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China annual report on the national implementation of the MAB Programme

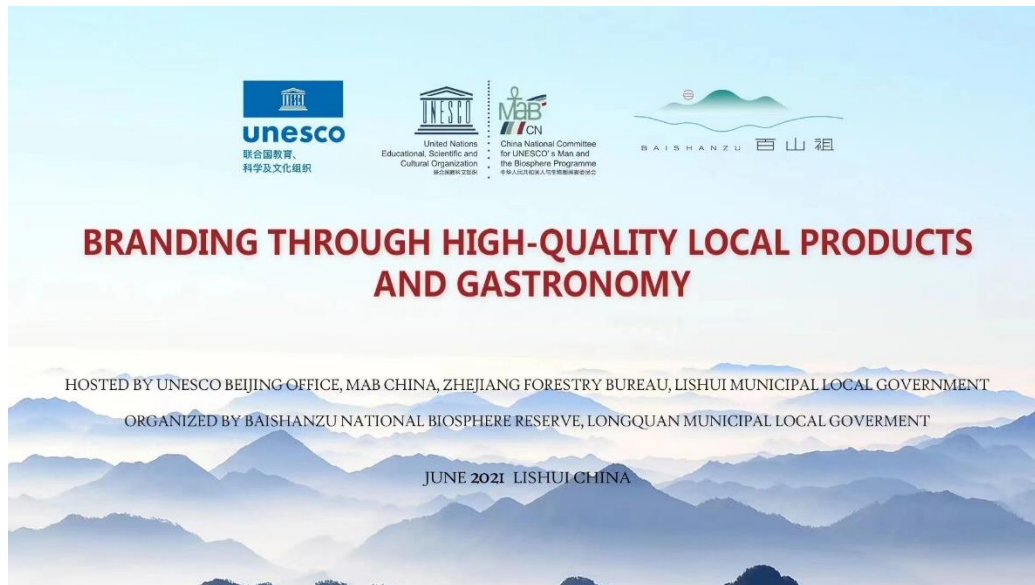
The China National Committee for MAB Programme (MAB China) hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) continues to coordinate and promote the work related to MAB programme in China in the past year. In spite of the pandemic, MAB China spared no effort to implement the MAB strategy (2015-2025) and the Lima Action Plan. Ten aspects of the key activities about UNESCO BRs and the Chinese Biosphere Reserve Network (CBRN) are summarized and shown as below.

➤ National activities

1. The 7th China National Committee for MAB Programme was established on 15 April 2021. Prof. Yaping Zhang, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was elected as new chairman of MAB China, with the leaders of associated Ministries such as Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China National Commission for UNESCO serving vice chairmen. Another 11 committee members from other related ministries and three province governments were appointed as well. Meanwhile, the Advisory Council consisting of 42 leading experts in the fields of nature conservation and sustainable development was established on the same day. Academician Zhihong Xu, former Chairman of MAB China (1993-2021), was elected as the chairman of the Advisory Council.
2. The periodic reviews of Saihanwula Biosphere Reserve and Baotianman Biosphere Reserve were successfully conducted in 2021 and the reports are in the process of translation and will be submitted to MAB Secretariat by September 2022. We have also

submitted the periodic review documents of the Gaoligongshan Biosphere Reserve, the Huanglong Biosphere Reserve, the Baishuijiang Biosphere Reserve. The Najilie Island Biosphere Reserve supplemental documents was also submitted as requested by MAB Secretariat. Meanwhile, due to the travel restrictions to control the pandemic, the periodic reviews of Mao'ershan BR, Shankou Mangrove BR and Wuyishan BR have to be postponed to the next year.

3. The first model reserve of smart wildlife monitoring system of CBRN was reviewed and designated by MAB China in Chebaling BR in Guandong Province, China in May, 2021. The system was built with modern technologies such as cloud computing, big data mining and AI (deep learning) as the core technologies and could substantially improve the monitoring and research of wild lives in BRs. The progress also indicates the joint initiative of MAB China and the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) launched in 2015 has made remarkable progress. The technical team is continuing the work to optimize the system along the direction of “low cost, convenience and intelligence”.
4. Four on-site capacity building workshops were conducted to meet the needs of BRs and promote their sustainable development and a total of 239 trainees benefited from these activities. For instance, the Communication Skill Training Workshop were organized for the sixth term. The Training Workshop on Biosphere Reserve Branding through High-Quality Local Products and Gastronomy, co-organized by UNESCO Beijing Office, MAB China and Lishui local government, was successfully held in June 2021 at Baishanzu National Biosphere Reserve in Zhejiang Province. With special attention paid to gender balance, 85 trainees from 23 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and 34 National Biosphere Reserves of China attended the training workshop.



Training workshop in Lishui, Zhejiang, 2021

5. MAB China promoted the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China and CAS to jointly propose to People's Bank of China to issue the CBD COP15 noble metal commemorative coins, which were officially launched on the occasion of CBD COP15 on October 11, 2021.
6. Another 6 nature reserves were accepted by MAB China into CBRN, making the number of CBRN increased to 191.
7. To encourage the scientific research and honor the rangers at BRs, MAB China has also set up the Award of Young Scientist and the Award of Excellent Ranger since 2016. In 2021, another 3 young researchers and 5 rangers at BRs were granted these two awards, making the total number of awardees rise to 18 and 26, respectively.

➤ **International activities**

8. The China MAB committee encouraged young scientists and managers to participate in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve activities. Dr. Xiaoge Ping from the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences was elected as a youth spokesman for UNESCO MAB in 2021. On behalf of the young people in the Asia-pacific region, she actively participated in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the MAB. The Research Center for Eco-environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences (RCEES, CAS) was approved to

be one of two Technical Secretariats to coordinate the work of World Mountain Biosphere Reserve Network (WNMBR) .

9. MAB China continues to proactively participate in the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN). Due to the pandemic, the training programs of EABRN were changed to webinars. MAB China recommended Prof. Ze Luo from the Computer Network Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to share his research progress of using modern Information Technologies to monitor wild animals in Chebaling BR in China.
10. In order to celebrate the 50th anniversary of MAB Programme and to make a contribution to CBD COP15, the China MAB committee made a joint action with the UNESCO Beijing office, Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO), International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and China CITES SA to organize the exhibition of “The Beauty of Life on Earth” in Beijing and Kunming, respectively. Some leaders of Chinese ministries, representatives of UNESCO in China, and Ambassadors or Minister counselors of some other countries to China attended the opening ceremony in Beijing on 30th August 2021. Over 2 million people visited the exhibition on the spot or online and gave high appraisals.



Opening Ceremony of *The Beauty of Life on Earth Exhibition* in Beijing, China, 2021