

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE IBEROMAB NETWORK, CIC 2021

The activities developed by the IberoMaB network in the last year aimed at fulfilling the Lima Action Plan are detailed below.

### BIENNIAL NETWORK MEETINGS

#### ✓ XX Meeting of the IberoMaB Network

The XX Meeting of the IberoMaB Network is planned to be organized in **Costa Rica, in December 2021**, to be held in person if the evolution of the pandemic allows it. It will be held with the collaboration of the Government of Costa Rica, UNESCO and the Spanish OAPN as Secretariat of IberoMaB Network.

#### ✓ Virtual meeting of the IberoMaB Youth Network

The IberoMaB Youth Network met virtually on **May 20, 2020** with the aim of addressing issues such as the organization of the youth forum in 2021 and the upcoming activities by and for young people. This meeting was organized by UNESCO.

#### ✓ II Ibero-American Congress of Committees and Biosphere Reserves of Ibero-America and the Caribbean

In 2022 the 30th Anniversary of the IberoMaB Network will be celebrated and, the IberoMaB Executive Board is evaluating the possibility of organizing the II Congress of the Ibero-American and Caribbean Network of MAB Committees, Focal Points and Biosphere Reserves (IberoMAB) in the **second half of the year**, , if the health situation allows it. Its organization would be supported by the Spanish OAPN (IberoMaB Secretariat) and UNESCO.

## TRAINING

- ✓ **IberoMaB 2021 virtual seminar: “Management and governance in the IberoMaB Network”**. Organized by the OAPN in collaboration with Spanish Cooperation Training Center (AECID) of La Antigua (Guatemala), from May 25 to 27, 2021.

To give continuity to the training actions of the Network, this virtual seminar was held addressing one of the most demanded training topics among IberoMaB members. More than a hundred people linked to biosphere reserves in 19 countries of the Network participated in this online meeting.

- ✓ **IberoMaB 2021 virtual seminar: “Working on Gender Equality in the IberoMaB Network”**, from October 26 to 28, 2021.

This virtual seminar will give continuity to the work on gender equality started in 2019 during the seminar "About the roadmap for gender equality in biosphere reserves: Diagnosis, transversality and construction of action capacities", held at the AECID Training Centre of La Antigua (Guatemala), and which have subsequently been the subject of a Working Group created for this purpose, the activity of which is detailed in a later section. The objective for this action is to reach a consensus on a joint document that, after being considered by all the members of the Network, will allow promoting Gender Equality in IberoMaB.

## PUBLICATIONS

- ✓ **IberoMaB Exchange of experiences on gender equality in the IberoMaB Biosphere Reserves**

After the seminar on "About the roadmap for gender equity in biosphere reserves: Diagnosis, transversality and construction of action capacities", held at the AECID Training Centre in La Antigua (Guatemala) during 4-8 November 2019, an electronic publication with the compilation of the presentations was made. This publication makes the knowledge and experiences presented available to all biosphere reserves and to the general public. [See Publication](#) (in Spanish).

- ✓ **The quality brand in IberoMaB Biosphere Reserves**

After the seminar "Quality Brands and Short Marketing Circuits in the Biosphere Reserves of Ibero-America and the Caribbean: Support to Local Communities and the Conservation of Sustainable Traditions" held in October 2020, an electronic publication was produced that compiles the papers presented there. With this publication, the knowledge and experiences presented in the seminar are made available to all biosphere reserves and to the general public. [See Publication](#) (in Spanish).

- ✓ **Update of the electronic publication "Ibero-American Biosphere Reserves: Basic Information"**

To update the basic information sheets of the reserves, a compilation of information has begun, as well as the preparation of the sheets of the new declared reserves. This document will be available before 2022.

#### **COVID DECLARATION**

- ✓ **Statement from the IberoMaB Network on the occasion of the pandemic caused by Covid-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic will have a strong impact on the present and future of the biosphere. In this regard, the Ibero-American and Caribbean Network of MAB Committees, Focal Points and Biosphere Reserves (IberoMAB), agreed to issue an official statement to reaffirm that the only way to regain the previous way of life is the immediate recovery of production models and sustainable consumption and that economic and social recovery in the short and long term depends on the natural resources of the environment.

In this situation, the UNESCO biosphere reserves are one of the best alternatives available to find new avenues for development based on the biophysical and cultural conditions of the territory and on the dynamics of natural cycles. Biosphere Reserves, therefore, have the potential to provide answers and innovative solutions based on nature that integrate the rural and urban population in a common vision of the environment, diversity and well-being.

This Declaration of the IberoMaB Network was sent to UNESCO and to the CIC countries.

[See Declaration](#)

#### **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

- ✓ **Working Group on Gender Equality of IberoMaB**

In July 2021, the Gender Working Group of the IberoMaB Network was reactivated to develop a "Guide to Include the Gender Perspective in the IberoMaB Network". This document is being elaborated with the help of an external consultant. The objective is to prepare a document that will be presented and discussed in the next "IberoMaB virtual seminar", scheduled for October 2021, and that will be called "Working on gender equality in the Bureau of the Ibero-American and Caribbean Network of MAB Committees, Focal Points and Biosphere Reserves (IberoMAB)". The document resulting from this seminar will be approved by the IberoMaB Network at its meeting next December in Costa Rica.

✓ **Strategy for Strengthening Governance in the IberoMaB Network and in the Biosphere Reserves of Ibero-America and the Caribbean**

As a result of the seminar, "Management and governance in the Network of Biosphere Reserves of Ibero-America and the Caribbean, Red IberoMaB", a strategic document was prepared, which includes objectives and measures, to boost governance throughout the network taking advantage of the experience and lessons learned during the seminar. This document is under review by the members of the network through digital means and will be presented at the next meeting in Costa Rica for adoption by the IberoMaB Network.