

**Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO  
National MAB Committee/ Sudan  
Report for 2021.**

**Introduction:**

The National Man and Biosphere (MAB) Committee was established since the seventies, under the Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO/Ministry of General Education. It has always included a number of specialists representing all stakeholders in the field of wildlife, natural resources and environment. The committee held meetings on regular basis; monthly and occasionally when needed. The National MAB Committee has good relations with the following:

- Wildlife Conservation General Administration (WCGA),
- Ministry of Tourism, Antiquities and Wildlife,
- Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Wildlife/ Red Sea State
- Ministry of Water Resources Irrigation, and Electricity.
- National IHP Committee
- Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources.
- National Center for Research
- Wildlife Research Center
- National Remote Sensing Authority
- National Forestry Corporation
- UNESCO Khartoum Office
- UNESCO Cairo Office
- State Ministry of Environment at Khartoum State
- Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society
- UNESCO Chairs (UNESCO Chair for Oceanography and Marine sciences, UNESCO Chair for Desertification, UNESCO Chair for Women in Science and Technology, UNESCO Chair for Water Resources, UNESCO Eco-technique Chair...etc)
- Many universities and research corporations
- Many national, regional and international organizations (Coastal, PERSGA Organization, the Sudanese Development Initiative...etc)

The National MAB Committee represent Sudan and Arab region as a member of the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Program (2018-2020 and 2020-2021).

Sudan has 3 biosphere reserves (BRs), namely, Dinder (1979), Radom (1982) and Jebel Al Dair (2017). The National MAB Committee works in full coordination and

be a key partner to the national authorities in the implementation of MAB program in the three BRs, and in Sudan.

**The MAB Committee** supports the Wildlife Conservation General Administration (WCGA) in its mandate to conserve the wildlife resources in and out protected areas and reserves. It conducts several training, education and environmental awareness programs for the staff of WCGA. It always initiate consultation with WCGA and advice for declaration of new Biosphere reserves on the different ecosystems and supports the effective integrated management of the three biosphere reserves of Sudan, towards the sustainable development. The National MAB Committee conducts activities in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for Oceanography and Marine sciences and the UNESCO World Heritage Center to preserve the Sudanese natural Heritage Property (Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dugonab Bay/Mukkawar Island Marine National Park) in the Red Sea.

Assist in the preparation for Mr. Gillbert ;a Photographer' mission to SMNP-DMNP Heritage site from Arab World Heritage Center for Arab Region March 2021

**The National MAB Committee** assist and advice researchers in conducting research and environmental monitoring in nature protected areas and biosphere reserves in collaboration with Research Centers, Universities and UNESCO Chairs (mentioned above).

The members of the National MAB Committee participated in many National projects and programs for developing policies, strategies and plans for strengthening the development of wildlife and natural resources in Sudan. It collaborates with national, regional, international authorities and organizations in different issues related to sustainable development goals.

**Since the last report of 2017-2018 , the Committee has tried to continue its efforts to implements its plans and projects such as the Dinder BR – Al Atish National Park Trans-boundary Initiative** and continued its contacts with Directors of Dinder and Al Atish NPs. Ethiopia UNESCO National Office towards the establishment of the Joint Trans-boundary Initiative committee which is composed of 2 countries' committees: to start establishment of a trans-boundary biosphere reserve. The project faced several challenges because of the political situation in both countries.

**Since the establishment of the Sudanese MAB Youth Forum at 2018,** the MAB Committee continued its efforts on enforcing the forum in its awareness activities supporting the MAB program and the implementation of its strategy. Beside the young representatives of the WCGA, the National Wildlife Research Center, the Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society, the Sudanese Development Initiative Society and the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society new members had joined the forum (at the face book web-site (<https://web.facebook.com/SUDANS-MAB-YOUTH-FORUM>)). They are working hard towards increasing the membership of the forum in different states and BRs of Sudan..

The Youth Forum held several meetings during 2020 and 2021 to develop its action plans and divide the roles of its members for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MAB Program. The action plans include an awareness program about MAB program, BR Concept, and workshops related to sustainable development goals. Many articles are published at the daily news papers. Unfortunately, shortage of funds make the implementation of many plans for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MAB Program, impossible

Targeting to expand UNESCO's activities in Sudan, linked to Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the International Geopark and Geoscience Programme (IGGP), the National Committee participate in the workshop conducted during 2020 for establishing the Sabaloga Geo-park.

During 2020-2021 the National MAB Committee in collaboration with UNESCO Khartoum Office had developed Tentative List for the Sudanese Natural World Heritage sites(6) including the 3 BRs.

An estimated efforts being started by the Dinder reserve Administration, as part of the 2021 technical plan, 150 acres of Acacia and timber trees are planted in the western and eastern sectors of the reserve, to compensate for the loss of vegetation in these parts.

Two members of the MAB Committee participated in the development of the proposals for two promising projects:

- Protected Area system and Integrated Ecosystem Management ( in Dinder, Jebel Al Dair and Doungonab Marine PA) and sustainable development. (2021-2025) funded by the GEF.
- An Integrated Sustainable Landscape Management actions in the Dinder and Jebel Al Dair BRs(2021-2023), to be funded under the 2019 Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme, by the EUROPEAN UNION with UN Environment Programme.

**Obstacles and Challenges:**

- Financial sources for the implementation of the annual action plans of the MAB Committee which contains many activities.
- The political situation in Sudan-Transitional Government – had slowed the activities of the MAB Committee during 2021 due to certain circumstances in the Ministry of Basic Education.

**Future plans:**

- Increasing the number of biosphere reserves in Sudan –updating information through surveys and preparation of nomination files- development of protected areas in civil conflict zones
- Continue the awareness and training programs about the MAB program strategy and implementation of Lima Action Plan throughout the different Sudan States.
- Involving many of young people in different states, in the Sudanese MAB Youth Forum and implement its action plans.