

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Thirty-second session

Online session

27 – 28 October 2020

ITEM 12 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: Proposal for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the MAB Programme

1. The Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, as UNESCO longest standing scientific intergovernmental programme, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021.
2. The celebration will honour all those who have worked and dedicated their time and energy to the Programme, making it possible for MAB to become an international reference on sustainable development. It will also shed light on what it has been achieved, the lessons learned and where the Programme needs to go in the future with next generations and new visions.
3. In 2021, we will not only celebrate 50 years of the MAB Programme, but also 75 years of our Organization. These anniversaries will be a major milestone to highlight UNESCO and MAB's commitment to the biodiversity and sustainable development global agenda.
4. Although the celebration will take place throughout next year, there will be two key moments to highlight the important role of the MAB programme: the MAB Council and the UNESCO General Conference.
5. This is a momentous occasion in the life of the MAB Programme, and one that should be promoted on the four corners of the world. The MAB Secretariat has proposed to the MAB Bureau to invite Dr Jane Goodall, DBE, UN Messenger for Peace to become the Special Envoy of the 50th anniversary of the MAB Programme.
6. Dr Goodall is an internationally accredited scientist, mainly known for her innovative discoveries on chimpanzee behaviour. Much of Dr Goodall's research was conducted in the area that currently is the Gombe Masito Ugalla Biosphere Reserve, Tanzania, a proposal supported by Dr Goodall. UNESCO and especially the MAB Secretariat has worked closely with the Jane Goodall Institute and with Dr Goodall herself in the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP). She is invited in December 2020 by the Director-General of UNESCO



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to highlight the high level of scientists working with the Organization.

7. The MAB Secretariat will present the activities that have been designed throughout the whole year ahead around the globe and calls Member States to support and join this important celebration.

8. The MAB Council is invited to provide guidance to the MAB Secretariat for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of MAB.