either before 30 September 2017 or after the evaluation by the IACBR;
- c. The MAB Council will determine in 2018 whether the site meets the criteria;
- d. In the case the biosphere reserve meets the criteria the Council will formally recognise this;



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- e. The decision that the site does not meet the criteria and therefore will no longer be referred to as a biosphere reserve which is part of the Network will be effective as of the closure of the MAB Council session in 2020;
- f. In case that the BR does not meet the criteria, its further consideration will be as described in paragraph 6.

8. **For BR which have not provided any Periodic review report which allows evaluation as to whether the BR meets criteria, the MAB Council decides** that the site will no longer be referred to as a biosphere reserve which is part of the Network at the closure of the MAB Council session in 2020, and adopts the following process: the Member State may submit:

- a. a periodic review report by 30 September 2017 which will allow the site to follow the process described in paragraph 7; or
- b. a formal working commitment with an explanation of issues and needs and a detailed workplan and timeline, submitted by 30 September 2017, in order to submit the Periodic Review report at the latest by 30 September 2018 or 2019; or
- c. a new nomination form in conformity with the Statutory Framework of the WNBR at its earliest convenience and before 30 September 2019, to be evaluated in 2020 by the IACBR and then the MAB Council.

9. In cases biosphere reserves cannot meet the criteria, the MAB Council encourages the Member State concerned to withdraw the site under the provisions of paragraph 8 article 9 of the Statutory Framework.

10. With regard to all of these decisions of the Council, the MAB Secretariat will communicate the decision to the appropriate levels of the Member State concerned, with copy to the Permanent Delegation and National UNESCO Commission, within four weeks of the Council decision, specifying the requirements for each concerned Biosphere Reserve. Recipients will be asked to confirm the receipt of the communication.

11. The MAB Council asks the MAB Secretariat to be precise in all communications, when transmitting recommendations, decisions, etc.

12. Furthermore, the MAB Council encourages all Member States, the National MAB Committees and biosphere reserves as well as the Regional Networks to share their experience with periodic review reporting within the WNBR and offer, as appropriate, support to BR in order to meet the criteria.

13. Support to the sites that are not meeting the criteria or have difficulties in reporting the results of their periodic review process are suggested below:



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- a. Organizing specific technical workshops targeting the difficulties such as zonation and governance. Host countries should cover the costs of such workshops. Such workshops could also be systematically be organized and facilitated at the regional networks meetings (such as the EuroMAB Network with a support desk workshop being organized for new biosphere reserve proposals and periodic review reports);
- b. Encouraging eligible UNESCO National Commissions and MAB National Committees to apply for financial support through the UNESCO Participation Programme;
- c. Requesting existing UNESCO Chairs and Centers (such as ERAIFT, the MAB Chair in France, UNESCO Centre in Spain) to provide courses and training facilities to requesting sites and countries;
- d. Mobilizing the existing expertise and human resources for technical and support missions, including inviting experts of the International Advisory Committee (active and from previous mandate), other biosphere reserves staff, the UNESCO Secretariat and UNESCO Field Offices; whenever possible the costs of travel and lodging should be supported by the host countries, with support from UNESCO, and no fees should be provided as per common practice in the MAB Programme;
- e. Using the operational guidelines (in process) to share typical issues faced by biosphere reserves and solutions, using the diversity of the WNBR;
- f. Using peer periodic review support. A biosphere reserve that meets the criteria can support and guide a site that is having difficulties to undertake the periodic review report and meeting the criteria. This peer process should be done on a voluntary basis.
- g. Member States could be invited to contribute to donate on the MAB Fund to support some of the activities mentioned above, in order for the World Network to be used as a powerful tool for enhancing the credibility and quality of its sites and for demonstrating cooperation and solidarity in action.

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

Thirty-first session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room II (Fontenoy Building)

17 – 21 June 2019

ITEM 8 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Periodic Review Reports and Follow-Up Information Received since the last MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC) Meeting

1. Since the last MAB Council in July 2018, the Secretariat received 25 reports and 32 follow-up information from 25 countries, including 34 reports and follow-up from 11 countries as implementation of the Excellence Process.
2. The Secretariat also received a letter from the Greenland Biosphere Reserve from Denmark, concerned by the Excellence process, for voluntarily withdrawal.
3. During its meeting held from 25 to 28 February 2019 in Paris, the Members of the Advisory Committee reviewed these periodic review reports and follow-up to the previous MAB Council recommendations. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on each of these sites are included in the Annexes I and II of this document. These recommendations have been transmitted to the concerned Member States for follow-up and any additional information provided by 15 May 2019 will be examined by the MAB Council and its Bureau at its thirty-first session.
4. The MAB ICC Bureau at its meeting last June 2017 adopted the Excellence Process. The Advisory Committee indicated clearly in the recommendations the deadline for submission of additional information to align with this strategy with specific timeline for sites concerned, and to inform the countries accordingly.
5. The Secretariat will prepare a colour table, which will summarize the results of these recommendations, so the Council can take its decision (green colour for sites that meet the criteria; red colour for sites that do not meet the criteria; pink colour for sites that are recommended for withdrawal; blue colour for sites for which more information is requested).
6. The MAB Council is invited to consider and endorse the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee, including the suggested changes to be proposed by the MAB Bureau during its meeting during the 31st Council session.



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Annex 1. EXAMINATION OF PERIODIC REVIEW REPORTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Country	Name of the site	Comments
ARGENTINA	Pereyra Iraola	
AUSTRALIA	Noosa	
BRAZIL	Espinhaço Range	
	Mata Atlantica	
CAMEROON	Bénoué	Excellence process
	Dja	Excellence process
	Waza	Excellence process
CANADA	Mont Saint Hilaire	
CHINA	Dingushan	Excellence process
	Qomolangma	
	Xingkai Lake	
GUATEMALA	Maya	Excellence process
GUINEA	Badiar	Excellence process
	Haut Niger	Excellence process
	Monts Nimba	Excellence process
	Ziama	Excellence process
KYRGYZSTAN	Issyk-Kul	Excellence process Official letter confirming that PR to be submitted by 30-09-2019 as per decisions of 29th MAB-ICC
MEXICO	Huatulco	
	Laguna Madre y Delta del Rio Bravo	
	Los Tuxtlas	
	Sierra de Alamos – Rio Cuchujaqui	
MONGOLIA	Mongol Daguur	
NICARAGUA	Bosawas	Excellence process
	Rio San Juan	Excellence process
SOUTH AFRICA	Kogelberg	Letter received asking for delay

1. **Pereyra Iraola Biosphere Reserve (Argentina).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the first Periodic Review of the Pereyra Iraola Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2007. The reserve is located between the municipalities of La Plata and Berazategui on the banks of the Río de la Plata in the northeastern part of Buenos Aires Province in Argentina. It is the last protected area of the original riverside ecosystem and home to the greatest biological diversity in the province.

2. There have been no changes to the size of the area (10,248 ha) or the population (2,620 inhabitants) since the designation of the biosphere reserve.



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3. A Management Plan for the Punta Lara Natural Reserve for the period 2018-28 has been submitted. The Punta Lara Natural Reserve forms the core area of the biosphere reserve. However, a Management Plan for the entire biosphere reserve has not been supplied.

4. Over the last 10 years, the governance of the territory changed. A management agreement was signed between the new provincial authority of the territory (OPDS) and the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs that formalized an administrative management framework. The agreement established guidelines setting out which sectors were to be administered by the state agencies. The biosphere reserve does not have a Management Committee or a Management Plan.

5. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide** whether the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

6. The Advisory Committee therefore requests that the authorities submit by 30 September 2019:

- a new zonation that protects better the core area, including a proper buffer zone;
- an overall Management Plan for the entire biosphere reserve;
- information on how the participation of stakeholders will be secured in the biosphere reserve;
- confirmation of the creation of a stakeholder-based Management Committee for the site.

7. **Noosa Biosphere Reserve (Australia).** The Advisory Committee commended the Australian authorities on the submission of the first Periodic Review of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve (NBR), which was designated in 2007. The biosphere reserve is located in South East Queensland, Australia and encompasses the entire Shire of Noosa.

8. The site has 55% vegetation cover with many beaches, coastal headlands and hinterland areas. It is one of several biodiversity 'hotspots' on the east coast of Australia, where tropical and temperate land zones overlap. It has diverse ecosystem types. The local indigenous people have a close relationship with the land and waterways within the NBR.

9. The total area of the biosphere reserve increased from 93,446 ha (terrestrial 87,593 ha, marine 5,853 ha) to 110,728 ha (terrestrial 86,978 ha, marine 23,750 ha) as a result of the extension of marine areas up to 5.5 km from the coast. The core area increased from 24,870 ha to 42,282 ha as a result of the growth of a land protected area which now accounts for 36.5% of the land of Noosa Shire, while the terrestrial buffer zone and transition area were reduced accordingly.

10. The total population has increased slightly to 54,033 people by a rate of about 1% per year, while the general regional product increased by about 1% per annum due to increased revenues from both the tourism and non-tourism sectors. Noosa is a popular holiday destination for both domestic and international visitors.

11. A NBR Management Plan (2009-2012) was developed by various representatives of the community sector boards; the plan is currently under review.
12. Vegetation cover reduced slightly over the last 10 years and some native species such as koala declined, especially in urban areas. Pest species, especially feral animals, have affected wildlife. Key threats to the Noosa Biosphere Reserve were identified as climate change, weeds and pest species, vegetation clearing, habitat fragmentation and degradation processes.
13. Recent, major funded research areas include the restoration of fish, the restoration of koala populations and habitats, the development of local food and the management of tourism.
14. The NBR authorities actively monitor the health of various ecosystems and the richness of biodiversity within the reserve. In addition, monitoring is currently carried out on various variables of abiotic environmental factors and socio-economic factors.
15. The Advisory Committee noted that one of the objectives of the NBR is Zero Emission Noosa, and encouraged the authorities to continue their efforts to reach this goal.
16. Since plants and animals move across administrative boundaries, the Committee recommended communication and cooperation with neighbouring shires of Noosa. With regard to the conservation of migrating birds, the Committee encouraged the NBR to look for opportunities for cooperation with key stopover sites in Asia.
17. The Advisory Committee commended efforts to deal with feral animals that present major threats to biodiversity conservation and encouraged the authorities to share their research results and experiences with other biosphere reserves suffering from the same problems.
18. The Committee noted with satisfaction the successful Registration of Kabi Kabi First Nation as Native Title Claimants (traditional owners) of the entire biosphere reserve area.
19. The Advisory Committee commended the national and Noosa BR authorities for their efforts in the preparation of this high-quality Periodic Review report. The Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the statutory framework of the WNBR.
20. **Espinhaço Range Biosphere Reserve (Brazil).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the second Periodic Review of the Espinhaço Range Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2005.
21. The document in question does not follow the structure of a Periodic Review and was submitted in Portuguese. A huge increase in zonation is proposed that would expand the total surface area from about 3 million ha to 10 million ha.
22. The last Periodic Review submitted in 2016 met the criteria. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that the authorities submit a request for an extension of the biosphere reserve using an official document format (Periodic Review or Nomination file) found on the MAB website in one of the three official UNESCO MAB languages, and explain the feasibility

of the extension and cooperation with neighbouring biosphere reserves in relation to the planned extension.

23. **Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve (Brazil).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the second Periodic Review of the Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1993. The biosphere reserve is the largest in the world, and covers significant areas of the Atlantic Forest which stretches across 13 states, the State of Minas Gerais and 12 coastal states (from Ceará to Rio Grande do Sul).

24. The document in question does not follow the structure of a Periodic Review and was submitted in Portuguese. A new zonation is mentioned, as part of 'Fase 7', which would lead to an increase of 10 million ha resulting in a total area of 89 million ha.

25. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide** whether the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

26. The Advisory Committee therefore requests that the authorities submit a request for an extension of the biosphere reserve using an official document format (Periodic Review or Nomination file) found on the MAB website in one of the three official UNESCO MAB languages.

27. **General recommendations to the Cameroon national authorities:**

28. On 6 February 2018, the authorities of Cameroon indicated to the MAB Secretariat, that they were continuously implementing the measures to address the recommendations of the 29th session of the MAB ICC on the Periodic Reviews regarding Cameroon's three biosphere reserves (Dja, Bénoué and Waza), which all fall under the "Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR".

29. The Advisory Committee noted that the MAB Secretariat has not received follow-up reports for all three sites. It has therefore requested the national authorities to provide a follow-up for each site by 30 September 2019. The Advisory Committee expressed its concern regarding the lack of communication on the part of Dja Biosphere Reserve.

30. **Bénoué Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon).** Since 2016, the authorities have been involved in a process to revise the Management Plan for the protected area, with the support of the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ). As a result of this process, a new zonation of the Bénoué National Park, which is compatible with the three functions of a biosphere reserve, should arrive in a timely manner.

31. Within the framework of the Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR, the MAB Secretariat offers to the national authorities its' technical assistance to elaborate produce the requested documents that are requested.

32. **Dja Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon).** As part of the ongoing review, the authorities have promised to correct inconsistencies in the Management Plan, identified during the 29th session of the ICC, concerning the description of the zoning. The new nomination form to be



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sent by the authorities as soon as possible will include all annexes as well as the zonation, in accordance with the requirements of a biosphere reserve.

33. Within the framework of the Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR, the MAB Secretariat offers to the national authorities its' technical assistance to elaborate produce the requested documents that are requested.

34. **Waza Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon).** As a follow up the 28th MAB ICC recommendations, the authorities informed that the core areas of the Waza Biosphere Reserve fall exclusively under the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), while the buffer zone is under participatory management following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the local stakeholders and the MINFOF. The zoning, consistent with biosphere reserves scheme and socio-economic data, will be updated after completion of the project 'Securing Local Livelihoods for the Sustainable Development of Waza National Park and its Peripheral Zone' which is implemented by MINFOF and IUCN. The authorities underline that the site is under threats of terrorists groups.

35. Within the framework of the Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR, the MAB Secretariat offers to the national authorities its' technical assistance to elaborate produce the requested documents that are requested.

36. **Mont Saint-Hilaire (Canada), extension.** The Advisory Committee welcomed the third Periodic Review (the first and second were in 1997 and 2008, respectively) of Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1978. Mont Saint-Hilaire was the first Canadian biosphere reserve.

37. Over the last 40 years, more than 400 scientific articles have been produced about the biosphere reserve, with McGill University the main scientific partner in this regard. In addition, new technologies (digital tablets and other innovative geomatic tools such as ArcGIS Online) have been introduced to provide tools adapted to the visitors and partners of various projects.

38. The Advisory Committee noted that the priority objective was to increase the protected areas of the site. The total area has increased fivefold from 56.5 km² (~30,000 inhabitants) to 293.7 km² (~44,000 inhabitants). The extension was initiated in 2010 and thereafter a new zonation was proposed to increase the conservation and protection functions in relation to the transition area. The core area increased from 500 ha (2007) to 1,053 ha (2010) and finally to 1,396 ha (2017). The buffer zone increased from 600 ha (2007) to 3,181 ha (2010) and finally to 4,530 ha (2017) ha – a sevenfold increase.

39. In a context of rising population, increasing urbanization and urban sprawl, these conservation gains were made possible thanks to the collaboration and sensitization of the elected officials, owners and other actors in the territory.

40. The Advisory Committee acknowledged the commitment of the Reserve Management Team with regard to long-term assignments. Over the last 10 years, low turnover has enabled the development of varied expertise and the ability to share this with the biosphere reserve's partners. The Advisory Committee also acknowledged the attachment of stakeholders

(citizens, businesses or organizations) to the territory, with 2,400 volunteer hours logged per year – a clear sign of support and citizen involvement in the area.

41. The Advisory Committee took note of the five steps carried out during the Periodic Review process:

- Collection, processing and analysis of data relating to the updating of the components of the site (mapping and zoning, ecosystem services, conservation programmes, economic activities, resources and logistical support activities, etc.)
- Strategic analysis and review of the biosphere reserve interventions
- Formal renewal of support for designation
- Site visit and meeting of partners by the external review committee
- Deliberations of the Canadian MAB National Committee, recommendations and production of the final report.

42. The Advisory Committee also took note of the four recommendations for the future that were formulated, including one scenario where the site would enlarge not only to the East, but also to the North, connecting with the territory of the Lake Saint-Pierre Biosphere Reserve.

43. The Advisory Committee welcomed this comprehensive, well-prepared and detailed Periodic Review report, recommended to approve the extension of the biosphere reserve and concluded that the site **meets** the criteria. The Advisory Committee expressed its congratulations to the management team on the expansion of the site and its close cooperation with the stakeholders. The Committee also expressed its appreciation for information received about prospective work for the future of the site, including two scenarios for future expansion.

44. **Dinghushan Biosphere Reserve (China).** This site falls under the ‘Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR’.

45. The Advisory Committee commended the Chinese authorities for the submission of the revised second Periodic Review report, together with a new zonation map, produced in response to recommendations from the review of the second Periodic Review report, which was evaluated at the 30th ICC in 2018.

46. The previous extent of the biosphere reserve matched the territory of the Dinghushan Nature Reserve, covering a total area of 1,133 ha. After the revised zonation, the total area was increased by about five times to 5,123 ha, following consideration of the ecological, environmental and socio-economic situation and consultation with stakeholders including the Zhaoqing Municipal People’s Government, the Zhaoqing Forestry Bureau and Jilongding Nature Reserve, and the three surrounding local communities.

47. Under the new zonation, the core area remains unchanged, but the new buffer zone includes the original buffer zone and most of the areas of the Jilongding Nature Reserve. The new transition area includes the original transition area, the transition area of the Jilongding



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Nature Reserve and the three local communities. Under the proposed expanded biosphere reserve, the total population will increase from 100 to 12,044.

48. This biosphere reserve has been very active in conservation, research, and education and training. The Advisory Committee believes that this expansion of the biosphere reserve will encourage diverse activities for sustainable development including ecotourism.

49. The Advisory Committee commended the efforts of Chinese authorities in revising the Periodic Review report and establishing the new zonation and associated management structures. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Chinese authorities avoid mass tourism and develop a good model of ecotourism which can be beneficial to biodiversity conservation and the local economy. It also recommended more active involvement on the part of local people and other stakeholders in activities and the decision-making process.

50. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommended the Chinese authorities to establish a new comprehensive management plan covering the new areas based on the submitted Zonation, Management Coordination Mechanism and Development Plan of this extended biosphere reserve. It also encouraged them to monitor various ecological and socio-economic variables in order to prepare the next Periodic Review report in 10 years.

51. The Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the extension of the biosphere reserve and concluded that the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the WNBR. The Advisory Committee requested an updated management plan by 30 September 2019.

52. **Qomolangma Biosphere Reserve (China).** The Advisory Committee commended the Chinese authorities on the submission of the first Periodic Review for the Qomolangma Biosphere Reserve. It noted that the Periodic Review should have been conducted in 2014, but acknowledged that the process was unavoidably delayed due to the earthquake in Nepal, which caused a great number of deaths, toppled many houses and damaged roads in the biosphere reserve.

53. The Qomolangma Biosphere Reserve covers a large area more than 7,400 metres above sea level. It has a distinct vertical distribution of ecosystems ranging from lower altitudes to higher alpine altitudes. Local residents traditionally engaged mainly in agriculture and husbandry, manufacturing and production (silverware, forest products, etc.), with only a handful of local residents involved in tourism. Following its accession to the WNBR, a number of other industries have developed in the biosphere reserve, with local residents practising more diverse livelihoods. Tourism, border trade, business, ethnic arts and crafts, and labour have become the main sources of income. This change has alleviated resource depletion and promoted the conservation of wildlife and forests.

54. The People's Government of Shigatse City administers the site and nominates the administrative officers of the Qomolangma Biosphere Reserve Management Bureau. The operation of the reserve falls under the supervision of the competent forestry agencies of the Central Government, the government of the autonomous region and the People's Government of Shigatse City.



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55. There are 4 counties, 31 towns and 292 administrative villages in the reserve. The total population was 88,938 in 2000 and 97,705 in 2016.

56. The core areas cover a land area of 1,032,500 hectares and the buffer zones cover 625,300 hectares. These areas are key biodiversity conservation areas. Direct development activities are prohibited in these areas, with the exception of research and monitoring. The transition area covers a land area of 1,724,100 ha and is the site of experiments and learning activities carried out by people using natural resources in a sustainable manner. In this zone, the local communities and other stakeholders agree to work together to manage and use the area in sustainable ways that will benefit those who live there.

57. The Advisory Committee noted that Qomolangma Biosphere Reserve Management Bureau has established close relations with local communities and has invited local residents to participate in the management of the reserve. Furthermore, it noted the submission of management plan for the biosphere reserve.

58. The Committee encouraged the Chinese authorities to use cultural diversity and traditional knowledge for the conservation of biodiversity. It further encouraged them to exert greater effort to monitor biodiversity and research the impacts of climate change in this regard. The Advisory Committee also encouraged the Chinese authorities to utilize ecotourism to improve the livelihoods of local people.

59. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of statutory framework of WNBR.

60. **Xingkai Lake Biosphere Reserve (China).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of the first Periodic Review for Xingkai Lake Biosphere Reserve.

61. The site is situated in the Xingkai Lake Basin. The west side of the site borders Mt. Laoye in the Changbai Mountain Range and the east side borders the Sikhote-Alin Range in the Russian Federation.

62. The Xingkai Lake Wetland was added to the List of Important International Wetlands in 2002 and designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2007.

63. The total area of the reserve is 298,985 ha with a core area of 57,454 ha, a buffer zone of 7,923 ha and a transition area of 233,808 ha.

64. The Xingkai Lake Community-based Co-management Committee was established with a view to ensuring the inclusion of neighbouring communities in the development, planning and management of the reserve.

65. Local communities within the reserve work mainly on Xingkaihu Farm, Xingkaihu Aquaculture Company and Baipaozi Township. "Xingkaihu" brand rice has been labelled as one of China's organic products. The farm's annual production of aquatic products reaches 200 tonnes, and its paper mill exports six products to 21 countries and regions including Canada and Japan.



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66. There are 691 plant species in the biosphere reserve. The site is also home to wild animals including 414 species of vertebrates, among which are 40 species of mammals, 289 species of birds, 8 species of reptiles, 7 species of amphibians, 2 species of cyclostomata and 68 species of fish.

67. The Joint Protection Committee of Xingkai Lake Reserve, a co-management organization, was set up to incorporate the development of surrounding communities into the development plan of the reserve.

68. The Advisory Committee commended the efforts of Chinese authorities on the conservation of wetlands and the restoration of degraded areas. It recommended the creation of specific policies on tourism management and the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan

69. However, the Advisory Committee recognized that the buffer zones are relatively small (about 3% of the total area), and are mostly composed of a thin linear strip. It also noticed that the buffer zone and the transition area are not easily discerned. In addition, it found a discrepancy in data in the core areas.

70. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

71. By 15 May 2019, the Committee requests the Chinese authorities to:

- justify how sufficient buffering functions are fulfilled in all core areas, and if they are not, consider rezonation to increase buffer zones
- submit a revised zonation map that shows a clear distinction between the buffer zone and the transition area
- correct a discrepancy in the data on the core area.

72. The Committee encouraged the authorities to cooperate more closely with the neighbouring Khankaiskiy Biosphere Reserve of the Russian Federation, which shares the same lake, and to examine the possibility of establishing a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

73. **Maya Biosphere Reserve (Guatemala).** The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

74. The Advisory Committee welcomed the second Periodic Review of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1990. The Maya Biosphere Reserve is located in the Petén region of northern Guatemala and, together with the Maya Forest of Belize and Mexico, represents one of the largest areas of tropical forest north of the Amazon and the northernmost tropical forest in the Western Hemisphere.

75. The submitted zonation map is not clear and has not employed the official terminology specified by the Statutory Framework. The total surface area covers 2,090,000 ha, and approximately 175,000 inhabitants live in the biosphere reserve of which 15% reside in the

core area. In the description of activities that have taken place over the last 20 years, the authorities state that without the designation, a large amount of protected area would probably have been lost quickly. A Management Plan was submitted and a Management Committee has been established.

76. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

77. The Advisory Committee therefore requests a new zonation map with the proper MAB terminology, according to the zonation defined in the Statutory Framework of the WNBR, by 15 May 2019, in order to adhere to the excellence process timeframe.

78. **General comments for Guinea:** The Advisory Committee commended the Guinean authorities for completing the periodic review process and sending the reports of their biosphere reserves, as well as their efforts to comply with the requirements of the Process of Excellence and Enhancement within time.

79. **Badiar Biosphere Reserve (Guinea).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of the second Periodic Review for the Badiar Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2002. The reserve is located in the northern part of Guinea along the boundary with Senegal and consists of forests. It has a current core area of 101,064 ha, a buffer zone of 89,058.5 ha and a transition area of 314,877.5 ha. The area is inhabited by nearly 130,205 people and is home to many species of birds and mammals including chimpanzee.

80. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the updated zonation map and documents with annexes, as well as for the participatory approach used to produce the Periodic Review.

81. The Advisory Committee noted the investment in improving pools infrastructure and tourist observation points, which promote scientific and historical achievements as well as development actions for local communities.

82. The Advisory Committee noted that two of the three core areas in the northern part of the biosphere reserve, which are both national parks, are not delineated by a buffer zone to effectively ensure their long-term conservation.

83. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR) and requested the authorities to provide, by 30 September 2019, a new zonation map and a rationale as to why there is no formal buffer zone around two of the core areas and indicate what buffering functions are in place, or provide a new zonation map.

84. **Haut Niger Biosphere Reserve (Guinea).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of this second Periodic Review for the Haut Niger biosphere reserve, designated in 2002. The reserve consists of forests. It has a current core area of 55,400 ha, a buffer zone

of 364,100 ha and a transition area of 227,500 ha. The area is inhabited by nearly 338,805 people and is home to many species of birds, mammal species and plants.

85. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the zonation map and documents with annexes. It also appreciated the participatory process used to produce the Periodic Review.

86. The Advisory Committee recognized the transfer of a large number of agents to the central area, to undertake conservation and development actions for local communities, as evidence of strong political will.

87. The Advisory Committee noted that the zonation map does not indicate a transition area, but does include a core area, referred to as the 'noyau central', and a 'forêt classée' and two buffer zones.

88. The Advisory Committee concluded that it **does not have enough information to assess whether the site meets or does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR) and requested the authorities to submit, by 15 May 2019, an improved zonation map of the biosphere reserve using the official terminology according to the criteria of the Statutory Framework.

89. Within the framework of the Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR, the MAB Secretariat offers the national authorities its technical assistance to produce the requested documents.

90. **Mont Nimba Biosphere Reserve (Guinea).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of this third Periodic Review for the Mont Nimba Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1980. The reserve is located in the northern part of Guinea along the boundary with Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. The site consists mostly of forests. It has a current core area of 12,540 ha, a buffer zone of 35,140 ha and a transition area of 88,280 ha. The area is inhabited by about 65,024 people and hosts many endemic species notably the viviparous toad, mammals and plants.

91. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for the updated zonation map and documents with annexes, as well as the participatory process used to produce the Periodic Review.

92. The Advisory Committee observed the use of regulations to ensure the protection of core areas, the limitations imposed on the mining company's license to exclude it from operating in the core area of Déré, and the involvement of two CEGENS-Centres de Gestion de l'Environnement and one scientific research station devoted to development actions.

93. The Advisory Committee also noted the possibility of establishing a transboundary biosphere reserve with Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and the opportunity to strengthen education, communication and awareness raising to promote the participation and ownership of local communities in the biosphere reserve.



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94. The Advisory Committee noted that the three core areas are not indicated with the same colour in the legend of the zonation map.

95. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and encourages the authorities to improve the zonation map by using the same colour for the three core areas. It also encourages cooperation with neighbouring countries with a view to eventually creating a transboundary biosphere reserve.

96. **Ziama Biosphere Reserve (Guinea).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of this third Periodic Review for the Ziama Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1980. The reserve consists exclusively of forests. It has a current core area of 41,169 ha, a buffer zone of 74,220 ha and a transition area of 120,500 ha. The area is inhabited by about 90,000 people and is home to many endemic species, notably migratory elephants.

97. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities on the new zonation which addresses the recommendations of the 29th session of the MAB ICC (i.e. the extension of the biosphere reserve to include the villages in the transition area through a participatory process).

98. The Advisory Committee observed the enforcement of regulations to ensure the protection of core areas, and the establishment of contracts for the transfer of exploitable bottomlands in the transition area.

99. The Advisory Committee also noted that the core area in the south-east of the site does not have a sufficient large buffer zone to ensure its long-term protection.

100. The Advisory Committee concluded that it **does not have enough information to assess whether the site meets or does not meet** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). It therefore requested the authorities to discuss with stakeholders the possibility of establishing a buffer zone to protect all flanks of the core area of the southeastern portion of the site. The Advisory Committee requested the authorities to submit an application for an extension of the site as soon as possible to extend the size of the transition area.

101. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to submit the requested information by 15 May 2019.

102. Within the framework of the Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR, the MAB Secretariat offers to the national authorities its' technical assistance to elaborate produce the requested documents that are requested.

103. **Issyk Kul Biosphere Reserve (Kyrgyzstan).** The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

104. The Advisory Committee acknowledged the official letter of Kyrgyzstan and thanked the national authorities for providing a detailed work plan and timeline in order to submit the

Periodic Review by 30 September 2019, in compliance with MAB ICC 2017 decisions on the Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR.

105. General recommendation for the Mexican authorities:

106. The Advisory Committee welcomed the four Periodic Reviews submitted by the Mexican authorities and recognized the effort made by the country.

107. All biosphere reserves have a Management Plan and a Management Committee, but the Advisory Committee noted that the Management Plan does not include the transition area. The Advisory Committee recommends that the authorities establish a Management Plan with stakeholder involvement for the biosphere reserve that includes a transition area.

108. Huatulco Biosphere Reserve (Mexico). The Advisory Committee welcomed the first Periodic Review of the Huatulco Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2006. The biosphere reserve is located in the physiographic province of the Sierra Madre del Sur, which is characterized by bays, cliffs and rocky escarpments.

109. Approximately 45,000 people currently live in the biosphere reserve. Conventional tourism along the coastline and bays near tourist areas (Chahue Bay, Santa Cruz, Organ-Maguey, Cacaluta and San Agustín) presents a threat to fishermen, while divers and marine tourists provoke damage with boat anchors, solid waste and overfishing, upsetting the balance of marine communities and endangering the reproductive capacity of marine wildlife. One of the most important changes in recent years was the inclusion of the municipality of Santa María Huatulco in 2015 within the 'Programa de Ordenamiento Ecológico Territorial'.

110. There is no separate biosphere reserve Management Plan, as the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) governs all reserves. The Commission established the National Programme of Protected Natural Areas 2014-2018 (PNANP) with a clear mission and vision, as well as objectives and goals to be achieved in matters of conservation relating to ecosystems in Mexico identified through the creation and management of Natural Protected Areas. Through its 2040 Strategy, CONANP is developing a long-term strategy that will function as the framework for institutional planning, guiding actions over the short and medium term, with a view to strengthening and consolidating the institution and its important mission for the benefit of Mexico. It should be noted, however, that there have been a number of institutional changes in directors and managers at national, regional and local levels over the last 10 years.

111. The Advisory Committee considers that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, it recommends that the authorities establish a Management Plan for the biosphere reserve that includes the transition area.

112. Laguna Madre y Delta del Rio Bravo Biosphere Reserve (Mexico). The Advisory Committee welcomed the first Periodic Review of the Laguna Madre y Delta del Rio Bravo Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2006. Laguna Madre is located in a coastal plain of the Gulf



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of Mexico. The reserve is one of two large hyper-saline coastal wetlands in North America (the other is located in Texas in the United States) and one of seven in the whole world.

113. The last 10 years have seen zonation changes to the reserve in line with the management programme, published in 2015. These changes decreased the core area from 317,290 ha to 61,001 ha, and increased both the buffer zone from 255,518 ha to 511,807 ha and the transition area from 234,160 ha to 1,059,129 ha. The total surface area has thus increased from 806,968 ha to 1,631,937 ha. These zonation changes better protect the core areas and their mangroves forests. Mangrove restoration programmes have also been established in the area. Under the original zonation, the total population amounted to about 500,000 inhabitants. As a result of zonation changes, which excluded urban areas no longer part of the biosphere reserve, the total number of inhabitants has decreased to 17,000.

114. The development of the Management Programme of the Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Laguna Madre y Delta del Río Bravo took into account the points of view of academia, productive groups (livestock, agricultural, fishing and tourism), government and civil society. The management programme does not include the transition area, however.

115. The National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) established the National Programme of Protected Natural Areas 2014-2018 (PNANP) with a clear mission and vision, as well as objectives and goals to be achieved in matters of conservation relating to ecosystems in Mexico identified through the creation and management of Natural Protected Areas. Through its 2040 Strategy, CONANP is developing a long-term strategy that will function as the framework for institutional planning, guiding actions over the short and medium term, with a view to strengthening and consolidating the institution and its important mission for the benefit of Mexico.

116. The Advisory Committee considers that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, it recommends that the authorities establish a Management Plan for the biosphere reserve that includes the transition area.

117. **Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve (Mexico).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the first Periodic Review of the Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2006. The reserve is an area of high geological and ecological complexity and human activity. It presents a high diversity of environments that correspond to nine types of vegetation. Los Tuxtlas represents the northernmost limit of the rainforest on the American continent and its different types of forests and rainforests, from the seacoast to the summit of the volcanoes, make it a unique case in Mexico and North America.

118. The surface of the biosphere reserve has not changed (334,000 ha), while the population increased from around 278,000 to 307,000 inhabitants, mainly in the transition area.

119. There has been an expansion of community services oriented towards rural ecotourism, which has generated greater appreciation for the environmental services offered by the biosphere reserve. In addition, a greater number of civil society organizations have emerged with the objective of protecting the environment.



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120. The biosphere reserve is administered by the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) and has an Advisory Council that promotes the participation and integration of civil society in the tasks of conservation and the development of protected natural areas. In December 2014, the composition of the Advisory Council altered due to several causes, including changes of representatives in the local, municipal and state governments, as well as in research institutions, and diverse non-governmental organizations that work with communities in the area. The biosphere reserve has a management programme that was approved in 2009 which does not include the transition area.

121. CONANP established the National Programme of Protected Natural Areas 2014-2018 (PNANP) with a clear mission and vision, as well as objectives and goals to be achieved in matters of conservation relating to ecosystems in Mexico identified through the creation and management of Natural Protected Areas. Through its 2040 Strategy, CONANP is developing a long-term strategy that will function as the framework for institutional planning, guiding actions over the short and medium term, with a view to strengthening and consolidating the institution and its important mission for the benefit of Mexico.

122. The Advisory Committee considers that the site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, it recommends that the authorities establish a Management Plan for the biosphere reserve that includes the transition area.

123. **Sierra de Alamos – Rio Cuchujaqui Biosphere Reserve (Mexico).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the first Periodic Review of the Sierra de Alamos – Rio Cuchujaqui Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2007. The protected area of Sierra de Álamos – Río Cuchujaqui falls within the geographical provinces of the Western Sierra Madre and the Northwest Coastal Plain, which consists of an elevation gradient of vegetation, ranging from tropical deciduous forest to the Sierra Madre evergreen forest.

124. The area defined in 2006 responded to the will and commitment of local owners. However, following the publication of the Management Programme in 2015, a new zonation was established, in order to clearly define which activities were and were not allowed in the area. This decreased the core area from 20,169 ha to 9,956 ha and increased both the buffer zone from 72,720 ha to 82,933 ha and the transition area from 42,982 ha to 97,697 ha. The total surface area thus increased from of 135,872 ha to 190,587 ha. The population also increased from 9,120 inhabitants to around 10,500.

125. The biosphere reserve has had a management programme since 2015, which functions as the planning instrument guiding the conservation and management of natural resources, through strategies and actions based on knowledge of local problems in the area. The management programme does not include the transition area, however.

126. The National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP) has established the National Programme of Protected Natural Areas 2014-2018 (PNANP) with a clear mission and vision, as well as objectives and goals to be achieved in matters of conservation relating to ecosystems in Mexico identified through the creation and management of Natural Protected



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Areas. Through its 2040 Strategy, CONANP is developing a long-term strategy that will function as the framework for institutional planning, guiding actions over the short and medium term, with a view to strengthening and consolidating the institution and its important mission for the benefit of Mexico.

127. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee therefore requests the authorities to submit a rationale for the extension and zonation change and recommends that they establish a Management Plan with stakeholder involvement for the biosphere reserve that includes the transition area.

128. **Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of the first Periodic Review for the Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve.

129. The steppe and wetland territory of the Mongol Daguur comprises mainly low mountainous landscapes supporting a variety of species of fauna and flora. The area is rich in biodiversity, and the site provides nesting and breeding grounds for globally endangered species. Situated in the eastern tip of Mongolia where it borders China and the Russian Federation, the biosphere reserve functions as a transboundary ecosystem. This enables Mongolia to act as a buffer against desertification in China.

130. The Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve was designated in 2007. In 2017, the Landscape of Dauria, which includes the Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve, was inscribed as a transboundary World Heritage property shared between Mongolia and the Russian Federation, as an outstanding example of the Daurian Steppe eco-region extending from eastern Mongolia into Russian Siberia and northeastern China.

131. The total area of the biosphere reserve is 103,016 ha and includes a core area of 15,600 ha, a buffer zone of 51,600 ha and a transition area of 35,800 ha. Over the last 10 years the population has increased from 200 (transition area) to 1,957 (400 in buffer zone and 1,557 in the transition area). The Advisory Committee has invited the authorities to offer an explanation for this growth in population.

132. One of the immediate threats to the transition zone of the Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve is illegal hunting. The majority of illegal hunting in the biosphere reserve targets gazelles and marmots. Illegal hunting also causes desertification and loss of important wildlife habitats and is totally unsustainable over the long term in the transition areas.

133. Climate change poses a huge challenge to the reserve, causing the permafrost to dry and parts of the wetland to die. Research is being conducted on this subject with a view to slowing down this process and restoring the environment.

134. The Advisory Committee noted that, since 1994, the three countries have been cooperating under the framework of the China-Mongolia-Russian International Protected Area Agreement (DIPA). The Committee encouraged the Mongolian authorities to establish a transboundary biosphere reserve with the Daurian Biosphere Reserve in the Russian



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Federation, and possibly with the Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve of China, although the latter is not contiguous with the Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve.

135. The Committee further encouraged the authorities to study and find solutions to human-wild animal conflicts including illegal hunting in all three zones.

136. The Advisory Committee also invited the authorities to increase international cooperation on research and ecotourism, and to seek funding opportunities for ecotourism from other countries. Funds generated from ecotourism can be used for the protection of wild animals.

137. Although there has been interest locally in forms of income generation such as vegetable gardening or intensive farming, the Advisory Committee would not recommend intensive farming in the area as it will accelerate desertification.

138. The Committee noted that the World Heritage Property Area of Mongol Daguur covers 580,080 ha, while the total area of the Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve covers only 103,016 ha. The Committee therefore invited the national authorities to provide a map with the juxtaposed boundaries of the Mongol Daguur SPA, the Mongol Daguur Biosphere Reserve and the world heritage site of the Landscapes of Dauria, and explain the rationale underlying the spatial differences between the SPA, the biosphere reserve and the World Heritage site by 15 May 2019.

139. The Committee also encouraged the Mongolian authorities to continue enhancing stakeholder participation processes related to management of the biosphere reserve, and to consider an expansion of the biosphere reserve zones, especially the core areas based on the zonation of the World Heritage site.

140. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

141. **Bosawas Biosphere Reserve (Nicaragua)**. The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

142. The Advisory Committee welcomed the first Periodic Review of the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1997. Bosawas is located in the north of the country next to the border with Honduras. The reserve constitutes the so-called 'Heart of the Mesoamerican Biocorridor' together with the three neighbouring protected areas of Honduras 'Río Patuca' National Park, 'Tawhaka' Anthropological Reserve and 'Río Plátano' Biosphere Reserve.

143. The Periodic Review document reports for the period 2004-14, and not until 2018.

144. In the nomination file, it was indicated that the size of the core area was 329,800 ha, the buffer zone was 523,700 ha and the transition area was 1,328,000 ha. However, during the periodic review process, adjustments were made based on geographical information systems with greater precision.



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145. Based on the current calculations, the extension of the Biosphere Reserve is 1,994,187.31 ha, of which 806,595.16 ha correspond to the core area, 850,063.22 ha to the buffer zone and 337,528.94 ha to the transition area.

146. In total, more than 450,000 inhabitants live in the biosphere reserve out of which 50,000 inhabit the core area. These are indigenous communities (miskitos and mayangnas) living from several sustainable small-scale activities such as fishing and agriculture.

147. The biosphere reserve has submitted a management plan for the biosphere reserve. A management structure is also in place, led by the Ministry of Environment of Nicaragua, which coordinates actions with governmental and non-governmental institutions, research institutions, local organizations and the private sector.

148. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee therefore requests the authorities to provide a rationale on the buffering functions of the core areas by 15 May 2019, in order to adhere to the excellence process timeframe.

149. **Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve (Nicaragua).** The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

150. The Advisory Committee welcomed the first Periodic Review of the Rio San Juan Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2003. The biosphere reserve encompasses a significant variety of ecosystems representative of tropical humid forests and wetlands, tidal marsh, coastal lagoons and estuaries, which are important shelters for rare or threatened animals and plant genetic resources of the meso-American tropics.

151. The Periodic Review document reports for the period 2004-14, and not until 2018.

152. The total surface area of the biosphere reserve covers 1,834,107 ha, and a proper transition area of 514,641 ha has been added to the zonation map. Approximately 255,000 inhabitants live in the reserve of which a small majority live in the buffer zone, while a small indigenous community of 300 people inhabits the core area. There is currently no Management Plan for the biosphere reserve, and in its absence the authorities adhere to relevant national policies. A management structure for the biosphere reserve is in place, led by the Ministry of Environment of Nicaragua, which coordinates actions with governmental and non-governmental institutions, research institutions, local organizations and the private sector.

153. The Advisory Committee considers that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. However, the Advisory Committee requests the authorities to send more information on the Management Plan and stakeholder involvement by 30 September 2019.

154. **Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa).** The Advisory Committee acknowledged the official request sent by the Chair of the MAB National Committee to extend the date of submission of the dossier for the second Periodic Review for the Kogelberg



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Biosphere Reserve, which is still underway, to 30 September 2019. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities for their efforts to meet Article 9 of the Statutory Framework for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

155. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to submit the dossier by 30 September 2019.

Annex II RECOMMENDATIONS OF PERIODIC REVIEWS ENDORSED BY THE MAB ICC

Country	Name of the site	Comments
ARGENTINA	Costero del Sur	Excellence process
	Laguna de Pozuelos	
	Yaboti	
BOLIVIA	Beni	
	Pilon-Lajas	Excellence process
	Ulla Ulla	Excellence process
CANADA	Frontenac Arch	
	Fundy	
CHILE	Lauca	Excellence process
	Torres del Paine	Excellence process
CROATIA	Velebit Mountains	Excellence process
CUBA	Peninsula de Guanahacabibes	
	Sierra del Rosario	
DENMARK	Northeast Greenland	Letter of withdrawal Excellence process
FRANCE	Cevennes	Excellence process
HONDURAS	Rio Platano	Excellence process
ITALY	Monte Peglia	
MEXICO	Islas de Golfo de California	Excellence process
MONTENEGRO	Tara River Basin	Excellence process
POLAND	Tatra	National Zonation map Excellence process
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Mountainous Urals	Designated 2015
SLOVAKIA	East Carpathians	National Zonation map Excellence process
	Tatra	National Zonation map Excellence process
SWITZERLAND	Val Müstair	Change of name
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Apalachicola (former Central Gulf Coastal Plain)	Excellence process
	Glacier Bay-Admiralty Island	Excellence process
	Organ Pipe	Excellence process



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	San Joaquin	Excellence Process
	Virginia Coast	Excellence process
	University of Michigan Biological Station	Excellence process
	Yellowstone	Excellence process

156. **Costero del Sur Biosphere Reserve (Argentina).** The site falls under the ‘Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR’.

157. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Argentinean authorities. The submitted zonation map is not clear and has not used the official required terminology specified under the Statutory Framework. Therefore, the Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It requests the authorities to send a clear zonation map using the official terminology in line with the Statutory Framework of the WNBR, including justifications and information on the populations living in the zones, by 15 May 2019, in order to adhere to the excellence process timeframe.

158. **Laguna de Pozuelos Biosphere Reserve (Argentina).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Argentinean authorities following the recommendations of the MAB Council in 2018. A management committee has been established in which each stakeholder will take an active part in the development of a Management Plan. Given the short period, the Management Plan has not yet been completed, but the authorities have submitted a schedule of activities and a work strategy for its elaboration. An updated map including the proper zonation was attached to the recommendation document.

159. The Advisory Committee considers that the site **meets** the criteria.

160. **Yaboti Biosphere Reserve (Argentina).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Argentinean authorities following the recommendations of the MAB Council in 2018. The requested information that was received is not satisfactory. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It therefore requests the authorities to provide a clear Management Plan for the biosphere reserve, as well as a zonation map, by 15 May 2019.

161. **Beni Biosphere Reserve (Bolivia).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Bolivian authorities. The national authorities have provided a revised zonation map with the proper terminology and the following explanation as to why the transition area does not surround the biosphere reserve: the whole biosphere reserve is surrounded by four External Buffer Zones (ZEA), which function as national conservation mechanisms for protected areas that ensure connectivity to maintain the flow of species in natural biological corridors.



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162. The biosphere has begun work on their new Management Plan which supplants the previous one from 2006. According to the submitted work schedule the new Management Plan will be finalized in 2019.

163. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee requests the authorities to submit an explanation confirming whether or not the current zonation structure fulfils the development functions by 30 September 2019.

164. **Pilon-Lajas Biosphere Reserve (Bolivia)**. The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

165. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Bolivian authorities. The national authorities have provided a revised zonation map with the proper terminology and the following explanation as to why the transition area does not surround the biosphere reserve: the western part of the biosphere reserve is surrounded by the Madidi National Park (protected area), the southern part is surrounded by 'tierras comunarias de Origen – TCO' (original community lands) and the eastern part is surrounded by an External Buffer Zone (ZEA). These functions as national conservation mechanisms for protected areas that ensure connectivity to maintain the flow of species in natural biological corridors.

166. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee therefore requests the authorities to submit an explanation confirming whether or not the current zonation structure fulfils the development functions by 15 May 2019, in order to adhere to the excellence process timeframe.

167. **Reserva de la Biosfera Area Natural de Manejo Integrado Nacional Apolobamba (former Ulla Ulla Biosphere Reserve) (Bolivia)**. The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

168. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Bolivian authorities. The national authorities have provided a revised zonation map with the proper terminology and the following explanation as to why the transition area does not surround the biosphere reserve: the eastern part is surrounded by the Madidi National Park (protected area), by mountain peak areas that cannot be accessed and by 'Territorios Indígena Originario Campesinos Titulados' (TIOC).

169. The national authorities have also sent updated numbers regarding the size of the human population.

170. Finally, an official request to change the name of the biosphere reserve has been made.

171. The Advisory Committee considers that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and recommends that the renaming

of the site to 'Reserva de la Biosfera Area Natural de Manejo Integrado Nacional Apolobamba' be approved.

172. **Cerrado Biosphere Reserve (Brazil).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the information sent by the Brazilian authorities. The Cerrado Biosphere Reserve sent a Periodic Review in 2016, later in 2017, which met the criteria, and a follow-up (that was not requested) in 2018.

173. The document sent by the national authorities does not follow the structure of a Periodic Review. It proposes a huge increase in zonation from 25 million ha to 76,240,779.83 ha (88,215,853 ha, different numbers are given), on the grounds that the authorities would like to preserve the Cerrado biome.

174. As the Cerrado Biosphere Reserve previously sent a Periodic Review in 2017 that met the criteria, the Advisory Committee recommends the authorities to submit a request for an extension of the biosphere reserve using the official documents and explaining the feasibility of the extension and cooperation with the neighbouring biosphere reserves in relation to the planned extension.

175. **Bistrishko Branishte (Bulgaria).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the follow-up information provided by the Bulgarian authorities. The representatives of the Bulgarian National MAB Committee informed the Advisory Committee of their work on the update of the Bistrishko Branishte Biosphere Reserve to meet the criteria. The Sofia Municipality declared their willingness to upgrade the site and to continue its participation in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Preparation of the nomination form for an extension was initiated with a consultation on the first draft with the main stakeholders at a meeting held on 18 September 2018. The final version was supposed to be submitted to the MAB Secretariat in mid-November 2018, however it has not yet been received by the Secretariat.

176. As the site is subject to the Excellence and Enhancement process of the WNBR, the Advisory Committee requested that **the nomination form be submitted no later than the final deadline of 30 September 2019.**

177. **Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (Canada).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the letter sent by the authorities on 27 September 2018, which accompanied the evaluations formulated by the Canadian MAB Committee. The Advisory Committee equally appreciated the interim report on the progress made by the authorities of the Frontenac Arch biosphere reserve towards the fulfilment of the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It noted that the final report would be submitted by 15 June 2019.

178. The Advisory Committee appreciated the meetings organized by the authorities with representatives of indigenous communities, as well as other stakeholders to ensure a sound financial basis as well as support for the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee also noted the improvements made in relation to fulfilling the logistical function of the biosphere reserve.



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179. The Advisory Committee noted that the zonation still **does not meet** the requirements of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Canadian MAB Committee has requested that the zonation be adapted to the requirements by 15 June 2019, after which time the committee will decide whether to withdraw the site from the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, or to request to maintain the area's status as a biosphere reserve.

180. The Advisory Committee therefore requests the authorities to submit the Engagement Plan and Process, the TORs for the Biosphere Advisory Council and an updated zonation map by 15 May 2019, for consideration by the MAB Council at its next session.

181. **Fundy Biosphere Reserve (Canada).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the letter sent by the authorities on 27 September 2018, which accompanied the evaluations formulated by the Canadian MAB Committee. The Advisory Committee equally appreciated the interim report on the progress made by the authorities of the Fundy Biosphere Reserve towards the fulfilment of the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It noted that the final report would be submitted by 15 June 2019.

182. The Advisory Committee appreciated the new strategic partnerships, which will help to diversify income-generating strategies – notably the foraged beer production. The Advisory Committee equally appreciated the inclusion of first nation members in the board of directors of the biosphere reserve, and encourages the management to further enhance inclusion of first nation people in the management and strategies of the biosphere reserve.

183. Additional information was provided on the activities and impacts of wind farms and mining in the biosphere reserve. While the wind farms are monitored and no negative impacts were noted, the Advisory Committee noted that impact studies of mining are still lacking, and urges authorities to address this omission.

184. The Advisory Committee appreciated the steps taken to improve the buffering of the core areas of the biosphere reserve, and recognized that many of the areas surrounding the core areas are subject to the Crown Lands and Forest Acts. The Advisory Committee urged the authorities to continue negotiations with license holders and private landowners to increase the de facto buffering functions of the areas surrounding the core areas. The Advisory Committee concluded that at the moment the site **does not meet** the requirements of the Statutory Framework. The Canadian MAB Committee has requested that land management in the areas surrounding the core area be adapted to the requirements by 15 June 2019, after which time the national committee will decide whether to withdraw the site from the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, or to request to maintain the area's status as a biosphere reserve.

185. The Advisory Committee requests the submission of an updated zonation map and information on the impact of mining operations by 15 May 2019, for consideration by the MAB Council at its next session.

186. **Lauca Biosphere Reserve (Chile).** The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.



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187. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Chilean authorities. A Management Plan has been submitted for the three national protected areas but not for the biosphere reserve, as this is still under preparation. Mentioned is made of a management committee, however, the information supplied does explain clearly how this committee functions.

188. The Advisory Committee concluded that it is **not able to decide whether the site meets the criteria** of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It therefore requests the authorities to submit a Management Plan for the biosphere reserve, as well as clear information on the functioning of the management committee by 15 May 2019, in order to adhere to the excellence process timeframe.

189. **Torres del Paine Biosphere Reserve (Chile).** The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

190. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Chilean authorities. A revised zonation has been received, however the requested explanation as to why no buffer zone exists in the northwestern part of the reserve is still missing. A management plan for the period 2018–2021 has been submitted and a management committee has been created.

191. The Advisory Committee requests the authorities to confirm that areas lacking formal buffer zones have buffering functions provided by the national park by 15 May 2019, in order to adhere to the excellence process timeframe. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria.

192. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Management Plan should refer to the Lima Action Plan and the new MAB strategy instead of the Madrid Action Plan.

193. **Velebit Mountain Biosphere Reserve (Croatia).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the letter sent by the authorities on 17 December 2018, and the additional explanation regarding the added transition area. The Advisory Committee appreciated the cooperation with the city of Zadar in terms of tourism, cultural heritage and education. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to seek cooperation with the other communities adjacent to Zadar and the other transition area, in order to connect the different transition areas. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria.

194. **Peninsula de Guanahacabibes Biosphere Reserve (Cuba).** This site has already met the criteria but extra information was requested.

195. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Cuban authorities. The requested Management Plan has been received. However, the requested revised zonation, including a continuous marine buffer zone, is still missing and should be sent by 30 September 2019.

196. **Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve (Cuba).** This site has already met the criteria but extra information was requested.



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197. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Cuban authorities. The requested Management Plan has been received.

198. **Northeast Greenland (Denmark).** The Advisory Committee took note of the letter of Greenland indicating their intention to withdraw, and regrets that the northeast Greenland Biosphere Reserve authorities decided to withdraw the site from the WNBR. The Advisory Committee expressed its thanks to the biosphere reserve staff for their contribution to the MAB Programme and its WNBR and encouraged the authorities to continue their participation in the MAB Programme, and to make every effort to nominate a site in the near future.

199. **Cevennes (France).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information sent on the zonation and the adherence of local communes/municipalities to the site. Regarding the zonation, the submitted map shows the extensions of the buffer and transition zones. The Advisory Committee also appreciated the progress made in terms of reaching agreements with the remaining communes, and noted that 84% of the communes in the area now have signed the biosphere reserve's charter. The remaining communes are involved in the biosphere reserve through separate contracts. The Advisory Committee appreciated that several fundraising and labelling initiatives have contributed to this increased support for the site. The Committee recognized the legal restrictions on including communes who have not signed the charter, but is satisfied with the additional contracts concluded with the remaining communes that ensure a de facto buffering of the core areas. The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue to seek cooperation with the remaining communes. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site meets the criteria, and reminded the authorities that the next Periodic Review report is due in 2028, when the charter expires.

200. **Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras).** The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

201. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Honduran authorities. The requested management plan was received in addition to the following explanation as to why a transition area is missing in the southern and eastern region of the biosphere reserve: in the south, the core area borders the Tawahka Asangni protected reserve; in the east, only a buffer zone exists as this region has remained free of high-impact human interventions. The area forms part of the ancestral habitat of the Miskitu indigenous peoples, and has a population density of 0.01 inhabitants/km².

202. The Advisory Committee considers that the site meets the criteria.

203. **Monte Peglia (Italy).** The Advisory Committee acknowledged with thanks the Management Plan for the Monte Peglia Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2018.

204. **Islas del Golfo de California Biosphere Reserve (Mexico).** The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

205. The Advisory Committee welcomed the information provided by the Mexican authorities. In October 2018, the MAB Secretariat received a letter from the authorities explaining that due to the large area of the biosphere reserve and the significant number of



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islands, they will need more time to revise the instruments and mechanisms, in order to produce an operational zoning proposal.

206. In December 2018, the Mexican authorities sent a new letter informing the Secretariat that, following several consultations, the Government of Mexico, through its National Commission for Protected Areas, has decided not to withdraw the biosphere reserve from the World Network, and instead plans to rethink the overall design with a view to elaborating a new vision that would allow the reserve to comply with the zonation and the legal and national political regulations.

207. The Advisory Committee recognizes the efforts of the Mexican authorities to implement a transition zone to meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

208. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **does not meet** the criteria. It therefore requests the authorities to send the new zonation with a transition zone and its management plan by 15 May 2019, in order to adhere to the excellence process timeframe.

209. **Tara River Basin Biosphere Reserve (Montenegro).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information provided by the authorities of Montenegro. The Committee acknowledged the creation of the biosphere reserve coordination body, which consists of various stakeholders including the representatives of local communities. The action plan for the biosphere reserve was also well received by the Committee. As regards the zonation, the Advisory Committee acknowledged the written explanation of the rationale based on the zonation of the national park.

210. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Advisory Committee also encouraged the authorities to strengthen stakeholder involvement in biosphere reserve management by including representatives of business into site management structures.

211. **Tatra Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Poland).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the reply by the Polish authorities, and expressed its encouragement for the creation of a new multi stakeholder-based coordination body for the biosphere reserve. It also welcomed the information related to the extension of the biosphere reserve outside the national park and planned changes in zonation, and considered it to be a very positive development. The Advisory Committee understands that all the actions described are difficult and will take time. The Committee supported the steps and actions taken so far and encourages the authorities to continue the process. The Advisory Committee acknowledged the plan for meetings with authorities that took place in January and February 2019 and subsequent public consultations, and requested an update on their outcomes by 30 September 2019.

212. The Advisory Committee also encouraged the Polish authorities to participate in the forthcoming EuroMAB regional network meeting and to seek technical support from the MAB Secretariat, as well as peer consultations within the WNBR with the representatives of sites that face similar problems.



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213. **Mountainous Ural (Russian Federation).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the letter sent by the authorities on 1 October 2018. In this letter, the authorities state that the parties involved in the management of the biosphere reserve have submitted proposals for the Management Plan detailing the development of the protected areas as well as the municipalities in the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee commended the progress made but urges the authorities to finalize the Management Plan and submit it by 15 May 2019, along with a clear description of a stakeholder-based management structure for the biosphere reserve.

214. **East Carpathians Biosphere Reserve (Slovakia).** The Advisory Committee thanked the authorities for sending the new zonation map indicating the buffer zones for this site, which **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

215. **Tatra Biosphere Reserve (Slovakia).** The Advisory Committee thanked the authorities for sending the new zonation map indicating the buffer zones for this site, which **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

216. **Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair (renaming of former Val Müstair – Parc Naziunal Biosphere Reserve) (Switzerland).** The Advisory Committee took note of the change of name of this site to reflect the inclusion of new communities and the ongoing extension process.

217. **Apalachicola (former Central Gulf Coastal Plain) (United States of America).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional documents related to the site zonation and encourages the US authorities to continue its cooperation with local stakeholders in order to ensure proper buffering functions to concerned core areas.

218. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

219. **Glacier Bay Admiralty Island Biosphere Reserve (United States of America).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this resubmission of the Periodic Review report for the Glacier Bay Admiralty Island Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1986, and located in southeastern Alaska. Its sparsely populated territory covers over 1.5 million ha of unique marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the Sitkan Biogeographic Province of North America. The site consists of two units: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and Admiralty Island National Monument. The Glacier Bay area is a typical example of ice-affected landscapes, while the forest of Admiralty Island is the greatest remaining block of productive old-growth temperate rainforest in the world.

220. The Advisory Committee noted that the biosphere reserve is managed by the National Park Service (Department of the Interior) and the United States Forest Service (Department of Agriculture), and that frequent consultations take place with various stakeholder groups (e.g. indigenous people). The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to consider the creation of a formal overall biosphere reserve advisory/coordination body, based on permanent stakeholder participation, which would operate continually rather than on a case-to-case basis. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.



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221. **Organ Pipe (United States of America).** The Advisory Committee acknowledged the information provided by the US authorities stating that the site has changed management body from the National Park Service to the International Sonoran Desert Alliance and requesting a deadline extension to update the Periodic Review report under the new management. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to finalize the report and to submit it by 30 September 2019 for consideration by the MAB Council.

222. **San Joaquin Biosphere Reserve (United States of America).** The Advisory Committee took note with regret of the decision of the San Joaquin Biosphere Reserve authorities to withdraw the site from the WNBR. The Advisory Committee expressed its thanks to the San Joaquin Biosphere Reserve staff for their contribution to the MAB network and encouraged the authorities to undertake all efforts to make the indicated necessary changes and re-nominate the site at some future date.

223. **Virginia Coast (United States of America).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the updated map indicating the buffer zones. The explanations previously provided demonstrated that through Protective land use agreements and conservation easements, these areas do function as buffer zones. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

224. **University of Michigan Biological Station (United States of America).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the information on the consultation processes initiated by authorities with neighbouring landowners, including first nation groups and local conservancies. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to continue the consultation processes aimed at reaching agreements about buffering functions of areas adjacent to the core area. The Advisory Committee noted the intention to change the name of the site, and recommended that the authorities announce it together with the Periodic review report, with an appropriate zonation, by 30 September 2019.

225. **Yellowstone (United States of America).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information on agreements of cooperation and the promotion material. The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

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

Thirty-first session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room II (Fontenoy Building)

17 – 21 June 2019

ITEM 9 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Proposals for New Biosphere Reserves and Extensions/ Modifications/ Renaming to Biosphere Reserves that are Part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

The Secretariat of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) does not represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement or other information or documentation provided by States to the Secretariat of UNESCO.

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1. Proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions to biosphere reserves that are already part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) were considered at the 25th meeting of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR), which met at UNESCO Headquarters from 25 to 28 February 2019.

2. The members of the Advisory Committee examined 20 proposals for new biosphere reserves and 11 requests for expansion/modification and/or renaming of already existing biosphere reserves and formulated their recommendations regarding specific sites in line with the recommendation categories as follows:

- 1) ***Proposals for new biosphere reserves or extensions/modifications/renaming to already existing biosphere reserves recommended for approval***: the proposed site is recommended for approval as a biosphere reserve; no additional information is needed. For already existing sites, the proposed changes are recommended for approval.
- 2) ***Proposals for new biosphere reserves or extensions/modifications/renaming to already existing biosphere reserves recommended for approval pending the submission of specific information***: the proposed site is recommended for approval as a biosphere reserve or the proposed changes for already existing sites are recommended for approval **subject to** receiving the specific information as requested by the Advisory Committee. If the MAB Secretariat receives the information by 15 May 2019, it will be considered by the MAB ICC at its 31st session to be held from 17 to 21 June 2019 and the

Council may approve the inclusion of the site in the WNBR. If submitted by 30 September 2019, the information will be assessed by the MAB ICC at its 32nd session in 2020.

3) Proposals for new biosphere reserves or extensions/modifications/renaming to existing biosphere reserves recommended for deferral: the proposed site is recommended for deferral or the proposed changes for existing biosphere reserves are recommended for deferral as they do not meet the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and/or major clarifications with regard to application of the Statutory Framework to the proposed area are requested by the Advisory Committee. The relevant national authorities are therefore invited to revise the nomination and/or provide the requested clarifications for submission to the MAB Secretariat at their earliest convenience.

3. The MAB Secretariat received two notifications for voluntary withdrawal: one from Denmark (Greenland Biosphere Reserve) and one from the United States of America (San Joaquin Biosphere Reserve).

4. The Bureau of the MAB ICC will consider the attached recommendations of the IACBR as well as the additional information received by the MAB Secretariat particularly with regard to nominations recommended for approval subject to receiving additional information. The Bureau will recommend for the consideration of the MAB ICC final decisions on all sites included in this document.

5. The MAB ICC is invited to decide on the new sites for inclusion in the WNBR and extensions/modifications and/or renaming of biosphere reserves already included in the WNBR that could be approved.

6. The MAB-ICC is invited to take note of the decision of one Denmark site (Greenland Biosphere Reserve) and one United States of America site (San Joaquin Biosphere Reserve) authorities for voluntarily withdrawal.

EXAMINATION OF NEW BIOSPHERE RESERVE NOMINATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR EXTENSION/ MODIFICATION/RENAMING TO DESIGNATED BIOSPHERE RESERVES THAT ARE PART OF WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

New nominations recommended for approval

7. **Unteres Murtal / Lower Mura Valley (Austria).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal from Austria, which follows the designations of a transboundary site in Hungary and Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia designations. The Austrian Lower Mura Valley represents the final contribution to achieving a commitment by these five countries to protect the multi-river system of Mura Drava Danube.

8. The proposed biosphere reserve covers 13,180 ha. The area is of natural-historical and cross-border importance due to its location along the border with Slovenia and its participation in the European Green Belt. Next to the Danube floodplains, the area is Austria's second largest alluvial forest on a large river. The river landscapes and the accompanying floodplain forests are not yet represented among the ecosystem types in Austria's biosphere reserves.

9. Existing in close connection with the surrounding agricultural landscape, the area is characterized by an extraordinarily high biodiversity, especially with regard to water-bound fauna and flora. The reserve is home to almost 50 fish species, 14 of which are of European importance, and a large number of amphibians and bird species, many of which are also of European importance and can often be found on the IUCN Red List. This places a great responsibility on the authorities for their conservation. The municipalities of the planned biosphere reserve – Murfeld, Mureck, Halbenrain and Bad Radkersburg – have a combined population of 10,099 (as of 2018, Statistics Austria). The majority of the inhabitants live in the larger settlement areas such as Mureck or Bad Radkersburg. The proposal demonstrates strong social capital, networks of regional actors and comprehensive cross-border development, and provides example of existing cooperation.
10. The Advisory Committee recommended that the proposed biosphere reserve **be approved**.
11. **Saleh-Moyo-Tambora “SAMOTA” (Indonesia)**. The proposed site belongs to the Lesser Sunda Islands. It is located between Rinjani-Lombok Biosphere Reserve (designated in 2018) to the west and Komodo Island Biosphere Reserve (designated in 1977) to the east.
12. The reserve covers 728,484.44 hectares (ha) and consists of a core area of 115,207.10 ha, a buffer zone of 138,731.86 ha and a transition area of 474,545.48 ha. The area encompasses five major ecosystems, namely small islands, a coastal area (mangrove forest and coastal forest), savanna, lowland forest and mountain forest.
13. The people living in the area of the proposed Saleh-Moyo-Tambora (Samota) Biosphere Reserve come from diverse ethnic groups. The total population living in the proposed Samota Biosphere Reserve amounts to 146,660 people.
14. The proposed site, in particular the core area, plays an important role in conserving the biodiversity of the Lesser Sunda Region in Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) Province. In the buffer zone and the transition area, the potential exists for the production of horticultural plants (vegetables and fruits), crops (rice, annual crops) and industrial crops (coffee, cacao), as well as animal husbandry (cows, goats, chickens and others). In terms of tourist activity, the area is renowned for the natural beauty of the Tambora Mountains, while the Sumba Island communities are the focus of cultural tourism.
15. The Advisory Committee noted little difference between the activities of people in the buffer zone and the transition area. The Committee therefore encouraged an emphasis on – or permission for – different activities in the buffer zone, as no inhabitants live in this zone. It also recommended educating people on the location of the borderline between the buffer zone and the transition area, and the difference in the roles of these zones.
16. The proposed site has established an integrated management plan (2009-2023). The planned biosphere reserve management is a multi-stakeholder body consisting of the national and provincial government, the local government, the private sector, local communities, research institutions, universities and NGOs. The Advisory Committee encouraged this body to invite local people to participate more in the management and decision-making processes of the biosphere reserve.
17. Key threats to the biosphere reserve include non-timber forest products (NTFP) extraction, poaching, fire, and conversion to plantations (oil palm, industrial plantations, etc.). The Committee recommended that policies be established to reduce these threats, in order to restore degraded ecosystems, and to provide measures to address management problems such as illegal harvesting and over-tourism.

18. The Advisory Committee commended the Indonesian authorities for their strong efforts to integrate conservation and sustainable development in this area, which has a high diversity of species, ecosystems and cultural aspects. It recommended that this site **be approved**.

19. **Togean Tojo Una-Una (Indonesia).** The proposed Togean Tojo Una-Una Biosphere Reserve is located on an archipelago consisting of 483 islands in Central Sulawesi, and forms part of the Indomalayan realm (Wallacea) as well as the heart of the Coral Triangle. The area contains a marine ecosystem, coral reefs, a coastal area, mangrove forests and small island ecosystems. The Togean Islands are an important part of the coral reef ecosystem of the Coral Triangle, which has the highest coral diversity in the world.

20. The main objective of the proposed Togean Tojo Una-Una Biosphere Reserve is to promote sustainable development in areas such as tourism and fisheries, to support the development of programmes designed to increase tourism facilities and infrastructure, to develop human resources and to support stakeholders in sustainable development.

21. The total area of the proposed site is 2,187,632 ha; it comprises a marine area of 1,622,076 ha marine area and a terrestrial area of 565,556 ha. The core area covers 368,464 ha (28,345 ha terrestrial and 340,119 ha marine), the buffer zone consists of 281,136 ha (52,809 ha terrestrial and 228,327 ha marine) and the transition area covers 1,538,032 ha (1,053,630 ha terrestrial and 484,402 ha marine). The overall population size is 149,214, with 38,404 people inhabiting the buffer zone and 110,810 in the transition area.

22. The core area of the site is composed of the Tanjung Api Natural Reserve (3,289.09 ha) and the Togean Islands National Park (365,241.08 ha), which was designated a National Marine Park in 2004. The buffer zone includes small islands, settlements and a marine area surrounding the mainland. The transition area directly borders the buffer zone and is considered a general utilization area, including for production activities.

23. Cultural diversity is very high across the proposed site. The Togean Island district is inhabited by a variety of local and ethnic immigrants, all of whom adhere to their own customs and culture.

24. The proposed Togean Tojo Una-Una Biosphere Reserve plays an important role in biodiversity conservation. The Togean Islands are home to 363 plant species, including 33 species of mangrove. They also contain several endemic animal species such as tarsiers (*Tarsius spectrum palengensis*) and Togean monkeys (*Macaca togeanus*). Other important mammal species found in the area include Togean babirusa, cuscus, dugong, whale and dolphin. Coral reef fish are very abundant, with 596 species inhabiting the Togean Islands National Park. The area is also an important spawning site for turtles, as well as a spawning aggregation site (SPAG) for fish.

25. A key problem in Togean Islands National Park is illegal fishing with bombs and poison around the coral reefs. Forest ecosystems are also degraded by human activities such as encroachment and illegal logging. The Advisory Committee has encouraged the active participation of local people in the management of the biosphere reserve, with a view to helping resolve conflicts and prevent illegal harvesting.

26. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the submission of an integrated management plan incorporating management policies and structures and detailed action plans.

27. The Advisory Committee further noted the high potential of ecotourism in this proposed biosphere reserve.

28. The Advisory Committee welcomed this submission and commended the Indonesian authorities for their coordinated conservation and sustainable development efforts in this site of high importance to biodiversity conservation. It recommended that Togean Tojo Una-Una **be approved** as a biosphere reserve.

29. **Po Grande (Italy).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal from Italy. It noted that two Italian biosphere reserves were recently established on the River Po: Po Delta (2015) and Collina Po (2016).

30. The Advisory Committee also noted that the document demonstrates how the 'Po Grande' region would greatly benefit from an institution that would tackle conservation, development and security issues related to water management in an integrative way.

31. It also made note of the choice of the name 'Po Grande', which emphasized the intention to connect this new project to the two existing ones.

32. The Advisory Committee observed that the Promoter Group of the proposed biosphere reserve dedicated to the middle section of the Po River is composed of the authority of the River Po Basin District, the environmental association Legambiente, the University of Parma and 63 municipalities close to the Grande Fiume. This group was formalized by an Agreement Protocol. It also noted that the University of Parma played a key role in the process of developing the first draft of the application with the presentation of two Masters' theses as a contribution to the collection and processing of information, data and proposals.

33. The Advisory Committee recommended that this proposal **be approved**.

34. **Kobushi (Japan).** The proposed site is a vast mountainous area that encompasses the majority of the Kanto Mountains. It centres on the main Okuchichibu ridge and stretches from Mt. Kumotori to Mt. Kobushigatake and Mt. Kimpu. The site serves as a watershed for a number of major rivers whose sources are located in the nominated area, including Ara River, Tama River, Fuefuki River (Fuji River) and Chikuma River (Shinano River). The main Okuchichibu ridge is a high mountain range with more than 20 peaks and an elevation of at least 2,000 metres, but no active volcanoes.

35. The total area of the proposed biosphere reserve amounts to 190,603 ha. The core area covers 13,364 ha, the buffer zone covers 70,858 ha and the transition area covers 106,381 ha.

36. The diversity of plant life is enhanced by the abundant variety of geological formations and rock types. The fauna inhabiting this diverse environment are just as abundant, with 126 species of butterfly recorded, accounting for just under 40% of Japan's approximately 320 species, 24 of which are endangered, making the nominated area a treasure trove of rare species.

37. Mountains along the ridges, including Mount Kimpu and Mount Mitsumine, have long been the object of worship. Accordingly, local *Shugendo* practitioners and shrines have prohibited the felling of trees to avoid altering this ancient environment.

38. The buffer zone in Nagano Prefecture is located in the headwater region of the Chikuma River. In the Meiji period, Japanese larch (*Larix kaempferi*) grown in this region was not only sold domestically but expanded its sales in the overseas market from Korea and Manchuria to Europe. In the nominated transition area in Yamanashi Prefecture, grapes, persimmons, peaches and other fruit have been cultivated since the Edo period. Fruits produced in Yamanashi became highly prized delicacies, referred to collectively as the "eight rare fruits of Kosshu". The region thus established itself as a major fruit production area in the country. The nominated transition area in

Nagano Prefecture is used for farming, and is famous for the production of highland vegetables such as lettuce and Chinese cabbage.

39. The proposed site has established well-functioning forms of cooperation and partnership with universities.

40. The total population is 213,321 (core area 14, buffer zone 1,371, transition area 211,936). The depopulation of towns and villages, and the aging of the general population are issues now common to all mountainous regions in Japan. It is therefore necessary to prevent the exodus of young people and encourage population inflows. At the same time, cultivating leaders in local industries such as agriculture and forestry is a matter of urgency. Each local government is implementing measures in this regard, but it is hoped that initiatives centred on the biosphere reserve will help to revitalize the area and serve as effective solutions to these issues.

41. The Management Plan, in addition to outlining the area's characteristics, sets out the basic policies for the conservation of biodiversity, academic research and sustainable use, as well as the biosphere reserve's activity plan and organizational structures for promoting initiatives, to ensure the principles of the MAB Programme are achieved.

42. The Advisory Committee commended the Japanese authorities for their efforts to conserve ecosystems as a water source and to use forest products and other natural resources sustainably. Furthermore, it commended their well-prepared nomination and the quality of the nomination document. The Committee recommended that Kobushi **be approved** as a biosphere reserve.

43. **Gangwon Eco-Peace (Republic of Korea).** The proposed biosphere reserve is a largely mountainous area situated at the watershed of the Taebaek Mountain Range. It is composed of five counties – Cheorwon, Hwacheon, Yanggu, Inje and Goseong –in northern Gangwon Province, and borders the southern limit of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to north and reaches the east coast of the Korean Peninsula to east. The DMZ is not included in the propose biosphere reserve.

44. The total area of the proposed site is 182,815 ha and comprises inland areas. The core area covers 50,671 ha, the buffer zone consists of 53,256 ha and the transition area covers 78,888 ha.

45. The core area of GWBR accommodates a wide range of rare and endangered flora and fauna. The buffer and transition areas inhabited by residents also serve as movement routes for rare and endangered animal species; they are thus consistent with a key value of the biosphere reserve programme – the co-existence of humanity and nature.

46. Among the five municipalities involved in the GWBR nomination bid, the municipal authorities, civic groups and nearby military units have signed Memoranda of Understanding to provide joint professional education on eliminating invasive species and monitoring local ecosystems on a continual basis.

47. As part of the development functions of the proposed biosphere reserve, there is an emphasis on utilizing the ecological, cultural and social resources of the proposed area to pursue projects. These include the development of a tourism model that integrates elements of eco-tourism and the exploration of relics of the Korean War in the area, the establishment of a GWBR eco-tourism belt and the development of specific GWBR brands.

48. The continued outreach efforts of residents, public servants and experts have somewhat alleviated the resentment toward regulations that had previously dominated local communities. These endeavours turned the residents' focus toward utilizing resources in the region to stimulate the local economy. Various tourism programmes are also being developed for the region.

49. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to establish an optimal tourist policy and ensure its successful implementation in order to stimulate the tourism industry and minimize the negative impact on the GWBR. Furthermore, the Committee recommended continuing eco-tourism and education programmes for the residents and promoting efforts to ensure effective management and minimize the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in key habitats for endangered animals. The Advisory Committee also encouraged the authorities to designate the southern DMZ as a protected area at the national or provincial level, since the conservation of DMZ will positively influence the biodiversity and natural habitats of the proposed biosphere reserve.

50. The Committee recommended that this site **be approved** as a biosphere reserve.

51. **Yeoncheon Imjin River (Republic of Korea).** The proposed Yeoncheon Imjin River Biosphere Reserve is located in the Chugaryeong Tectonic Valley. It incorporates the entire county of Yeoncheon and centres on the Imjin River basin.

52. The total area of the proposed site covers 58,412 ha, and has a core area of 6,369 ha, a buffer zone of 20,810 ha and a transition area of 31,233 ha.

53. The core area of the proposed site consists of forests and cultural heritage protection zones, with the Imjin River as its centrepiece. An area 100 m wide on both sides of the river was designated a buffer zone. The transition area comprises the area outside the core area and buffer zone, including residential areas and farmlands. Yeoncheon has limited residential areas compared to the total surface area, due to various legal regulations.

54. The major ecosystem in Yeoncheon County is forestland, which covers 60% of the entire county. Yeoncheon County is categorized by a temperate climate and its major vegetation is temperate deciduous broad-leaved forest. Many animals travel to and inhabit the area around the river, including water spiders, red-crowned cranes, eagles, otters and wildcats, since the area is rich in rapids, swamps and wetlands.

55. The Imjin River represents a particularly remarkable example of conservation. Its topographical advantage, coupled with the restrictions on civilian activities resulting from the heavy presence of military facilities in adjacent localities, has left the river mostly untouched by humans. Once home to paleolithic giants like two-horned rhinos, mammoths and hyenas, it is now inhabited by Korean endemic fish species, such as *Acheilognathus gracilis* and *Tanakia signifier*, and mammals, including water deer, otters and leopard cats. It serves as an ecological corridor that prevents the ecological isolation of the DMZ and bridges inland areas with the ocean.

56. For a long time, Yeoncheon County was regarded as a region lagging behind in local development which had faltered due to various legal regulations pertaining to cultural property protection areas and capital region regulations.

57. The Advisory Committee noted that the Biosphere Reserve Community Academy, a programme that educates local residents and discovers and supports social economy organizations, will be implemented as a follow-up project to the DMZ Community Academy. The latter operated for three years after 2012 and encouraged inhabitants to realize that they could conserve natural resources and create income through wise usage.

58. The Advisory Committee commended the authorities of the Republic of Korea for their very well-prepared nomination dossier and noted that the three functions of the biosphere reserve were well-described. It also noted the involvement of all stakeholders in management and encouraged

efforts to continue strengthening coordination between these different parties. The Committee also encouraged the authorities to control human impacts caused by high tourist numbers.

59. The Advisory Committee noted that some of the sections of the rivers are currently protected only by the River Act or the Protection of Military Bases Installations Act. It encourages the authorities to further designate those areas as legal nature protected areas with the purpose of conservation of biodiversity or ecosystems such as wetland protection area, ecosystem and landscape conservation area or natural monuments.

60. The Committee recommended that Yeoncheon Imjin River **be approved** as a biosphere reserve.

61. **Lake Elton (Russian Federation).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the detailed nomination for this area in the Russian Federation which borders Kazakhstan.

62. The proposed area covers 270,340 ha and contains a lake in an otherwise semi-arid and arid area. Due to a history of salt mining and intensive agricultural exploitation, issues arose concerning water availability and water pollution. The number of permanent residents in the proposed biosphere reserve amounts to almost 5,900 people who live in 14 rural settlements and herder posts. The seasonal population is almost double this number. The lake is of importance both to nomadic populations and their livestock herds, which constitute the only remaining agricultural activities, as well as to numerous mammals and birds – including cranes – some of which belong to the Red List of Threatened Species. The spa offers important opportunities for tourism, and the exploitation of therapeutic mud and brine generates income.

63. The objectives of the nomination are to improve water management in a context of climate change, and to develop ways to render agriculture and livestock-keeping more sustainable. Tourism development is another important focus and aims at addressing the dual problems of lack of skilled labourers and unemployment.

64. The Advisory Committee noted that local residents are represented on the Biosphere Reserve Coordination Council, which plays an important role in mitigating conflicts over, for instance, grazing rights in this (semi-)arid area. One of the aims of the nomination is also to revitalize local natural resource management traditions and to create awareness of local intangible and tangible heritage.

65. The Advisory Committee recommended that the site **be approved**. The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to monitor the exploitation of the therapeutic mud, to develop further the research capacity of the site, and to submit the final management and cooperation plan, which is currently being developed, by 30 September 2019.

66. **Alto Turia (Spain).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this new proposal submitted by the Spanish authorities and congratulates them on the well-prepared file. The proposed biosphere reserve is located in the middle course of the Turia River, which passes through the Valencian counties of El Rincón de Ademuz and La Serranía in the central-eastern part of the country. The Turia valley, which runs from northwest to southeast, is the main defining axis of the biosphere reserve. The predominant material in the river valley is limestone and the channel only tends to widen where other materials are present. This alternation creates favourable conditions for reservoirs (such as the Benagéber reservoir) and therefore for hydraulic regulation.

67. The entire proposed biosphere reserve covers an area of 155,717.49 ha and has a core area of 16,169.06 ha (24.10%), a buffer zone of 40,377.91 ha (60.19%) and a transition area of

10,533.52 ha (15.70%). Of the total surface area of the reserve, over 60,000 ha forms part of the Natura 2000 Network.

68. The area is situated within the Mediterranean biogeographic region and is characterized by very diverse soils and vegetation, as well as hot and dry summers, which subject the vegetation to significant levels of water stress.

69. Predominant arboreal species in the area include Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*), some holm oaks (*Quercus rotundifolia*) and gall oak (*Quercus faginea*), as well as Spanish juniper (*Juniperus thurifera*). The shrub layer consists of kermes oaks (*Quercus coccifera*), cade (*Juniperus oxycedrus*), common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), phoenicean juniper (*Juniperus phoenicea*), common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) among others.

70. The main fauna found in the area are steppe birds, the Granada hare (*Lepus granatensis*) and the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). The white-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) and the common midwife toad (*Alytes obstetricans*) can also be found along water courses.

71. Endemic fauna in the proposed reserve include the Catalan barbel (*Barbus haasi*) and the Valencia chub (*Squalius valentinus*).

72. The permanent population of the reserve amounts to almost 4,300 inhabitants and about 6,500 temporary residents. They inhabit the transition zone, which encompasses eight main municipalities and several isolated population centres.

73. Although agriculture shapes the landscape and rhythm of the community, it is not the main source of work. Currently, the secondary sector employs a high percentage of the active population, mainly in civil construction and small-scale industries located in the transition area of the biosphere reserve. The intention is to develop local trade, taking into consideration local products of recognized quality that can provide an example of sustainable development in the territory.

74. The proposed biosphere reserve has already established a governance structure with a management committee, an action plan and a committed budget.

75. The Advisory Committee recognizes the support that this proposal has from different institutions, as well as citizens documented by dozens of support letters.

76. The Advisory Committee welcomed this nomination proposal and recommended that the site **be approved**.

77. **La Siberia (Spain).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this new proposal submitted by the Spanish authorities and congratulates them on the well-prepared file. The proposed biosphere reserve area is located in the northeast of the province of Badajoz in the central-western part of Spain. To the north and northeast it borders the region of Villuercas-Jara-Ibores, which has been designated a Geopark.

78. A number of major freshwater reservoirs are found on the courses of the rivers Guadiana and Zújar, which traverse La Siberia. These play an important role for the wide variety of habitats in the reserve which are home to a highly diverse flora and fauna and include extensive plains and forest formations. The entire reserve covers an area of 155,717.49 ha and has a core area of 16,658.59 ha (10.70%), a buffer zone of 78,549.70 ha (50.44%) and a transition area of

60,509.2 ha (38.86%). The area includes the Embalse de Orellana Ramsar site. Of the total surface area of the reserve, 43.27% forms part of the Natura 2000 Network.

79. The vegetation is characterized by the predominance of *Quercus* formations including: Holm oak (*Quercus ilex* subsp. *ballota*), Cork oak (*Quercus suber* L.) and Portuguese oak (*Quercus faginea* L.). A number of organic products highly prized in national and international markets are obtained from these species including cork, charcoal, firewood and honey. They also support organic livestock. The peat bogs are home to rare species such as *Drosera rotundifolia* and *Pinguicula lusitanica*. Shrub vegetation is also present in this area including Kermes oak (*Quercus coccifera*) and strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*).

80. Although there is no local endemic vegetation, Iberian endemics such as *Cytisus striatus*, *Thymus mastichina* and *Narcissus jonquilla*, among others, are present in the reserve.

81. Despite the great diversity and rich fauna, five species are in danger of extinction, 19 are vulnerable and 158 are on the List of Wild Species under a Special Protection Regime.

82. Endangered mammals include the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) and horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Rhinolophus serotinum*). The reserve is also notable for the presence of merino black sheep, which are perfectly adapted to the territory and make use of resources in a sustainable manner.

83. A number of emblematic bird species are found in the area including the Iberian imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), the golden kite (*Milvus milvus*), the black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) and the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*). Noted reptile species include the ocellated lizard (*Lacerta lepida*), the Mediterranean pond turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*) and the Lataste's viper (*Vipera latasti*).

84. From the 1960s onwards, the area began to experience a demographic decline, which led to the loss of 57.12% of the human population. As of 2016, around 11,200 people inhabited the 11 localities that form the proposed biosphere reserve.

85. The proposed biosphere reserve, and the model of social and economic development that it entails, has a high potential to boost social and economic activity, and curb emigration among the young population.

86. The proposed biosphere reserve has already established a governance structure with a management board and an action plan.

87. The Advisory Committee recognizes the important support that this proposal has received from public institutions, productive and social groups, as well citizens documented by hundreds of support letters.

88. The Advisory Committee welcomed this nomination proposal and recommended that the site **be approved**.

89. **Valle del Cabriel (Spain).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this new proposal submitted by the Spanish authorities. The proposed biosphere reserve area is located in the Cabriel river basin in the autonomous communities of Castilla-La Mancha, Valencia and Aragón. The area is characterized by significant landscape diversity including mountainous areas, rock formations formed by the confinement of fluvial channels, agricultural zones of the alluvial plains, salt marshes and lagoons.

90. The entire reserve covers an area of 421,765.93 ha, with a core area of 61,251.58 ha (14.52%), a buffer zone of 90,488.99 ha (21.45%) and a transition area of 270,025.36 ha (64.02%). Of the total proposed area, 48.4% is covered by a protection regime designed to safeguard biodiversity (i.e. Protected Natural Area, Natura 2000 Network or Protected Habitat).

91. The area experiences climatic variability with rainfall varying from 400 mm to 1200 mm and average annual temperatures ranging between 7°C and 17°C. Lithological and pedological variability and altitudinal variance, which ranges from 340 metres above sea level to the south and more than 1,800 metres to the north, have led to a high diversity of ecosystems

92. The majority of the site enjoys a Mediterranean climate, although the northern mountainous area is located in a more temperate region.

93. Fluvial channels cross the proposed area and function as a network of connecting links not only for raw materials, but also for ideas and customs. They also act as an ecological corridor connecting the whole territory and enabling the distribution of vegetation and fauna.

94. The vegetation is characterized by Iberian gypsum vegetation (*Gypsophiletalia*), karstic calcareous grasslands or basophils of the *Alyso-Sedion albi*, Mediterranean pine forests of endemic black pines, endemic forests of *Juniperus* spp., pre-steppe areas of gramineous and annuals of *Thero-Brachypodietea*.

95. In relation to fauna, 249 species of vertebrates have been identified of which 154 correspond to groups of birds, 47 to mammals, 20 to reptiles, 19 to inland fish and 9 to amphibians.

96. The area is populated by 29,772 inhabitants (89 in the core area, 2,930 in the buffer zone and 28,753 in the transition area; however the number of inhabitants in all municipalities has reduced drastically since the 1950s. (Different population numbers have been supplied: 27,282 inhabitants; 27 in the core area, 515 in the buffer zone and 27,282 in the transition area).

97. The inhabitants of the Gabriel Valley have adapted to the conditions of the environment by employing unique, ancient sustainable practises based on agricultural activity, livestock and water use. These have enabled them to conserve their exceptional tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

98. This cultural heritage incorporates archaeological elements (more than 15 important sites) some of which have been designated World Heritage Sites (e.g. the Cave Paintings of Villar del Humo). It also encompasses 3 Historical-Artistic Complexes, 13 Cultural Heritage Sites, and a rich industrial and historical heritage.

99. The Advisory Committee requests that the population numbers be corrected as different numbers are provided.

100. The Advisory Committee recommends that the site **be approved**.

101. **Vindelälven-Juhtatdahka (Sweden)**. The Advisory Committee welcomed the well-prepared nomination for this arctic area (the Arctic Circle crosses the northernmost part of the proposed site). It recognized that the area has a rich culture with many cultural and customs. It is characterized above all by two cultures – the Sami and the Swedish. Spirituality in different forms has influenced culture as well as tradition. There are also strong customs related to spending in nature which have strong links to the identity of many people in the area.

102. Of the total area, 34% (1.3 million ha) consists of protected natural environment and includes 3 Ramsar sites, 1 national park and 90 nature reserves. The core area of the proposed biosphere reserve constitutes only 1.6% of the total area. The buffer area notably includes large parts of the Vindelfjällen nature reserve, the largest in northern Europe covering 550,000 ha. Activities in the transition area include forestry, reindeer herding and mining.

103. The Sami Parliament is officially responsible for ensuring that Sami interests are defended in spatial planning, while Samernas Riksförbund (SSR), the National Federation of Swedish Sami people, works more directly to support 'samebys' on planning issues. At the regional level, county administrative boards monitor reindeer husbandry as a public interest. In order to deal with climate change, the Sami Parliament has drawn up an action plan for Sami livelihoods and culture. Knowledge transmission can be used to safeguard Sami knowledge and the Sami view of the environment. Special disaster protection allocations have been proposed for crisis preparedness, as well as a climate fund and increased cooperation and research on reindeer diseases.

104. The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed biosphere reserve would contribute to an understanding of and a pride in the unique activity that is modern reindeer herding. Such a development would have a major positive effect on the everyday lives of reindeer herders, but must be allowed to take its time. Sami culture has its own perception of time and progress when it comes to trust and friendship.

105. The northern part of the proposed biosphere reserve is a mountainous area and includes the majority of the buffer area. The central part of the site is the forest area, while the southern part is the coastal area and the only one with a large proportion of young inhabitants. The marine area is rather small (7,700 ha) compared to the terrestrial area. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction that an interim board for the proposed biosphere reserve already exists and includes representatives of 17 identified 'interest areas'.

106. The Advisory Committee recommended this site **be approved**.

107. **Voxnadalen (Sweden)**. The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal by Sweden. The proposed site is located in central Sweden and encompasses the catchment of the River Voxnan. It involves two provinces: Hälsingland and Dalarna. Extensive boreal woodlands dominate the north-western and less populated parts, while open farmland is more common in the south-easterly more densely populated areas. The whole area is used for forestry, timber processing and farming. In addition, there are many companies and businesses involved in engineering and the development of modern technology. Parts of the area are also used for generating hydro energy.

108. Within the site, 274 nationally red-listed species and 16 internationally red-listed species have been observed. Several species including wolf (*Canis lupus*) and wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), as well as their habitats (e.g. aapa mires, bog woodland and siliceous grassland), have been prioritized. The site also hosts the Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland, which were designated a World Heritage Site in 2009.

109. Although no university is located directly on the site, intensive cooperation with the neighbouring universities of Gävle, Mid Sweden and Dalarna is underway.

110. The total area of the proposed biosphere reserve is 342,000 ha of which 22,000 ha consist of lakes and watercourses. There are 27 proposed core areas that coincide with existing protective structures (a national park, nature preserves, World Heritage Sites, etc.) established under Swedish environmental laws, covering approximately 2% of the total area. Another 32% of the area

has been designated as buffer zones. The transition area covers approximately 66% of the total area of the proposed site and hosts the population of about 13,300 inhabitants.

111. The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed area provides an opportunity to explore and demonstrate collaborative approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale. There are opportunities for model projects that test and demonstrate models for sustainable resource use in a range of contexts (e.g. new local forest products and continued development of a bio-based economy, log driving as a reinstatement of ecological values in watercourses and the maintenance of cultural heritage, new types of summer farming activities and local sustainable food production, etc.).

112. The Advisory Committee also noted that the overall coordination structure for the proposed site has been designed in an inclusive and participatory manner with the significant involvement of local communities, stakeholder groups and various work groups.

113. The Advisory Committee commended the Swedish authorities for the quality of the proposal and recommended that the site **be approved**.

114. The Advisory Committee also requests an update on plans related to the expansion of wind or hydro power plants.

115. **Isle of Wight (United Kingdom).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the well-prepared nomination for the Isle of Wight. The Isle of Wight is situated south of the United Kingdom, and separated from the mainland by the Solent. The total proposed biosphere surface is 914.96 km² and the island itself covers 380 km², with a coastline that runs for 92 km. It is England's largest island. The chalk spine crossing from east to west stretches out at the western tip in a series of three chalk stacks, known since medieval times as the Needles.

116. Almost 50% of the Island falls within the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Isle of Wight is the second most populated island in northern Europe with 140,000 inhabitants.

117. The Island has a strong tradition of environmental action. Projects and initiatives promoting environmental education and awareness, increasing community engagement, helping people achieve healthier lifestyles and diets, developing eco-tourism activities, piloting local branding schemes, working with universities and institutions to foster environmental innovation and attract new investment, and testing new measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

118. The Advisory Committee noted that the overarching Partnership formed of Local Authority Members, non-governmental organizations, agencies, businesses and the third sector reflect the depth and range of sectors involved with all three objectives of biosphere reserves. Moreover, the Partnership highlights the strong focus of these sectors to deliver conservation and sustainable development.

119. The Advisory Committee noted that some parts of marine core areas are adjacent to terrestrial transition areas.

120. The Advisory Committee recommended that the site **be approved**.

New nominations recommended for approval pending the submission of specific information

121. **Julian Alps (Italy).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal from Italy. The Julian Alps is a region from the Southern Limestone Alps where northeastern Italy joins Slovenia. The

Slovenian Julian Alps biosphere reserve, which includes Triglav National Park, was designated in 2003. The proposition from Italy has a transboundary dimension.

122. Two existing protected areas, the Julian Prealps Regional Nature Park and the Triglav National Park, have already been recognized as cross-border protected areas.

123. The Advisory Committee noted that the core area consists of existing protected areas (the Natural Reserve zones in the Julian Prealps Regional Nature Park and the Alba Valley Nature Reserve). The buffer zones comprise forest, meadows and pastures, and are used for agro-forest purposes. The transition areas include a diversity of settlement contexts ranging from urban centres (Venzone, Gemona) to urbanized foothill conurbations and inhabited basins. The proposed site delimitation connects with the existing Slovenian biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee regretted that the maps provided in the document do not include the zonation of the Slovenian side.

124. The Advisory Committee requested additional information on how the core areas from the Italian side are connected to the Slovenian ones and an explanation regarding the rationale for including the inhabited basins in the transition area. It also requested the authorities to address the technical questions raised by the Secretariat about the ongoing transboundary cooperation with Slovenia and the name of the proposed biosphere reserve.

125. The Advisory Committee requested the authorities to submit this additional information by 15 May 2019. The Advisory Committee considered that the site **be approved pending** receipt and approval of this additional information.

126. **Lubombo (the Kingdom of Eswatini).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the nomination of the first biosphere reserve for the Kingdom of Eswatini. The site is located in the Lubombo Mountain Range, which straddles Mozambique and South Africa, and forms part of the Maputoland-Phondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot.

127. The proposed biosphere reserve covers a total area of 291,702 ha, with a core area of 53,021 ha consisting of the Mlawula Nature Reserve, Hlane Royal National Park, Jilobi Forest, Shewula, Mambane Community Conservation areas and the Muti Muti Nature Reserve. The buffer zone covers an area of 53,510 ha and incorporates community conservation areas including Lunkhuntu, the Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Mhlumeni, Manzimnyama, Maphungwane, Tikhuba and Lukhetseni. The transition area covers 187,489 ha and is used mainly for economic enterprises, research, monitoring and demonstration projects. The main land uses in the area aside from conservation are crop agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, extraction and collection, nature protection, settlement and industry. The Advisory Committee noted the creation of a management structure to develop and implement the proposed management plan for the area.

128. The main ecosystems are forest, wetland and savanna. Floral species include the Lubombo Ironwoods (*Androstachys jonsonii*), Lubombo Cycads (*Encephalartos lebomboensis*), the recently discovered Barleria species (*Barleria lubombensis*) and the Jilobi forest. Faunal species include 88 species of mammals of which 20 are found only in the Lubombo region. Notable among these mammals are the White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*), Cape Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), Roan Antelope (*Hippotragus equines*), Tsessebe (*Damaliscus lunatus*) and the Suni (*Nesotragus moschatus zuluensis*) (Thomas 1898), as well as threatened species such as the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*).

129. The Advisory Committee noted threats to the savanna vegetation including fire, soil erosion and invasive alien species, and encouraged the authorities to continue monitoring land degradation and to integrate these issues into the management plan.

130. The Advisory Committee recommended that the site **be approved pending** the submission of the following information and original endorsements by 15 May 2019:

- a list of all relevant land use plans and applicable management/cooperation plans; (including any listed in the bibliography) and copies of these documents;
- a list of all legal instruments relating to the establishment, use and management of the area and copies of legal instruments;
- a new zonation map clearly indicating the three characteristic biosphere reserve zones without the other local types of protected areas;
- shape files covering the proposed biosphere reserve area.

131. **Nordhordland (Norway).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this first nomination from Norway, which is located in the west of the country. It noted that the nomination form has been prepared in close cooperation with Bergen University, which hosts a UNESCO chair, as well as with local government representatives and businesses.

132. The proposed biosphere reserve covers 669,800 ha, and includes both marine and terrestrial core areas and buffer zones. The landscape is a mosaic of coastal areas, fjords and mountains. The biosphere reserve contains nationally protected salmon fjords, while the coastal areas are home to herring populations, which are the subject of intensive study, as well as important bird species.

133. The permanent population of the biosphere reserve amounts to nearly 54,400 people, about 4,600 of which are immigrants from Europe, Africa and Asia. Livestock keeping – mainly sheep – and crop farming are still important activities in the area, but many farmers combine farming with work in the industrial and energy sectors, which are also well developed and provide significant employment. Fish farming is an equally important economic activity.

134. The objectives of the nomination include the conservation of several cultural landscapes – especially in the mountains – by promoting tourism and local products. Furthermore, the authorities aim to develop ways to render industries in the area more sustainable. Energy transition processes are underway, with oil exploitation becoming less important, and other (renewable) sources of energy generation being developed. The biosphere reserve is also an important site for experiments with innovative CO₂ capture and storage methods.

135. The Advisory Committee commended the Norwegian authorities for the high quality of the nomination. The Advisory Committee noted that some of the marine/lacustrine core areas are not entirely protected by buffer zones and converge in part with transition areas. It is possible that the geography of the area – which is mountainous – ensures de facto buffering, but the Advisory Committee would like to receive more information on this matter. The Advisory Committee recommended therefore that the nomination **be approved pending** more information on the zonation, notably the absence of buffer zones surrounding parts of the marine/lacustrine core areas, to be submitted by 15 May 2019. The Advisory Committee also requested more information on the impacts of offshore oil exploitation on the site. The Advisory Committee furthermore encouraged the authorities to take cultural diversity in the area into account in the community participation processes.

136. **Roztocze (Poland).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal from the Polish authorities. The proposed site is located in southeast Poland in the Roztocze region, next to the Polish-Ukrainian border, and adjacent to Roztochya Biosphere Reserve in Ukraine, designated in 2011. The site will form a counterpart to the Ukrainian site, thereby forming a Polish-Ukrainian transboundary biosphere reserve. This step is in accordance with political agreement between the representatives of the two countries.

137. This area is valuable for its natural values, culture and landscapes. The region is also an important ecological corridor. The site encompasses loess areas, a range of limestone hills covered with forests and ribbon fields, deep river valleys and deposits of mineral waters and fossil wood. The area is acknowledged by all forms of conservation status known to Polish legislation, including Roztocze National Park.

138. The total area of the proposed site exceeds 297,000 ha. The core area covers 9,146 ha, the buffer zones cover 80,392 ha and the transition area covers the remaining 207,473 ha. The core area consists mostly of natural forest. The population of the site is estimated to be about 160,000.

139. This area is becoming a tourist destination visited by approximately 600,000 tourists a year. Roztocze is a region with potential for dynamic development because of its scenic locations and great natural and cultural heritage. Within this area, the main economy sectors are forestry, tourism and agriculture.

140. The Advisory Committee welcomed the proposed site management structure which includes a Steering Committee consisting of stakeholders representing various interest groups. The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to work further with stakeholders to encourage their interest in creating a joint coordinating institution, rather than participating in ad hoc activities based on stakeholders' planned initiatives.

141. After examination of the proposal, the Advisory Committee recommended that the designation of the site **be approved pending** further clarification of the zonation, including an explanation of the lack of buffering around some sections of the core area in the central part of the site, to be submitted by 15 May 2019. The Advisory Committee also requested additional information on the impact of tourism and agricultural activities taking place in the buffer zones and their influence on the adjacent core areas.

Extension, re-zoning or renaming of existing biosphere reserves recommended for approval

142. **Archipiélago Juan Fernández Biosphere Reserve (former Parque Nacional Archipiélago de Juan Fernandez) (Chile), extension and renaming.** The Advisory Committee welcomed this request for the extension and renaming of the existing Parque Nacional Archipiélago de Juan Fernandez Biosphere Reserve submitted by the Chilean authorities.

143. The biosphere reserve is administratively part of the Valparaíso Region and is located 670 km from the coast of mainland Chile. The total surface area of the biosphere reserve covers 9,967 ha and is limited to a core area. The proposed extension would result in a total surface area of 1,219,558 ha (terrestrial 10,376 ha; marine 1,209,182 ha) incorporating a core area of 117,028 ha, a buffer zone of 59,879 ha and a transition area of 1,042,650 ha.

144. The authorities have also requested to change the current name of the reserve to 'Archipiélago Juan Fernández Biosphere Reserve', as the new extension and zonation incorporates the missing biosphere reserve's functions of development and logistical support.

145. The area functions as the habitat for one-third of Chile's endemic birds. It also boasts a high level of endemism in marine resources, at close to 25%.

146. The commune of Juan Fernández has an estimated population of 926 inhabitants (2018), all of whom live either in San Juan Bautista Village on Robinson Crusoe Island or Las Casas on Alejandro Selkirk Island.

147. The local authorities have established a management committee as well as a management plan, as requested by the MAB ICC in 2018. An action plan for the period 2019-2021 elaborates the challenges to endemic species the reserve will face, and also explains how tourism should be managed sustainably with respect to local biodiversity.

148. The Advisory Committee recommends that the requested renaming and extension of the biosphere reserve **be approved**.

149. **Laguna San Rafael y El Guayaneco Biosphere Reserve (former Laguna San Rafael) (Chile), extension and renaming.** The Advisory Committee welcomed this request for the extension and renaming of Laguna San Rafael Biosphere Reserve submitted by the Chilean authorities. Located in the Valdivian Forest/Chilean Nothofagus biogeographical region, Laguna San Rafael is an area of highly varied topography and great scenic beauty. The new proposed name for the biosphere reserve is 'Laguna San Rafael y El Guayaneco'. The extension includes the Continental Patagonian Range with rivers and lakes, the Insular Patagonian Range, the Central Plain and the Patagonian Glaciers. Since the existing reserve lacked a buffer zone and a transition area, the total area will increase from 1,742,000 ha to 5,130,462 ha. Currently, 7,000 people live in the biosphere reserve. Guidelines for the elaboration of a management plan were received as requested by the MAB ICC in 2018.

150. The Advisory Committee recommends that the requested extension and renaming **be approved**.

151. **Malindi Watamu Arabuko Sokoke Biosphere Reserve (Kenya), extension and renaming of former Malindi Watamu Biosphere Reserve.** The site falls under the 'Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR'.

152. The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of this application, which is a follow-up to a recommendation from the Periodic Review submitted in 2015, and commended the authorities for the well-prepared dossier.

153. The proposed total area of the biosphere reserve covers 487,278 ha, with an increase in the core area from 1,733.9 ha to 41,895 ha, which now comprises two marine parks and the Arabuko Sokoke Forest. The buffer zone also increases from 20,253.7 ha to 77,951 ha and comprises a marine reserve, a mangrove forest, land under forest management agreements and an exotic forest plantation. The transition area decreases in size, however, from 685,042 ha to 367,432 ha and consists of lands and communities associated with coastal and mangrove habitats. The proposed extension of the biosphere reserve improves the connectivity between various ecosystems, thereby reinforcing the services rendered by them.

154. The diverse ecosystems, which range from coral reefs to mangrove forest and coastal dry forest, function as a cetacean migration area and are home to six taxa of endemic butterflies, 354

fish species from 56 families and 113 species of coral in 45 genera, four species of marine turtles, 9 species of mangroves and 71 species of aquatic birds. The Mida Creek is internationally recognized as an Important Bird Area.

155. With a population of nearly 517,000, the main economic activities are fishing, dairy and cattle production, butterfly farming and tourism. Indigenous communities include the nine tribes of Miji Kenda and the Kayas whose cultural practices are preserved.

156. The Advisory Committee commended the multi-stakeholder governance structure, which supports Community Forest Associations and the Watamu Marine Association in the management and tourism development of Arabuko Sokoke forest and the Malindi Watamu Marine Reserve, thereby serving as a model for emulation in other parts of Kenya. The Advisory Committee appreciated the collaboration established with research institutions, civil society and other international partners, such as Mount Kenya University, the Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Birdlife International and Arocha Kenya, and the provision of an education and learning resource for about 180 primary and secondary schools.

157. The Advisory Committee recommended that the extension and renaming of the site **be approved**. The Advisory Committee further encouraged the authorities to finalize and implement the overall biosphere reserve management strategy.

158. **Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve (Republic of Korea), extension.** Since 2002, when Jeju Island was designated as a biosphere reserve site and MAB-ICC recommended that the biosphere reserve encompass all of Jeju Island including its marine areas, a variety of activities have been undertaken for the conservation and sustainable use of the biosphere reserve.

159. Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve will increase from 83,094 ha to 387,194 ha after extension; it will consist of a terrestrial area (184,615 ha) and a marine area (202,579 ha). With regard to zonation, the core area covers 39,951 ha, the buffer zone covers 72,286 ha and the transition areas cover 274,957 ha.

160. Jeju Island is one of the few sites in the world to have a triple designation as a UNESCO biosphere reserve (2002), a World Heritage site (2007, expanded in 2018) and a UNESCO Global Geopark (2010).

161. The core areas include Mt. Hallasan National Park and the surrounding national forests, the ecosystem conservation area including Gotjawals, four dependent islets and two streams designated as nature reserves, and marine protection areas. The buffer zone is used for environmental education with a focus on natural resources, recreation, eco-tourism and environmentally friendly primary industries such as ranching, the cultivation of medicinal herbs and mushrooms, and fisheries.

162. Only a few residents live in the present transition areas, and community-based development could not be actively promoted. The proposed transition areas are being expanded to further encourage sustainable development activities and to promote sustainable development approaches in the relevant policies of the Jeju Provincial Government. The marine areas extend out to 5 km from Jeju Island itself and include village fishing grounds.

163. The biodiversity on Jeju Island is valuable enough to be protected. The expansion of the Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve will contribute to integrated and effective conservation of this biodiversity and the development of a model for integrated management and the coordination of national protected areas.

164. Tourism, agriculture, fishing and livestock-raising are the main industries on Jeju Island, while key resources include local ecosystems, landscapes and agricultural products.

165. The Advisory Committee commended the national authorities of the Republic of Korea and the Jeju Provincial Government for their efforts to extend Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve in ways to meet global trends, notably the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the 2010 Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Committee further commended the authorities for a well-written dossier and good descriptions of the fulfilment of biosphere reserve functions if extended. The Committee recommended that the extension of the Jeju Island Biosphere reserve **be approved**.

166. **Los Valles de Omaña y Luna Biosphere Reserve (Spain), extension.** The Advisory Committee welcomed this request for the extension of Los Valles de Omaña y Luna Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2006 (last periodic review undertaken in 2016). The proposed extension would increase the core area from 15,754 ha to 17,653 ha. The buffer and transition zones would experience the greatest modifications: the buffer zone would decrease from 60,041 ha to 43,015 ha, and the transition area would increase from 5,363 ha to 20,492 ha.

167. The total population amounts to 2,440 inhabitants located in the transition zone. The main economic activities are agriculture, mining (stone and sand quarry) and forest products.

168. The biosphere reserve has a management committee and management plan, as well as an annual budget of €30,000.

169. The Advisory Committee recommends that this extension **be approved**.

170. **Menorca Biosphere Reserve (Spain), extension.** The Advisory Committee welcomed this request for the extension of the Menorca Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1993. The biosphere reserve submitted a periodic review in 2017 which met the criteria according to the MAB ICC. The proposed extension of Menorca will contribute to the conservation of the marine ecosystems and species, which are currently only partially represented in the biosphere reserve in the marine area of S'Albufera des Grau Natural Park. The addition of this marine area will lead to a significant increase in the territory of the biosphere from 71,219 ha to 514,485 ha. Menorca has a permanent population of 92,000 inhabitants. Detailed maps and information have been provided on the proposed marine areas.

171. The Advisory Committee recommends that this extension **be approved**.

Extension, re-zoning or renaming of existing biosphere reserves recommended for approval pending the submission of specific information

172. **Galapagos Biosphere Reserve (former Archipiélago de Colón) (Ecuador), extension and renaming.** The Advisory Committee welcomed this request for the extension and renaming of the Archipiélago de Colón (Galapagos) Biosphere Reserve submitted by the Ecuadorean authorities.

173. The authorities have requested to change the current name of the reserve to the Galapagos Biosphere Reserve.

174. The proposed extension would include the Galápagos Marine Reserve, created in 1998. The total surface would increase to 14,659,887 ha, of which 7,000,000 ha corresponds to inland waters and 1,753 km of coastline, making the reserve one of the largest marine protected areas in

the world. The proposed marine area includes different areas: transition, sustainable use, conservation and strictly protected zones.

175. The area has a management committee and a management plan for the Archipelago (National Park) but not for the biosphere reserve.

176. In 2016, the biosphere reserve submitted a periodic review that met the criteria; however, the council requested the submission of a clearer zonation map. This map has not yet been supplied.

177. In addition, the proposed buffer zone covers less than 1% of the total area. The vast marine core area in the northwestern and eastern part of the biosphere lacks both a buffer zone and a transition area.

178. The Advisory Committee recommends that the requested extension and renaming **be approved pending** the submission of a clear zonation map with MAB terminology, as well as an explanation as to why the marine core area in the northwestern and eastern part of the biosphere is not surrounded by a buffer or transition area. The Advisory Committee also requests the authorities to submit a management plan or policy for the biosphere reserve, not just for the national park, by 15 May 2019.

179. **Tuchola Forest Biosphere Reserve (Poland), extension.** The Advisory Committee welcomed the request from the Polish authorities for an extension of Tuchola Forest Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2010. The extension has been requested due to support from the community councils of adjacent areas seeking to being included within the biosphere reserve. A further reason is the introduction of a new Natura 2000 conservation scheme in the region that could benefit the biosphere reserve.

180. The proposed extension represents an increase in the territory of the Tuchola Forest Biosphere Reserve from 3,201 km² to approximately 4,105 km². The 26 core areas which currently cover 78.81 km² would expand to 38 nature reserves and include the Tuchola Forest National Park, reaching a total area of 88.48 km². The buffer zones would increase from 1,046 km² to 1,137 km², and the transition area would increase from 2,069.88 km² to 2,878.77 km². The population size will also increase from 102,660 to 127,800 inhabitants. The biosphere reserve management structure is expected to remain the same with the minor addition of new stakeholders.

181. Following examination of the extension proposal, the Advisory Committee recommended that the extension of the site **be approved pending** further clarification of the zonation including an explanation of the lack of formal buffering around some of core areas in the northern and eastern parts of the site, to be submitted by the authorities by 15 May 2019.

182. **Cuencas Altas de los Ríos Manzanares, Lozoya y Guadarrama Biosphere Reserve (former Cuenca Alta del Río Manzanares) (Spain), extension and renaming.** The Advisory Committee welcomed this request for the extension and renaming of the Cuenca Alta del Río Manzanares Biosphere Reserve, designated in 1992 (last periodic review undertaken in 2006).

183. The proposed extension will increase the total surface area of the reserve from 46,778 ha to 105,654 ha (core area 26,371 ha, buffer zone 54,008 ha and transition zone 25,275 ha). The extension has been proposed mainly on the basis that the biosphere reserve previously lacked a transition area. The proposal has received significant support from local governments.

184. The total population of municipalities inside the biosphere reserve amounts to 99,200 inhabitants. The population of municipalities partially included in the biosphere reserve is 3,626,774

inhabitants. The core area is unpopulated and most of the human settlements are located in the transition zone.

185. The biosphere reserve has a management committee but does not have a management plan.

186. The Spanish authorities have requested to rename the biosphere reserve to 'Cuencas Altas de los Ríos Manzanares, Lozoya y Guadarrama Biosphere Reserve' in order to include the names of all the main core areas.

187. The Advisory Committee recommends that the site **be approved pending** the submission of a management plan by 15 May 2019.

New nominations recommended for deferral

188. **El Pedregal del Sur, Ciudad de México (Mexico).** The Advisory Committee welcomed this new proposal submitted by the Mexican authorities. The proposed biosphere reserve is located southeast of Mexico City in the Las Cruces mountain range situated in the eastern part of the Trans Mexican Volcanic Belt, which constitutes a morphological boundary between the Mexico and Toluca basins. It is made up of eight overlapping stratovolcanoes, which have had alternating periods of effusive and explosive activity from the Pliocene to the Pleistocene era and have been affected by several fault systems. The reserve covers an area of 16,839.77 ha and has a core area of 4,881.26 ha (28.99%), a buffer zone of 6,293.24 ha (37.37%) and a transition area of 5,665.27 ha (33.64%).

189. The eruption of the volcano Xitle caused changes in the ecosystem resulting in the development of micro-environments, which include the following main vegetal communities: *Pinus* forest (pine), *Abies religiosa* (sacred fir), *Alnus* (oak), *Quercus* scrub (oak) and xerophytic scrub high mountain grasslands. These differences in vegetation are associated with climatic variation along the altitudinal gradient of the spill (2,240 to 3,100 metres above sea level). The lower areas located to the north are dry and hot, while the higher areas to the south are more humid and cold.

190. The Mexico Basin is home to 2,300 reported species of phanerogams (angiosperms and gymnosperms) and 913 species of plants in the southern region, of which 128 species are of ecological significance. In addition, 53 species of endemic vertebrates have been reported, including the highest number of recorded reptiles species, followed by amphibians, birds and mammals. Among the latter, the volcano rabbit (*Romerolagus diazi*), the Sierra Madre sparrow (*Xenospiza baileyi*) and the Cross-banded mountain rattlesnake (*Crotalus transversus*) are considered in danger of extinction. Due to similar threats, a number of endemic salamander species such as *Pseudoeurycea altamontana*, *Sceloporus anahuacus*, *Sceloporus anahuacus* and *Sceloporus torquatus* are under special protection.

191. The area includes the Archaeological Zone of Cuicuilco, a region settled by the Tapaneca indigenous group before the eruption of the volcano Xitle.

192. The proposed biosphere reserve has a population of approximately 410,304 (653,609 another number is given) inhabitants of which 159,458 live in the buffer zone and 250,846 inhabit the transition area.

193. The main economic activities are livestock (sheep, cattle, pigs and poultry), agriculture (corn, maguey, oats, barley, wheat and potatoes), lumber and handicrafts.

194. The Advisory Committee welcomed this nomination proposal and recommended that the site **be deferred**. The Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to resubmit a nomination form due to the importance it places on the creation of urban biosphere reserves. The Advisory Committee also encourages the authorities to contact existing urban biosphere reserves within the WNBR. It therefore requests the authorities to submit further details on the following points in the resubmitted nomination:

- Explain the protection status of the core areas;
- Provide more information on the population living in the core areas, and accurate population numbers for each zone;
- Provide evidence of the involvement of local communities and stakeholders in the nomination process;
- Provide prove of support by stakeholders for the nomination;
- Outline a management plan.

195. **Lower Zambezi Escarpment (Zambia)**. The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of the nomination for the first biosphere reserve in Zambia. The Committee commended the authorities for the well-prepared dossier and for the involvement of traditional and political leaders in the nomination process. The area of the proposed biosphere reserve encompasses the Lower Zambesi Aquatic ecosystem – a water source for eight countries – the Lower Zambesi National Park and the Luangwa/Zambezi River confluence.

196. The proposed reserve has a total area of 2,485,523.71 ha, with a core area that covers 395,586.70 ha and includes the Lower Zambesi National Park and the confluence of the Chongwe-Chindulwe Rivers; the buffer zones cover 1,256,397.85 ha and comprise the Rufunsa Game Management Area and Chiawa Game Management Area; and the transition area covers 833,539.16 ha and comprises Sable Game Ranch, settlements, traditional lands, local forests and the Lusaka National Park. With a total population of nearly 1.8 million encompassing 17 ethnic groups, the main economic activities are subsistence farming of cereals, vegetables and spices, fishing, apiculture and aquaculture.

197. The area hosts several sites of historical and cultural significance including the Royal Linga Fort, which was built by ancient people, and the Mulambe wa Mankalata heritage site where the Baobab tree was used formerly as a post office. The soil and rock formations resulting from volcanic action provide mineral wealth including gold, granite and gemstones such as aquamarine. Floral species include *Acacia albida* and *Combretum* sp., while resident fauna include the elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), leopard (*Panther pardus*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and Blue monkey (*Samango* sp.).

198. The Advisory Committee noted with deep concern the location of a proposed copper mining site in the core area and remarked on its proximity to the Mana Pools World Heritage Site in Zimbabwe. The Advisory Committee observed – with reference to the IUCN World Heritage Impact Assessment Principles and the recommendations of the Joint World Heritage committee/IUCN mission to Zambia (2011) on the potential negative impacts of mining on the Mana Pools Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site – that the proposed mine site is incompatible with Article 4 Sections 5(a) and (b) concerning the requirements of the core area and buffer zones.

199. The Advisory Committee recommended that the area be re-zoned to locate the proposed mine site within the transition area and requested that the following be submitted for re-consideration:

- an updated zonation map;
- appropriate/related management plans including copies incorporating the new zonation;
- any related legislative instruments relating to the new proposed zonation;
- an update on activities in the proposed mine site since 2014.

200. The Advisory Committee recommended that the proposal **be deferred**.

Extension, re-zoning or renaming of existing biosphere reserves recommended for deferral

201. **Yasuni Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador), extension.** The Advisory Committee welcomed this request for the extension of the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve submitted by the Ecuadorean authorities. The Yasuni Biosphere Reserve is situated in the Amazonian region in the northeastern part of the country. Indigenous communities such as the Huaorani, Aucas and Quichuas live inside the biosphere reserve.

202. The proposed extension would increase the size of the reserve from 1,676,105.1 ha to 2,609,963 ha, and would incorporate the Napo, Sucumbíos, Orellana and Pastaza Provinces.

203. The limits and the proposed zoning are based on an exercise developed in 2009 within the framework of the Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve, implemented by UNESCO.

204. The authorities informed the Committee that certain sectors of the Yasuni National Park are not part of the core area of the biosphere reserve, due to the presence of oil extraction activities in Yasuní.

205. The Advisory Committee recommends to **defer** the proposal for extension and change in zonation. The presence of oil extraction in the buffer zone is not in line with the functions of a buffer zone, as mentioned in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

206. The Advisory Committee expresses its concerns about the impacts of oil drilling on the ecosystems and local communities, as well as the severe reduction in the size of the core area. Within the framework of the Process of Excellence, the Advisory Committee encourages the national authorities to revise and resubmit the proposal before 15 May 2019, including the following information:

- A proposal for a new zonation including the possibility to merge both zonation proposals sent in 2017 and 2018, in order to incorporate the transition areas with the oil-drilling zone (zonation proposal sent in 2017) in the buffer zone (zonation proposed in 2018), which is presented as a second option by the national authorities (Figure 4 of the provided document)
- An explanation as to how the conservation functions will be fulfilled within the new zonation
- An executive summary of the environmental and social impact assessment of the oil drilling, including numbers of jobs, infrastructure and environmental impact
- A management plan related to oil exploitation including environmental and social impact
- An explanation as to how the authorities intend to involve the oil companies in the management of the biosphere reserve.

207. Within the framework of the process of excellence and enhancement, the MAB Secretariat offers the national authorities its technical assistance to aid with the production of the requested documents.

208. **Land of the Leopard, extension and renaming of former Kedrovaya Pad Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation).** The Advisory Committee welcomed the zonation map provided following the submission in 2018 of a request to rename this site to the Land of the Leopard Biosphere Reserve.

209. The Advisory Committee, however, did not have sufficient information to decide whether the site meets the criteria of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and advised that the nomination **be deferred**.

210. The Advisory Committee encouraged the authorities to seek cooperation with the authorities in charge of the marine/terrestrial area in the south of this core area, so as to ensure that this core area will not face threats, and to consider the possibility of establishing a buffer zone. The Committee also noted that a zonation map having been provided is not still clear. Therefore, it asked to provide a zonation map that is clear to analyse. It also requested comprehensive information on the issues above when the proposal is resubmitted.

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ITEM 10 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Update on the MAB Communication Strategy and Action Plan

1. At its last session in July 2018, the MAB Council unanimously adopted the global communication strategy and action plan of the Lima Action Plan available on line in English and French.
2. Many delegates highlighted the success of the one minute videos #ProudToShare and the importance of producing these. The videos are available on UNESCO You Tube channel and on the UNESCO MAB website and several new ones were produced since July 2018 and displayed at the 2019 EuroMAB Network Meeting held in Dublin (Ireland), last 2-5 April 2019 and at the occasion of the IPBES# 7 in UNESCO-Paris (29 April - 4 May 2019) and during the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity at UNESCO last 22 May.
3. The meetings of the regional networks represent opportunities to implement the strategy which was evidenced by the latest EuroMAB 2019 meeting held in Dublin Bay Biosphere Reserve where a specific communication session was held at the opening for all the participants.
4. As adopted in the communication plan, the Secretariat is planning several storytelling training “Train-the-trainer sessions” at the regional level and through regional network meetings in 2019, including in Europe, Africa, and Asia regions.
5. The Secretariat is looking for support to translate the strategy in Spanish as well as into other languages (as was done for the tool kit on communication and branding). The communication plan will then be put on line as a living document to be updated with additional case studies and stories on the new website.
6. The Secretariat will present the lay-out of its new website. All information on the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves can be found on this new site. The Secretariat is currently in the process of creating new pages for each biosphere reserve.
7. As adopted in the communication plan, it is planned that in 2019 each biosphere reserve is confidently telling their foundation story and that each biosphere reserve has made



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a ProudToShare film.

8. The MAB Council is invited to provide comments on the progress made as well as to provide support through its MAB national committee and/or focal point for each biosphere reserve to make a ProudToShare film by end of 2019 and to share their foundation story on the website.

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Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda: MAB Young Scientists Awards Scheme

I. Selection of MAB Young Scientists Awards (MAB YSA)

1. The MAB Secretariat through the respective MAB National Committees and National Commissions for UNESCO received forty-eight (48) eligible applications from thirty-four (34) countries (Annex 1), twenty (20) of the applicants were women.
2. In accordance with the revised criteria and conditions for the MAB Young Scientist Awards (MAB YSA) approved by the 29th session of MAB-ICC the Bureau of the MAB Council will review the applications received and select the six (6) winners of the 2019 MAB Young Scientists Awards funded by UNESCO.
3. The MAB Council is invited to consider endorsing the six award winners as selected by the Bureau of the ICC.

II. Enhancement of MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme

4. Since the establishment of the MAB Young Scientists Award (YSA) Scheme in 1989 (within 30 years of the existence), the MAB Bureau has awarded 323 Awards to young scientists from 92 different countries. The Award Scheme has enabled young scientists - of which 46 % were women - to undertake over 300 research projects, most of which were carried out in or related to biosphere reserves (BRS). During the MAB Youth Forum 2017, 44% of the participants were young scientists. This clearly shows the importance and interest of young scientists towards UNESCO's MAB Programme.
5. The research projects carried out under the Award Scheme provide a wealth of information on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme related issues, including the three functions of BRs as well as in some cases on the integration of these functions. They address major environmental challenges facing the biosphere, such as *inter alia* climate change, the provision of ecosystem services, urbanization and socio-economic activities.

6. The International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) at its 29th session on 12-15 June 2017 adopted the new criteria and conditions for the selection of MAB Young Scientists Award winners in order to address the Lima Action Plan (LAP) for Biosphere Reserves and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in applications. The Council also agreed to enhance the visibility of the MAB YSA Scheme's achievements and impacts, and mobilize additional funds in order to increase the visibility of the achievements and strengthen the impacts of the MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme.

7. In this regard, the MAB Secretariat prepared a concept note for the project titled "UNESCO MAB Young Scientists Awards: helping young people help the planet". This note was presented at the 30th session of the MAB-ICC held in 2018, highlighting the fact that the main aim would be to adopt an integrated approach to increase the number of young scientists awarded and, at the same time, let them engage in promotional and dissemination activities through various communication activities (conferences, video messages, posts, etc.).

8. The long-term goal of the proposed project is to enhance the young scientists with opportunities and capacities to conduct scientific studies and research in biosphere reserves addressing the LAP and contributing to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to strengthen biosphere reserves as "sites of excellence" and "learning sites for sustainable development".

9. The 30th session of the MAB-ICC endorsed in general the concept note and encouraged the Secretariat to follow-up on mobilizing an appropriate funding of the MAB Young Scientists Awards Scheme and keep the Bureau well informed.

10. In order to pursue the MAB-ICC recommendations, the Secretariat presented the concept note and undertook initial discussions with potential donors/member states at several regional and sub-regional meetings – in particular, within Asia and Pacific. It got valuable inputs to develop a project proposal for extrabudgetary financing of this Scheme to be presented to potential partners by 30 September 2019.

11. The MAB Council is invited to take note of a current status on an enhancement of MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme. Taking into account 30 years of the existence of the MAB YSA Scheme, the Council is also invited to suggest modalities how to strengthen further a visibility of this Scheme, notably in the context of the MAB Strategy, the LAP and contribution to SDGs' implementation.

ANNEX 1: List of Eligible Applicants for the 2019 MAB Young Scientists Awards

	Gender	NAME	First name	Country	Region	Title of study
1	M	SCHAUMAN	Santiago Augusto	Argentina	LAC	Variable human pressures on Biosphere Reserves: the case of Argentina
2	F	DE GROOT	Grecia Stefania	Argentina	LAC	The link among local practices, conservation, sustainability and social roots: the role of floral resource availability and diversity at the landscape scale for small-scale beekeeping in the MAB Andino North-Patagonic biosphere Reserve
3	F	MIRZAYEVA	Samra	Azerbaijan	ENA	Creating artificial biosphere systems based on productivity of non-parasitic bacteria
4	M	YUSIF	Abiyev	Azerbaijan	ENA	Evolution of current state of the Shahdag national Park by using Remote Sensing methods and awareness of native people
5	F	KASHPEI	Irina	Belarus	ENA	Researching the status and distribution of the badger Meles meles in Belovezhskaya Pushcha Biosphere Reserve UNESCO MAB Biosphere Reserve and UNESCO World Heritage Site in Belarus as a tool to support management planning and community engagement
6	M	DEGBELO	Finagnon Galvius	Benin	AFR	Factors affecting farm's susceptibility to crop raiding by African elephants in W-Benin national park (Northern Benin)
7	M	GNONLONFOUN	Isidore	Benin	AFR	Assessing physiological responses and carbon sequestration dynamic of woody plants in response to vegetation fires and elephants' disturbances in Pendjari Biosphere Reserve in Benin, West Africa
8	F	SANTOS GARCIA	Andrea	Brazil	LAC	Mapping and assessing land degradation in Biosphere Reserves: towards sustainable development through governance opportunities
9	M	ALMENDRAS GARCIA	Diego	Chile	LAC	Marine Debris in Juan Fernandez Archipelagos
10	M	BARRIOS	Miguel David	Colombia	LAC	Ecological and population genetics approach for the conservation of seagrass ecosystems in the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve
11	M	NDZAI	Saint Fédriche	Congo (Rep)	AFR	Diversité écosystémique, floristique et estimation des stocks de carbone (aérien et organique) dans l'Unité forestière d'aménagement(UFA) Mbomo-Kellé, Département de la Cuvette-

						Ouest, République du Congo
12	F	BOKAKETI	Emmanuelle Graciase	Congo (Rep)	AFR	Etude comparative du carbone stocké par quelques espèces ligneuses
13	M	SOLIS AGUILAR	David A.	Costa Rica	LAC	Cultural geographical approach to Maleku indigenous people's practices in sacred places located in Tenorio volcano protected Zone and Caño negro national Wildlife Refuge
14	M	LEBRI	Marius	Côte d'Ivoire	AFR	Impact de l'élevage d'agouti dans les réserves de biosphère de Comoé et Taï en Côte d'Ivoire
15	F	BROOKS LAVERDEZA	Rosa Maria	Cuba	LAC	Conservation and sustainable use of flora in agroecosystems of Baconao Biosphere Reserve
16	M	BARNES	Isaac Yaw	Ghana	AFR	Ghana 101: using story telling through a geo-story map to highlight Bia River Biosphere Reserve's anthropogenic effect on community livelihood and adaptation
17	M	OPOKU	Yaw	Ghana	AFR	An ethnobotanical study of medicinal plants in the newly designated Lake Bosomtwe Biosphere Reserve of Ghana
18	M	HOCK	Ferenc	Hungary	ENA	Development of a register of invasive plants for the Pilis Biosphere Reserve and assessment of the expansion of invasive species in the Danube-valley based on data from the biosphere reserves
19	M	SIVADAS	Deepu	India	ASPAC	Estimating Carbon Sequestration potential of forests in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India
20	M	TRIWIBOWO	Dimas	Indonesia	ASPAC	Simple water treatment system in peat swamp forest region in Cagar Biosfer Giam siak Kecil-Bukit Batu (GSK-BB)
21	F	ARDIATI	Fenny Clara	Indonesia	ASPAC	Isolation, screening, and assessment of White Rot Fungi in "Berbak and Sembilang" Biosphere Reserve for their potency in wastewater treatment
22	M	JAMEKHORSHID	Ahmad	Iran	ASPAC	Risk zoning map and behavior simulation of fire in Arasbaran Biosphere Reserve
23	F	BAILEY	Janel	Jamaica	LAC	Variations in Fat and Muscle distribution in athletes from different biosphere reserves
24	M	CAMPBELL	Eon	Jamaica	LAC	Quality of life in regard to sleep, nutrition and oxygen delivery of athletes from four biosphere reserves in Jamaica
25	F	MAMMADOVA	Aida	Japan	ASPAC	the role of Biosphere Reserves in "creating" international eco-

						entrepreneurship possibilities for youth in micro-financed transition areas of Russian and Japanese BRs
26	F	ABILOVA	Sholpan	Kazakhstan	ASPAC	Dendrochronological studies of Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> L.) in the territory of the Katon Karagay Biosphere Reserve
27	M	KANTARBAYEV	Sanzhar	Kazakhstan	ASPAC	Study of the current state of the brown bear group (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) in East Kazakhstan
28	F	CHETTY	Keesha	Kenya	AFR	Identifying the relationship between baboon raiding deterrent methods and crop height in the Garden Route, Western Cape, South Africa
29	M	RAMANGASON	Hasinala	Madagascar	AFR	Dynamics of frugivores communities at Sahamalaza-iles Radama Biosphere Reserve and their implication for seed dispersal patterns and reforestation
30	M	BARRY	Tahirou	Mali	AFR	Etude socioéconomique et la cartographie de la réserve de biosphère de la Boucle de Baoulé au Mali (RBBB)
31	F	MARTINEZ CASTILLO	Violeta	Mexico	LAC	Coral resilience and coastal development: the ability of corals to survive a changing environment under anthropogenic stressors
32	M	SAENZ-CEJA	Jesus Eduardo	Mexico	LAC	Fire ecology and fire management in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve
33	M	DERDABI	Mohamed Rida	Morocco	AFR	Contribution à l'analyse et au diagnostic de la pêche artisanale dans le Détroit de Gibraltar (rive marocaine) et ses différentes interactions
34	F	TOUJGANI	Ihssane	Morocco	AFR	Caractérisation et valorisation des ressources génétiques locales du châtaignier commun (<i>Castanea sativa</i> MILL.) dans la réserve de biosphère intercontinentale de la Méditerranée
35	M	PAUDEL	Kumar	Nepal	ASPAC	An assessment of potential biosphere reserves in Nepal, a case of Kangchenjunga landscape
36	M	JIMOH	Kazeem	Nigeria	AFR	Impact of green economy in biosphere reserve project (GEBR) as an alternative livelihood source on the poverty status of Omo Biosphere Reserve communities
37	M	FALEMARA	Babajide Charles	Nigeria	AFR	Comparative Assessment of Carbon Stock, Sequestration Potential and Economic Valuation of Tree species as Ecosystem Services in the Interrelated Zones of Omo Biosphere Reserve, Nigeria
38	M	EGOROV	Igor	Russia	ENA	Biosphere Reserve "Khakassky" as an instrument of socio-economic transformations of a peripheral region of Southern Khakassia

39	F	UNKOVSKAYA	Maria	Russia	ENA	Assessment of the ecological status of water bodies of the Great Volzhsko-Kamsky Biosphere Reserve by bottom sediments depending on anthropogenic and natural processes
40	M	NDATIMANA	Gilbert	Rwanda	AFR	Intensification for preservation /conservation of aquatic organisms
41	F	NDOUR	Sanou	Senegal	AFR	Ceratophyllum demersum L. et Najas marina L., 2 plantes aquatiques envahissantes dans la vallée du fleuve Sénégal : impacts écologiques et socioéconomiques de leur prolifération et stratégie de gestion
42	M	RATNAYAKE	Amila Sandaruwan	Sri Lanka	ASPAC	The late Holocene environmental changes in southeast to north coasts of Sri Lanka
43	F	CLARKE	Joyelle	St Kitts	LAC	Reframing Young minds: refashioning environmental conservation in the Green Valley MAB area through sustainable education
44	M	BADRELDIN	Ahmed	Sudan	AFR	The conservational role of local communities on Jebel Al Dir Biosphere Reserve (JADBR), Sudan
45	F	AISSAOUI	Yousra	Tunisia	AFR	La modélisation du traçage chimique des eaux usées dépolluées et leur valorisation dans le milieu rural agricole : application dans le système lagunaire du Bizerte
46	F	MNASRI	Intissar	Tunisia	AFR	Sciences participatives pour le suivi et la gestion des espèces exotiques dans la réserve de la biosphère Zembra et Zembretta
47	F	HOANG THI	Hue	Vietnam	ASPAC	Study on the attitude of local people toward the use of disposable plastic products for proposing the policy of reducing plastic pollution in Xuan Thuy National Park, Nam Dinh (the Red River Biosphere Reserve)
48	F	HOANG THI	Lan	Vietnam	ASPAC	Functions and Services of Restored Mangrove Ecosystem in the Red River Biosphere Reserve



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ITEM 12 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management

1. Following the decision of the MAB-ICC in 2004 on the setting up of an award scheme in memory of Mr Michel Batisse, the Secretariat sent a MAB Circular Letter (CL/MAB/2018/2, 30 November 2018, attached) and had received eight files from eight countries, all of which met the criteria for consideration.
2. At its 29th session held on 12-15 June 2017 the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB ICC) had adopted the following new conditions for the selection of the Michel Batisse Award: (i) case studies must be submitted for every two MAB ICC Council sessions due to be convened, and (ii) **the amount of the award for the winning case study presented to the MAB ICC session concerned is now US\$12,000 plus international travel and allowances.**
3. The Advisory Committee members were asked to rank the candidates using the evaluation table. Based on the rankings, the Advisory Committee recommended to the Bureau of the MAB Council that Mr. José Santiso (Spain) be the winner for the 2019 Michel Batisse Award for his case study on the 'Food plan of the "Mariñas Coruñesas e Terras do Mandeo" Biosphere Reserve as a tool for the creation of local employment, the promotion of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change'.
4. This recommendation was submitted to the MAB ICC Bureau members for their endorsement to enable the candidate to present his case study at this 31st session of the MAB ICC. The Secretariat arranged for the winner to be present and to present his case study and receive his award from the Chair of the MAB Council.



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Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

MAB National Committees and Focal Points
National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
Regional Offices of UNESCO

30 November 2018

Ref. : CL/MAB/2018/2

Subject: Call for 2019 Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to submit one case study from your Country for the above-mentioned Award **before 20 January 2019**, following the format indicated in the attached form of the present circular letter.

At its 29th session, held in UNESCO headquarters from 12 to 15 June 2017, the MAB Council decided that:

The Michel Batisse Award shall be awarded every two MAB Council sessions instead of at each Council session in order to increase the quality and number of applicants.

The amount of the Award would thus be increased to a total amount of USD 12,000 (twelve thousand US dollars).

This new procedure should be effective and implemented as from this 29th session of the MAB Council.

Please send your case study by email to (**mab@unesco.org**) using the enclosed form.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your support to the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Yours sincerely,

Miguel Clüsener-Godt
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Encl.: Application Form 2019



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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.



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ITEM 14 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR)

1. At its 29th session, the MAB-ICC decided the development of Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000253591>).
2. The MAB Secretariat reported on the progress up to July 2018 during the 30th session of the MAB-ICC. The MAB-ICC approved the terms of reference and the roadmap of the TGBR working group but decided to go for a second round of call of nomination for experts to serve in the TGBR working group to address the issue of uneven regional distribution and gender. It requested the MAB Secretariat to send a letter to the Member States requesting additional nomination of experts. (http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/FINAL_30_MAB_ICC_REPORT_en.pdf).
3. This document reports on the implementation of the above ICC decisions and gives an update on the development of the TGBR.

Report on the second call of proposal:

4. In July 2018, 47 experts from 23 Member States composed the TGBR working group (TGBR-WG) divided in four thematic Sub-groups (TSG): zonation of biosphere reserves; governance of biosphere reserves; policy, management and business plans and data management and monitoring.
5. After a lengthy nomination process, the MAB Secretariat received 25 eligible nominations from the following countries:

Region	Country	Nominations per Country
LAC		
	Mexico	3 incl. 1 female
	Colombia	3 incl. 1 female
	Cuba	4 incl. 1 female
	Argentina	1 female
AFR		
	Senegal	1
	Sudan	1
	Nigeria	3
	Ivory Coast	5 incl. 4 female
ASPAC		
	Australia	1 female
	Korea	2 incl. 1 female
	Pakistan	1
Total		25

Two nominations were not eligible due to lack of CVs and two experts self-withdrawn.

In November 2018, the MAB Bureau approved the following composition:

TGBR working group: 70 experts from 33 countries including 15 from LAC, 23 from Europe & North America, 23 from Africa and 8 from ASPAC; 33% of experts are female.

Thematic Sub Groups (TSG):

- **Zonation of biosphere reserves:** 17 experts from 15 countries including 3 from LAC, 5 from Europe & North America, 7 from Africa and 2 from ASPAC; 29% of experts are female.
- **Governance of biosphere reserves:** 17 experts from 17 countries including 4 from LAC, 7 from Europe & North America, 4 from Africa and 2 from ASPAC; 29% of experts are female.
- **Policy, management and business plans:** 20 experts from 19 countries including 5 from LAC, 6 from Europe & North America, 5 from Africa and 3 from ASPAC; 35% of experts are female.
- **Data management and monitoring:** 16 experts from 14 countries including 3 from LAC, 5 from Europe & North America, 7 from Africa and 1 from ASPAC; 38% of experts are female.

The detailed statistics charters as per the list approved in November 2018 are in document SC-19/CONF.231/INF.4.

Update on the work of the TGBR working group (TGBR-WG) and Thematic Sub Group (TSG)

6. All the meetings of the TGBR-WG and TSG are virtual and organized by the MAB Secretariat. Working documents are in English.
7. After the 30th session of MAB ICC, the TGBR-WG held a meeting on 26 July 2018 to review an updated draft of the TGBR outline (TGBR outline Prototype II) prepared by MAB Secretariat, to decide on nomination process of the Chair and Rapporteur of TGBR-WG and TSG.
8. TSGs started their work on January 2019. Three TSG started to draft the content of the TGBR by priority areas and hold regular meetings twice a month (Annex I)
9. Since the beginning of the TGBR work, a number of experts were not actively involved in the meetings. Therefore, as per Chairs of the TSG, the MAB Secretariat has sent an email to each non-active member for confirmation of their interest. The final list of the 70 approved experts as well as TSG members is contained in document. SC-19/CONF.231/INF.5

10. In order to improve communication and sharing of documents, the MAB Secretariat created a collaborative workspace dedicated to the TGBR in UNESTEAM. It is accessible to all active members of the TSGs.

11. It is worth noting that MAB France provides support to the development of the TGBR. An intern is seconded to the MAB Secretariat for 6 months from February 2019 to July 2019.

12. In order to document the TGBR development work, surveys were sent to the Advisory committee members to seek their relevant views and experiences related to the TGBR (Annex II A&B). The responses will be shared on the UNESTEAM working space. Direct interaction between some members of Advisory Committee and TSG could be organised as appropriate.

13. The draft outline of the TGBR as of June 2019 (Annex III) will be submitted to the MAB Bureau for approval during the 31st session of the MAB-ICC.

14. The MAB Council is invited to:

- a) Take note of this report and to endorse the decision of the MAB Bureau on the draft outline of the TGBR (Annex III)
- b) Provide guidance for the work of the TGBR
- c) Encourage Member States to provide support to the MAB Secretariat in developing the TGBR.

ANNEX I: CALENDAR OF THE TGBR MEETINGS & LIST OF BUREAU MEMBERS**TGBR working group**

Date	location	Main outcome
06/07/2018	Skype meeting	Draft TORs of the WG Draft Road map of the WG
07/26/2018	Face to face meeting in Palembang	finalize draft TORs and Road map to be presented to MAB ICC
09/26/2018	Skype meeting	Discussion on TGBR outline Nomination of Chair and Rapporteurs

Policy Management thematic sub-group

Date	Location	Main outcome
01/29/2019	Skype meeting	Election of interim Chair and Rapporteur Discussion on table of contents and agree on way forward for the drafting work Distribution of responsibilities among the experts by items of the priority area

Contributions of participants by mail and on a shared document

Governance thematic sub-group

Email discussions on going on table of content – work in progress

Zonation thematic Group

Date	Location	Main outcomes
26/03/2019	Skype meeting	Election of the Chair Discussion on the way of working in-group of the TSG Discussion on table of contents
09/04/2019	Skype meeting	Discussion on specifics items of the draft between the experts Presentation of the shared literature
24/04/2019	Skype meeting	Introduction to the UNESTTEAM platform Discussion on specifics items of the draft between the experts Distribution of the responsibilities between the participants

Monitoring thematic sub-group

Date	Location	Main outcomes
22/03/2019	Skype meeting	Election of the Chair Discussion on the way of working in-group of the TSG Creation of thematic sub working group and a pool online for the participants
08/02/2019	Skype meeting	Election of the Rapporteur Distribution of the responsibilities between the participants Discussion on the way of working in-group of the TSG
02/05/2019	Skype meeting	Distribution of the responsibilities between the new participants Discussion on contributions on the shared document Introduction to the UNESTTEAM platform

List of Chairs and Rapporteurs by TSG

TSG	CHAIR	RAPPORTEUR
Governance	M. Martin Price (United Kingdom)	Ms. Mireille Jardin (France)
Data Management and Monitoring	M. Sergio Leandro (Portugal)	Ms. Beth Kaplin (Rwanda)
Policy, Management and business plans	M. Lütz Moller (Germany) a.i	Ms. Ruida Pool-Stanvliet (South Africa)
Zonation	Reinaldo Francisco Ferreira Lourival (Brazil)	Catherine Cibien (France)

ANNEX IIA: SURVEY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In the framework of the redaction of the *technical guidelines of biosphere reserves (TGBR)*, we would like to ask you some questions on your experience as member of the Advisory Committee. This work is divided in four thematic sub-group: Governance, Zonation, Management & Policy and Monitoring.

We kindly invite you to illustrate the items with concrete examples if you can!

I. GOVERNANCE

Open issue: *What were the principal difficulties in terms of governance you may observed throughout the revision or the designation of new biosphere reserves? Are there specific questions which caused you any difficulties?*

.....
.....

1. Local participation

- Problem according to **local participation**? Are there different interpretations of the vision of the “participation”?

.....
.....

- Are there different ways of organizing the participation and its integration into the governance structure?

.....
.....

- How should endorses and signs the nomination form?

E.g: in the BR of the Cevennes, some of the municipalities did not signed the Charter of the parc. For this reason the parc did not met the conditions of BR at the last report.

.....
.....

- Did you meet some difficulties in the Integration of **indigenous people** in the governance? Their vision of biodiversity? The political organization?

.....
.....

- What are the issues according the role of the **private sector**? Are their **different models of integration** of private sector in the BR governance?
Integration VS financing, element to select private enterprises or are all of them welcome?

.....
.....

2. Institutional mechanism

- What kind of difficulties you noted in determining **the role of national authorities**?

.....
.....

- What kind of difficulties you noted in determining the **function of management authorities** of the three areas? (Core, buffer and transition)?

.....
.....

- In terms of governance, what are the issues of different kind of **ownership title** of biosphere reserve (private, public...). What kind of **mechanism/ Authority model** are set up? What are the advantages or weaknesses of the different models?

.....
.....

II. MANAGEMENT

Open issue: *What are the difficulties encountered in the implementation of a management plan of BR ? ? Are there specific questions which caused you any difficulties ?*

.....
.....

- Does this **notion (management plan = MP)** build a consensus? Are there various categories of visions?

.....
.....

- Do exist difficulties to integrate in the long run the **3 aspects in the MP?** (Conservation, development structures and green economy?)

.....
.....

- According to the **business strategy**, what are the principal issues? According to the **fund raising**?

.....
.....

- According to the **marketing strategy** and the **communication strategy**, what are the **principal difficulties** you have met during your experience in the AC? : branding, logo settlement

.....
.....

- Difference between plan and policy? What are the most frequently designed?

.....
.....

III. ZONATION

Open issue: What are the principal issues connected with the zonation of BR ? ? Are there specific questions which caused you any difficulties?

.....
.....

- What are the difficulties faced with the **exteriors limits**? (geographical, ecological, political, cultural limits) How the advisory committee decides **the area is adapted to coordinated the three functions of a BR**?

.....
.....

- Areas: how you determine that **the 3 areas (Core, Buffer and Transition) are relevant in terms of the three functions** (conservation, development structures, green economy)?

.....
.....

- Did you noted some difficulties **in building a BR on a pre-existing governance structure** like a National/regional parc, a protected area ... ?

.....
.....

- Do the **notions of core area, buffer area and transition area** build consensus

Remind to develop some examples for each category if you can!

Core: difference between German vision of the core area: no management VS French vision: strict interpretation of the statutory framework: the protection of the core area must be organized according the objectives of the BR (but who decides of the coherence? How?) How make others countries?

Buffer: How do you interpret the framework statutory if it does not specify some case?
e.g BR in Spain do not meet the criteria because there was a nuclear central on his buffer area (statutory framework do not specify it is forbidden)

e.g: sometimes, there is no place around the core area to set up a buffer zone (e.g BR Gorges du Gardon), what should we do in this case? How do we consider the protection of the core area is sufficient?

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.....

- How do you chose at the AC the **activities, which are compatible**? By which logic of interpretation for each area (Core, Buffer and transition) ? Are there oppositions?

.....
.....

Transition: Do this notion build consensus?

.....
.....

IV. MONITORING

Open issue: According to the monitoring, what kind of difficulties you noted during your experience at the Advisory committee? *Are there specific questions which caused you any difficulties?*

.....
.....

- What are the difficulties to build **performance indicators**?
For the 3 areas?
For the long run?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

- Which **criterion need indicators**? Does that build consensus?

.....
.....

- By which logic do we decide the **conditions of excellence awards**?

.....
.....

- What problem do you encountered **for periodic report**?

.....
.....

- Do you heard about difficulties in the **building of information center**?

.....
.....

ANNEX IIB: SURVEY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER - TSG GOVERNANCE

For each issue, please can each of you briefly indicate what you feel is - or are:

- the main problem(s) that should be looked at;
- the various solutions which you know have been found to solve the problem;
- what sort of guidance or recommendation would be needed to help countries or sites to improve the situation or simply deal with the issue.

I. Local participation (elements of this section will include sub-sections a) before nomination and b) after designation

- Engagement strategy development: early engagement and building long-term relationships
- Stakeholder mapping: how to proceed and how to use it
- Local participation: how to organize it, mechanisms to ensure local participation and techniques for conflict resolution
- Inclusion of areas where traditional lifestyles and indigenous uses of biodiversity are practiced (including sacred sites) cf Seville Strategy, Goal II, 3
- Role of the agency responsible for the core area
- Role of local authorities and other government agencies/organisations (at any level from local to national)
- Involvement of the private sector

II. Institutional/governance mechanisms

- Role of national authorities and/or, in federal states, regional authorities
- Establishment of a biosphere reserve from 1) an existing protected area or 2) ex nihilo
- Mechanisms to manage human use and activities in the buffer zones (art 4 item 7 a): regulatory and contractual policies, incentives, joint decision-making
- Authority or mechanism: difference between authority and mechanism, composition, regulatory/enforcement powers (police powers)
- Institutional mechanisms to manage, coordinate and integrate programmes and activities of the BR
- Models for authorities and mechanisms; and their advantages and weaknesses
 - 1) Existing body of a protected area, (in some cases, extending beyond its boundaries), or of part of the area
 - a. e.g., National Park, Regional Nature Park, cooperation Nature/Marine Park
 - 2) Structure under specific national legislation on BRs
 - a. e.g. Spain, Mexico
 - 3) Public governing body adapted to the needs of the BR
 - a. e.g. a municipality with the addition of a management committee and associations
 - 4) Governance of an Island
 - a. e.g., Minorca, Isle of Man
 - 5) Public
 - a. e.g., grouping of public institutions including municipalities
 - 6) Private
 - a. e.g., association or charity under national law
 - 7) Public/private partnerships (with clear definition of roles and responsibilities)
 - 8) Ad hoc structure
 - 9) Others

Annex III: Draft Outline of the Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR)

Part I. Background information on biosphere reserves

I. Introduction

- A. Background and purpose of the TGBR
- B. MAB programme
 - 1. What is a biosphere reserve?
 - 2. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves
 - 3. Transboundary biosphere reserves
 - 4. Multi-designated sites
 - 5. Biosphere reserves as protected areas (IUCN classifications) and as areas beyond protection
 - 6. MAB – an intergovernmental programme of UNESCO, bodies and decision-making
 - 7. Context (2030 Agenda, Rio conventions)
- C. Drafting procedure
- D. Open access policy

II. Nomination of a new biosphere reserve

- A. Biosphere reserves as learning sites for sustainable development: Three integrated functions (Article 3, Seville)
 - 1. Conservation
 - 2. Development
 - 3. Logistical support
 - 4. What does a functioning model for biosphere reserves look like?
- B. How to nominate a biosphere reserve
 - 1. How to initiate a nomination
 - 2. How to prepare a nomination file
 - Info box/case study
 - 3. What is the Designation Procedure? (Article 5, Seville)
 - 4. How to nominate transboundary biosphere reserves

5. What about multi-designated sites?

C. How to participate in the WNBR

1. Scientific research

- Subregional
- Regional
- Global
- Publication

2. Environmental /sustainable development education and training

- Subregional
- Regional
- Global

3. Regional and thematic networks

4. Twinning partnerships

5. Collaborative projects

6. UNESCO networks

D. How to extend an existing biosphere reserve

E. How to rename a biosphere reserve

F. How to voluntarily withdraw a biosphere reserve

G. What is the WNBR Coding System?

Part II. Zonation in biosphere reserves

I. Introduction

Definition of zones in the Statutory Framework of the WNBR:

- a) A legally constituted core area or areas devoted to long-term protection, according to the conservation objectives of the biosphere reserve, and of sufficient size to meet these objectives;
- b) A buffer zone or zones clearly identified and surrounding or contiguous to the core area or areas, where only activities compatible with the conservation objectives can take place;
- c) An outer transition area where sustainable resource management practices are promoted and developed.

II. Definition of the 'zonation' notion

- A. Zonation: A tool for integrated management that incorporates the three functions of the biosphere reserve
- B. Flexibility of the biosphere reserve model
- C. The different models of biosphere reserve

III. External limits of the biosphere reserve

- A. How to build a biosphere reserve around a protected area (centrifugal/cluster)
- B. How to build a biosphere reserve ex nihilo
- C. How do you delimit the border of the biosphere reserve?
- D. How to ensure that, in spite of borders, a biosphere reserve can inspire and disseminate its effects to a wider landscape/constituency?
- E. How to establish a biosphere reserve along a border

IV. Objective: What are the conservation and development objectives of the biosphere reserve? (Article 4, 5.a. of the statutory framework of the World Network of Biosphere reserves)

- A. How and who should define the conservation objectives of the biosphere reserve?
- B. What are the development objectives of the biosphere reserve?

V. Core area: How is it established?

- A. Size
- B. Degree and type of protection
- C. Which level of human use? How is it controlled?
- D. Role for sustainable development (ecosystem services): research, monitoring, education and training

VI. Buffer zone: How is it established?

- A. Size
- B. Geographical definition
- C. What is the system of regulation for activities and resource use (public/private)
- D. Roles for conservation, intensive and subsistence agriculture, livestock grazing, sustainable development, research, monitoring, education and training
- E. Population

VII. Transition area: How is it established?

- A. Size and geographical definition
- B. Level of development and types of activities (intensive and subsistence agriculture, industry, mining, power stations and cities)
- C. Roles for conservation, sustainable development, research, monitoring, education and training
- D. Population

VIII. Mapping

- IX. When do biosphere reserves have to propose an extension or a reduction: Reasons and procedure for changes
- X. Why it is important to have a zonation agreed by the local authority and population
- XI. What is the importance to have an efficient biosphere reserve model monitoring and evaluation (in relation with Governance TSG)

Part III. Governance in biosphere reserves

I. Introduction

II. Local participation

- A. Engagement strategy development: Early engagement and building long-term relationships
- B. Stakeholder mapping: How to proceed and how to use it
- C. Local participation: How to organize it, mechanisms to ensure local participation and techniques for conflict resolution
- D. Inclusion of areas where traditional lifestyles and indigenous uses of biodiversity are practised, including sacred sites (Seville Strategy, Goal II, 3)
- E. Role of the agency responsible for the core area
- F. Role of local authorities and other government agencies/ organizations (at any level from local to national)
- G. Involvement of the private sector

III. Institutional/governance mechanisms

- A. Role of national authorities and/or regional authorities (in federal states)
- B. Establishment of a biosphere reserve from an existing protected area or ex nihilo
- C. Mechanisms to manage human use and activities in the buffer zones (Seville strategy Art. 4, item 7a): Regulatory and contractual policies, incentives and joint decision-making
- D. Authority or mechanism: The difference between an authorities and mechanisms, their composition and regulatory/enforcement powers (police powers)
- E. Institutional mechanisms to manage, coordinate and integrate programmes and activities of the biosphere reserve (role of a central coordinating entity for the biosphere reserve vs. roles of all other public actors in the area)
- F. Models for authorities and mechanisms and their advantages and weaknesses
 - 1) Existing body of a protected area (in some cases extending beyond its boundaries) or of part of the area
 - 2) Structure under specific national legislation on biosphere reserves

- 3) Public governing body adapted to the needs of the biosphere reserve
- 4) Governance of an island
- 5) Public (including (inter)municipal)
- 6) Private
- 7) Public/private partnerships (including clear definition of roles and responsibilities)
- 8) Ad hoc structure
- 9) Others

Part IV. Management and policy in biosphere reserves

I. Introduction

II. Management policy and plan

- A. Introduction
- B. Why is a management plan necessary (i.e. what are its crucial benefits)?
- C. What is a management plan?
- D. What are the issues to be addressed by a management plan?
- E. How to plan and draft a management plan. (including how to develop a biosphere reserve vision, stakeholder and community participation and involvement, and governance of biosphere reserves.
- F. How to implement a management plan (including stakeholder and community participation and involvement.

III. Business policy and plan

- A. Introduction: Terminology for a business strategy, business policy and business plan
- B. Why is a business strategy/policy/plan necessary?
- C. What is a business strategy/policy/plan? What might it include?
- D. How to plan a business strategy
- E. How to implement a business strategy
- F. Funding models for biosphere reserves
- G. Fundraising strategy

IV. Marketing strategy

- A. Introduction: Why is a marketing strategy necessary?
- B. What is a marketing strategy? What might it include?
- C. How to plan a marketing strategy
- D. How to implement a marketing strategy
- E. How to develop a brand for biosphere reserves

V. Communication plan

- A. Introduction: Why is a communication strategy and plan necessary? (Make the link to the global MAB communication strategy)
- B. What is a communication plan? What might it include?
- C. How to plan and implement a communication plan

VI. Transboundary biosphere reserves

Introduction, specificities, case studies

VII. Multi-designated sites

Introduction, specificities, case studies

Part V. Monitoring in biosphere reserves

I. Introduction

II. Quality control

- A. The quality control process
- B. How to track performance of a biosphere reserve: Performance indicators (Seville Strategy)
- C. What effective tools can be used to monitor biosphere reserves?

III. Periodic review

- A. What is the Process of Excellence?
- B. How to prepare a report for the periodic review
- C. The evaluation process
- D. How to implement corrective measures

IV. Web-based information clearing house and information centre (3.1 Madrid Action Plan)

- A. Common requirements of a Web-based information centre (monitoring data collected, collaboration, exchange)
- B. Components of an information centre
- C. Suggested architecture of a Web-based information centre
- D. Technical suggestions for the architecture: OS, database, web tech, and software

V. How to map biosphere reserves

- A. Methods to be adopted
- B. Reference data
- C. Available tools

VI. Management and monitoring of transboundary biosphere reserves

- A. The agreement between the countries
- B. Boundaries issue (link with Zonation TSG)
- C. Info box/case study

VII. Management and monitoring of biosphere reserves with multi-designations

- A. Description of international multi-designation
- B. Case studies

ANNEXES

BIBLIOGRAPHY



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme

SC-19/CONF.231/14
Paris, 25 April
Original: English

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 II (Fontenoy Building)

17 – 21 June 2019

ITEM 15 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: MAB Youth Activities and MAB Youth Forum 2019

1. Within the overall framework of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021), aimed to ensure that young women and men are engaged in policies and programmes affecting them, the organization of the 2017 MAB Youth Forum has marked a turning point in MAB's engagement with youth. The 1st MAB Youth Forum was organized to offer an opportunity for young people who care about the special territories in which they live in to become active in the MAB Programme and to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities, in line with the Lima Action Plan. On this occasion, participants agreed on a shared vision for the future of youth in biosphere reserves and stated it in their final declaration, which is provided in Annex 1.
2. The 1st MAB Youth Forum has set many youth related activities in motion:
 - a. The first regional forum - the IberoMAB Youth Forum – was held at the Bosques de Paz TBR (Ecuador and Peru) in December 2018, with 89 participants who elaborated the final declaration given in Annex 2;
 - b. Workshops on, and organized by, MAB Youth have been held during the 2019 EuroMAB Conference in Dublin (final outcomes given in Annex 3 and 4);
 - c. A first project targeting MAB Youth, funded by the Flemish government of Belgium, will be launched in 2019, aiming to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in BRs in the LAC Region;
 - d. From 6 to 9 September 2019, the Rhön BR will host the first German MAB Youth Forum in which around 80 participants are expected to take part;
 - e. Several countries will organize a national MAB Youth Forum in the near future, and various national or local MAB Youth Associations have already been created.
3. In September 2019, the Changbaishan BR (North of China) will host the second global MAB Youth Forum, during which strong emphasis will be put on biodiversity conservation (see the first announcement in Annex 5). This Forum will be followed by activities targeting MAB Youth Leaders in view of their involvement in the debates of CBD COP 15 and further commitment to actions related to the post-2020 Agenda.
4. The MAB Council is invited to discuss and share its youth related experiences, lessons learnt and good practices, and to provide its guidance and recommendations regarding the strengthening of youth participation in the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Members of the Council are also invited to consider the possibility to support the participation of young delegates of their respective country in the above mentioned activities, in particular in the second global MAB Youth Forum and follow-up activities leading to the CBD COP 15 and, beyond, to the post 2020 Agenda.



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2017 MAB
YOUTH
FORUM



UNESCO MAB Youth Forum

Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy,

18-22 September 2017

Final Declaration

Preamble

We, the MAB Youth, 282 representatives from 142 Biosphere Reserves in 85 countries, gathered in Po Delta Biosphere Reserve during 18-23 September 2017 at the first MAB Youth Forum; Thankful to had the chance to attend a highly interactive and participatory forum, with over 50 workshop in 8 locations within the Po Delta BR.

We would like to thank the people of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, organizers, sponsors participants, hosts, and volunteers for their hospitality and commitment to making us feel at home. This forum has been an amazing opportunity to share and collaborate with our peers to form a collective vision for the future of youth in Biosphere Reserves. Despite the fact that we come from diverse backgrounds we are united on the objectives and actions for the Biosphere Reserve, World Network of Biosphere Reserves and to the MAB programme.

Declaration

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we ask all Biosphere Reserves to commit to creating attractive and long-term employment opportunities linked to the values of Biosphere Reserves (in particular conservation of Biodiversity and habitat restoration), involving local enterprises and cooperating with local stakeholders. In particular, we suggest:

- To create hubs and incubators to support sustainable business ideas in each Biosphere Reserve;
- To create an open database to share information concerning employment opportunities connected with Biosphere Reserve values;
- Develop training programmes in order to develop youth skills and employability in Biosphere Reserves.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we ask all Biosphere Reserves to commit to spreading scientific and traditional knowledge connected to the values of Biosphere Reserves, to raise awareness; sense of belonging and guarantee its transfer to future generations.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we commit ourselves and ask BRs to implement these actions:

- To organize periodical events on cultural, ecological, economic topics involving local stakeholders and communities;
- To organize summer camps, workshops and conferences for training young people to be ambassadors of their Biosphere Reserve.

We ask all Biosphere Reserves to develop relationships with educational institutions, at all levels and within and out with Biosphere Reserve borders. In particular:

- To develop specific curriculum and programmes, in schools and universities dealing with Biosphere Reserve characteristics, values and tools;
- To develop cooperation between research institutions and local economic organizations in order to improve applied research and internships.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates We recommend that the Network of Biosphere Reserves improve the exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and good practices among Biosphere Reserves, especially through tools that stimulate the involvement of young people. In particular, we suggest:

- The organization of periodic, regional youth forums;
- To develop and maintain a digital open access Biosphere Reserve platform (e.g. APP webinar meetings and on-line courses).
- To create Thematic Networks: such as, Biosphere Reserve School and youth clubs programmes, working to build a network among schools and within communities dealing with BR themes.

We ask to promote youth exchange and cooperation in realizing concrete projects, which are connected with Biosphere Reserves and Biosphere Reserve networks. Such as volunteering programmes in Biosphere Reserves and exchange visits between countries.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we commit ourselves to create hosting projects for young people in Biosphere Reserves such as Airbnb and couch surfing.



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We call for the facilitation of access to regional and inter-regional funding to support young people's long-term projects. Through:

- Establishing a "funding expert" or a "funding advisory board" to find funding and raise resources;
- Promoting the construction of a MAB crowdfunding platform;
- Verifying the possibility to create a Biosphere Reserve carbon certificate to sell to enterprises.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we ask the MAB International Coordinating Council (ICC) to improve communication, at all MAB levels, in order to be effective with young people:

- Promote a MAB survey in all BRs in order to get data on youth involvement;
- Incorporate youth perspective in MAB communication guidelines and toolkits by revising existing and future documents;
- Create an annual MAB Youth Award for the best project;
- Create specific summary of official MAB documents in "youth friendly language".

We ask the MAB International Coordinating Council (ICC) to spread globally the knowledge and awareness of the vision, mission and activities of the MAB programme. We propose to:

- Engage public figures as ambassadors to represent the MAB programme values;
- Organize a periodic MAB expo.

We, as MAB Youth Forum delegates commit ourselves to develop and promote interactive tools for sharing information about the MAB programme at all levels (for examples; social media, story-telling, comics).

We recommend the involvement of youth in MAB governance, by selecting "youth representatives" at all levels, especially in crucial moments of the decision process.

We ask the ICC to include youth as observer members and encourage countries to include mandatory youth in national delegations, national MAB Committees, and in Biosphere Reserve governance.

Finally, we commit ourselves to report back to our BR and young people of our territory what the MAB Youth Forum participant 2017 have learned, and we ask UNESCO to establish a platform and a mechanism to monitor the MAB Youth Forum 2017 Action Plan and submit a periodic report.



DECLARATION OF THE FIRST IBEROMAB YOUTH FORUM

We, the young people of the IberoMAB Network, 89 representatives of 43 Biosphere Reserves in 23 countries,

Meeting in the Bosques de Paz Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador and Peru) from 5 to 8 December 2018 in the First IberoMAB Youth Forum, with the desire to enable the IberoMAB youth to engage in horizontal, inclusive and transparent governance related to social, political, economic, educational, cultural and environmental issues, where our participation will help mitigate the problems and needs faced by the youth of biosphere reserves, in cooperation with the entities concerned,

Expressing our gratitude to UNESCO through its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the MAB national focal points and the governments of Ecuador and Peru, the Mancomunidad Bosque Seco, the Bosque Seco (Ecuador) and Noroeste Amotapes-Manglares Biosphere Reserves (Peru), which make up the Bosques de Paz Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, the Paltas canton, to the National University of Loja through the Zapotepamba Binational Technical Training Center and the organizing team for their hospitality and commitment,

Acknowledging with special thanks the Government of Flanders of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Abertis Foundation, the Government of Spain through the Autonomous Authority for National Parks (OAPN) and the Spanish Cooperation in Ecuador, Itaipu Binational, the San Francisco University of Quito, Galapagos Conservation Trust and all those who through their financial support made this event possible,

Recognizing that this forum has provided an excellent opportunity to share and collaborate with the youth of IberoMAB biosphere reserves, and allowed us to form a collective vision for the future,

Understanding that although we come from different origins, we agree on the objectives and actions of the biosphere reserves, the IberoMAB Network and the MAB Programme,

Propose the following actions oriented within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Lima Action Plan for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025), the Santa Marta Agreements of the XVIII Meeting of the IberoMAB Network (Colombia, May 2018) and the final Declaration of the UNESCO MAB Youth Forum (Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy, September 2017) and adopt the present Declaration:

1. Create the Ibero-American and Caribbean Biosphere Reserves Youth Network.
2. Establish multidisciplinary work teams under the three functions of the biosphere reserves (conservation, development and logistic support) that are balanced in terms of interculturality and gender.
3. Support the creation of proposals and action plans at the national level that strengthen the development of an effective agenda in the biosphere reserves.
4. Select a in a democratic manner and with parity criteria a youth representative from each biosphere reserve and one representative by country, to participate directly in the governance bodies of the biosphere reserves and the IberoMaB Network.
5. Request the official presentation of our network in UNESCO mechanisms.
6. Create a virtual platform for IberoMAB youth to include information on projects, financing, education opportunities, exchanges and research to address the challenges facing youth.
7. Follow up and support through joint participation the work of the IberoMAB youth network by UNESCO.
8. Generate communication material to disseminate the importance and work of the IberoMAB Biosphere Reserves.
9. Promote the use of virtual platforms and social media as empowerment mechanisms to transmit information about biosphere reserves and the contributions of youth.
10. Promote the exchange of knowledge among young people through biennial participatory meetings and virtual seminars at all levels.
11. Contribute and promote traditional ecological knowledge and good practices in biosphere reserves.
12. Be part of initiatives that promote the development of the Biosphere Reserve brand in the different countries that make up IberoMAB.
13. Influence institutions in the generation of employment opportunities and entrepreneurship for the youth of the IberoMAB biosphere reserves, which are in accordance with the values of the MAB Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals.
14. Support actions and initiatives that condemn crimes against the environment and the integrity of those who defend it; so as to ensure the protection of natural resources.

8 December 2018, Catacocha, Ecuador

Empowering youth & the Mab Youth Forum

Progressing the objectives of the MAB Youth Forum, and strengthening opportunities for Youth empowerment through involvement in the governance & management of biospheres

3rd April 2019



EuroMAB Conference DUBLIN 2019

World network of biosphere reserves

Local Actions for Global Challenges

MaB YOUTH FORUM 2017

- An unique event for youth and an opportunity to establish contacts, exchange experiences and elaborate proposals for the future.

- **EMPOWERING YOUTH**

Young people should not be kept isolated from the MAB Programme and the governance of the Biosphere Reserves, only attending events or participating in activities specifically targeting MAB Youth.

They must be given a real opportunity to be considered more consistently in the governance and in the activities of the MAB Programme and of their Biosphere Reserves.



EuroMAB Conference DUBLIN 2019
World network of biosphere reserves
Local Actions for Global Challenges

Practical actions identified

- Designate delegates at all levels of MaB Programme
- Train them, let them see how the MAB governance works so they can get involved in meetings and decision-making process, at all levels
- Create a platform to connect youth leaders from all over the world and allow them to build projects together



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Local Actions for Global Challenges

Big ideas identified

- Use a language accessible to youth
- Improve the link between schools and Biosphere Reserves
- Providing them financial support and give them confidence
- Involve them in the production of guidelines and management plans



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Local Actions for Global Challenges

Next steps

- Organisation and preparation of a **second MAB Youth Forum**
 - > selection of representatives from Biosphere Reserves within the EuroMAB network
 - > preparation of the workshops content, involving the MaB Youth Network
- Outputs of this 2nd MYF will be used in the negotiations of the COP15 of the CBD



EuroMAB Conference DUBLIN 2019
World network of biosphere reserves
Local Actions for Global Challenges

Best practices in engaging young people

Case studies to inspire each other

4th April 2019



EuroMAB Conference DUBLIN 2019
World network of biosphere reserves

Local Actions for Global Challenges

MaB YOUTH FORUM 2017

- An unique event for youth and an opportunity to establish contacts, exchange experiences and elaborate proposals for the future.
- **ENGAGING YOUTH**
 - **Raise awareness, sense of belonging and guarantee its transfer to future generations through the organisation of periodical events involving local communities and stakeholders**
- **Organisation of summer camps, workshops and conferences to train people to be ambassadors of their BRs.**
- **Importance of an effective communication**



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Case studies presented

- Youth Association MY Delta, Po Delta BR
- Youth Association Co'MaB, France
- MaB Youth Camp in Monviso BR
- Junior Rangers Programme in Swabian Alb BR
- Outdoor Smartphone Games to Foster Understanding of Biodiversity, Germany
- Young Environmentalist Awards & Youth Summit Event, EcoUnesco Dublin



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Practical actions identified

- Develop a network among regional/national BRs mentors to facilitate youth engagement
- Organise meetings to connect similar objectives between BRs
- Develop more activities related to nature at every school grade
- Equip pupils and students with MAB-related kits to allow them discover their environment / familiarise them to the MAB values



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Big ideas identified

- Listening to youth expectations before implementing activities targeting them
- Creating emotional « ah-ah » moments to connect young people with nature
- Incorporating youth perspective in MaB communication guidelines and toolkit



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Local Actions for Global Challenges



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme

SC-19/CONF.231/INF.2_v2
Paris, 12 June 2019
Original: English

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 II (Fontenoy Building)
17 – 21 June 2019

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

SC-19/CONF.231/1	Provisional Agenda
SC-19/CONF.231/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
SC-19/CONF.231/3	Provisional Timetable
SC-19/CONF.231/4	Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme
SC-19/CONF.231/5	Reports on actions undertaken by Member States /regions/ regional and thematic MAB Networks in the context of MAB with a focus on the Lima Action Plan and discussion on collaborative and research projects
SC-19/CONF.231/6	Implementation of the "Process of Excellence and Enhancement of the WNBR as Well as Quality Improvement of All Members of the World Network"
SC-19/CONF.231/7	Periodic Review Reports and Follow-Up Information Received since the Last MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC) Meeting
SC-19/CONF.231/8	Proposals for New Biosphere Reserves and Extensions/ Modifications/ Renaming to Biosphere Reserves that are Part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)
SC-19/CONF.231/9	Update on the MAB Communication Strategy and Action Plan
SC-19/CONF.231/10	MAB Young Scientists Awards Scheme
SC-19/CONF.231/11	Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management
SC-19/CONF.231/12	Implementation of the Lima Action Plan
SC-19/CONF.231/13	Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR)
SC-19/CONF.231/14	MAB Youth Activities and MAB Forum 2019



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme

SC-19/CONF.231/INF.2_v2
Paris, 12 June 2019
Original: English

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

- SC-19/CONF.231/INF.1 Provisional List of Participants – available at the session
- SC-19/CONF.231/INF.2 Provisional List of Documents
- SC-19/CONF.231/INF.3 Statutes of the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme
- SC-19/CONF.231/INF.4 Expert for the Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR) Working Group
- SC-19/CONF.231/INF.5 List - TGBR Group
- SC-18/CONF.230/15-rev.2 Final Report of the 30th Session of the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and Biosphere Programme (23-28 July 2018, Palembang, Indonesia)

April 2001

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL
OF THE PROGRAMME ON MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE**

I. MEMBERSHIP

(1) The International Co-ordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (hereinafter called the Council) is composed of thirty-four Member States of UNESCO, elected by the General Conference at each of its ordinary sessions in accordance with Article 2 of the Statutes of the Council.

(2) Each State member of the Council shall notify the Secretariat of UNESCO of the names of its designated representative as well as of advisers and experts.

II. SESSIONS1. Date and place

(1) The first session of the Council shall be convened by the Director-General of UNESCO. The place and date of that session shall be communicated in advance to all interested Member States and organizations.

(2) Other sessions shall be convened by the Secretariat of the Council in accordance with the instructions of the Bureau of the Council.

(3) The Council shall normally meet at the Headquarters of UNESCO. It may meet elsewhere if so decided by a majority of the members.

III. AGENDA2. Provisional agenda

(1) The provisional agenda of the first session of the Council shall be prepared by the Director-General of UNESCO.

(2) The provisional agenda of the following sessions of the Council shall be prepared by the Secretariat of the Council in consultation with the members of the Bureau.

(3) The provisional agenda shall be communicated to the members of the Council at least two months before the opening of each session.

(4) The provisional agenda shall be communicated at the same time to Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council as well as to the United Nations, FAO, WHO, the IUCN, ICSU, and ISSC.

(5) The provisional agenda of a session of the Council shall include:

- all items whose inclusion has been decided by the Council;

- all items proposed by States members of the Council;
- all items proposed by the United Nations or by its agencies;
- all items proposed by the Director-General of UNESCO

3. Adoption of the agenda

At the beginning of each session, the Council shall adopt the agenda for that session..

4. Amendments, deletions and new items

The Council may, during a session, modify the order of items of the agenda or add or delete items. A majority of two-thirds shall be required for the addition or deletion of items during a session.

IV. OFFICERS5. Election of chairman and vice-chairmen

(1) At the beginning of its first session, the Council shall elect a chairman and five vice-chairmen; these shall form the Council's Bureau.

(2) Thereafter the chairman and the vice-chairmen shall be elected in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 4 of the Statutes of the Council.

(3) Members of the Bureau are eligible for re-election..

6. General powers of the chairman

(1) In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the chairman shall have the following powers: he shall declare the opening and closing of meetings, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order and subject to these rules shall control the proceedings and the maintenance of order.

(2) If the chairman is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, a vice-chairman shall become chairman for the unexpired portion of the term of office. If that vice-chairman also or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, another vice-chairman shall become chairman for the unexpired portion of the term of office.

7. Functions of vice-chairman

In the absence of the chairman during a session, his functions shall be exercised in turn by the vice-chairman.

V. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

8. Ad hoc committees

(1) *Ad hoc* committees set up by the Council in accordance with Article 5 of the Statutes of the Council shall meet in accordance with the decisions of the Council or of the Bureau.

(2) These *ad hoc* committees shall elect their own chairman, vice-chairmen and, if necessary, their own rapporteur.

9. Working groups

(1) Working groups set up by the Council in accordance with Article 5 of the Statutes of the Council shall meet in accordance with the decisions of the Council or of the Bureau.

(2) These working groups shall elect their own chairman, vice-chairmen and, if necessary, their own rapporteur.

10. Rules of procedure

These rules of procedure shall apply to the proceedings of committees and working groups unless the Council decides otherwise.

VI. SECRETARIAT

(1) The Director-General shall place at the disposal of the Council a member of the Secretariat of UNESCO who shall act as Secretary of the Council and the staff and other means required for its operation.

(2) The Secretary of the Council shall attend all meetings of the Council and the Bureau.

(3) The Secretary or his representative may make oral as well as written statements to the Council, its *ad hoc* committees and working groups and to the Bureau concerning any question under consideration.

(4) Staff members of the other organizations mentioned in Article 7, paragraph 2, of the Statutes of the Council may be assigned to the Secretariat in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 1, of these Statutes.

VII. LANGUAGES

11. Working languages

English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Council.

Working documents are produced in English and French.

12. Use of other languages

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the working languages currently in use for a particular session of the Council of a committee or a working group on the condition that he provides for the interpretation of his speech into one or the other of the said working languages.

VIII. REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

13. Reports

(1) The Secretariat shall submit a report to each session of the Council.

(2) The Council shall submit reports on its activities to each ordinary session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

(3) Copies of these reports shall be circulated by the Director-General of UNESCO in accordance with Article 10 of the Statutes of the Council.

14. Documents

The working documents of each session of the Council shall, as a rule, be communicated to the members one month before the opening of each session.

IX. MEETINGS

15. Quorum

(1) A simple majority of the States members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

(2) At meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council a quorum shall be constituted by a simple majority of the States members of the Council which are members of the body in question.

16. Publicity of meetings

All meetings of the Council shall be open to the public unless the Council decides otherwise.

X. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

17. Right to speak

Experts and observers may, with the authorization of the chairman, make oral or written statements before the Council and its committees.

18. Order of speeches

The chairman shall call upon speakers in the order in which they have expressed the desire to speak.

19. Time-limit on speeches

The Council may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

20. Points of order

During the discussion on any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order and the point of order shall be forthwith decided by the chairman. Any representative may appeal against the ruling of the chairman which can only be overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative may not in raising a point of order speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

21. Suspension, adjournment, closure

Any representative may, at any time, propose the suspension, adjournment or closure of a meeting or of a debate. Such a motion shall be put to the vote immediately. The order of priority of such motions shall be as follows:

- a) suspension of the meeting;
- b) adjournment of the meeting
- c) adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion ;
- d) closure of the debate on the item under discussion

XI. VOTING

22. Voting rights

Each State member of the Council shall have one vote.

23. Simple majority

(1) Unless otherwise provided in these rules, decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting.

(2) For the purpose of these rules, the phrase « members present and voting » means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

24. Show of hands and roll-call

Voting shall normally be by show of hands, except that any member may request a roll-call. The vote and abstention of each member participating in a roll-call shall be inserted in the report.

25. Voting on amendments

(1) When an amendment to a proposal is moved the amendment shall be voted on first.

(2) When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Council shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the chairman furthest removed from the original proposal and then on the amendment next

furthest therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to a vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on. If no amendment is adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote on its original form.

(3) A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

26. Secret ballot

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot unless, in the absence of objections, the Council decides otherwise.

27. Equally divided votes

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

XII. SPECIAL PROCEDURES

28. Special consultation by correspondence

Should the approval of the council be required for measures of exceptional urgency and importance while the Council is not in session, the chairman may, by means of the secretariat, consult the members by correspondence. The proposed measure shall be adopted if it is approved by two-thirds of the members.

XIII. AMENDMENT

29. Amendment

These rules of procedure, except when they reproduce provisions of the Council Statutes or decisions of the General Conference, may be amended by a decision of the Council taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting, provided that the proposal for amendment has been placed on the agenda.

30. Suspension

Suspension of any of these rules shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

List Expert for the Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves Working Group

PRIORITY AREA	N°	COUNTRY	REGION	SURNAME	NAME	GENDER
ZONATION OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES 17 experts (5 women) 7 AFR 2 ASPAC 5 ENA 3 LAC	1	Senegal	AFR	NGOM	Daouda	M
	2	Senegal	AFR	DIABY	Nouhou	M
	3	Ivory Coast	AFR	GAUZE TOUAO	Kah Martine	F
	4	Nigeria	AFR	OKEYOYIN	Abgoola Okede	M
	5	Ivory Coast	AFR	DIE	Agathe	F
	6	Cameroon	AFR	TSAKEM	Samuel Christian	M
	7	Burkina Faso	AFR	DIBLONI	Olo Théophile	M
	8	Korea	ASPAC	CHO	Doo-Soon	M
	9	Indonesia	ASPAC	DEA	Purwanto	M
	10	France	ENA	CIBIEN	Catherine	F
	11	Germany	ENA	PRUTER	Johannes	M
	12	Romania	ENA	ACIMOV	Zoran	M
	13	Slovakia	ENA	GUZIOVA	Zuzana	F

N°	COUNTRY	REGION	SURNAME	NAME	GENDER
14	United	ENA	BOBOWSKI	Benny	M
15	Colombia	LAC	PENA	Rubiela	F
16	Cuba	LAC	FIGUEROA	Fidel Hernandez	M
17	Brazil	LAC	FERREIRA LOURIVAL	Reinaldo Francisco	M

GOVERNANCE OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES 17 experts (5 women) 4 AFR 2 ASPAC 7 ENA 4 LAC	18	Burkina Faso	AFR	BELEM OUEDRAOGO	Mamounata	F
	19	Kenya	AFR	WANYAMA	Wekesa Boniface	M
	20	Ivory Coast	AFR	KOFFI	Ahua René	M
	21	South Africa	AFR	MARINGA	Vongani Nicolus	M
	22	Pakistan	ASPAC	NASIR	Syed Mahmood	M
	23	Japan	ASPAC	SATO	Tetsu	M
	24	Germany	ENA	ENGELS	Barbara	F
	25	Canada	ENA	MCDERMOTT	Larry	M
	26	France	ENA	JARDIN	Mireille	F
	27	Romania	ENA	IRIMIA	Cristina	F
	28	Ukraine	ENA	CHERINKO	Pavlo	M
	29	United Kingdom	ENA	PRICE	Martin	M
	30	Slovakia	ENA	FABRICIU SOVA	Vladimíra	F
	31	Mexico	LAC	SADA	Sergio Guevara	M
	32	Colombia	LAC	PRIAS	Juan Pablo	M
	33	Cuba	LAC	LLAUGER	Lazaro Marquez	M
	34	Brazil	LAC	RUEGGER DE ALBUQUERQUE	João Lucilio	M

<p>POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS PLANNING</p> <p>20 experts (6 women)</p> <p>5 AFR 1 ARAB 3 ASPAC 6 ENA 5 LAC</p>	35	Cameroon	AFR	NJIANG	Antoine	M
	36	Rwanda	AFR	NSABIMANA	Donat	M
	37	South Africa	AFR	POOL-STANVLIET	Ruida	F
	38	Ivory Coast	AFR	KOUAME	N'dri Marie-Thérèse	F
	39	Burkina Faso	AFR	HEBIE	Lamoussa	M
	40	Morocco	ARB	FASSI	Driss	M
	41	Australia	ASPAC	THOMLINSON	Johanna	F
	42	Korea	ASPAC	KIM	Eun-Young	F
	43	Japan	ASPAC	YOSHIDA	Kentaro	M
	44	Ireland	ENA	GOOD	Jervis	M
	45	Germany	ENA	MOLLER	Lutz	M
	46	Canada	ENA	MESSIER	Jean-Philippe L.	M
	47	Russia	ENA	BRYNSKIKH	Mikhail	M
	48	Belarus	ENA	RYBIANETS	Natallia	F
	49	France	ENA	BIORET	Frédéric	M
	50	Colombia	LAC	TAMAYO SALDARRIAGA	Carlos Mario	M
	51	Cuba	LAC	SUAREZ RODRIGUEZ	Avelino G	M
	52	Cuba	LAC	GARCIA	Maritza	F
	53	Argentina	LAC	PIEN	Graciela	F
	54	Brazil	LAC	BRAGA MORAES VICTOR	Rodrigo Antonio	M

DATA MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING 16 experts (6 women) 7 AFR 1 ASPAC 5 ENA 3 LAC	55	Rwanda	AFR	KAPLIN	Beth A.	F
	56	Burkina Faso	AFR	OUEDA	Adama	M
	57	Ivory Coast	AFR	KANGA	Koco Marie Jeanne	F
	58	Sudan	AFR	HAKIM	Salah	M
	59	Nigeria	AFR	AKINDELE	Shadrach Olufemi	M
	60	Nigeria	AFR	ISICHEI	Augustine	M
	61	Kenya	AFR	ARERO	Jaro	M
	62	China	ASPAC	LUO	Ze	M
	63	Russia	ENA	YASHINA	Tatyana	F
	64	Ireland	ENA	ROCHE	Jenni	F
	65	France	ENA	HIRLEMANN	Gabriel	M
	66	Portugal	ENA	LEANDRO	Sergio Miguel Franco Martins	M
	67	United States	ENA	GALLO	Kirsten	F
	68	Mexico	LAC	TESSARO	Maria Pia Gallina	F
	69	Mexico	LAC	BACA	Cristopher Gonzales	M
	70	Brazil	LAC	DOMINGUES	Sergio Augusto	M

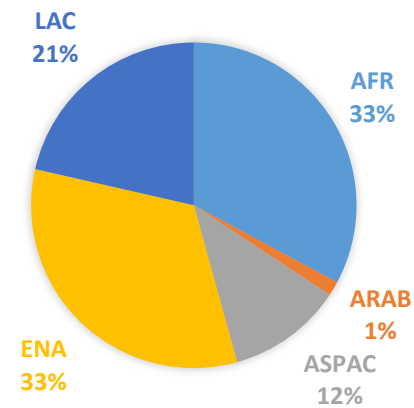
2nd call

Distribution of Expert for the Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves Working Group

Regional Distribution

	Candidates / Region	Percentage
AFR	23	33%
ARAB	1	1%
ASPAC	8	11%
ENA	23	33%
LAC	15	21%
Total	70	100%

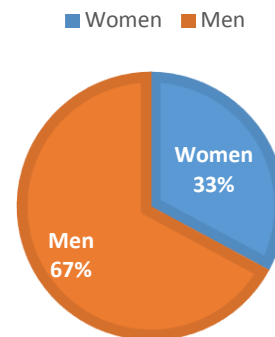
REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



Gender Distribution

	Candidates	Percentage
Women	23	33%
Men	47	67%
Total	70	100%

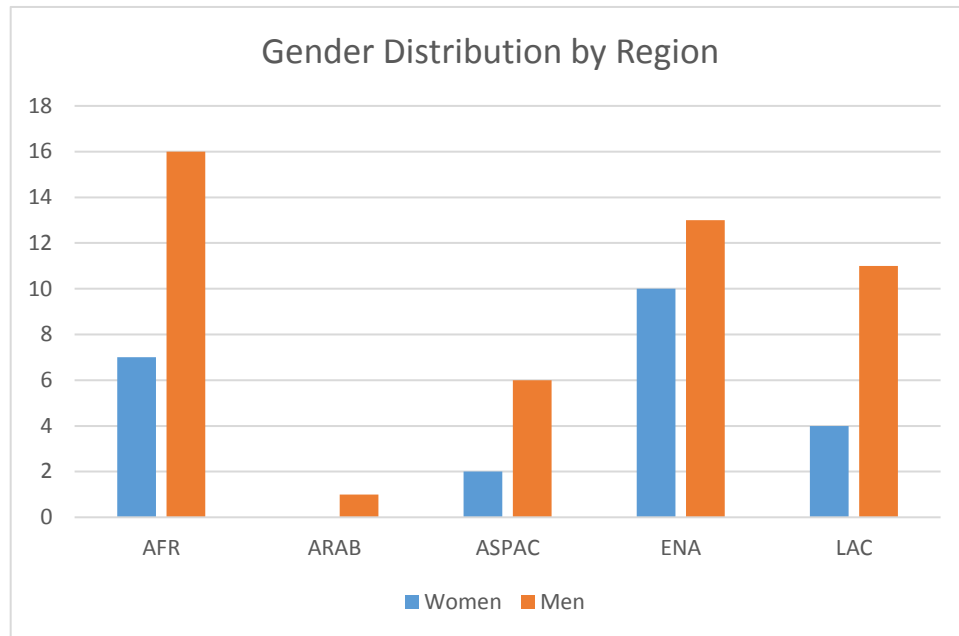
GENDER DISTRIBUTION



Gender Distribution by Region

	Women	Men	Percentage of Women Candidates
AFR	7	16	30%
ARAB	0	1	0%
ASPAC	2	6	9%
ENA	10	13	43%
LAC	4	11	17%
Total	23	47	100%

Gender Distribution by Region



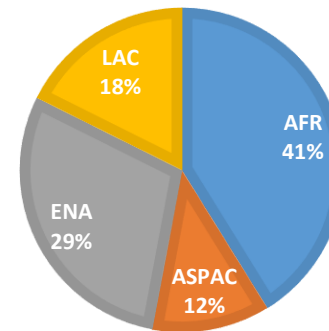
Zonation

Regional Distribution

	Candidates / Region	Percentage
AFR	7	41%
ASPAC	2	12%
ENA	5	29%
LAC	3	18%
Total	17	100%

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

■ AFR ■ ASPAC ■ ENA ■ LAC

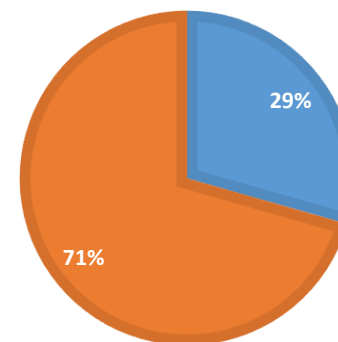


Gender Distribution

	Candidates	Percentage
Women	5	29%
Men	12	71%
Total	17	100%

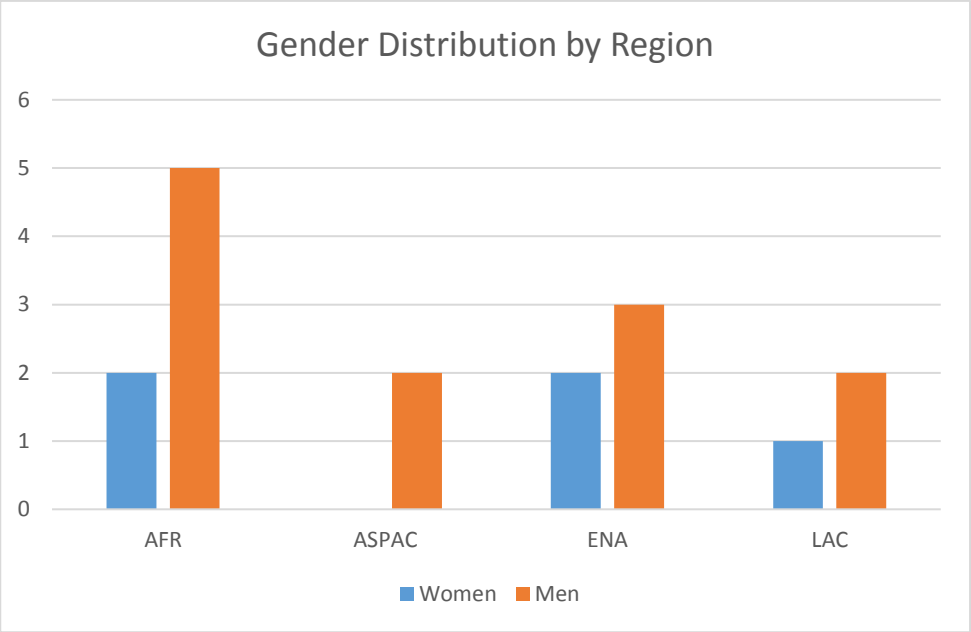
GENDER DISTRIBUTION

■ Women ■ Men



Gender Distribution by Region

	Women	Men	Percentage of Women Candidates
AFR	2	5	40%
ASPAC	0	2	0%
ENA	2	3	40%
LAC	1	2	20%
Total	5	12	100%



Governance

Regional Distribution

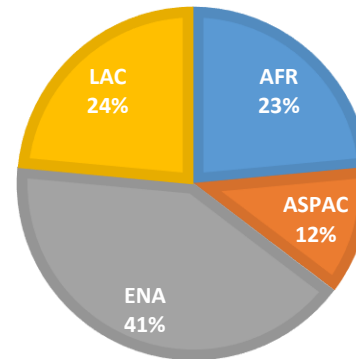
	Candidates /Region	Percentage
AFR	4	24%
ASPAC	2	12%
ENA	7	41%
LAC	4	24%
Total	17	100%

Gender Distribution

	Candidates	Percentage
Women	5	29%
Men	12	71%
Total	17	100%

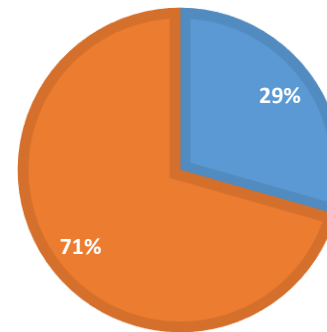
REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

■ AFR ■ ASPAC ■ ENA ■ LAC



GENDER DISTRIBUTION

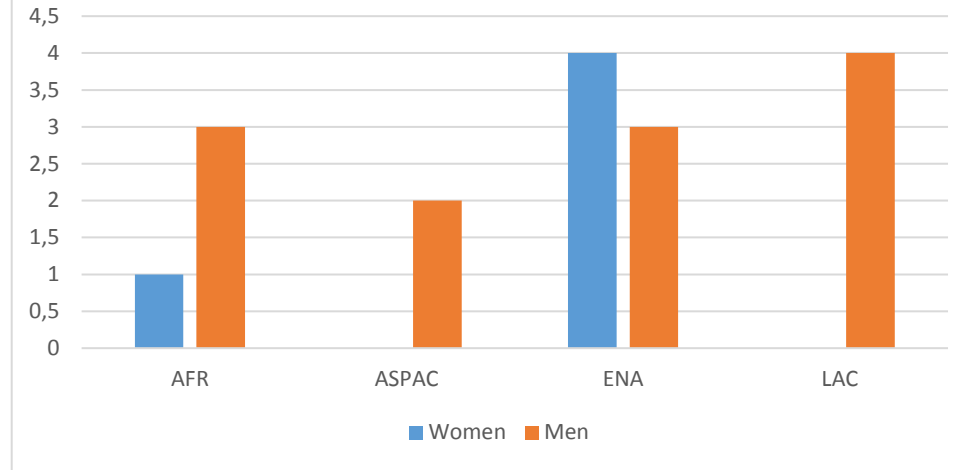
■ Women ■ Men



Gender Distribution by Region

	Women	Men	Percentage of Women Candidates
AFR	1	3	20%
ASPAC	0	2	0%
ENA	4	3	80%
LAC	0	4	0%
Total	5	12	100%

Gender Distribution by Region



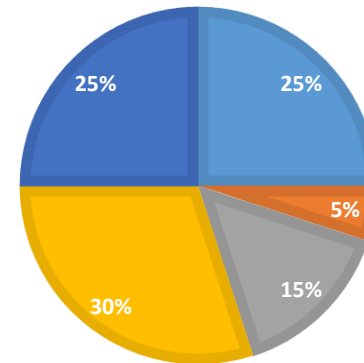
Policy, Management, and Business Planning

Regional Distribution

	Candidates /Region	Percentage
AFR	5	25%
ARAB	1	5%
ASPAC	3	15%
ENA	6	30%
LAC	5	25%
Total	20	100%

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

■ AFR ■ ARAB ■ ASPAC ■ ENA ■ LAC

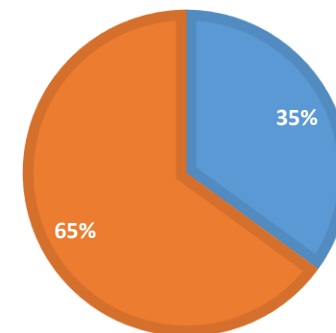


Gender Distribution

	Candidates	Percentage
Women	7	35%
Men	13	65%
Total	20	100%

GENDER DISTRIBUTION

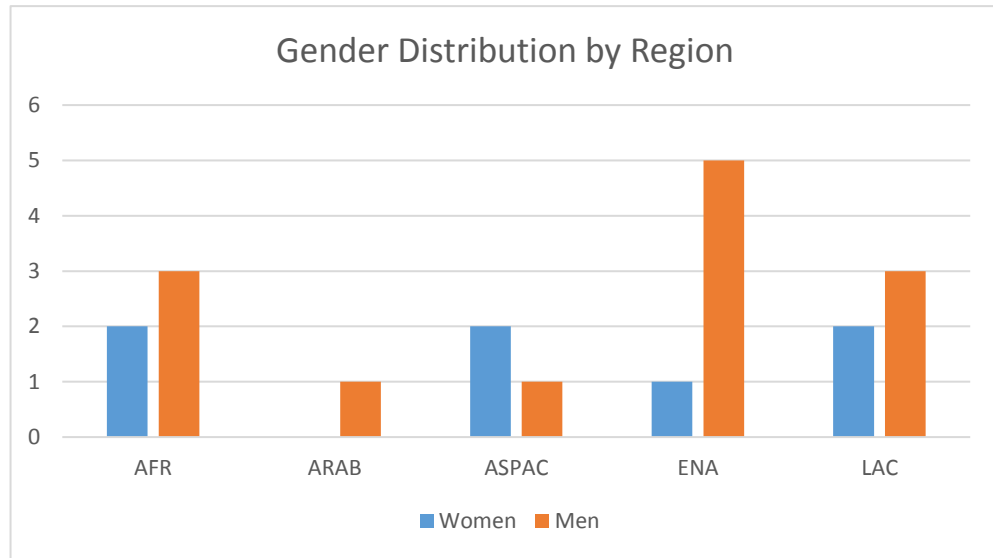
■ Women ■ Men



Gender Distribution by Region

	Women	Men	Percentage of Women Candidates
AFR	2	3	29%
ARAB	0	1	0%
ASPAC	2	1	29%
ENA	1	5	14%
LAC	2	3	29%
Total	7	13	100%

Gender Distribution by Region

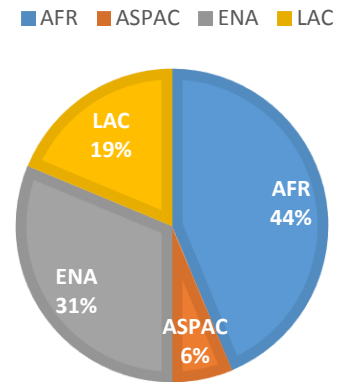


Data Management and Monitoring

Regional Distribution

	Candidates / Region	Percentage
AFR	7	44%
ASPAC	1	6%
ENA	5	31%
LAC	3	19%
Total	16	100%

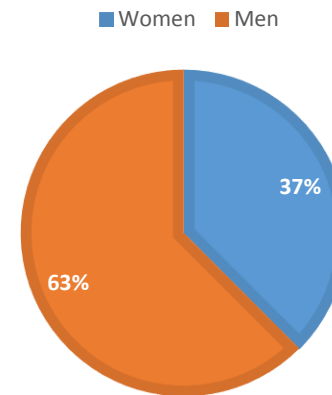
REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



Gender Distribution

	Candidates	Percentage
Women	6	38%
Men	10	63%
Total	16	100%

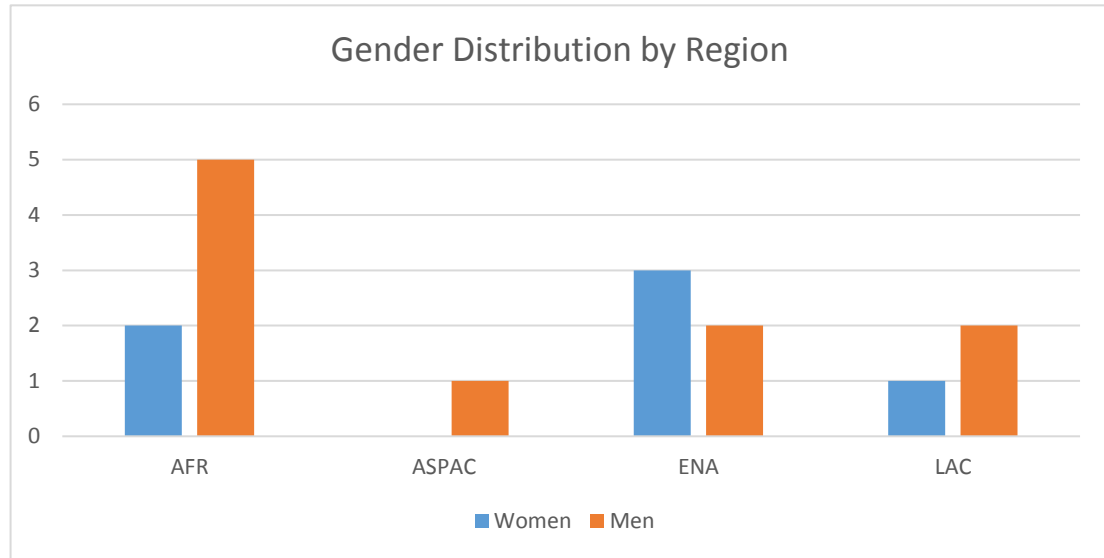
GENDER DISTRIBUTION



Gender Distribution by Region

	Women	Men	Percentage of Women Candidates
AFR	2	5	33%
ASPAC	0	1	0%
ENA	3	2	50%
LAC	1	2	17%
Total	6	10	100%

Gender Distribution by Region



Original List - TGBR Group

	COUNTRY	REGION	SURNAME	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION	SURNAME	NAME	GENDER
	Zonation TSG	Senegal	AFR	NGOM	Daouda	M	Burkina Faso	AFR	BELEM OUEDRAO GO	Mamouna ta
Senegal		AFR	DIABY	Nouhou	M	Kenya	AFR	WANYAMA	Wekesa Boniface	M
Ivory Coast		AFR	GAUZE TOUAO	Kah Martine	F	Ivory Coast	AFR	KOFFI	Ahua René	M
Nigeria		AFR	OKEYOYIN	Abgoola Okedeji	M					
Ivory Coast		AFR	DIE	Agathe	F					
Cameroon		AFR	TSAKEM	Samuel Christian	M					
Burkina Faso		AFR	DIBLONI	Ollo Théophile	M					
Korea		ASPAC	CHO	Doo-Soon	M					
Indonesia		ASPAC	DEA	Purwanto	M					
France		ENA	CIBIEN	Catherine	F					
Germany		ENA	PRUTER	Johannes	M					
Romania		ENA	ACIMOV	Zoran	M					
Slovakia		ENA	GUZIOVA	Zuzana	F					
United States		ENA	BOBOWSKI	Benny Robert	M					
Colombia		LAC	PENA VELASCO	Rubiela	F					
Cuba		LAC	FIGUEROA	Fidel Hernandez	M					
Brazil		LAC	FERREIRA LOURIVAL	Reinaldo Francisco	M					

Governance TSG	South Africa	AFR	MARINGA	Vongani Nicolus	M
	Pakistan	ASPAC	NASIR	Syed Mahmood	M
	Japan	ASPAC	SATO	Tetsu	M
	Germany	ENA	ENGELS	Barbara	F
	Canada	ENA	MCDERMOTT	Larry	M
	France	ENA	JARDIN	Mireille	F
	Romania	ENA	IRIMIA	Cristina	F
	Ukraine	ENA	CHERINKO	Pavlo	M
	United	ENA	PRICE	Martin	M
	Slovakia	ENA	FABRICIUSOVA	Vladimíra	F
	Mexio	LAC	SADA	Sergio Guevara	M
	Colombia	LAC	PRIAS	Juan Pablo	M
	Cuba	LAC	LLAUGER	Lazaro Marquez	M
	Brazil	LAC	RUEGGER DE	João Lucilio	M

**Management
& Policy TSG**

Cameroon	AFR	NJIANG	Antoine	M
Rwanda	AFR	NSABIMANA	Donat	M
South Africa	AFR	POOL-STANVLIET	Ruida	F
Ivory Coast	AFR	KOUAME	N'dri Marie-	F
Burkina Faso	AFR	HEBIE	Lamoussa	M
Morocco	ARB	FASSI	Driss	M
Australia	ASPAC	THOMLINSON	Johanna	F
Korea	ASPAC	KIM	Eun-Young	F
Japan	ASPAC	YOSHIDA	Kentaro	M
Ireland	ENA	GOOD	Jervis	M
Germany	ENA	MOLLER	Lutz	M
Canada	ENA	MESSIER	Jean-Philippe L.	M
Russia	ENA	BRYNSKIKH	Mikhail	M
Belarus	ENA	RYBIANETS	Natallia	F
France	ENA	BIORET	Frédéric	M
Colombia	LAC	TAMAYO SALDARRIAGA	Carlos Mario	M
Cuba	LAC	SUAREZ	Avelino G	M
Cuba	LAC	GARCIA	Maritza	F
Argentina	LAC	PIEN	Graciela	F
Brazil	LAC	BRAGA MORAES	Rodrigo Antonio	M

**Monitoring
TSG**

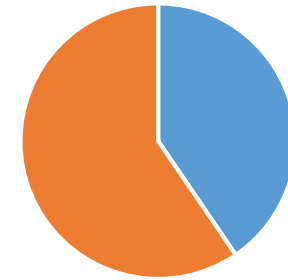
Rwanda	AFR	KAPLIN	Beth A.	F
Burkina Faso	AFR	OUEDA	Adama	M
Ivory Coast	AFR	KANGA	Koco Marie	F
Sudan	AFR	HAKIM	Salah	M
Nigeria	AFR	AKINDELE	Shadrach Olufemi	M
Nigeria	AFR	ISICHEI	Augustine	M
Kenya	AFR	ARERO	Jaro	M
China	ASPAC	LUO	Ze	M
Russia	ENA	YASHINA	Tatyana	F
Ireland	ENA	ROCHE	Jenni	F
France	ENA	HIRLEMANN	Gabriel	M
Portugal	ENA	LEANDRO	Sergio Miguel Franco Martins	M
United States	ENA	GALLO	Kirsten	F
Mexico	LAC	TESSARO	Maria Pia Gallina	F
Mexico	LAC	BACA	Cristopher Gonzales	M
Brazil	LAC	DOMINGUES	Sergio Augusto	M

TGBR Group

		number	%
gender distribution	female	17	40,47619
	Male	25	59,52381
	Total	42	100

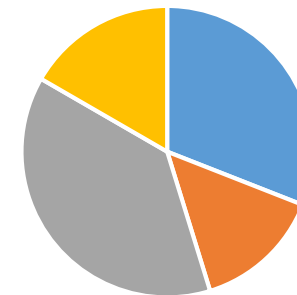
		number	%
geographic distribution	AFR	13	30,95238
	ASPAC	6	14,28571
	ENA	16	38,09524
	LAC	7	16,66667
	Total	42	100

Gender distribution



■ female 40% ■ Male 60%

Geographic distribution



■ AFR 31% ■ ASPAC 14% ■ ENA 38% ■ LAC 17%

List of the TGBR Group

Ivory Coast	AFR	DIE	Agathe	F
Burkina Faso	AFR	DIBLONI	Ollo Théophile	M
Korea	ASPAC	CHO	Doo-Soon	M
Indonesia	ASPAC	DEA	Purwanto	M
France	ENA	CIBIEN	Catherine	F
Germany	ENA	PRUTER	Johannes	M
Slovakia	ENA	GUZIOVA	Zuzana	F
United States	ENA	BOBOWSKI	Benny Robert	M
Brazil	LAC	FERREIRA LOURIVAL	Reinaldo Francisco	M
Germany	ENA	ENGELS	Barbara	F
Canada	ENA	MCDERMOTT	Larry	M
France	ENA	JARDIN	Mireille	F
United Kingdom	ENA	PRICE	Martin	M
Colombia	LAC	PRIAS	Juan Pablo	M
South Africa	AFR	POOL-STANVLIET	Ruida	F
Germany	ENA	MOLLER	Lutz	M

Russia	ENA	YASHINA	Tatyana	F
France	ENA	HIRLEMANN	Gabriel	M
Portugal	ENA	LEANDRO	Sergio Miguel Franco Martins	M
Mexico	LAC	TESSARO	Maria Pia Gallina	F
Mexico	LAC	BACA	Cristopher Gonzales	M
Brazil	LAC	DOMINGUES	Sergio Augusto	M
Brazil	LAC	BRAGA MORAES VICTOR	Rodrigo Antonio	M
Russia	ENA	BRYNSKIKH	Mikhail	M
Belarus	ENA	RYBIANETS	Natallia	F
Ireland	ENA	GOOD	Jervis	M
Australia	ASPAC	THOMLINSON	Johanna	F
Senegal	AFR	NGOM	Daouda	M
Korea	ASPAC	KIM	Eun-Young	F
Burkina Faso	AFR	BELEM OUEDRAOGO	Mamounata	F
Ivory Coast	AFR	KOFFI	Ahua René	M
Ivory Coast	AFR	GAUZE TOUAO	Kah Martine	F

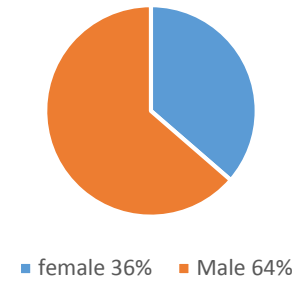
Argentina	LAC	PIEN	Graciela	F
Rwanda	AFR	KAPLIN	Beth A.	F
Nigeria	AFR	AKINDELE	Shadrach Olufemi	M
Nigeria	AFR	ISICHEI	Augustine	M
China	ASPAC	LUO	Ze	M

Burkina Faso	AFR	OUEDA	Adama	M
South Africa	AFR	MARINGA	Vongani Nicolus	M
Ivory Coast	AFR	KANGA	Koco Marie Jeanne	F
United States	ENA	GALLO	Kirsten	F
Japan	ASPAC	SATO	Tetsu	M

Zonation TSG

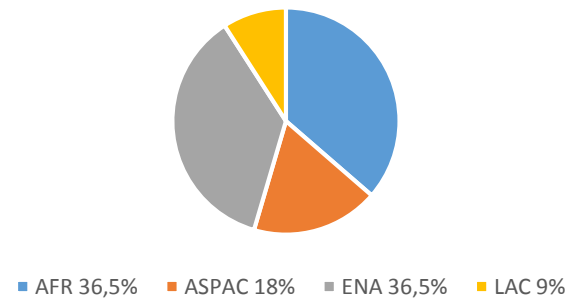
		number	%
gender distribution	female	4	36,36364
	Male	7	63,63636
	Total	11	100

Gender distribution



		number	%
geographic distribution	AFR	4	36,36364
	ASPAC	2	18,18182
	ENA	4	36,36364
	LAC	1	9,090909
	Total	11	100

Geographic distribution



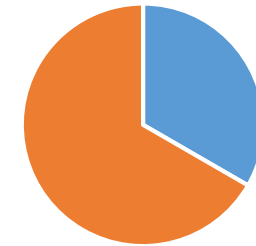
List of the Zonation TSG

COUNTRY	REGION	SURNAME	NAME	GENDER
Ivory Coast	AFR	DIE	Agathe	F
Burkina Faso	AFR	DIBLONI	Ollo Théophile	M
Korea	ASPAC	CHO	Doo-Soon	M
Indonesia	ASPAC	DEA	Purwanto	M
France	ENA	CIBIEN	Catherine	F
Germany	ENA	PRUTER	Johannes	M
Slovakia	ENA	GUZIOVA	Zuzana	F
United States	ENA	BOBOWSKI	Benny Robert	M
Brazil	LAC	FERREIRA LOURIVAL	Reinaldo Francisco	M
Ivory Coast	AFR	GAUZE TOUAO	Kah Martine	F
Senegal	AFR	NGOM	Daouda	M

Governance TSG

		number	%
gender distribution	female	3	33,33333
	Male	6	66,66667
	Total	9	100

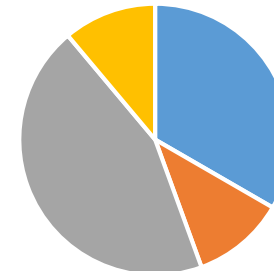
Gender distribution



■ female 33% ■ Male 67%

		number	%
geographic distribution	AFR	3	33,33333
	ASPAC	1	11,11111
	ENA	4	44,44444
	LAC	1	11,11111
	Total	9	100

Geographic distribution



■ AFR 33,3% ■ ASPAC 11,1% ■ ENA 44,5% ■ LAC 11,1%

List of the Governance TSG

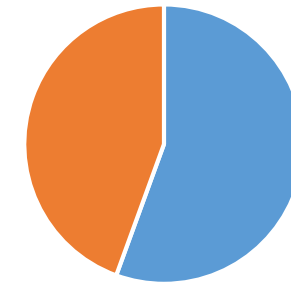
COUNTRY	REGION	SURNAME	NAME	GENDER
Germany	ENA	ENGELS	Barbara	F
Canada	ENA	MCDERMOTT	Larry	M
France	ENA	JARDIN	Mireille	F
United Kingdom	ENA	PRICE	Martin	M
Colombia	LAC	PRIAS	Juan Pablo	M
Burkina Faso	AFR	BELEM OUEDRAOGO	Mamounata	F
Ivory Coast	AFR	KOFFI	Ahua René	M
South Africa	AFR	MARINGA	Vongani Nicolus	M
Japan	ASPAC	SATO	Tetsu	M

Management & Policy TSG

		number	%
gender distribution	female	5	55,55556
	Male	4	44,44444
	Total	9	100

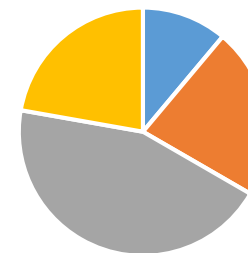
		number	%
geographic distribution	AFR	1	11,11111
	ASPAC	2	22,22222
	ENA	4	44,44444
	LAC	2	22,22222
	Total	9	100

Gender distribution



■ female 55,5% ■ Male 44,5%

Geographic Distribution



■ AFR 11% ■ ASPAC 22,25% ■ ENA 44,5% ■ LAC 22,25%

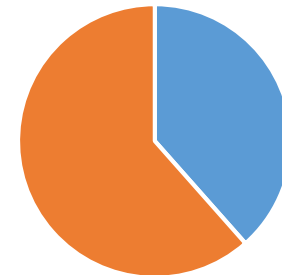
List of the Management and Policy TSG

COUNTRY	REGION	SURNAME	NAME	GENDER
South Africa	AFR	POOL-STANVLIET	Ruida	F
Germany	ENA	MOLLER	Lutz	M
Argentina	LAC	PIEN	Graciela	F
Brazil	LAC	BRAGA MORAES VICTOR	Rodrigo Antonio	M
Russia	ENA	BRYNSKIKH	Mikhail	M
Belarus	ENA	RYBIANETS	Natallia	F
Ireland	ENA	GOOD	Jervis	M
Australia	ASPAC	THOMLINSON	Johanna	F
Korea	ASPAC	KIM	Eun- Young	F

Monitoring TSG

		number	%
gender distribution	female	5	38,46154
	Male	8	61,53846
	Total	13	100

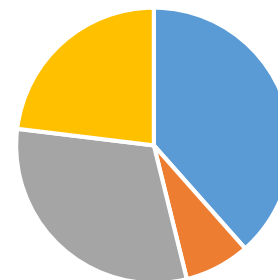
Gender distribution



■ female 38% ■ Male 62%

		number	%
geographic distribution	AFR	5	38,46154
	ASPAC	1	7,692308
	ENA 31	4	30,76923
	LAC	3	23,07692
	Total	13	100

Geographic distribution



■ AFR 38% ■ ASPAC 8% ■ ENA 31% ■ LAC 23%

List of the Monitoring TSG

COUNTRY	REGION	SURNAME	NAME	GENDER
Rwanda	AFR	KAPLIN	Beth A.	F
Nigeria	AFR	AKINDELE	Shadrach Olufemi	M
Nigeria	AFR	ISICHEI	Augustine	M
China	ASPAC	LUO	Ze	M
Russia	ENA	YASHINA	Tatyana	F
France	ENA	HIRLEMANN	Gabriel	M
Portugal	ENA	LEANDRO	Sergio Miguel Franco Martins	M
Mexico	LAC	TESSARO	Maria Pia Gallina	F
Mexico	LAC	BACA	Cristopher Gonzales	M
Brazil	LAC	DOMINGUES	Sergio Augusto	M
Burkina Faso	AFR	OUEDA	Adama	M

Ivory Coast	AFR	KANGA	Koco Marie Jeanne	F
United States	ENA	GALLO	Kirsten	F