

## **IBEROMAB NETWORK ACTIVITY REPORT, CIC 2022**

This document is a summary of the activities developed by the IberoMaB network in the period from September 2021 to May 2022 aimed at fulfilling the Lima Action Plan.

### **IBEROMAB NETWORK MEETINGS**

#### **✓ XIX Ordinary Meeting of the IberoMaB Network**

The XIX annual meeting of the IberoMaB Network, scheduled for May 2020 in Costa Rica, was finally held in virtual format from 18 to 20 January 2022, due to the health situation. Despite being a virtual meeting, different personalities from Costa Rica and 24 member countries participated.

These are the main agreements reached at the meeting:

- The election of the new Executive Board chaired by Honduras, with Peru as Vice-President and Spain acting as IberoMaB Secretariat.
- The approval of the documents: Strategy for Strengthening the IberoMaB Network and the Guide to include Gender Equality in the IberoMaB Network.
- The agreement to hold the II Congress of Biosphere Reserves of the IberoMaB Network in 2023, for which candidatures have been requested to host the congress, within the framework of the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Network.
- Develop training processes on indigenous peoples, trans-boundary reserves and communication.

#### **✓ II Extraordinary Virtual Meeting of the IberoMaB Network**

An extraordinary meeting of the Executive Board of the Network was held on May the 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 (in virtual format) to vote on the modifications to the IberoMaB regulations proposed by the IberoMaB Board, as well as on the proposals of the IberoMaB gender working group to change the name of the MaB Programme to a more inclusive one, which, will be sent to CIC for consideration. Both, the modifications to the regulations and the proposals to change the name of the MaB Programme were unanimously approved by the Executive Council.

#### **✓ II IberoMaB Youth Forum**

UNESCO and representatives of the IberoMab Youth, with the support of the Network, have held several meetings and it has been decided that the Agua y Paz Biosphere Reserve (Costa Rica) will

be the host. The II IberoMaB Youth Forum will be held in the first week of November 2022, coinciding with the first International Day for Biosphere Reserves.

✓ **II Iberoamerican Congress of Biosphere Reserves and Committees of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean**

2022 will mark the 30th Anniversary of the IberoMaB Network and it was the wish of the Network's Executive Council to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress during the year. However, given the logistical difficulties arising from the COVID 19 pandemic, it was decided to organise the Congress in the second half of 2023. The member countries of the Network will present their candidatures to host the congress in 2022 that will also count with the support of the Spanish OAPN (IberoMaB Secretariat) and UNESCO.

## TRAINING

✓ **IberoMaB 2021 Virtual Seminar: - "Working on Gender Equality in the IberoMaB Network", 26-28 October 2021.**

Organised by the OAPN in collaboration with the Training Centre of the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID) in La Antigua (Guatemala) and with the aim of providing continuity to the Network's training activities, this virtual seminar was held to address one of the most requested training topics among IberoMaB members. Fifty-five people linked to biosphere reserves from 15 countries of the Network participated in this meeting.

Experiences of some of the Network's reserves for the promotion of gender equality were shared and the draft of the "Guide for Including the Gender Perspective in the IberoMaB Network", on which the IberoMaB gender working group had previously been working, was presented.

✓ **Planning future seminars on indigenous peoples, transboundary reserves and communication.**

The IberoMaB Network Secretariat is working together with AECID and UNESCO to carry out these training activities during the years 2022-2023.



## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **✓ Guide to include a gender perspective in the IberoMaB network**

The IberoMaB gender work-group and an external expert wrote this guide in order to provide the network with a tool to promote gender equality in Network and its Biosphere Reserves.

### **✓ Strategy for Strengthening the IberoMaB Network.**

Following the seminar "Management and Governance in the IberoMaB Network" held in May 2021, this small strategy has been drawn up to highlight the most important points to work on in order to give new impetus to governance in the management of the reserves.

These two publications are in the process of being typeset and will be available very soon.

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

This document has now been updated and contains all the reservations of the network. It is currently in the process of being typeset and will be available soon.

