

**21 April 2015 Draft of MAB Strategy
Comments received by email from Roster of Experts Members**

Roster of Experts Member	Date/time comments received	Attachment
Thomas Schaaf	23 April 2015 09:30	
Djafarou Tiomoko	23 April 2015 20:10	
Samir Ghabbour	24 April 2015 17:43	X
Salwa Mansour Abdelhameed	24 April 2015 18:28	
António D Abreu	24 April 2015 18:29	
Tania Moreno	24 April 2015 21:55	
Ghassan Ramadan	26 April 2015 06:37	X
Juergen Nauber	26 April 2015 15:13	X
Hoang Tri	27 April 2015 05:41	
Didier Babin	27 April 2015 17:44	X
Graciela Monica Pien	27 April 2015 19:39	
Zuzana Guziova	27 April 2015 22:44	
Sheila Ashong	27 April 2015 23:11	X
Natalia Rybianets	28 April 2015 10:07	X
Doris Pokorny	28 April 2015 10:39	X

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Thomas Schaaf

23 April 2015 at 09:30

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra

Dear Peter, dear other colleagues,

Many thanks for your e-mail. Since I am leaving soon for an international workshop on BR World Heritage sites, Global Geoparks and Ramsar sites in the Rep. of Korea, I am sending you already now some brief comments on the Draft MAB Strategy as follows:

(1) I suggest that the terms "MAB Programme" and "Biosphere Reserves" be spelled with capital letters (at the beginning of the word) throughout the text.

Explanation: This may appear trivial. However, if we want to "to raise the profile of the WNBR" (as recommended by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service following the evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan, page 6 of the document refers), we should start ourselves to give these terms a more textual and semantic visibility. Note that in the text, also World Heritage sites and Global Geoparks are put into caps.

(2) As regards "Implementation Objective A: The WNBR comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development", I recommended that the Expected Result "A.1. The periodic review process supports an effectively functioning WNBR ..." be shifted to position A.5. (i.e. at the end of the other expected results).

Explanation: While we all agree that the periodic review process is an important endeavour. it is NOT this process which renders a BR fully functioning; it is rather the result of the other Expected Results that would help to reach Implementation Objective A. The periodic reviews than "reflect" the successes of the other accomplished results.

Hope this helps. See you all (or most of you) at the MAB Council in June.

Best regards,

Thomas

Dr. Thomas Schaaf

Director

Terra-Sana environmental consulting

Günterstalstrasse 12a

79100 Freiburg

Germany

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Djafarou Tiomoko

23 April 2015 at 20:10

To: Dogse, P.;

Cc: Martin Price;; Han, Qunli;

Dear Peter

Please find the today input in the attached document.

Best regards

Dr Ir Djafarou Tiomoko

Point focal MAB-UNESCO-Bénin

BP388, Natitingou, Bénin

MAB STRATEGY 2015-2025

DRAFT

(21 April 2015)

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Executive Summary

Fostering sustainable development through stewardship of biodiversity is at the heart of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Over four decades, people across the globe have explored local solutions to global challenges under the umbrella of MAB, generating a wealth of experience and innovative potential for a sustainable future. In the coming 10 years, MAB will amplify its support to Member States in conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; building sustainable, healthy, and equitable economies, societies and thriving human settlements; and empowering people to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change. MAB will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and use modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information. MAB will ensure that the WNBR consists of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development, by implementing an effective periodic review process so that all members of the network adhere to its standards; by improving governance, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WNBR; and by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability. As the global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the MAB and WNBR will work towards these goals and contribute to implementing the Post-2015 agenda. This will be done through the implementation of the present Strategy, which includes a series of Strategic Objectives and Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] and an associated Action Plan, to be finalized in 2016.

Introduction

The biosphere reserve concept has proved its value beyond the protected areas which constitute its core zones, and is increasingly embraced by scientists, planners, policy-makers, businesses and local communities to bring a variety of knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to link biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being. To understand and address the key challenges facing our world today – poverty, climate change, water and food security, loss of biological and cultural diversity, rapid urbanization and desertification – the MAB programme, through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and its regional and thematic networks will strategically address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable development actions carried out in partnership with all sectors of society – public and private sectors, stakeholders from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, local communities, scientists and planners, research and education centres – to ensure the well-being of people and their environment. The experience of the WNBR, MAB Networks and interdisciplinary approaches will be used to develop and test policies and practices to address the issues **impacting different** ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide. The MAB programme is an important means to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, in order to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

UNESCO

Founded in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, UNESCO celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2015. For seven decades, UNESCO has embodied high aspirations, hopes and an ongoing struggle for a better life, built on ideas of human dignity, mutual understanding and solidarity of humanity. These ideals and values are spelled out in the Organization's Constitution, which is the key to understanding UNESCO's history. Its pioneering work has helped change the way people

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everywhere understand each other and the planet we live on. UNESCO led the movement to protect the environment and sounded the alert over the planet's shrinking biodiversity, explicitly linking this to human development through the MAB programme. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO will, in the foreseeable future, continue to contribute across continents to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, the improvement of health, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, scientific activities, culture, communication and information.

MAB and the WNBR

Launched in 1971, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that, from its beginning, has aimed to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

Biosphere reserves are the implementing tool of the MAB Programme. They may contain terrestrial, coastal and/or marine ecosystems. Each promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, towards sustainable development at the regional scale. While biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located, their global status as biosphere reserves is internationally recognized. In their respective countries, biosphere reserves are considered [as 'Science for Sustainability support sites'](#) – special places to test interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

The MAB programme's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was launched in 1976. As of 2014, it comprises 631 biosphere reserves in 119 countries, including 14 transboundary biosphere reserves on the territory of two or more countries. As specified in the 1995 Statutory Framework for the WNBR, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. To do this, each biosphere reserve should combine three interconnected functions – conservation, development and logistic support – through appropriate zoning, comprising 1) one or more legally-constituted core areas, devoted to long-term protection; 2) adjacent buffer zones; 3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises. Thus, biosphere reserves integrate biological and cultural diversity, especially the role of traditional and local knowledge in ecosystem management. They focus on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often have highly innovative and participative governance systems.

At the global level, the MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The next level of governance is represented by regional and thematic networks. Governance at the national level is through MAB National Committees.

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MAB and other UNESCO Programmes

UNESCO has developed several international programmes to assess and manage the Earth's resources better. UNESCO's primary objective – besides working together with its Member States to develop and promote education, science and culture in all countries of the world – is to achieve mutual understanding among nations and peoples. Towards this goal, the Member States of UNESCO have established two programmes that recognize the global importance of natural and cultural heritage. The first, in 1971, was the MAB programme. The second, in 1972, was the Convention for the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which established a World Heritage List of Cultural and Natural Sites, inscribed for their outstanding universal value. For these sites, the main concerns are the conservation and management of exceptional natural and cultural sites, as well as raising awareness for heritage preservation.

In addition to these globally-important sites designated under UNESCO, others are designated under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), signed in 1971. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Many biosphere reserves are also designated as World Heritage Sites, under the Ramsar Convention, and/or as Global Geoparks. Such multiple designations emphasize even further the global importance of these regions and offer opportunities for synergies between these global programmes all of which, like the MAB programme, have ongoing review processes to ensure that activities in the constituent sites/regions continue to move towards defined goals.

Given the diverse objectives of biosphere reserves and the stakeholders involved in them, there are clear opportunities for synergies with other UNESCO programmes, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST). There are also good opportunities for collaboration with the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and the UNESCO Institutes, Centres, Chairs and networks, such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet). In all of these contexts, collaboration with UNESCO's Communication and Information sector is essential.

Global Context for the MAB Strategy

Sustainability issues are at the centre of the international debate, as human activities continue to fundamentally alter the Earth's systems, with profound impacts on freshwater resources; on the ocean, atmosphere and climate; and on ecosystems, habitats and their biodiversity. These trends are underscored in the Rio+20 Outcome document, "The Future We Want", which also recognizes that they will have significant impacts on all societies; that they have economic, cultural and social drivers; and that they are likely to be accentuated in the coming decades. The global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets to simultaneously address human needs and environmental change. These explicitly take into account other global imperatives, such as the targets set under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The MAB Strategy within UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy

Peace and equitable and sustainable development are the overarching objectives in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4). Africa and gender equality are Global Priorities. UNESCO emphasizes the critical importance of greater knowledge sharing in order to induce the transformative changes needed to address the complex and inter-related challenges of sustainable development. UNESCO is therefore promoting international scientific cooperation and integrated scientific approaches to support Member States in effectively managing natural resources, reducing knowledge divides within and among countries, and building bridges for dialogue and peace. Building on its experience in leading intergovernmental and international science programmes and on their global observation capacities, UNESCO seeks to contribute to shaping the research agenda of global and regional scientific cooperation, based on the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” and the post-2015 development agenda. The important role of MAB and its WNBR is emphasised in UNESCO’s Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021, notably in relation to UNESCO’s Strategic Objective 5: ‘Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development’, as well as Strategic Objective 4: ‘Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally’.

The Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework and the Madrid Action Plan

The evolution of the MAB programme and its WNBR has been steered by a series of meetings, beginning with those of a MAB Task Force in 1974 and continuing with the First International Biosphere Reserve Congress in Minsk, Belarus in 1984, which led to an Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. A second international conference on biosphere reserves took place in Seville, Spain in 1995, and started a new era for the WNBR. The actions decided at that meeting were incorporated into the *Seville Strategy* and the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves*, both approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995. In Pamplona, Spain in 2000, a Seville+5 meeting was held and various actions were decided, following through on the strategic recommendations from Seville, particularly with regard to transboundary biosphere reserves.

The Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves was held in Madrid in 2008. This agreed the *Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves* (MAP), building on the *Seville Strategy* and aiming to capitalize on the strategic advantages of the Seville instruments and raise biosphere reserves to be the principal internationally-designated areas dedicated to sustainable development in the 21st century. The MAP articulated actions, targets and success indicators, partnerships and other implementation strategies, and an evaluation framework, for the WNBR for 2008-2013. It took fully into consideration the recommendations of the Review Committee that evaluated UNESCO’s Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences Programmes.

In 2013-14, UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service evaluated the MAP. Particular challenges limiting this process included the broad scope of the MAP, lack of clarity in the formulation of particular elements, and the lack of **implementation** logic. The validity of conclusions was further constrained by low response rates to the survey (39% of biosphere reserves and 45% of national committees); and there were significant regional variations in response rates. Despite these limitations, five main recommendations of areas for improvement were made: 1) strengthen the value of the WNBR for biosphere reserves and actively involve them in the activities of the WNBR; 2) strengthen the clearing house function of the WNBR; 3) develop the WNBR’s global role as a laboratory of ideas; 4) raise the profile of the WNBR; 5) strengthen the financial and human resource base of the WNBR.

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The MAB Strategy, 2015-2025

The MAB programme with its WNBR constitutes an important and valuable partner and instrument for research and experimentation on the ground, to build knowledge on practice-based sustainable development and share it globally. Thanks to this practical approach, the MAB programme supports the efforts of UNESCO Member States to address critical issues related to biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change, and other aspects of global environmental change. [To be] Adopted by the MAB ICC at its 27th session, the MAB Strategy provides a comprehensive while succinct framework for this purpose. The MAB Strategy is developed in line with the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021, the Seville Strategy and Statutory Framework of the WNBR, and with due consideration to the recommendations emerging from the final evaluation of the MAP. The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (to be presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves in 2016); their implementation will be assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework.

Vision and Mission of MAB and the WNBR

Our vision is that people work together to thrive in healthy places.

Our mission is to inspire a positive future by connecting people and nature today. Over the next 10 years and beyond, we will assist Member States to reach sustainable development goals through learning from our network of model [regions/sites] where development policies and actions, and the stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources, are explored and demonstrated; and lessons learned are harnessed through sustainability science, education, and knowledge exchange.

Strategic Objectives

MAB's Strategic Objectives for 2015 – 2025 derive directly from the three functions of biosphere reserves identified in the Statutory Framework for the WNBR and the key global challenge of climate change, identified in the Madrid Action Plan. These Strategic Objectives are to:

1. **Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**
2. **Contribute to Building Sustainable, Healthy and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements**
3. **Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development**
4. **Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change**

Strategic Objective 1. Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a critically important challenge. Biodiversity provides insurance and supports human well-being through a range of *ecosystem services*. Loss of biodiversity results in reductions in ecosystem services, creating direct threats to human well-being, and is an important indicator of an unbalanced system where vital components are affected. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development and unsustainable consumption and production patterns are among the major causes of diminishing biodiversity globally. The current scales of

unprecedented exploitation of our natural resources call for their improved governance and stewardship. In particular, the sustainable and equitable use of freshwater and access to energy are critical prerequisites for security, sustainability, inclusion and peace.

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Expected results

- 1.1. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in contributing to the implementation of global conventions and other **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** and the achievement of SDGs relating to the conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystem services.
- 1.2. Alliances at local, national and regional level are established to support biosphere reserves to carry out their biodiversity conservation function and provide benefits to local people, thus contributing to the achievement of the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD**.
- 1.3. Effective, equitable and participatory planning for sustainable development in biosphere reserves specifically takes into account the rights, needs and capacities of women and indigenous and local communities, and their ownership and access to, and sustainable use of, natural resources in and around biosphere reserves.
- 1.4. States, local government, international organizations, and the private sector support biosphere reserves through the effective use of the **ecosystem approach**, to ensure the continued delivery of **ecosystem services** both within biosphere reserves and to the wider communities which rely on their provision for their health and well-being.

Strategic Objective 2. Contribute to Sustainable, Healthy, and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements

A burgeoning world population, increasingly concentrated in rapidly expanding urban areas of all sizes, notably in coastal regions, has resulted in the overexploitation and unsustainable use of limited natural resources, accelerating pollution and environmental degradation, with significant impacts on human well-being. Healthy and equitable societies and economies, and thriving human settlements are essential elements of the quest for long-term sustainability and social development. To achieve this requires in-depth knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, socio-economic realities and innovative approaches to increase resilience. Through its WNBR, MAB is uniquely well placed to support the transition to thriving economies and sustainable societies, not only in individual Member States, but also through transboundary biosphere reserves. These can act as peace parks: enabling environments which foster the harmonious coexistence of people, and of people and nature, and promote a culture of peace with regard to the use of, and benefits from, shared natural resources.

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Expected results

- 2.1. Biosphere reserves act as, and are recognized and supported by, all levels of government as model [regions/sites] for promoting sustainable development and advancing the implementation of the SDGs relating to equitable and healthy societies and settlements.
- 2.2. Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] for exploring, establishing and demonstrating sustainable economic systems that positively affect the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.

- 2.3 Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] to explore, establish and demonstrate innovative approaches that foster the resilience of communities, through livelihood diversification, green businesses, and social enterprise, including responsible tourism and quality economies.
- 2.4. Functional mechanisms are established to ensure that those who facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from biosphere reserves are equitably compensated and supported by those who utilize and benefit from these ecosystem services, often in distant urban areas.
- 2.5. Biosphere reserves contribute directly to the health and well-being of those who live in them and those who visit them.
- 2.6. Transboundary biosphere reserves are reinforced through multi-scale dialogue and capacity building specific to transboundary issues, and promoted for cooperation, environmental diplomacy, peace, security and conflict management.

Strategic Objective 3. Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Sustainability science is an integrated, problem-solving approach that draws on the full range of scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge in a trans-disciplinary way to identify, understand and address present and future economic, environmental, ethical and societal challenges related to sustainable development. At a biosphere reserve level, this requires collaboration between all the different stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, members of local communities, and the private sector. **ESD** promotes the inclusion of key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning, to motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour through acquiring new skills, competencies and values and take action for sustainable development. Biosphere reserves, particularly through their coordinators, managers, and scientists have key roles to play in operationalizing and mainstreaming sustainability science and ESD at local and regional levels, in order to build scientific knowledge, identify best practices and strengthen the interface between science, policy and education and training for sustainable development.

Expected results

- 3.1. MAB and its WNBR are fully engaged with international, regional and national research initiatives and programmes that contribute to the post-2015 development agenda.
- 3.2. The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and other stakeholders, coordinated by an advisory committee.
- 3.3 Each biosphere reserve has an active research programme, based on the principles of sustainability science, which provides the basis of participatory decision-making and management in the biosphere reserve.
- 3.4. Traditional knowledge is used as a “knowledge input” for managing biosphere reserves while recognizing the importance of both empowering indigenous communities as guardians of unique knowledge and of maintaining cultural identity.
- 3.5. Each biosphere reserve has training and capacity building activities addressing the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and

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adaptation to climate change, and the socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities.

- 3.6 ESD activities take place in all biosphere reserves, including all partners of civil society.
- 3.7. Increased partnerships between biosphere reserves and UNESCO Education Sector programmes, such as the *Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD*, the *UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)*, and the *UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme*.

Strategic Objective 4. Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change

Climate change continues to be of paramount concern for the future of humankind. It is now extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. According to the 5th Assessment Report of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, warming of the climate system is unequivocal; many of the observed changes since the 1950s have been unprecedented over decades to millennia. The specific values of, and opportunities for, biosphere reserves in relation to climate change were recognized in the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) and the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change (2011), aiming at placing greater focus on the capacities of the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and for integrating their contributions effectively into national and international climate strategies and policies. This requires simultaneously addressing the complex interactions between climate change and other aspects of global environmental change, such as loss of biodiversity, urbanization, desertification, degradation of land and water resources, and stratospheric ozone depletion.

Expected results

- 4.1. WNBR recognized as a global network of regions to promote learning and pilot innovative actions to monitor, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change and other types of global environmental change.
- 4.2. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the *Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)*.
- 4.3. Member States and other decision makers recognize and promote biosphere reserves as priority regions [sites] in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular through 1) energy efficiency and the development and adoption of renewable and clean energy, including energy saving through responsible consumption and 2) approaches related to carbon sequestration and **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).
- 4.4. Member States actively promote the transfer of approaches developed in biosphere reserves to other countries and regions.

Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas]

MAB's Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] for 2015 – 2025 are:

- | | |
|----|---|
| A. | The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development |
| B. | Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR |
| C. | Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR |
| D. | Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing |
| E. | Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR |

The first three of these objectives [Strategic Action Areas] have specific foci: A – on individual biosphere reserves in the context of the countries in which they are located; B – on networking within the MAB Programme; C – primarily on partnerships outside the MAB Programme. The objectives [strategic action areas], together with their respective expected results [strategic lines of action], are outlined below.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development

By 2025, the WNBR aims to be an integrated global network of learning and demonstration sites for innovation in sustainable development. Once biosphere reserves reach their optimum functionality, they will represent a key interface between science, policy and society at local, national, regional and global levels, to the benefit of their populations, the Member States in which biosphere reserves are located and much wider constituencies. As model [regions/sites], biosphere reserves should contribute to sustainable development, including conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty. Linking increasingly effective model [regions/sites], the WNBR is a unique forum for the co-production of knowledge for sustainable development between the inhabitants of biosphere reserves, practitioners and researchers. The WNBR must consist of fully functioning, well managed sites that comply with the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework. Ensuring this has been the aim of the exit strategy adopted by the ICC in 2013.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- A.1. The periodic review process supports an effectively functioning WNBR, generating a dynamic process of adaptive management of biosphere reserves.
- A.2. Procedures and processes for selecting, designating, planning and implementing biosphere reserves are open and participatory, taking into account local practices and traditions and cultures, and involving all relevant stakeholders.
- A.3. States and other entities with territorial and governance competences explicitly integrate biosphere reserves into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and programmes, and support effective governance and management structures in each BR.

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- A.4. Biosphere reserves and national MAB Committees have partnerships with universities and research institutes, to undertake applied research and provide practical learning and training opportunities that support the management and sustainable development of biosphere reserves.
- A.5. Financial sustainability of biosphere reserves is much improved, with a diverse funding base.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR

Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking are essential for MAB and its WNBR to provide effective contributions towards the SDGs and related targets. At the international level, collaboration will especially focus on South-South and North-South-South triangular cooperation, as a catalyst for dialogue and co-production of scientific knowledge, in synergy with local and indigenous knowledge brokers, and for *science diplomacy*. Collaboration and networking shall target all four strategic objectives. The importance of MAB's regional and thematic networks should be emphasized in this context. The regional networks have variable working methods and statutes which address regional needs and should be flexible in order to be relevant and efficient in the context of their regions, and the thematic networks typically should be self-organized.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- B.1. Global and regional capacity building and training programmes directed to BR managers/coordinators and other stakeholders facilitate the delivery of the Strategic Objectives.
- B.2. Networks are strengthened through enhanced participation of Member States – including UNESCO National Commissions, MAB National Committees, and relevant Ministries – and other public stakeholders, as well as universities, civil society organisations, the private sector, and stronger cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- B.3. Networks have the infrastructure and adequate resources to fulfill their potential to implement their objectives.
- B.4. Networks foster collaboration in research, implementation and monitoring, including through exchanges between biosphere reserves.
- B.5. Networks communicate and disseminate their aims and activities effectively, both internally and externally.
- B.6. An increased number of BR twinning arrangements foster transboundary and transnational cooperation and engender goodwill.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] C. Effective partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR.

Effective partnerships aimed at strengthening biosphere reserves, networks and the MAB Secretariat, and to promote the implementation of plans and strategies, particularly through sustainable financing mechanisms, are a priority for the MAB programme. While the basic operational resources of the programme and members of the WNBR must be provided from regular budgets for all levels of implementation, there is a clear need to bring in new partners – such as

research groups, private sector enterprises or groups, museums, seed banks, and civil society organizations – either to strengthen existing partnerships or create new ones. In doing so, each country's administrative organization must be respected and local communities must not lose their independence and influence, especially if the partners are from other regions. To increase organizational, including financial, resilience in MAB and individual biosphere reserves, different means of funding should be explored. In addition to financing, new partnerships should increase public awareness of the values and benefits of biosphere reserves as well as the involvement of local communities. UNESCO has one of the most famous and best-recognized global 'brands': a key challenge is how to use it to raise funds for the WNBR and its biosphere reserves.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- C.1. A comprehensive business and marketing plan for the WNBR, regional and thematic networks, national MAB Committees and individual biosphere reserves is prepared, taking into account the priorities of bilateral and multilateral donors and the private and philanthropic sectors. (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan)
- C.2. The MAB Secretariat and National Committees strengthen collaboration and partnerships both within UNESCO and with key international organizations.
- C.3. The MAB Secretariat assists biosphere reserves and regional networks to build expertise in developing their own revenue, and to share this expertise.
- C.4. Private sector partnerships generated around the MAB Programme at local, national and international levels.
- C.5. An increased number of projects and activities support biosphere reserves and networks funded through regional funding mechanisms, especially those that emphasise the need for multi-national partnerships.
- C.6. Deeper involvement of, and guidance provided to entrepreneurs active in biosphere reserves, especially those supporting social enterprises and green economies.
- C.7. A strengthened global Biosphere Reserve brand is established, supplementing local biosphere reserve brands.
- C.8. Joint promotion of BR products/services between biosphere reserves is enhanced.
- C.9. Every biosphere reserve generates some of its own revenue.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing

The success of the MAB programme depends on effective and open communication, data and knowledge exchange, based on a clear and shared vision of the BR concept, both among the different actors on the programme – biosphere reserves, national committees, networks and the Secretariat – and externally. Contemporary communication and information, social media, and data sharing tools have huge potential for the Programme. While the MAB Secretariat, National Committees, regional and thematic networks and individual biosphere reserves are starting to make good use of these tools, there is an urgent need to widen their application not only within the MAB

programme but also to engage diverse external audiences. Yet many countries still have poor access to modern communication facilities, which implies a continued focus on traditional means of communication and information exchange. The task to communicate more effectively depends not only on how well MAB mobilizes communication tools and instruments, but also on MAB's success in producing outcomes and services that are appreciated and available in as many languages as possible, starting with UNESCO's official languages. Good outcomes will attract press and media attention, so they communicate on our behalf.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- D.1. Full implementation of the open access policy to MAB and WNBR-related documents, data, information and multimedia materials.
- D.2. A comprehensive communication strategy complemented by an action plan (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan).
- D.3. The MAB Secretariat has a coordinated publication programme and effectively implements the MAB web site (MABNet), as the key communication, data and information hub for MAB.
- D.4. Biosphere reserve coordinators/managers, National Committees, and regional networks ensure wide access to information concerning biosphere reserves.
- D.5. Increased use of video conferencing, social media and new information and communication technologies for knowledge sharing, communication, technical cooperation, and capacity building.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] E. Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR

The MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The Statutory Framework of the WNBR remains the basis for its governance. Well-structured and effectively implemented and managed governing mechanisms are at the foundation of a successful MAB Programme. MAB National Committees have critical roles to play in implementing the vision and mission of the MAB Programme. Important lessons have been learned from many years of experiences working with the Seville Strategy and from the implementation and evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of actions and governance mechanisms are essential in order to ensure timely and effective adaptation to change.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- E.1. The governments of Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO support the implementation of the MAB Programme, including through well-defined institutional support.
- E.2. Each MAB National Committee has a transdisciplinary membership, including representatives from the public, private, research and education sectors, and a wide range of other stakeholders, including representation from biosphere reserves.

- E.3. Member States regularly update the MAB Secretariat and regional networks regarding progress regarding implementation of the MAB Strategy and Action Plan within their country.
- E.4. Each regional network has a defined governance mechanism, including annual assessment of performance.
- E.5. New thematic networks, if any, have an inbuilt review mechanism and a sunset clause.
- E.6. The International Support Group (ISG) of Permanent Delegations to the MAB Programme continues to contribute to communications and advocacy to the benefit of the Programme.

Strategy Implementation Evaluation Framework

The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (see below) and assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework founded in strategic intervention logic. This will connect the strategic objectives and implementation objectives [strategic action areas] contained in the present strategy with the key activities and outputs of the Action Plan. Under the Framework, performance indicators will be developed, together with corresponding sources of verification and monitoring, and included in an evaluation plan that sets out roles and responsibilities of the key actors involved in the performance and achievement of the Strategy and the Action Plan. The Evaluation Framework and subsequent monitoring and evaluation will be developed and conducted in close cooperation with UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS).

MAB Action Plan

The MAB Action Plan (2016-2025) will provide a comprehensive set of actions for the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy. The Action Plan will be developed following the adoption of the MAB Strategy in 2015 and presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves and the 28th MAB ICC (Lima, Peru, 2016).

Glossary

Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Ecosystem approach
Ecosystem services
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD
Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Multilateral environmental agreements
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
Science diplomacy
Sustainability science
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)
UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Samir Ghabbour

24 April 2015 at 17:43

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra; Azza ELgendy; Manal Fawzy; Ferial Abed.

Dear All,

Greetings

Pls find attached our response to the MAB Stratwegy draft.

Good reading

Samir

MAB STRATEGY 2015-2025

(21 April 2015)

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Executive Summary

Fostering sustainable development through stewardship of biodiversity is at the heart of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Over four decades, people across the globe have explored local solutions to global challenges under the umbrella of MAB, generating a wealth of experience and innovative potential for a sustainable future. In the coming 10 years, MAB will amplify its support to Member States in conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; building sustainable, healthy, and equitable economies, societies and thriving human settlements; and empowering people to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change. MAB will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and use modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information. MAB will ensure that the WNBR consists of effectively functioning models [regions/sites] for sustainable development, by implementing an effective periodic review process, calling all members of the network to adhere to its standards; by improving stewardship, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WNBR; and by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability. As the international community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the MAB and WNBR will work towards these goals and contribute to implementing the Post-2015 agenda, through the implementation of the present Strategy, which includes a series of Strategic Objectives and Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] and an associated Action Plan, to be finalized in 2016.

Introduction

The Biosphere Reserve (BR) concept has proved its value beyond the protected areas which constitute its actual sites, and is increasingly embraced by scientists, planners, policy-makers, businesses and local communities, to bring a variety of knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to establish the link between biodiversity, conservation and socio-economic development, for sustainable human well-being. To understand and address the key challenges facing our world today – poverty, climate change, water and food security, loss of biological and cultural diversity, rapid urbanization and desertification – the MAB programme, through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and its regional and thematic networks, will strategically address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable development actions, mainly carried out in BR sites, in partnership with all sectors of society – public and private sectors, stakeholders from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, local communities, scientists and planners, research and education centres – to ensure the well-being of people and the integrity of their environment. The experience of the WNBR, MAB Networks and interdisciplinary approaches of the past 4 decades, will be used to develop and test policies and practices to address the issues impacting different ecosystems, and maintain the free goods and services they provide. The MAB programme thus used as an important means to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their vital interlinkages, in order to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, for the whole of humanity.

Biosphere reserves, and the WNBR

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Launched in 1971, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that, from its beginning, has aimed to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education... [7]
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Biosphere reserves are the implementing tool of the MAB Programme. They may contain terrestrial, coastal and/or marine ecosystems. Each BR promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of the local biodiversity with its sustainable use, aiming at sustainable development at the regional and national scales. While biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located, their global status as biosphere reserves is internationally recognized. In their respective countries, biosphere reserves are considered as 'Science for Sustainability support sites' i.e., special places to test interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing interactions and changes between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

The MAB programme's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was launched in 1976. As of 2014, it comprises 631 biosphere reserves in 119 countries, including 14 transboundary Biosphere Reserves on the territory of two or more countries. As specified in the 1995 Statutory Framework for the WNBR, Biosphere Reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. To do this, each biosphere reserve should combine three interconnected functions – conservation, development and logistic support – through appropriate zoning, comprising 1) one or more legally-constituted core area(s), devoted to long-term protection; 2) adjacent buffer zone(s); 3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises, within the objectives of the BR. Thus, BRs integrate biological and cultural diversity, especially for enhancing the role of traditional and local knowledge in environmental management, based on the ecosystem approach. Their focus is on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often having highly innovative and participative stewardship systems.

At the international level, the MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The next level of stewardship is represented by regional and thematic networks. Stewardship at the national level is through MAB National Committees.

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MAB and other UNESCO Programmes

UNESCO has developed several international programmes to assess and manage the Earth's resources better. UNESCO's primary objective – besides working together with its Member States to develop and promote education, science and culture in all countries of the world – is to achieve mutual understanding among nations and peoples. Towards this goal, the Member States of UNESCO have established two programmes that recognize the global importance of natural and cultural heritage. The first, in 1971, was the MAB programme. The second, in 1972, was the Convention for the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which established a World Heritage List of Cultural and Natural Sites, inscribed for their outstanding universal value. For these sites, the main concerns are the conservation and management of exceptional natural and cultural sites, as well as raising awareness for heritage preservation.

In addition to these globally-important sites designated under UNESCO, others are designated under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), signed in 1971. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Many biosphere reserves are also designated as World Heritage Sites, under the Ramsar Convention, and/or as Global Geoparks. Such multiple designations emphasize even further the global importance of these regions and offer opportunities for synergies between these global programmes all of which, like the MAB programme, have ongoing review processes to ensure that activities in the constituent sites/regions continue to move towards defined goals.

Given the diverse objectives of biosphere reserves and the stakeholders involved in them, there are clear opportunities for synergies with other UNESCO programmes, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST). There are also good opportunities for collaboration with the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and the UNESCO Institutes, Centres, Chairs and networks, such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet). In all of these contexts, collaboration with UNESCO's Communication and Information sector is essential.

Global Context for the MAB Strategy

Sustainability issues are at the center of the international debate, as human activities continue to fundamentally alter the Earth's systems, with profound impacts on freshwater resources; on the ocean, atmosphere and climate; and on ecosystems, habitats and their biodiversity. These trends are underscored in the Rio+20 Outcome document, "The Future We Want", which also recognizes that they will have significant impacts on all societies; that they have economic, cultural and social drivers; and that they are likely to be accentuated in the coming decades. The global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets to simultaneously address human needs and environmental change. These explicitly take into account other global imperatives, such as the targets set under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Protocols, and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

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The MAB Strategy within UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy

Peace and equitable and sustainable development are the overarching objectives in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4). Africa and gender equality are Global Priorities. UNESCO emphasizes the critical importance of greater knowledge sharing in order to induce the transformative changes needed to address the complex and inter-related challenges of sustainable development. UNESCO is therefore promoting international scientific cooperation and integrated scientific approaches to support Member States in effectively managing natural resources, reducing knowledge divides within and among countries, and building bridges for dialogue and peace. Building on its experience in leading intergovernmental and international science programmes and on their global observation capacities, UNESCO seeks to contribute to shaping the research agenda of global and regional scientific cooperation, based on the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want" and the post-2015 development agenda. The important role of MAB and its WNBR is emphasised in UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021, notably in relation to UNESCO's Strategic Objective 5: 'Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development', as well as Strategic Objective 4: 'Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally'.

The Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework and the Madrid Action Plan

The evolution of the MAB programme and its WNBR has been steered by a series of meetings, beginning with those of a MAB Task Force in 1974 and continuing with the First International Biosphere Reserve Congress in Minsk, Belarus in 1984, which led to an Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. A second international conference on biosphere reserves took place in Seville, Spain in 1995, and started a new era for the WNBR. The actions decided at that meeting were incorporated into the *Seville Strategy* and the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves*, both approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995. In Pamplona, Spain in 2000, a Seville+5 meeting was held and various actions were decided, following through on the strategic recommendations from Seville, particularly with regard to transboundary biosphere reserves.

The Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves was held in Madrid in 2008. This agreed the *Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves* (MAP), building on the *Seville Strategy* and aiming to capitalize on the strategic advantages of the Seville instruments and raise biosphere reserves to be the principal internationally-designated areas dedicated to sustainable development in the 21st century. The MAP articulated actions, targets and success indicators, partnerships and other implementation strategies, and an evaluation framework, for the WNBR for 2008-2013. It took fully into consideration the recommendations of the Review Committee that evaluated UNESCO's Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences Programmes.

In 2013-14, UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service evaluated the MAP. Particular challenges limiting this process included the broad scope of the MAP, lack of clarity in the formulation of particular elements, and the lack of an implementation logic. The validity of conclusions was further constrained by low response rates to the survey (39% of biosphere reserves and 45% of national committees); and there were significant regional variations in response rates. Despite these limitations, five main recommendations of areas for improvement were made:

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- 1) strengthen the value of the WNBR for biosphere reserves and actively involve them in the activities of the WNBR;
- 2) strengthen the clearing house function of the WNBR;
- 3) develop the WNBR's global role as a laboratory of ideas;
- 4) raise the profile of the WNBR; [and](#)
- 5) strengthen the financial and human resource base of the WNBR.

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The MAB Strategy, 2015-2025

The MAB Programme, with its WNBR, constitutes an important and valuable partner and instrument for research and experimentation on the ground, to build knowledge on practice-based sustainable development and share it globally. Thanks to this practical approach, the MAB programme supports the efforts of UNESCO Member States to address critical issues related to biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change, and other aspects of global environmental change. To be examined by the MAB ICC at its 27th session, the MAB Strategy should provide a comprehensive and succinct framework for this purpose. The MAB Strategy is developed in line with the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021, the Seville Strategy and Statutory Framework of the WNBR, and with due consideration to the recommendations emerging from the final evaluation of the MAP. The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (to be presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves in 2016). Their implementation will be assessed using an Evaluation Framework.

Vision and Mission of MAB and the WNBR

Our vision is that people work together to thrive in healthy places.

Our mission is to inspire a positive future by connecting people and nature today. Over the next 10 years and beyond, the MAB Programme will thrive to assist Member States to reach the UN SDGs through learning from its network of model [regions/sites] where development policies and actions, and the stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources, are explored and demonstrated; and lessons learned are harnessed through sustainability science, education, and knowledge exchange, for universal benefit.

Strategic Objectives

MAB's Strategic Objectives for 2015 – 2025 derive directly from the three functions of BRs identified in the Statutory Framework for the WNBR and the key global challenge of climate change, and in the Madrid Action Plan. These Strategic Objectives are to:

1. **Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**
2. **Contribute to Building Sustainable, Healthy and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements**
3. **Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development**
4. **Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change**

Strategic Objective 1. Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a critically important challenge. Biodiversity provides insurance and supports human well-being through a range of ecosystem services. Loss of biodiversity results in reductions in ecosystem services, creating direct threats to human well-being, and is an important indicator of an unbalanced system where vital components are affected. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development and

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unsustainable consumption and production patterns are among the major causes of diminishing biodiversity globally. The current scales of unprecedented exploitation of our natural resources call for their improved stewardship. In particular, the sustainable and equitable use of freshwater resources and access to energy are critical prerequisites for security, sustainability, and peace.

Expected Implementation results

- 1.1. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in contributing to the implementation of global conventions and other *Multilateral Environmental Agreements* and the achievement of SDGs relating to the conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystem services.
- 1.2. Alliances at local, national and regional level are established to support biosphere reserves to carry out their biodiversity conservation function and provide benefits to local people, thus contributing to the achievement of the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD*.
- 1.3. Effective, equitable and participatory planning for sustainable development in biosphere reserves specifically takes into account the rights, needs and capacities of women and indigenous and local communities, and their ownership and access to, and sustainable use of, natural resources in and around biosphere reserves.
- 1.4. States, local government, international organizations, and the private sector support biosphere reserves through the effective use of the *ecosystem approach*, to ensure the continued delivery of *ecosystem services* both within biosphere reserves and to the wider communities which rely on their provision for their health and well-being.

Strategic Objective 2. Contribute to Sustainable, Healthy, and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements

A burgeoning world population, increasingly concentrated in rapidly expanding urban areas of all sizes, notably in coastal regions, has resulted in the overexploitation and unsustainable use of limited natural resources, accelerating pollution and environmental degradation, with significant impacts on human well-being. Healthy and equitable societies and economies, and thriving human settlements are essential elements of the quest for long-term sustainability and social development. To achieve this requires in-depth knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, socio-economic realities and innovative approaches to increase resilience. Through its WNBR, MAB is uniquely well placed to support the transition to thriving economies and sustainable societies, not only in individual Member States, but also through transboundary biosphere reserves. These can act as peace parks: enabling environments which foster the harmonious coexistence of people, and of people and nature, and promote a culture of peace with regard to the use of, and benefits from, shared natural resources.

Expected Implementation results

- 2.1. Biosphere reserves act as, and are recognized and supported by, all levels of government as model [regions/sites] for promoting sustainable development and

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advancing the implementation of the SDGs relating to equitable and healthy societies and settlements.

- 2.2. Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] for exploring, establishing and demonstrating sustainable economic systems that positively affect the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.
- 2.3. Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] to explore, establish and demonstrate innovative approaches that foster the resilience of communities, through livelihood diversification, green businesses, and social enterprise, including responsible tourism and quality economies.
- 2.4. Functional mechanisms are established to ensure that those who facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from biosphere reserves are equitably compensated and supported by those who utilize and benefit from these ecosystem services, often in distant urban areas.
- 2.5. Biosphere reserves contribute directly to the health and well-being of those who live in them and those who visit them.
- 2.6. Transboundary biosphere reserves are reinforced through multi-scale dialogue and capacity building specific to transboundary issues, and promoted for cooperation, environmental diplomacy, peace, security and conflict management.

Strategic Objective 3. Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Sustainability science is an integrated, problem-solving approach that draws on the full range of scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge in a trans-disciplinary way to identify, understand and address present and future economic, environmental, ethical and societal challenges related to sustainable development. At a biosphere reserve level, this requires collaboration between all the different stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, members of local communities, and the private sector. *ESD* promotes the inclusion of key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning, to motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour through acquiring new skills, competencies and values and take action for sustainable development. biosphere reserves, particularly through their coordinators, managers, and scientists have key roles to play in operationalizing and mainstreaming sustainability science and ESD at local and regional levels, in order to build scientific knowledge, identify best practices and strengthen the interface between science, policy and education and training for sustainable development.

Expected Implementation results

- 3.1. MAB and its WNBR are fully engaged with international, regional and national research initiatives and programmes that contribute to the post-2015 development agenda.
- 3.2. The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and other stakeholders, coordinated by an advisory committee.

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- 3.3 Each biosphere reserve has an active research programme, based on the principles of sustainability science, which provides the basis of participatory decision-making and management in the biosphere reserve.
- 3.4 Traditional knowledge is used as a “knowledge input” for managing biosphere reserves while recognizing the importance of both empowering indigenous communities as guardians of unique knowledge and of maintaining cultural identity.
- 3.5 Each biosphere reserve has training and capacity building activities addressing the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities.
- 3.6 ESD (?) activities take place in all biosphere reserves, including all partners of civil society.
- 3.7 Increased partnerships between biosphere reserves and UNESCO [World Heritage Center, IHD, and other related programmes, as well as the Education Sector programmes, such as the Global Action Programme \(GAP\) on ESD, the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network \(ASPNet\), and the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme.](#)
- 3.8 [More solid support for National MAB Committees, especially in the Arab World and Africa..](#)
- 3.9 [Increased partnership with other non-UNESCO programmes \(Ramsar\) and organizations \(IUCN\), ALECSO and ISESCO, as well as INGOs and national NGOs..](#)
- 3.10 [More solid support for involvement of local communities \(especially women and youth\).](#)

Strategic Objective 4. Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change

Climate change continues to be of paramount concern for the future of humankind. It is now extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. According to the 5th Assessment Report of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, warming of the climate system is unequivocal; many of the observed changes since the 1950s have been unprecedented over decades to millennia. The specific values of, and opportunities for, biosphere reserves in relation to climate change were recognized in the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) and the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change (2011), aiming at placing greater focus on the capacities of the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and for integrating their contributions effectively into national and international climate strategies and policies. This requires simultaneously addressing the complex interactions between climate change and other aspects of global environmental change, such as loss of biodiversity, urbanization, desertification, degradation of land and water resources, and stratospheric ozone depletion.

Expected Implementation results

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- 4.1. WNBR recognized as a global network of regions to promote learning and pilot innovative actions to monitor, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change and other types of global environmental change.
- 4.2. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the ***Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)***.
- 4.3. Member States and other decision makers recognize and promote biosphere reserves as priority regions [sites] in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular through 1) energy efficiency and the development and adoption of renewable and clean energy, including energy saving through responsible consumption and 2) approaches related to carbon sequestration and ***REDD+*** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).
- 4.4. Member States actively promote the transfer of approaches developed in biosphere reserves to other countries and regions.

Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas]

MAB's Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] for 2015 – 2025 are:

- A. **The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development**
- B. **Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR**
- C. **Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR**
- D. **Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing**
- E. **Effective stewardship of and within MAB and the WNBR**

The first three of these objectives [Strategic Action Areas] have specific foci: A – on individual biosphere reserves in the context of the countries in which they are located; B – on networking within the MAB Programme; C – primarily on partnerships outside the MAB Programme. The objectives [strategic action areas], together with their respective expected results [strategic lines of action], are outlined below.

Strategic Action Area A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development

By 2025, the WNBR aims to be an integrated global network of learning and demonstration sites for innovation in sustainable development. Once biosphere reserves reach their optimum functionality, they will represent a key interface between science, policy and society at local, national, regional and global levels, to the benefit of their populations, the Member States in which biosphere reserves are located and much wider constituencies. As model [regions/sites], biosphere reserves should contribute to sustainable development, including conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty. Linking increasingly effective model [regions/sites], the WNBR is a unique forum for the co-production of knowledge for sustainable development between the inhabitants of biosphere reserves, practitioners and researchers. The WNBR must consist of fully functioning, well managed sites that comply with the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework. Ensuring this has been the aim of the exit strategy adopted by the ICC in 2013.

Strategic lines of action

- A.1. The periodic review process supports an effectively functioning WNBR, generating a dynamic process of adaptive management of biosphere reserves.
- A.2. Procedures and processes for selecting, designating, planning and implementing biosphere reserves are open and participatory, taking into account local practices and traditions and cultures, and involving all relevant stakeholders.
- A.3. States and other entities with territorial and stewardship competences explicitly integrate biosphere reserves into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and programmes, and support effective stewardship and management structures in each BR.

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A.4. Biosphere reserves and national MAB Committees have partnerships with universities and research institutes, to undertake applied research and provide practical learning and training opportunities that support the management and sustainable development of biosphere reserves.

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A.5. Financial sustainability of biosphere reserves is much improved, with a diverse funding base. BRs must have protected logos for their products and services.

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A. 6. UNESCO must have a TV Channel to advertise BR products, as well as World Heritage sites. It will be self-supporting thanks to advertisements by tourist agencies and other stakeholders.

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Strategic Action Area B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR

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Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking are essential for MAB and its WNBR to provide effective contributions towards the SDGs and related targets. At the international level, collaboration will especially focus on South-South and North-South-South triangular cooperation, as a catalyst for dialogue and co-production of scientific knowledge, in synergy with local and indigenous knowledge brokers, and for *science diplomacy*. Collaboration and networking shall target all four strategic objectives. The importance of MAB's regional and thematic networks should be emphasized in this context. The regional networks have variable working methods and statutes which address regional needs and should be flexible in order to be relevant and efficient in the context of their regions, and the thematic networks typically should be self-organized.

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Strategic lines of action

B.1. Global and regional capacity building and training programmes directed to BR managers/coordinators and other stakeholders facilitate the delivery of the Strategic Objectives. Universities giving courses on conservation and sustainability are to be supported in their efforts and more are to be encouraged to give such courses.

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B.2. Networks are strengthened through enhanced participation of Member States – including UNESCO National Commissions, MAB National Committees, and relevant Ministries – and other public stakeholders, as well as universities, civil society organisations, the private sector, and stronger cooperation with relevant stakeholders.

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B.3. Networks are to be provided with the infrastructure and adequate resources to fulfill their potential to implement their objectives.

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B.4. Networks are to foster collaboration in research, implementation and monitoring, including through exchanges between biosphere reserves.

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B.5. Networks are to communicate and disseminate their aims and activities effectively, both internally and externally.

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B.6. An increased number of BR twinning arrangements are to foster transboundary and transnational cooperation.

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Strategic Action Area C. Effective partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR.

Effective partnerships aimed at strengthening biosphere reserves, networks and the MAB Secretariat, and to promote the implementation of plans and strategies, particularly through *sustainable financing mechanisms, are a priority for the MAB programme. While the basic operational resources* of the programme and members of the WNBR must be provided from regular budgets for all levels of implementation, there is a clear need to bring in new partners – such as research groups, private sector enterprises or groups, museums, seed banks, and civil society organizations – either to strengthen existing partnerships or create new ones. In doing so, each country’s administrative organization must be respected and local communities must not lose their independence and influence, especially if the partners are from other regions. To increase organizational, including financial, resilience in MAB and individual biosphere reserves, different means of funding should be explored, *first and foremost from provision of BR products and xservices*. In addition to financing, new partnerships should increase public awareness of the values and benefits of biosphere reserves as well as the involvement of local communities. UNESCO has one of the most famous and best-recognized global ‘brands’: a key challenge is how to use it to raise funds for the WNBR and its *member* biosphere reserves.

Strategic lines of action

- C.1. A comprehensive business and marketing plan for the WNBR, regional and thematic networks, national MAB Committees and individual biosphere reserves is prepared, taking into account the priorities of bilateral and multilateral donors and the private and philanthropic sectors. (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan)
- C.2. The MAB Secretariat and National Committees strengthen collaboration and partnerships both within UNESCO and with key international organizations.
- C.3. *The MAB Secretariat assists biosphere reserves and regional networks to build expertise in developing their own revenue, and to share this expertise.*
- C.4. Private sector partnerships generated around the MAB Programme at local, national and international levels.
- C.5. An increased number of projects and activities support biosphere reserves and networks funded through regional funding mechanisms, especially those that *emphasize* the need for multi-national partnerships.
- C.6. Deeper involvement of, and guidance provided to entrepreneurs active in biosphere reserves, especially those supporting social enterprises and green economies.
- C.7. *A strengthened global Biosphere Reserve brand is established, supplementing local biosphere reserve brands.*
- C.8. Joint promotion of BR products/services between biosphere reserves is enhanced.
- C.9. Every biosphere reserve generates *the main part* of its own revenue.

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Strategic Action Area D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing

The success of the MAB programme depends on effective and open communication, data and knowledge exchange, based on a clear and shared vision of the BR concept, both among the different actors on the programme – biosphere reserves, national committees, networks and the Secretariat – and externally. Contemporary communication and information, social media, and data sharing tools have huge potential for the Programme. While the MAB Secretariat, National Committees, regional and thematic networks and individual biosphere reserves are starting to make good use of these tools, there is an urgent need to widen their application not only within the MAB programme but also to engage diverse external audiences. Yet many countries still have poor access to modern communication facilities, which implies a continued focus on traditional means of communication and information exchange. The task to communicate more effectively depends not only on how well MAB mobilizes communication tools and instruments, but also on MAB’s success in producing outcomes and services that are appreciated and available in as many languages as possible, starting with UNESCO’s official languages. Good outcomes will attract press and media attention, so they communicate on our behalf.

Strategic lines of action

- D.1. Full implementation of the open access policy to MAB and WNBR-related documents, data, information and multimedia materials, subject to Member State consent.
- D.2. A comprehensive communication strategy complemented by an action plan (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan).
- D.3. The MAB Secretariat has a coordinated publication programme and effectively implements the MAB web site (MABNet), as the key communication, data and information hub for MAB. State Members are encouraged to produce their own national publications.
- D.4. Biosphere reserve coordinators/managers, National Committees, and regional networks ensure wide access to information concerning biosphere reserves. Regional and thematic networks are to be encouraged to be financially independent and play a greater role in regional coordination.
- D.5. Increased use of video conferencing, social media and new information and communication technologies for knowledge sharing, communication, technical cooperation, and capacity building.

Strategic Action Area E. Effective stewardship of and within MAB and the WNBR

The MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The Statutory Framework of the WNBR remains the basis for its stewardship. Well-structured and effectively implemented and managed mechanisms are at the foundation of a successful MAB Programme. MAB National Committees have critical roles to play in implementing the vision and mission of the MAB Programme. Important lessons have been learned from many

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Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 17:17
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 [

Dr Samir Ghabbour 21/4/15 20:59
Mis en forme ... [79]

Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 17:18
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 17:17
Mis en forme ... [81]

Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 16:22
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 21/4/15 20:59
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 17:18
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years of experience, working with the Seville Strategy and from the implementation and evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of actions and stewardship mechanisms are essential in order to ensure timely and effective adaptation to change.

Strategic lines of action

- E.1. The governments of Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO support the implementation of the MAB Programme, including through well-defined institutional support.
- E.2. Each MAB National Committee has a transdisciplinary membership, including representatives from the public, private, research and education sectors, and a wide range of other stakeholders, including representation from biosphere reserves.
- E.3. Member States regularly update the MAB Secretariat and regional networks regarding progress regarding implementation of the MAB Strategy and Action Plan within their country.
- E.4. Each regional network has a defined stewardship mechanism, including periodic assessments of performance.
- E.5. New thematic networks, if any, have well-defined objectives and plans, and an inbuilt review mechanism.
- E.6. The International Support Group (ISG) of Permanent Delegations to the MAB Programme continues to contribute to communications and advocacy to the benefit of the Programme.

Strategy Implementation Evaluation Framework

The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (see below) and assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework founded in strategic intervention logic. This will connect the strategic objectives and implementation objectives [strategic action areas] contained in the present strategy with the key activities and outputs of the Action Plan. Under the Framework, performance indicators will be developed, together with corresponding sources of verification and monitoring, and included in an evaluation plan that sets out roles and responsibilities of the key actors involved in the performance and achievement of the Strategy and the Action Plan. The Evaluation Framework and subsequent monitoring and evaluation will be developed and conducted in close cooperation with UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS).

MAB Action Plan

The MAB Action Plan (2016-2025) will provide a comprehensive set of actions for the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy. The Action Plan will be developed following the adoption of the MAB Strategy in 2015 and presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves and the 28th MAB ICC (Lima, Peru, 2016).

Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 17:19
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 16:22
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 21/4/15 20:59
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 17:19
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 21/4/15 20:59
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 24/4/15 17:21
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 21/4/15 20:59
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 21/4/15 20:59
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Dr Samir Ghabbour 21/4/15 20:59
Mis en forme: Police :(Par défaut) +Titres de thème CS, 12 pt

Glossary

Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Ecosystem approach
Ecosystem services
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD
Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Multilateral environmental agreements
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
Science diplomacy
Sustainability science
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)
UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Dr Samir Ghabbour 21/4/15 20:59

Mis en forme: Police :(Par défaut) +Titres de thème CS

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Salwa Mansour Abdelhameed

24 April 2015 at 18:28

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra; Azza ELgendy; Manal Fawzy; Ferial Abed.

Dear Peter

My congratulations for excellent work

Generally the document is excellent covering all needed issues.

It is more precise and to the point if compared with the first draft

The addition of the para concerning Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework and the Madrid Action Plan is good highlighted the historical actions done through the evolution of the MAB programme and its WNBR.

The reordering of the Strategic Objectives is OK – with regard to Strategic Objective 2 in the 1st draft to be 4: as related to the priorities of the MAB Program.

I agree with Mr. Thomas 'comment regarding "A.1. The periodic review process..."

wish the best for all

With best regards

Salwa M. Abdelhameed

MAB Sudan

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

António D Abreu

24 April 2015 at 18:29

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra; Azza ELgendy; Manal Fawzy; Ferial Abed.

Dear Peter and colleagues,

Again I kindly ask to those of you who didn't updated yet the address book with my new e-mail address to do so.

Many thanks for the updated version of the Draft Strategy which I found very consistent and innovative. I also found very positive and relevant the governance proposals for the Global and Regional/Thematic Networks as well as the remaining functioning and communication mechanisms. As I had opportunity to mention before the strategy brings the MAB more closer to the Sustainable Development Goals and this will bring a lot of opportunities for the Biosphere Reserves in their role as living laboratories for natural and social research and development.

So, my sincere congratulations to the writing team and my full agreement with this draft proposal for the new MAB Strategy.

Kind regards
António D Abreu

António Domingos Abreu, PhD
Biólogo/Biologist
Especialista em Ambiente/Environmental Expert
Urbanização da Portada de Santo António, 7
9050-288 FUNCHAL
Madeira
Portugal

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

24 April 2015 at 21:55

Tania Moreno

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra; Azza ELgendy; Manal Fawzy; Ferial Abed.

Thank you for sharing this progress.

I have no recommendations for crucial changes to this text. I am very glad to see that the Ecosystem restoration, Aichi Tagets, partnerships with UNITWIN Programme and the global Biosphere Reserve brand were included.

I look forward to contribute in building the Action Plan.

Best regards,

--

Tania Moreno
Dirección Responsabilidad Universitaria
Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional
Costa Rica

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi

26 April 2015 at 06:36

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra; Azza ELgendy; Manal Fawzy; Ferial Abed.

Dear Peter and All,

My congratulations for the excellent effort and results. Please find here or in the attached file my comments on the Draft MAB Strategy that may be convincing and beneficial or not but they are regarded appropriate from my point of view.

· **Under Summary**

In the coming 10 years, MAB will amplify its support to Member States in conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; building sustainable, healthy, and equitable economies, societies and thriving human settlements; and empowering people to mitigate **what?** and adapt **whom? People? or biodiversity** to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.

In the paragraph above that is unclear, it is nice to empower people to adapt to climate change but they should also be empowered to know how to assist biodiversity adapting to climate change.

· Biosphere reserves are the implementing tool of the MAB Programme. They care for sustainable development and for sustainable conservation of biodiversity[1]. The sustainable conservation is derived from the MAB Programme of 1971 that attempts to have people living in harmony with biodiversity (the same slogan that is used by the recent global strategic biodiversity strategy in 2011). Without reconciliation between people and biodiversity, the conservation of biodiversity will not be sustainable.

The MAB Strategy mentions sustainable future, sustainable use, sustainable economies, sustainable societies, sustainable development, sustainable funding, sustainable financing, but never mentioned sustainable biodiversity conservation. Of course the sustainable use, sustainable development, sustainable financing may contribute to sustainable biodiversity conservation but there are also other factors that ensure sustainability of conservation like sustainable protection, updated regulation, adaptive management, etc. Thus I conclude that the sustainability of biodiversity conservation should preferably be given a place in the MAB Strategy especially that the conservation and development are 2 essential out of 3 functions combined within the biosphere reserve.

· **Under MAB and WNBR**

Page 4: it says that the core area is devoted to long term protection. Long term means that there is an end after for example 10 Or 50 or 100 years whereas the intended is “devoted to sustainable protection.

Page 4: last line says that the governance at national level is through National MAB Committees. I think that the insertion of the word “ideally” is needed before the word “National” because some countries are without National MAB Committees.

· **Under Vision and Mission**

Our mission is to inspire a positive future by connecting people and nature today. Since ages people are connected with nature (so perhaps nothing is new). Shouldn't we say by conciliating people and nature?

Finally

· I agree with the comments of Thomas, Salwa and Antonia.

Looking forward to see the Strategic Action Plan in 2016.

All the very best

Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi

[1] The term sustainable biodiversity conservation is used (https://www.wpi.edu/Pubs/E-project/Available/E-project-050107-162025/unrestricted/Sustainable_Biodiversity_Conservation.pdf) or (<http://www.forestrynepal.org/publications/article/4274>) or (<http://almashriq.hiof.no/lebanon/300/360/363/363.7/leb-environment-project.html>) or (http://www.researchgate.net/publication/225635346_Sustainable_biodiversity_conservation_in_the_Niger_Delt_a_a_practical_approach_to_conservation_site_selection), etc.

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

26 April 2015 at 15:13

Juergen Nauber

To: gpien, pierre.galland, mab@bs, rstanvliet, dscho, didier.babin, r-jaradi, sheila.ashong, hoangtri51, amfazel, djafarou.tiomoko, ghabbour_samir, salwaman-99, tschaaf22, jurgen.tack, mab-lipi, vgrom, antoniodabreu, sv.reddy, Doris.Pokorny, principal, martin.solar, tmoreno, baudouin.michel, p.dogse, alhammadi1, dhuartjp, musokemb, zuzanaguzi, mtahoux

Cc: boshra.saleem, daniel.amlalo, guevarasada, mariemow, Cherinko, toomas, lisen.schultz, Martin.Price, j.vaessen, k.nikolova, M.Bouamrane, M.Clusener-Godt, m.ocloo, n.raondry-rakotoarisoag, q.han, S.Menard, S.Venter, pmakenzi, romajashenko, idrissfassi, matsuda.

Dear Peter,

Thank you for sending the latest text of the strategy for comments. It has been considerably improved. Please bring my comments to the attention of the drafting group. The members of my National Committee and BR-Managers are eagerly waiting for the next draft and express their appreciation of how well you manage the workload of producing the strategy in record time.

However, I would like to reiterate some of the comments made 2nd May by Lutz Möller on behalf of the German MAB National Committee which I think critical and which have not been taken into consideration.

The Strategy should be made even briefer and also be more focused. Sometimes it mixes elements of a strategy with elements of an action plan. Important is that also the language really distinguishes clearly between the objectives and the expected results (use a verb or leave it with a noun). Many of the Expected Results should be qualified better and their number might be reduced.

Several formulations should be improved to be comprehensible for non-native English speakers (and not being with the UNESCO-MAB slang-) and also to live up to the huge progress of MAB in recent years, fully building on a modern understanding of sustainable development with its 3, 4 or 5 pillars. This in particular applies to key elements such as the introductory lines of the introductory paragraphs and the vision and mission statement. Probably there will be a number transcriptions of the strategy to other languages; so the original text should make that easily possible

One example: The term “stewardship for biodiversity” in the very first line is difficult to understand for the people who belong to the target groups of this strategy (I don’t even know whether translations exist in most languages. The term is typical for the English-speaking world and can mean everything you want to understand). The drafting team should find another term because when you have difficulties with the first line of a document why read the rest? An example could be “conservation and sustainable use”, instead. I suggest that you take the text to your translation services for advice in this matter.

The language should also better reflect the empowerment of communities and participation of stakeholders.

Also it should be made clearer that this is a strategy for “all of MAB”, not for the “MAB Secretariat only”.

As I understand, the introductory section sets the context (political justification), the implementing objectives are the “WHY” and the Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] are the “WHAT”. Lastly the MAB Action Plan (Maybe unfortunate wording because the abbreviation (MAP) could cause confusion with the Madrid Action Plan; a “Lima Action Plan” would result in “LAP”: Do we want this?) is the “HOW” and “WHO”. I suggest to develop a graphic which displays the relations between these elements and how they are related to the international scene. In IPBES we have made good experience with this to make complex issues understandable for normal (non-MAB) people, and also for the famous decision maker who does not read even two pages. Also in the sense of complexity reduction I suggest that you already start planning to publish the Strategy after adoption of the Action Plan as one of the good “Policy Briefs”.

We should avoid the discussion we had in Madrid about people in biosphere reserves being Guinea pigs for scientists to try their ideas. Testing in a br-Lab approaches to sustainable development on the cost of local people cannot be possible. Respective formulations should be re-considered.

Please find also attached the strategy-document (21 April) with some comments in track change mode.

I understand that plan A is that the ICC adopts the Strategy. If it does not, I suggest that we consider as plan B that at least the ICC mandates the Bureau to finalize the Draft, with assistance from the Strategy Group, in time before the General Conference and the BR World Conference. It would be very unfortunate to have a World Conference without the adopted Strategy. In my personal opinion it would also be advantageous to present a respective resolution on the Strategy to the forthcoming General Conference.

With cordial greetings to all

Jürgen Nauber

Jürgen Nauber
Geschäftsführer/Executive Secretary
German National Committee of the UNESCO MAB-Programme
Bundesamt für Naturschutz/Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Fachgebietsleiter/Head of Division
I.2.4: Geschäftsstelle MAB, Zusammenarbeit mit Staaten Mittel- und Osteuropas, IPBES
I.2.4: MAB Secretariate, Cooperation with Central- and Eastern European States, IPBES
Konstantinstr. 110
53179 Bonn
Germany

www.bfn.de

MAB STRATEGY 2015-2025

(21 April 2015)

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Executive Summary

Fostering sustainable development through **stewardship of biodiversity** is at the heart of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Over four decades, people across the globe have explored local solutions to global challenges under the umbrella of MAB, generating a wealth of experience and innovative potential for a sustainable future. In the coming 10 years, MAB will amplify its support to Member States in conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; building sustainable, healthy, and equitable economies, societies and thriving human settlements; and empowering people to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change. MAB will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and use modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information. MAB will ensure that the WNBR consists of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development, by implementing an effective periodic review process so that all members of the network adhere to its standards; by improving governance, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WNBR; and by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability. As the global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the MAB and WNBR will work towards these goals and contribute to implementing the Post-2015 agenda. This will be done through the implementation of the present Strategy, which includes a series of Strategic Objectives and Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] and an associated Action Plan, to be finalized in 2016.

Juergen Nauber 25/4/15 18:00

Commentaire [1]: Please re-formulate

Introduction

The biosphere reserve concept has proved its value beyond the protected areas which **constitute its core zones**, and is increasingly embraced by scientists, planners, policy-makers, businesses and local communities to bring a variety of knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to link biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being. To understand and address the key challenges facing our world today – poverty, climate change, water and food security, loss of biological and cultural diversity, rapid urbanization and desertification – the MAB programme, through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and its regional and thematic networks will strategically address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable development actions carried out in partnership with all sectors of society – public and private sectors, stakeholders from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, local communities, scientists and planners, research and education centres – to ensure the well-being of people and their environment. The experience of the WNBR, MAB Networks and interdisciplinary approaches will be used to develop and **apply** policies and practices to address the issues impacting different ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide. The MAB programme is an important means to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, in order to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

Juergen Nauber 25/4/15 18:01

Commentaire [2]: This is not correct because in many countries, including Germany also buffer zone and transition area include protected areas according national law; please re-formulate

Juergen Nauber 25/4/15 18:17

Supprimé: test

UNESCO

Founded in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, UNESCO celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2015. For seven decades, UNESCO has embodied high aspirations, hopes and an ongoing struggle for a better life, built on ideas of human dignity, mutual understanding and solidarity of humanity. These ideals and values are spelled out in the Organization's Constitution, which is the key to understanding UNESCO's history. Its pioneering work has helped change the way people

everywhere understand each other and the planet we live on. UNESCO led the movement to protect the environment and sounded the alert over the planet’s shrinking biodiversity, explicitly linking this to human development through the MAB programme. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO will, in the foreseeable future, continue to contribute across continents to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, the improvement of health, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, scientific activities, culture, communication and information.

MAB and the WNBR

Launched in 1971, UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that, from its beginning, has aimed to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

Biosphere reserves are the implementing tool of the MAB Programme. They may contain terrestrial, coastal and/or marine ecosystems. Each promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, towards sustainable development at the regional scale. While biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located, their global status as biosphere reserves is internationally recognized. In their respective countries, biosphere reserves are considered as **models for sustainable development to apply**, interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

The MAB programme’s World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was launched in 1976. As of 2014, it comprises 631 biosphere reserves in 119 countries, including 14 transboundary biosphere reserves on the territory of two or more countries. As specified in the 1995 Statutory Framework for the WNBR, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. To do this, each biosphere reserve should combine three interconnected functions – conservation, development and logistic support – through appropriate zoning, comprising 1) one or more legally-constituted core areas, devoted to long-term protection; 2) adjacent buffer zones; 3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises. Thus, biosphere reserves integrate biological and cultural diversity, especially the role of traditional and local knowledge in ecosystem management. They focus on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often have highly innovative and participative governance systems.

At the global level, the MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The next level of governance is represented by regional and thematic networks. Governance at the national level is ideally through MAB National Committees or other adequate mechanisms.

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 13:54

Supprimé: ‘Science for Sustainability support sites’ – special places to

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 13:54

Supprimé: test

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 13:52

Commentaire [3]: I am afraid that this phrase is too difficult to understand. Why not introduce at this early stage the core: BR are models for sustainable development

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 13:56

Commentaire [4]: Also countries which have no formally established National Committee should have the option of participating

MAB and other UNESCO Programmes

UNESCO has developed several international programmes to assess and manage the Earth's resources better. UNESCO's primary objective – besides working together with its Member States to develop and promote education, science and culture in all countries of the world – is to achieve mutual understanding among nations and peoples. Towards this goal, the Member States of UNESCO have established two programmes that recognize the global importance of natural and cultural heritage. The first, in 1971, was the MAB programme. The second, in 1972, was the Convention for the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which established a World Heritage List of Cultural and Natural Sites, inscribed for their outstanding universal value. For these sites, the main concerns are the conservation and management of exceptional natural and cultural sites, as well as raising awareness for heritage preservation.

In addition to these globally-important sites designated under UNESCO, others are designated under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), signed in 1971. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Many biosphere reserves are also designated as World Heritage Sites, under the Ramsar Convention, and/or as Global Geoparks. Such multiple designations emphasize even further the global importance of these regions and offer opportunities for synergies between these global programmes all of which, like the MAB programme, have ongoing review processes to ensure that activities in the constituent sites/regions continue to move towards defined goals.

Given the diverse objectives of biosphere reserves and the stakeholders involved in them, there are clear opportunities for synergies with other UNESCO programmes, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST). There are also good opportunities for collaboration with the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and the UNESCO Institutes, Centres, Chairs and networks, such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet). In all of these contexts, collaboration with UNESCO's Communication and Information sector is essential.

Global Context for the MAB Strategy

Sustainability issues are at the centre of the international debate, as human activities continue to fundamentally alter the Earth's systems, with profound impacts on freshwater resources; on the ocean, atmosphere and climate; and on ecosystems, habitats and their biodiversity. These trends are underscored in the Rio+20 Outcome document, "The Future We Want", which also recognizes that they will have significant impacts on all societies; that they have economic, cultural and social drivers; and that they are likely to be accentuated in the coming decades. The global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets to simultaneously address human needs and environmental change. These explicitly take into account other global imperatives, such as the targets set under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The MAB Strategy within UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy

Peace and equitable and sustainable development are the overarching objectives in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4). Africa and gender equality are Global Priorities. UNESCO

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 13:59

Commentaire [5]: To be adapted to the wording of the decision of the General Conference 2015 on this issue

emphasizes the critical importance of greater knowledge sharing in order to induce the transformative changes needed to address the complex and inter-related challenges of sustainable development. UNESCO is therefore promoting international scientific cooperation and integrated scientific approaches to support Member States in effectively managing natural resources, reducing knowledge divides within and among countries, and building bridges for dialogue and peace. Building on its experience in leading intergovernmental and international science programmes and on their global observation capacities, UNESCO seeks to contribute to shaping the research agenda of global and regional scientific cooperation, based on the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” and the post-2015 development agenda. The important role of MAB and its WNBR is emphasised in UNESCO’s Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021, notably in relation to UNESCO’s Strategic Objective 5: ‘Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development’, as well as Strategic Objective 4: ‘Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally’.

The Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework and the Madrid Action Plan

The evolution of the MAB programme and its WNBR has been steered by a series of meetings, beginning with those of a MAB Task Force in 1974 and continuing with the First International Biosphere Reserve Congress in Minsk, Belarus in 1984, which led to an Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. A second international conference on biosphere reserves took place in Seville, Spain in 1995, and started a new era for the WNBR. The actions decided at that meeting were incorporated into the *Seville Strategy* and the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves*, both approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995. In Pamplona, Spain in 2000, a Seville+5 meeting was held and various actions were decided, following through on the strategic recommendations from Seville, particularly with regard to transboundary biosphere reserves.

The Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves was held in Madrid in 2008. This agreed the *Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves* (MAP), building on the *Seville Strategy* and aiming to capitalize on the strategic advantages of the Seville instruments and raise biosphere reserves to be the principal internationally-designated areas dedicated to sustainable development in the 21st century. The MAP articulated actions, targets and success indicators, partnerships and other implementation strategies, and an evaluation framework, for the WNBR for 2008-2013. It took fully into consideration the recommendations of the Review Committee that evaluated UNESCO’s Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences Programmes.

In 2013-14, UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service evaluated the MAP. Particular challenges limiting this process included the broad scope of the MAP, lack of clarity in the formulation of particular elements, and the lack of an implementation logic. The validity of conclusions was further constrained by low response rates to the survey (39% of biosphere reserves and 45% of national committees); and there were significant regional variations in response rates. Despite these limitations, five main recommendations of areas for improvement were made: 1) strengthen the value of the WNBR for biosphere reserves and actively involve them in the activities of the WNBR; 2) strengthen the clearing house function of the WNBR; 3) develop the WNBR’s global role as a [source](#) of [new ideas](#); 4) raise the profile of the WNBR; 5) strengthen the financial and human resource base of the WNBR.

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:00

Supprimé: laboratory

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:01

Commentaire [6]: Avoid considering people in BR populating laboratories as guinea pigs

The MAB Strategy, 2015-2025

The MAB programme with its WNBR constitutes an important and valuable partner and instrument for research and experimentation on the ground, to build knowledge on practice-based sustainable development and share it globally. Thanks to this practical approach, the MAB programme supports the efforts of UNESCO Member States to address critical issues related to biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change, and other aspects of global environmental change. [To be] Adopted by the MAB ICC at its 27th session, the MAB Strategy provides a comprehensive while succinct framework for this purpose. The MAB Strategy is developed in line with the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021, the Seville Strategy and Statutory Framework of the WNBR, and with due consideration to the recommendations emerging from the final evaluation of the MAP. The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (to be presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves in 2016); their implementation will be assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework.

Vision and Mission of MAB and the WNBR

Our vision is that people work together to thrive in healthy places.

Our mission is to inspire a positive future by connecting people and nature today. Over the next 10 years and beyond, we will assist Member States to reach sustainable development goals through learning from our network of model [regions/sites] where development policies and actions, and the stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources, are explored and demonstrated; and lessons learned are harnessed through sustainability science, education, and knowledge exchange.

Strategic Objectives

MAB's Strategic Objectives for 2015 – 2025 derive directly from the three functions of biosphere reserves identified in the Statutory Framework for the WNBR and the key global challenge of climate change, identified in the Madrid Action Plan. These Strategic Objectives are to:

1. **Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**
2. **Contribute to Building Sustainable, Healthy and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements**
3. **Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development**
4. **Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change**

Strategic Objective 1. Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a critically important challenge. Biodiversity provides insurance and supports human well-being through a range of *ecosystem services*. Loss of biodiversity results in reductions in ecosystem services, creating direct threats to human well-being, and is an important indicator of an unbalanced system where vital components are affected. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development and unsustainable consumption and production patterns are among the major causes of diminishing biodiversity globally. The current scales of unprecedented exploitation of our natural resources call for their improved governance and

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:04

Commentaire [7]: I am afraid that this formulation is considered to be trivial. Also, places cannot be healthy, only people or living organisms. Unfortunately I have no alternative idea at the moment, but the vision is extremely important. Hopefully the drafting team can come up with a new formulation on the basis of the recommendations of the experts from the roster.

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:08

Commentaire [8]: Please be clear who (what) is the "WE". The mission of MAB and the WNBR **cannot be reduced** to what the Secretariate is doing for the Member States

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:12

Commentaire [9]: I suggest to insert a paragraph which is explaining the relation/interdependence between strategic objectives, implementation objectives and the MAB-Action plan elaborated in Peru

stewardship. In particular, the sustainable and equitable use of freshwater and access to energy is are critical prerequisites for security, sustainability, inclusion and peace.

Expected results

- 1.1. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in contributing to the implementation of global conventions and other **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** and the achievement of SDGs relating to the conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystem services.
- 1.2. Alliances at local, national and regional level are established to support biosphere reserves to carry out their biodiversity conservation function and provide benefits to local people, thus contributing to the achievement of the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD**.
- 1.3. Effective, equitable and participatory planning for sustainable development in biosphere reserves specifically takes into account the rights, needs and capacities of women and indigenous and local communities, and their ownership and access to, and sustainable use of, natural resources in and around biosphere reserves.
- 1.4. States, local government, international organizations, and the private sector support biosphere reserves through the effective use of the **ecosystem approach**, to ensure the continued delivery of **ecosystem services** both within biosphere reserves and to the wider communities which rely on their provision for their health and well-being.

Strategic Objective 2. Contribute to Sustainable, Healthy, and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements

A burgeoning world population, increasingly concentrated in rapidly expanding urban areas of all sizes, notably in coastal regions, has resulted in the overexploitation and unsustainable use of limited natural resources, accelerating pollution and environmental degradation, with significant impacts on human well-being. Healthy and equitable societies and economies, and thriving human settlements are essential elements of the quest for long-term sustainability and social development. To achieve this requires in-depth knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, socio-economic realities and innovative approaches to increase resilience. Through its WNBR, MAB is uniquely well placed to support the transition to thriving economies and sustainable societies, not only in individual Member States, but also through transboundary biosphere reserves. These can act as peace parks: enabling environments which foster the harmonious coexistence of people, and of people and nature, and promote a culture of peace with regard to the use of, and benefits from, shared natural resources.

Expected results

- 2.1. Biosphere reserves act as, and are recognized and supported by, all levels of government as model [regions/sites] for promoting sustainable development and advancing the implementation of the SDGs relating to equitable and healthy societies and settlements.
- 2.2. Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] for exploring, establishing and demonstrating sustainable economic systems that positively affect the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:14
Commentaire [10]: "All" levels of government is a result which can never be achieved. Please re-formulate

- 2.3 Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] to explore, establish and demonstrate innovative approaches that foster the resilience of communities, through livelihood diversification, green businesses, and social enterprise, including responsible tourism and quality economies.
- 2.4. Functional mechanisms are established to ensure that those who facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from biosphere reserves are equitably compensated and supported by those who utilize and benefit from these ecosystem services, often in distant urban areas.
- 2.5. Biosphere reserves contribute directly to the health and well-being of those who live in them and those who visit them.
- 2.6. Transboundary biosphere reserves are reinforced through multi-scale dialogue and capacity building specific to transboundary issues, and promoted for cooperation, environmental diplomacy, peace, security and conflict management.

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:17

Commentaire [11]: Add "developing"?

Strategic Objective 3. Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Sustainability science is an integrated, problem-solving approach that draws on the full range of scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge in a trans-disciplinary way to identify, understand and address present and future economic, environmental, ethical and societal challenges related to sustainable development. At a biosphere reserve level, this requires collaboration between all the different stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, members of local communities, and the private sector. **ESD** promotes the inclusion of key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning, to motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour through acquiring new skills, competencies and values and take action for sustainable development. biosphere reserves, particularly through their coordinators, managers, and scientists have key roles to play in operationalizing and mainstreaming sustainability science and ESD at local and regional levels, in order to build scientific knowledge, identify best practices and strengthen the interface between science, policy and education and training for sustainable development.

Expected results

- 3.1. MAB and its WNBR are fully engaged with international, regional and national research initiatives and programmes that contribute to the post-2015 development agenda.
- 3.2. The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and other stakeholders, coordinated by an advisory committee.
- 3.3. Each biosphere reserve has an active research programme, based on the principles of sustainability science, which provides the basis of participatory decision-making and management in the biosphere reserve.
- 3.4. Traditional knowledge is used as a "knowledge input" for managing biosphere reserves while recognizing the importance of both empowering indigenous communities as guardians of unique knowledge and of maintaining cultural identity.
- 3.5. Each biosphere reserve has training and capacity building activities addressing the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:20

Commentaire [12]: I am not convinced that this network needs to be coordinated by an advisory committee. Who pays for that and what is the added value?

adaptation to climate change, and the socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities.

- 3.6 ESD activities take place in all biosphere reserves, including all partners of civil society.
- 3.7. Increased partnerships between biosphere reserves and UNESCO Education Sector programmes, such as the *Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD*, the *UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)*, and the *UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme*.

Strategic Objective 4. Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change

Climate change continues to be of paramount concern for the future of humankind. It is now extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. According to the 5th Assessment Report of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, warming of the climate system is unequivocal; many of the observed changes since the 1950s have been unprecedented over decades to millennia. The specific values of, and opportunities for, biosphere reserves in relation to climate change were recognized in the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) and the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change (2011), aiming at placing greater focus on the capacities of the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and for integrating their contributions effectively into national and international climate strategies and policies. This requires simultaneously addressing the complex interactions between climate change and other aspects of global environmental change, such as loss of biodiversity, urbanization, desertification, degradation of land and water resources, and stratospheric ozone depletion.

Expected results

- 4.1. WNBR recognized as a global network of regions to promote learning and pilot innovative actions to monitor, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change and other types of global environmental change.
- 4.2. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the *Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)*.
- 4.3. Member States and other decision makers recognize and promote biosphere reserves as priority regions [sites] in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular through 1) energy efficiency and the development and adoption of renewable and clean energy, including energy saving through responsible consumption and 2) approaches related to carbon sequestration and **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).
- 4.4. Member States actively promote the transfer of approaches developed in biosphere reserves to other countries and regions.

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:22

Commentaire [13]: By whom?

Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas]

MAB's Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] for 2015 – 2025 are:

A.	The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development
B.	Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR
C.	Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR
D.	Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing
E.	Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR

The first three of these objectives [Strategic Action Areas] have specific foci: A – on individual biosphere reserves in the context of the countries in which they are located; B – on networking within the MAB Programme; C – primarily on partnerships outside the MAB Programme. The objectives [strategic action areas], together with their respective expected results [strategic lines of action], are outlined below.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development

By 2025, the WNBR aims to be an integrated global network of learning and demonstration sites for innovation in sustainable development. Once biosphere reserves reach their optimum functionality, they will represent a key interface between science, policy and society at local, national, regional and global levels, to the benefit of their populations, the Member States in which biosphere reserves are located and much wider constituencies. As model [regions/sites], biosphere reserves should contribute to sustainable development, including conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty. Linking increasingly effective model [regions/sites], the WNBR is a unique forum for the co-production of knowledge for sustainable development between the inhabitants of biosphere reserves, practitioners and researchers. The WNBR must consist of fully functioning, well managed sites that comply with the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework. Ensuring this has been the aim of the exit strategy adopted by the ICC in 2013.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- A.1. The periodic review process supports an effectively functioning WNBR, generating a dynamic process of adaptive management of biosphere reserves.
- A.2. Procedures and processes for selecting, designating, planning and implementing biosphere reserves are open and participatory, taking into account local practices and traditions and cultures, and involving all relevant stakeholders.
- A.3. States and other entities with territorial and governance competences explicitly integrate biosphere reserves into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and programmes, and support effective governance and management structures in each BR.

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:23

Commentaire [14]: To me that is no result but a pre-requisite. Consider deleting and accommodating the idea somewhere else

- A.4. Biosphere reserves and national MAB Committees have partnerships with universities and research institutes, to undertake applied research and provide practical learning and training opportunities that support the management and sustainable development of biosphere reserves.
- A.5. Financial sustainability of biosphere reserves is much improved, with a diverse funding base.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR

Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking are essential for MAB and its WNBR to provide effective contributions towards the SDGs and related targets. At the international level, collaboration will especially focus on South-South and North-South-South triangular cooperation, as a catalyst for dialogue and co-production of scientific knowledge, in synergy with local and indigenous knowledge brokers, and for *science diplomacy*. Collaboration and networking shall target all four strategic objectives. The importance of MAB's regional and thematic networks should be emphasized in this context. The regional networks have variable working methods and statutes which address regional needs and should be flexible in order to be relevant and efficient in the context of their regions, and the thematic networks typically should be self-organized.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- B.1. Global and regional capacity building and training programmes directed to BR managers/coordinators and other stakeholders facilitate the delivery of the Strategic Objectives.
- B.2. Networks are strengthened through enhanced participation of Member States – including UNESCO National Commissions, MAB National Committees, and relevant Ministries – and other public stakeholders, as well as universities, civil society organisations, the private sector, and stronger cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- B.3. Networks have the infrastructure and adequate resources to fulfill their potential to implement their objectives.
- B.4. Networks foster collaboration in research, implementation and monitoring, including through exchanges between biosphere reserves.
- B.5. Networks communicate and disseminate their aims and activities effectively, both internally and externally.
- B.6. An increased number of BR twinning arrangements foster transboundary and transnational cooperation and engender goodwill.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] C. Effective partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR.

Effective partnerships aimed at strengthening biosphere reserves, networks and the MAB Secretariat, and to promote the implementation of plans and strategies, particularly through sustainable financing mechanisms, are a priority for the MAB programme. While the basic operational resources of the programme and members of the WNBR must be provided from regular budgets for all levels of implementation, there is a clear need to bring in new partners – such as

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:27

Commentaire [15]: Goodwill by whom for what and for whom? The idea is good but needs some more words to make it more precise.

research groups, private sector enterprises or groups, museums, seed banks, and civil society organizations – either to strengthen existing partnerships or create new ones. In doing so, each country’s administrative organization must be respected and local communities must not lose their independence and influence, especially if the partners are from other regions. To increase organizational, including financial, resilience in MAB and individual biosphere reserves, different means of funding should be explored. In addition to financing, new partnerships should increase public awareness of the values and benefits of biosphere reserves as well as the involvement of local communities. UNESCO has one of the most famous and best-recognized global ‘brands’: a key challenge is how to use it to raise funds for the WNBR and its biosphere reserves.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- C.1. A comprehensive business and marketing plan for the WNBR, regional and thematic networks, national MAB Committees and individual biosphere reserves is prepared, taking into account the priorities of bilateral and multilateral donors and the private and philanthropic sectors. (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan)
- C.2. The MAB Secretariat and National Committees strengthen collaboration and partnerships both within UNESCO and with key international organizations.
- C.3. The MAB Secretariat assists biosphere reserves and regional networks to build expertise in developing their own revenue, and to share this expertise.
- C.4. Private sector partnerships generated around the MAB Programme at local, national and international levels.
- C.5. An increased number of projects and activities support biosphere reserves and networks funded through **national and** regional funding mechanisms, especially those that emphasise the need for multi-national partnerships.
- C.6. Deeper involvement of, and guidance provided to entrepreneurs active in biosphere reserves, especially those supporting social enterprises and green economies.
- C.7. **A strengthened global Biosphere Reserve brand is established, supplementing local biosphere reserve brands.**
- C.8. Joint promotion of BR products/services between biosphere reserves is enhanced.
- C.9. **biosphere reserve generates some of its own revenue.**

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing

The success of the MAB programme depends on effective and open communication, data and knowledge exchange, based on a clear and shared vision of the BR concept, both among the different actors on the programme – biosphere reserves, national committees, networks and the Secretariat – and externally. Contemporary communication and information, social media, and data sharing tools have huge potential for the Programme. While the MAB Secretariat, National Committees, regional and thematic networks and individual biosphere reserves are starting to make good use of these tools, there is an urgent need to widen their application not only within the MAB

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:33
Commentaire [16]: Personally I would appreciate if we could re-establish the term “quality economies”. This network had started to work effectively.

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:31
Commentaire [17]: Cannot be so exclusive

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:31
Supprimé: Every

Juergen Nauber 26/4/15 14:31
Supprimé:

programme but also to engage diverse external audiences. Yet many countries still have poor access to modern communication facilities, which implies a continued focus on traditional means of communication and information exchange. The task to communicate more effectively depends not only on how well MAB mobilizes communication tools and instruments, but also on MAB's success in producing outcomes and services that are appreciated and available in as many languages as possible, starting with UNESCO's official languages. Good outcomes will attract press and media attention, so they communicate on our behalf.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- D.1. Full implementation of the open access policy to MAB and WNBR-related documents, data, information and multimedia materials.
- D.2. A comprehensive communication strategy complemented by an action plan (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan).
- D.3. The MAB Secretariat has a coordinated publication programme and effectively implements the MAB web site (MABNet), as the key communication, data and information hub for MAB.
- D.4. Biosphere reserve coordinators/managers, National Committees, and regional networks ensure wide access to information concerning biosphere reserves.
- D.5. Increased use of video conferencing, social media and new information and communication technologies for knowledge sharing, communication, technical cooperation, and capacity building.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] E. Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR

The MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The Statutory Framework of the WNBR remains the basis for its governance. Well-structured and effectively implemented and managed governing mechanisms are at the foundation of a successful MAB Programme. MAB National Committees have critical roles to play in implementing the vision and mission of the MAB Programme. Important lessons have been learned from many years of experiences working with the Seville Strategy and from the implementation and evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of actions and governance mechanisms are essential in order to ensure timely and effective adaptation to change.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- E.1. The governments of Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO support the implementation of the MAB Programme, including through well-defined institutional support.
- E.2. Each MAB National Committee has a transdisciplinary membership, including representatives from the public, private, research and education sectors, and a wide range of other stakeholders, including representation from biosphere reserves.

- E.3. Member States regularly update the MAB Secretariat and regional networks regarding progress regarding implementation of the MAB Strategy and Action Plan within their country.
- E.4. Each regional network has a defined governance mechanism, including annual assessment of performance.
- E.5. New thematic networks, if any, have an inbuilt review mechanism and a sunset clause.
- E.6. The International Support Group (ISG) of Permanent Delegations to the MAB Programme continues to contribute to communications and advocacy to the benefit of the Programme.

Strategy Implementation Evaluation Framework

The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (see below) and assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework founded in strategic intervention logic. This will connect the strategic objectives and implementation objectives [strategic action areas] contained in the present strategy with the key activities and outputs of the Action Plan. Under the Framework, performance indicators will be developed, together with corresponding sources of verification and monitoring, and included in an evaluation plan that sets out roles and responsibilities of the key actors involved in the performance and achievement of the Strategy and the Action Plan. The Evaluation Framework and subsequent monitoring and evaluation will be developed and conducted in close cooperation with UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS).

MAB Action Plan

The MAB Action Plan (2016-2025) will provide a comprehensive set of actions for the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy. The Action Plan will be developed following the adoption of the MAB Strategy in 2015 and presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves and the 28th MAB ICC (Lima, Peru, 2016).

Glossary

Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Ecosystem approach
Ecosystem services
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD
Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Multilateral environmental agreements
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
Science diplomacy
Sustainability science
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)
UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Tri Hoang

27 April 2015 at 05:41

To: p.dogse,

Dear Peter,

Many thanks for your email and the draft, It is excellent work, I have only a minor comment that in the page 7, it said 'The MAB programme with its WNBR constitutes an important and valuable partner and instrument for research and experimentation on the ground,'

I suggest It should be confirm that The MAB programme with its WNBR constitutes an important and valuable partner and instrument for sustainable development in the future we want.

I do agree with the rest of document.

With my best wishes, warm regards and look forward to seeing the final MAB strategy 2015-2025.

Hoàng Tri

Prof.Dr. Nguyen Hoang Tri, Director, Center for Environmental Research and Education, Hanoi National University of Education, Secretary General, Vietnam MAB National Committee

Room 901, Building K- Center of Science & Technology and International Relations, 136 Xuan Thuy, Hanoi, Vietnam,
Website: <http://mabvietnam.net>

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Didier Babin

27 April 2015 at 17:44

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Thomas Schaaf; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel; Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra

Dear Peter and colleagues,

Please find attached our comments (in French).

We hope that the Secretariat can translate them for the benefit of all.

Best regards

Didier BABIN
Président
Comité français l'Homme et la Biosphère
French MAB Committee

<http://www.mab-france.org/>

Commentaires du Comité français du Programme MAB

sur le projet de stratégie MAB du 21 avril 2015:

En premier lieu nous tenons à remercier fortement l'ensemble des rédacteurs et commentateurs du projet de Stratégie MAB 2015-2025 ainsi que l'équipe de l'Unesco pour le travail et les efforts accomplis.

Cependant le projet de stratégie MAB qui nous est présenté aujourd'hui **ne nous semble pas suffisamment stratégique et ambitieux pour servir de base à une négociation** permettant de réellement embrasser l'ensemble des défis qui se posent et pour lesquels le Programme MAB (P-MAB) et le Réseau Mondial des Réserves de Biosphères (RMRB) doivent être mobilisés.

Nous avons déjà fait part au Directeur du Programme MaB, en demandant d'en informer le bureau et les responsables du groupe d'experts chargé du projet de rédaction, de nos inquiétudes quant à la teneur du projet précédent (draft de février 2015) qui ne nous semblait pas adéquate car ne remplissant pas les exigences mises en avant lors du dernier conseil du MAB à savoir :

- un document articulé avec la stratégie de Séville ;
- un texte court et percutant.

Ce document est à notre sens trop long, manque de structure et de punch. On a l'impression de lire l'éternelle succession des mots clés obligatoires du jargon international Onusien.

Le projet de stratégie a cependant le mérite de reconnaître à quel point l'esprit du MAB a réussi à percoler dans la société et notamment à travers le concept de développement durable mais aussi dans celui de la conservation. Il est donc tout à fait justifié de positionner la nouvelle stratégie en liaison avec les Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD), tels qu'ils seront retenus par l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies en septembre 2015. Le P-MAB depuis sa création a véritablement contribué à faire évoluer les mentalités et les pratiques sur les relations entre les Hommes à propos de la Biosphère. Il aurait été utile de montrer en quoi le MAB a contribué à cette évolution. La nouvelle stratégie doit poursuivre ce travail entrepris depuis plus de 40 ans par nos prédécesseurs pour les 10 ans qui viennent et au-delà. Il en va de la crédibilité du P-MAB et certainement de sa survie.

Un bilan synthétique des 20 dernières années serait le bienvenu : il pourrait mettre deux volets en perspective:

- 20 ans d'évolution de la situation de la relation Homme Biosphère, à la place de ce cadre global, qui manque cruellement de données et ne montre pas qu'il y a une urgence certaine à changer de direction par rapport à quelques indicateurs : érosion de la biodiversité, ressource en eau et ressources non renouvelables, scénario d'évolution des températures prévues par le GIEC...
- 20 ans de mise en œuvre du cadre statutaire et de la stratégie de Séville qui aboutissent à un réseau mondial construit et à une stratégie de sortie permettant de le crédibiliser. Un tel bilan, que la France a réclamé à plusieurs reprises au moment de l'évaluation du plan d'action, aurait permis d'identifier les expériences innovantes et de mesurer les acquis originaux du MAB et de ses RBs. Il avait d'ailleurs été décidé par le CIC que l'évaluation ne devrait pas porter uniquement sur le Plan d'action de Madrid, mais aussi sur les résultats de l'application de la Stratégie de Séville. Si une telle évaluation avait été faite, des éléments fondamentaux auraient sans doute pu être dégagés pour servir de base à la nouvelle Stratégie.

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Le positionnement du MAB et des RB dans ce tableau pourrait alors être clarifié : on pourrait affirmer que les Réserves de biosphère sont désignées pour expérimenter des approches de développement durable, que les Etats membres et autres organisations (internationales, de coopération...) devraient leur apporter des moyens spécifiques pour cela.

La stratégie présentée ne distingue pas clairement ce qui relève d'acquis passés (la stratégie de Séville et le cadre statutaire) dont il s'agit d'être en mesure d'évaluer correctement la mise en œuvre, au niveau local, national et international) de nouveaux problèmes « apparus » depuis (surtout le changement climatique).

Nombreux sont les points qui relèvent du plan d'action plus que de la stratégie : Il serait intéressant de préciser qui est concerné / responsable par quoi. Ainsi, certaines des actions prévues l'étaient déjà dans le Plan d'Action de Madrid (stratégie de communication, site internet, bonnes pratiques...).

Selon nous la nouvelle stratégie doit nous engager pleinement dans une réflexion d'avant-garde et pas simplement se bâtir sur de l'existant comme le document validé par le groupe de travail ouvert en juillet 2014 au siège des Nations Unies sur les ODD ou le plan stratégie pour la biodiversité 2011-2020 et les 20 cibles biodiversité d'Aichi.

Nous sommes en quelque sorte victime de notre propre succès et nous avons le devoir d'apporter de nouvelles idées, un dynamisme renforcé et basé sur nos expériences, notre histoire et les acteurs des RB et du réseau mondial des RB. Se contenter d'une approche aussi peu novatrice nous semble un renoncement qui risque de mettre en péril l'avenir du P-MAB et du RMRB.

Le projet du 21 avril 2015 est bien entendu un document plein de bon sens et de bons sentiments qui cherchent à situer le P-MAB et le RMRB dans le contexte actuel de la réflexion sur le développement durable et prend en compte les avancées dans le domaine de la biodiversité et du changement climatique. De ce point de vue c'est un document qui peut faire consensus dans de nombreuses communautés. Si ce document doit devenir la base de la stratégie MAB, nous pensons qu'il fera très rapidement disparaître tout ce qui a fait l'originalité du programme MAB et qui a fait tant progresser la conception des relations entre les Hommes à propos de la Biosphère.

Comme notre alerte n'a pas été prise en compte pour le moment, nous souhaitons apporter notre contribution positive et constructive à la réflexion et à la discussion sur le document qui nous est soumis.

Cependant nous ne manquerons pas, dans la suite du processus, de faire part de nos inquiétudes et de nos propositions d'alternative.

Par ailleurs nous regrettons fortement qu'un document d'une telle importance ne nous soit pas soumis, à ce stade, dans les deux langues officielles. Ceci ne favorise pas les échanges et bien entendu peut en orienter le processus et les résultats.

Contexte global d'urgence

La nouvelle stratégie doit pleinement prendre en compte l'urgence et la portée des messages adressés par la communauté scientifique concernant notamment la biodiversité et les changements climatiques. Selon le troisième rapport des perspectives mondiales de la biodiversité paru en 2010 : *«Les mesures prises au cours de la ou des deux prochaines décennies détermineront si les conditions de l'environnement relativement stable sur laquelle la civilisation humaine a reposé pour les 10.000 dernières années se poursuivra au-delà de ce siècle. Si nous ne parvenons pas à saisir cette occasion, de nombreux écosystèmes de la*

planète se transformeront en de nouveaux états sans précédent dans laquelle la capacité de subvenir aux besoins des générations présentes et futures est très incertaine ».

Les rapports du GIEC sont tout aussi inquiétants en ce qui concerne l'évolution du climat et de la disponibilité en eau, la fréquence des événements naturels exceptionnels ou du niveau des mers et océans. Il y a urgence à agir et ceci à une large échelle.

Il est évident que les RBs ne peuvent avoir qu'un impact direct limité sur ces problèmes. Mais l'expérience accumulée peut et doit servir en dehors des frontières des RBs et du P-MAB. Il faut mobiliser le RMRB et le P-MAB pour partager des solutions, étendre nos zones d'influence et de transmission bien au-delà des sites répertoriés réserves de biosphère et favoriser l'apprentissage. A cet égard, les expériences menées en matière d'implication des communautés, de gouvernance et de mise en place de plateformes de discussion, de décroïsonnement, en un mot tout ce que le travail du Mab a apporté pour une gestion plus participative et plus intégrée des territoires mériterait d'être souligné et mis en valeur

Il faut donc en quelque sorte sortir de nos « réserves » pour diffuser dans des régions bien plus vastes pour espérer contribuer à la relève des défis qui se posent.

Les questions d'agenda et d'ampleur de la portée de la nouvelle stratégie du MAB sont donc fondamentales.

Problèmes sur la forme :

Le projet de stratégie est toujours beaucoup trop long et trop d'éléments ne sont pas stratégiques mais uniquement des constats ou des descriptions. Ceci perd complètement le lecteur et, au final, on ne sait absolument plus qu'elle est la spécificité du P-MAB et du RMRB.

Dans le projet de stratégie un problème persiste dans l'articulation des éléments entre eux, ce qui entraîne une confusion entre ce qui relève d'un constat, d'une vision de l'avenir, d'une mission qu'on se donne, d'un souhait ou des résultats attendus, mesurables et situés dans le temps. Ceci est important car ce document a vocation à être lu et utilisé par ceux qui mettent en œuvre le programme et les RBs, et s'ils ne comprennent pas à quel niveau ils doivent lire le document son efficacité sera perdue.

L'introduction de 6 pages est inutile pour la négociation de cette stratégie. Ces 6 pages sont de la communication pour ceux qui ne connaissent pas le P-MAB. Il est donc néfaste de les présenter comme éléments d'une stratégie. **Nous proposons d'enlever ces 6 premières pages .**

Le paragraphe introductif de chaque objectif stratégique et objectif de mise en œuvre (qu'il vaudrait peut-être mieux traduire en français par "objectif opérationnel"?) ne devrait pas se cantonner à faire un constat général des problèmes, mais il devrait présenter **une vraie vision du rôle ou du positionnement** que doivent jouer le P-MAB et les RBs par rapport à ces enjeux. Ça ne se trouve que très rarement, par exemple dans l'objectif stratégique 3 : "operationalizing and mainstreaming sustainability science and ESD at local and regional levels, in order to...". **Si ce n'est pas possible, alors il faut enlever tous ces paragraphes introductifs .**

Il faut faire évoluer le contenu des "expected results". Ce qui est énuméré ne sont pas des résultats escomptés mais des objectifs opérationnels, ou des éléments de plans d'action. A titre d'exemple un réseau international de chercheurs travaillant dans des RBs avec des coordinateurs et des parties prenantes locales ne se mettra pas en place tout seul si on ne l'organise pas... Les "expected results" devraient être des "objectifs stratégiques détaillés" ou

"sous-objectifs" (ou autre chose, mais pas « expected results »); Certains de ces sous-objectifs devraient descendre des objectifs stratégiques vers les objectifs opérationnels, et certains objectifs opérationnels devraient être mis dans le plan d'action qui sera élaboré en 2016.

Sur la stratégie elle-même :

Vision :

La vision ne comporte plus de mot « biosphere » ! Il est remplacé par le mot « places ». **Ceci est au mieux incompréhensible et au pire inadmissible .**

Si l'on remplace « places » par « biosphere » et qu'on garde l'idée d' « oeuvrer ensemble » (ce qui nous semble positif) **il faut que la mission et tous les objectifs stratégiques y contribuent véritablement.** Ce qui n'est pas le cas .

Mission :

La mission n'est pas très claire et elle est trop « passive ».

Le terme « network of model » devrait être remplacé par « WNBR ».

Il manque dans cette mission la thématique des générations futures.

On devrait préciser ici l'articulation de ce nouveau document avec la Stratégie de Séville : un remplacement? une actualisation? un complément?

Objectifs stratégiques et résultats escomptés :

Comme document de base pour une discussion, ce document devrait être plus clair et plus audacieux sur les objectifs stratégiques. Ce n'est pas le cas : il y a plus d'éléments stratégiques nouveaux dans les "expected results" que dans les titres et les paragraphes introductifs. Mais globalement, pas grand chose de nouveau.

Il faut des objectifs stratégiques qui contribuent à faire progresser vers la vision et permettre la mise en musique de la mission.

L'objectif stratégique fondamental qui nous semble manquer ou qui n'est pas bien identifié comme prioritaire (repris en parti comme objectif A. de mise en oeuvre uniquement) consiste dans **l'extension de la zone d'influence des RBs pour diffuser l'expérience de 40 ans de développement durable concret.** On devrait reprendre ici les fondamentaux du programme et de la stratégie de Séville en les modernisant pour favoriser l'aménagement et la gestion intégrée des territoires et des ressources naturelles en co-construction avec les acteurs locaux.

On devrait prendre appui et faire valoir les plus de 630 sites du RMRB sur lesquels on a une vision dans le temps et qui constituent une base de données et d'information unique.

Il faut donc capitaliser sur l'expérience acquise :

- les individus sont eux-mêmes générateurs d'idées et d'innovation pour le DD (les citoyens, les entreprises...), il faut ensuite les mettre dans les conditions d'innover ;
- les savoirs locaux : les sauvegarder, les valoriser, les perpétuer ;
- décloisonner : instiller la culture écologique dans le secteur économique et la culture du développement dans le secteur de la conservation de la nature (notamment au niveau de la gouvernance) ;

Concrètement un tel objectif stratégique nécessite une mise en oeuvre via une capitalisation des expériences, un regard critique sur les réussites et les échecs, une mise à disposition et un partage des informations pour servir d'apprentissage. Il nécessite aussi une volonté politique et une mobilisation des institutions locales et pas uniquement les institutions

nationales pour créer des régions d'influence des RBs (Biosphere Regions ?) qui vont bien au-delà des frontières classiques des Zones des RBs.

Ceci pourrait être envisagé de manière partenariale en liaison avec l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies en charge de la mise en oeuvre des ODD (encore en discussion) et notamment le PNUD et le PNUE via les bureaux régionaux.

Une telle dynamique devra aussi s'accompagner d'un suivi rigoureux, d'un système d'observation des performances pour lequel les réseaux et relais scientifiques du P-MAB devront se mobiliser. Il y a peut-être aussi des opportunités de partenariat avec UN Sustainable Development Solution Network, le GIEC, IPBES ou Future Earth dans ce domaine. Il y a peut-être plus d'avantage à s'intégrer dans ces réseaux qu'à inventer de nouveaux comités. Il faudrait en parallèle animer, par la coopération, des partenariats, des interactions avec la recherche, des réflexions sur les évolutions à avoir.

Si l'on retient cet objectif stratégique comme fondamental, les objectifs stratégiques pourraient être re-organisés comme objectifs opérationnels afin de le « servir ». Ceci pourrait donner de la cohérence et des synergies entre certains des résultats escomptés des Objectifs Stratégiques relativement similaires.

Sur la volet « changement climatique », il faudrait reprendre la structure de la Stratégie de Séville (agir au niveau international, national, local) pour l'atténuation et l'adaptation.

- Atténuation : cela concerne au niveau local, de développer et promouvoir l'économie circulaire et l'écologie territoriale, l'habitat durable, l'éco-mobilité... au niveau national, des partenariats avec de nouveaux acteurs (de l'énergie, de la compensation par exemple), jusqu'ici peu intégrés dans les activités des RBs
- Adaptation : Identifier de façon spécifique les RBs qui sont les plus rapidement concernées par ces questions (en montagne, îles et côtes).

Les RBs et le RMRB devront ainsi poursuivre les réflexions et les expérimentations sur les nouveaux modèles de développement durable en étant particulièrement soutenu (y compris financièrement) et aidé par les communautés scientifiques et techniques des domaines du développement durable, de la biodiversité et du changement climatique : mode de consommation et de production durables (y compris concernant l'énergie ou l'alimentation), économie verte, restauration des écosystèmes, zone de solidarité écologique, partenariat avec les zones urbaines associées, approche écosystème, accompagnement des processus de décisions, généralisation de la responsabilité sociale et environnementale des entreprises, économie circulaire, indicateur de développement durable, système de compensation des dégradations, écologie et analyse des cycles de vie territoriales,... Beaucoup reste à développer, tester, valider, documenter et évaluer.

Dans la foulée de la Stratégie de sortie, une « intendance » du réseau (au niveau national, mondial) devrait donc être établie de façon à évaluer, faire connaître, diffuser les résultats de ces expérimentations.

Il s'agit donc d'être en mesure d'évaluer et de suivre l'efficacité des Réserves de biosphère au niveau local: l'examen périodique devient dynamique, on dispose de bases de données permettant de qualifier l'état des Réserves de biosphère (inventaire et suivi de biodiversité, bio-carbone et eau, bien être humain, gouvernance). On dispose d'indicateurs, à suivre dans le temps. Au niveau national, on dispose de données sur les comités MAB, leur organisation, modalités d'action, positionnement / autorités. Le Secrétariat est en mesure, avec les états membres, d'animer les réflexions nécessaires pour disposer de ces outils et de les utiliser efficacement.

Objectifs de mise en oeuvre et résultats escomptés :

Comme pour les objectifs stratégiques, il n'est pas nécessaire d'introduire les objectifs de mise en oeuvre s'ils sont clairement énoncés. La liste des résultats attendus est longue, trop longue certainement aux vues des moyens du P-MAB et du RMRB. Les liens avec la Stratégie de Séville sont aussi à préciser ici.

Il y a peut-être intérêt à redimensionner ceux-ci et à ouvrir le P-MAB à des partenariats effectifs dans le cadre des ODD et de l'agenda post-2015 pour le développement. Certains résultats attendus seraient avantageusement inclus dans le plan d'actions et il nous semble judicieux de coordonner la rédaction du plan d'actions, des objectifs de mise en oeuvre en fonctions des moyens et des orientations partenariales du P-MAB pour éviter des listes impossibles atteindre. Le travail préparatoire n'est donc pas terminé.

Sans rentrer dans le détail de tous les résultats attendus, le **point A2 nous semble très problématique dans sa formulation s'il n'est pas précisé qu'il se fait dans le respect du cadre statutaire commun.**

En conclusion

Compte tenu de l'état d'avancement du processus de préparation de la stratégie, des éléments cruciaux manquants externes comme les résultats des négociations sur les ODD et l'agenda post-2015 pour le développement, des éléments manquants de cohérences internes avec les moyens envisageables **il nous semble souhaitable de ne pas précipiter la finalisation de la stratégie MAB.**

Nous proposons d'envisager l'avancée de la négociation lors du prochain CIC en 2015 à Paris pour **une finalisation lors du CIC de Lima en 2016.** Si pour des raisons internes à l'Unesco cela s'avère véritablement impossible, il appartiendra au Secrétariat du P-MAB de proposer une solution alternative.

Entre ces deux CIC la concertation devra être poursuivie y compris sur le plan d'action en faisant **plus largement appel aux contributions qui permettront d'élaborer une stratégie MAB d'avant-garde, ambitieuse, ouverte et réaliste.**

Un **séminaire extraordinaire** pourrait être envisagé pour prendre en compte, avec les partenaires du système des Nations Unies et des agences de financement, les résultats des négociations sur les ODD et l'agenda post-2015 pour le développement.

Il nous semble utile d'organiser un **appel à idées notamment auprès des jeunes acteurs** qui feront les RBs de demain.

Comments of the French Committee of the MAB Programme
on the Draft MAB Strategy of 21 April 2015

First, we would like to thank strongly all editors and commentators of the proposed MAB Strategy 2015-2025 as well as the UNESCO team for the work and efforts made.

However, the draft MAB Strategy before us today **does not seem sufficiently strategic and ambitious to be the basis for a negotiation** that would allow that all challenges that are identified and for which the MAB Programme (MAB-P) and the World Biosphere Reserves Network (WNBR) must be mobilized really can be covered.

We had already informed the Director of the MAB Programme, asking to inform the Bureau and the leaders of the group of experts charged with the drafting, our concerns about the content of the previous draft (the February 2015 draft), which did not seem appropriate because it did not meet the requirements put forward at the last Council of MAB, notably:

- a document articulated with Seville Strategy:
- a short and punchy text.

In our opinion, this document is too long, it lacks structure and punch. One has the impression of reading the eternal succession of mandatory international UN jargon keywords.

The draft strategy, however, has the merit to recognize how the spirit of MAB managed to percolate in society and in particular through the concept of sustainable development but also in conservation. It is therefore quite justified to position the new strategy in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they will be retained by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. The MAB-P since its inception has truly helped to change attitudes and practices when it comes to the relations between people and the biosphere. It would have been useful to show how MAB has contributed to this evolution. The new strategy is to continue for the next 10 years and beyond following on the work undertaken for more than 40 years by our predecessors. The credibility of the MAB-P and certainly its survival that depends on it.

A short review of the past 20 years would be welcome: it could provide a twofold perspective:

- 20 years of evolution of the relationship between Man and the biosphere, instead of this overall framework, which is sorely lacking of data and which does not show that there is a clear urgency to change direction relative to some indicators: erosion of biodiversity, water resources and non-renewable resources, scenario of temperature increase foreseen by the IPCC ...
- 20 years of application of the Statutory Framework and the Seville Strategy that lead to the establishment of a World Network and an Exit Strategy allowing it to be credible. Such a balance sheet, which France has requested on several occasions during the evaluation of the (Madrid) Action Plan would have helped to identify innovative experiences and the original achievements of MAB and its BRs. It had actually been decided by the ICC that the evaluation should not focus solely on the Madrid Action Plan, but also on the results of the implementation of the Seville Strategy. If such an evaluation had been made, the fundamental elements that could have served as the basis for the new Strategy would without doubt have emerged.

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The positioning of the MAB and the BRs in this outline could then be clarified: it could be recognized that biosphere reserves are designated to test approaches for sustainable development, towards which Member States and other organizations (international, cooperation ...) should provide specific means.

The strategy presented does not clearly distinguish what belongs to past achievements (Seville Strategy and the statutory framework) for which it is a question of being able to correctly assess the implementation, at local, national and international) new problems that thereafter "emerged" (especially climate change).

Many are the items that fall under the action plan rather than under the strategy: It would be interesting to clarify who is involved / responsible for what. Thus, some of the actions planned were already in the Madrid Action Plan (communication strategy, website, best practices ...).

We believe the new strategy must engage us fully in a forward looking reflexion and not simply build on the existing document as approved by the open-ended working group in July 2014 at United Nations Headquarters on the SDGs or the Biodiversity Strategy Plan for 2011-2020 and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

We are kind of victim of our own success and we have a duty to bring new ideas, a strengthened dynamism based on our experiences, our history and the actors of BR and the World Network of BR. To be satisfied with an approach that is so little innovative seems a waiver that could jeopardize the future of the MAB-P and the WNBR.

The 21 April 2015 draft is of course a document paper full of good sense and good feelings that seek to situate the MAB-P and the WNBR in the current context of the debate on sustainable development and it takes into account the developments in the fields of biodiversity and climate change. From this point of view it is a document that can make consensus in many communities. If this document is to become the basis of the MAB strategy MAB, we believe it will quickly disappear all that the originality of the MAB Programme, which has done so much to advance the understanding of the relationship between people and the Biosphere.

As our warning was not taken into account at the moment, we want to make our positive and constructive contribution to the debate and discussion on the document before us.

However we will not fail, in the course of the process, to share our concerns and our alternative proposals.

Furthermore we strongly regret that a document of such importance would not be submitted, at this stage, in the two official languages. This does not encourage exchanges and it can of course guide the process and the results.

Global emergency context

The new strategy should fully take into account the urgency and scope of the messages sent by the scientific community in particular on biodiversity and climate change. According to the third report of the global biodiversity outlook published in 2010: *"The measures taken during the next two decades will determine whether the conditions of relatively stable environment on which human civilization has depended for 10,000 years continue beyond this century. If we fail to seize this opportunity, many ecosystems on the planet will turn into new,*

unprecedented states in which the capacity to meet the needs of present and future generations is highly uncertain. "

IPCC reports are just as disturbing in terms of climate change and water availability, frequency of extreme natural events or the level of seas and oceans. There is urgency to act and this at a large scale.

It is obvious that the RBs may have limited direct impact on these problems. But the experience can and should be used outside the borders of BRs and the MAB-P. We must mobilize the WNBR and the MAB-P to share solutions, expand our zones of influence and outreach well beyond the sites listed as biosphere reserves and promote learning. In this regard, the experiences in community involvement, governance and implementation of discussion platforms, breaking down barriers, in short everything that MAB's work has contributed towards a more participatory and integrated management of territories, deserve to be highlighted and promoted.

So, in a way, we have to somehow get out of our "reserves" in order to communicate to much larger regions if we to hope to contribute to address the challenges.

The questions of agendas and the scope of the new MAB strategy are thus fundamental.

Problems with the format:

The draft strategy is still far too long and too many elements are not strategic but only observations or descriptions. This completely loses the reader and, in the end, one knows absolutely no longer what the specificity of the MAB-P and the WNBR is.

A problem exists in the draft strategy concerning the articulation between the elements which leads to confusion between what is a statement, a vision, a mission that is given, a wish or measurable and time-related expected results. This is important because this document is intended to be read and used by those who implement the program and the BRs, and if they do not understand at what level they should read the document its effectiveness will be lost.

The 6 pages introduction is useless for the negotiation of this strategy. These are 6 pages of communication for those who do not know the MAB-P. It is therefore harmful to present them as elements of a strategy. **We propose to remove these first 6 pages.**

The introductory paragraph of each strategic objective and implementation objective (that might be better translated into French as "operational objective"?) should not be confined to a general statement of the problems, but it should have **a true vision of the role or position** to be played by the MAB-P and the BRs with respect to these issues. This is to be found only rarely, for example in the strategic objective 3: "operationalizing and mainstreaming sustainability science and ESD at local and regional levels, in order to...". **If this is not possible, then you have to remove all these introductory paragraphs.**

It is necessary to change the contents of the "expected results". What is listed are not expected results but operational objectives, or plans of action items. For example an international network of researchers working in BRs with coordinators and local stakeholders will not stand up by itself if we do not organize it ... The "expected results" should be "detailed strategic objectives" or "sub-objectives" (or something else, but not "expected results"); Rather than under the strategic objectives, some of these sub-goals should be under the implementation objectives and some implementation objectives should be set in the action plan to be developed in 2016.

On the strategy itself:

Vision:

The vision no longer includes the word "biosphere"! It is replaced by the word "places." **This is at best incomprehensible and at worst inadmissible.**

If we replace "places" with "biosphere" and we keep the idea of "working together" (which seems positive to us) this **requires that the mission and all the strategic objectives will actually really contribute to it.** This is not the case.

Mission:

The mission is not very clear and it is too "passive".

The term "network of model" should be replaced with "WNBR."

The theme of future generations is lacking in the mission.

We should mention here the articulation of this new document with the Seville Strategy: replacement? An update? a Complement?

Strategic objectives and expected results:

As a basic document for discussion, this document should be clearer and bolder on strategic objectives. This is not the case: there are more new strategic elements in the "expected results" than in the titles and in the introductory paragraphs. But overall, not much new.

There must be strategic objectives that contribute to make progress towards the vision and allow the mission to start play out.

The fundamental strategic objective seems missing, or is not properly identified as a priority (retaken up as objective A. only under implementation) consists in **extending the zone of influence of BRs to disseminate 40 years concrete sustainable development experience.** We should repeat here the fundamentals of the programme and the Seville Strategy by modernizing them to promote the integrated management of land and natural resources in co-construction with local actors.

We should build on and advance the over 630 sites of the WNBR on which one has a vision over time and that constitute a database with unique information.

It is therefore necessary to capitalize on experience gained:

- individuals are themselves generating ideas and innovation for SD (citizens, companies ...), it is then necessary to place them in conditions to innovate;
- Local knowledge: safeguard it, valuing and perpetuate it;
- Break up the silos; instill an ecological culture in the economic sector and a culture of development in the nature conservation sector (particularly in terms of governance);

Specifically such a strategic objective requires implementation through a capitalization of experiences, a critical look at successes and failures, making available and sharing of information to serve learning. It also requires political will and mobilization of local institutions

and not just the national institutions to create areas of influence of RB (Biosphere Regions?) that go well beyond the traditional boundaries of BRs zones.

This could be considered from a partnership perspective in conjunction with the entire United Nations system responsible for the implementation of the SDGs (still under discussion), including UNDP and UNEP through their regional offices.

This dynamic should also be accompanied by careful monitoring, a performance observation system for which the scientific MAB-P networks and relays should be mobilized. There may also be opportunities for partnerships with the UN Sustainable Development Solution Network, IPCC, IPBES Future Earth in this field. It might be more advantageous to integrate into these networks rather than to invent new committees. In parallel, it would be necessary to animate, through cooperation, partnerships, interactions with research, reflections on changes needed.

If we accept this as a fundamental strategic objective, the strategic objectives could be re-organized as operational objectives in order to "serve" it. This could give coherence and synergies between some of the expected results of relatively similar Strategic Objectives.

The component "climate change" should retake the structure of the Seville Strategy (international, national, local) mitigation and adaptation actions.

- Mitigation: at the local level, this concerns to develop and promote the circular economy and territorial ecology, sustainable habitat, eco-mobility ... at the national level, partnerships with new actors (from energy, offsetting for example), until recently rarely integrated in the activities of BRs.
- Adaptation: Identify specifically the BRs that are most rapidly concerned by these issues (in the mountains, islands and coasts).

The BRs and the WNBR will thus continue discussions and experimentation on new sustainable development models being particularly supported (including financially) and helped by the scientific and technical domains of sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change: modes of sustainable consumption and production (including for energy or food), green economy, ecosystem restoration, ecological solidarity zone, partnership with associated urban areas, ecosystem approach, support of decision making processes, generalization of social and environmental responsibility, circular economy, sustainable development indicator, degradation compensation system, ecology and analysis of territorial lifecycles ... Much remains to develop, test, validate, document and evaluate.

In the wake of the exit strategy, a "stewardship" of the network (national, global) should be established in order to evaluate, publicize and disseminate the results of these experiments.

It is therefore a question of being able to assess and monitor the effectiveness of Biosphere Reserves at local level: the periodic review becomes dynamic, there would be databases to qualify the status of Biosphere Reserves (inventory and monitoring of biodiversity, bio-carbon and water, human well-being, governance). One would have indicators to follow over time. At national level, data would be available on the MAB committees, their organization, modalities of action, positioning / authorities. The Secretariat would be able, with Member States, to animate the reflections necessary to develop and use these tools effectively.

Implementation Objectives and expected results:

As for the strategic objectives, it is not necessary to introduce the implementation objectives if they are clearly stated. The list of expected results is long, too long, certainly in view of the means of the MAB-P and the WNBR. Links with the Seville Strategy are also noted here.

There may interest to resize them and to open the MAB-P to effective partnerships within the framework of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. Some expected results would be advantageously included in the action plan and it seems wise to coordinate the drafting of the action plan, implementation objectives as a function of resources and orientation of partnerships of the MAB-P in order to avoid lists that are impossible to achieve. The preparatory work is thus not finished.

Without going into the details of all the expected results, the **point A2 seems very problematic in its formulation if it is not clarified if it is in compliance with the common statutory framework.**

In conclusion

Given the progress of the strategy preparation process, the lack of crucial external elements such as the results of the negotiations on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, internal consistencies regarding the means likely to be available missing **it seems advisable not to rush the finalization of the MAB strategy.**

We propose to consider the progress of the negotiations at the next ICC in 2015 in Paris **for finalization at the ICC Lima in 2016.** If for reasons internal to UNESCO this is truly impossible, it will be up to the MAB-P Secretariat to propose an alternative solution.

Between the two ICC dialogue should be continued including on the action plan by making **greater use of contributions that will develop a pioneering, ambitious, open and realistic MAB Strategy.**

A **special seminar** could be considered to take stock, with United Nations partners and funding agencies, the results of the negotiations on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

It seems useful to organize a **call for ideas especially among young stakeholders** that will make the BRs of tomorrow.

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Graciela Monica Pien

27 April 2015 at 19:39

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Thomas Schaaf; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel;

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra

Dear All,

I'm agree with this draft proposal for the new Draft MAB Strategy. I look forward to contribute in the next Action.

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Zuzana Guziova

27 April 2015 at 22:44

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Thomas Schaaf; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel;

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra

Dear Peter, dear colleagues,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the present draft of the MAB strategy. I do not go to the editing details at the moment just have a few comments:

Introduction should start referring to MAB program rather to biosphere reserves, since the document is MAB strategy (contrary to previous documents – Seville Strategy, MAP, Action Plan for BR that had BR in focus and in the title) .

In the document, when reference is made to BRs, notion of representativeness is missing as referred in the Article 4 of the Statutory Framework. This was one of the main criterion originally distinguishing BR from other designations and should be maintained for the future.

On page 4, chapter MAB and the WNBR – title should be limited to MAB (as this document is the MAB strategy), WNBR is correctly presented as MAB implementing tool.

In this chapter, it would be maybe good to remind that BRs were originally one of the 14 MAB project,

Last sentence on the page 4 – about MAB governance at the national level- in some countries it is ensured through UNESCO National Commissions,

Page 6 chapter Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework

Text of the chapter should be integrated into chapter MAB on page 4

Page 7 – The MAB Strategy - should be adopted after adoption of the SDG, since there is frequent reference to support of SDG implementation...upcoming ICC MAB

Page 7 – title of the chapter “Vision and Mission of MAB and the WNBR” – it should read “Visions and Mission of MAB” (because the Strategy is of MAB otherwise the strategy should be renamed to MAB and the WNBR Strategy). Mixing of the MAB and WNBR occurs through the whole text, which on one hand is understandable, but it is not always conceptually correct.

Page 9

In expected result no 3.2. – reference is made to advisory committee , it is not clear which committee it is ? IAC? Or new Scientific Committee? In my opinion, no single committee would have a capacity to coordinate such wide international network of scientists

(but maybe I misunderstood the context)

Page 11: Implementation objective D should be made MAB and the WNBR specific, at the moment it is sounds too general

Page 14 Effective governance of MAB . Statutory framework for BR should not be presented as basis for MAB governance, it should be the present strategy that will govern implementation of the MAB

The term stewardship used throughout the document should be replaced by more general term “conservation” in order to avoid ambiguity in translations.

I also support colleagues who pointed out that the term laboratory should not be used in respect to BR (because of local communities as well as visitors),

Best regards,
Zuzana Guziova

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

27 April 2015 at 23:11

Sheila Ashong

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Thomas Schaaf; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel; Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra

Dear Peter, dear Colleagues,

Please find attached few suggested changes.

Best Regards

Sheila

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SHEILA NANA AKUA ASHONG
PRINCIPAL PROGRAMME OFFICER, (COORDINATOR, GHANA MAB NATIONAL
COMMITTEE)
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
P O BOX M326
MINISTRIES
ACCRA
GHANA

MAB STRATEGY 2015-2025

(21 April 2015)

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Executive Summary

Fostering sustainable development through stewardship of biodiversity is at the heart of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Over four decades, people across the globe have explored local solutions to global challenges under the umbrella of MAB, generating a wealth of experience and innovative potential for a sustainable future. In the coming 10 years, MAB will amplify its support to Member States in conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; building sustainable, healthy, and equitable economies, societies and thriving human settlements; and empowering people to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change. MAB will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and use modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information. MAB will ensure that the WNBR consists of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development, by implementing an effective periodic review process so that all members of the network adhere to its standards; by improving governance, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WNBR; and by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability. As the global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the MAB and WNBR will work towards these goals and contribute to implementing the Post-2015 agenda. This will be done through the implementation of the present Strategy, which includes a series of Strategic Objectives and Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] and an associated Action Plan, to be finalized in 2016.

Introduction

The biosphere reserve concept has proved its value beyond the protected [areas, which](#) constitute its core zones, and is increasingly embraced by scientists, planners, policy-makers, businesses and local communities to bring a variety of knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to link biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being. To understand and address [the key](#) challenges facing our world today – poverty, climate change, water and food security, loss of biological and cultural diversity, rapid urbanization and desertification – the MAB programme, through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and its regional and thematic networks will strategically address the [Sustainable Development](#) Goals (SDGs) through sustainable development actions carried out in partnership with all sectors of society – public and private sectors, stakeholders from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, local communities, scientists and planners, research and education centres – to ensure the well-being of people and their environment. The experience of the WNBR, MAB Networks and interdisciplinary approaches will be used to develop and test policies and practices to address the issues [impacting different](#) ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide. The MAB programme is an important means to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, in order to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

UNESCO

Founded in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, UNESCO celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2015. For seven decades, UNESCO has embodied high aspirations, hopes and an ongoing struggle for a better life, built on ideas of human dignity, mutual understanding and solidarity of humanity. These ideals and values are spelled out in the Organization's Constitution, which is the key to understanding UNESCO's history. Its pioneering work has helped change the way people

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everywhere understand each other and the planet we live on. UNESCO led the movement to protect the environment and sounded the alert over the planet's shrinking biodiversity, explicitly linking this to human development through the MAB programme. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO will, in the foreseeable future, continue to contribute across continents to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, the improvement of health, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, scientific activities, culture, communication and information.

MAB and the WNBR

Launched in 1971, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that, from its beginning, has aimed to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

Biosphere reserves are the implementing tool of the MAB Programme. They may contain terrestrial, coastal and/or marine ecosystems. Each promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, towards sustainable development at the regional scale. While biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located, their global status as biosphere reserves is internationally recognized. In their respective countries, biosphere reserves are considered as 'Science for Sustainability support sites' – special places to test interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

The MAB programme's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was launched in 1976. As of 2014, it comprises 631 biosphere reserves in 119 countries, including 14 transboundary biosphere reserves on the territory of two or more countries. As specified in the 1995 Statutory Framework for the WNBR, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. To do this, each biosphere reserve should combine three interconnected functions – conservation, development and logistic support – through appropriate zoning, comprising 1) one or more legally-constituted core areas, devoted to long-term protection; 2) adjacent buffer zones; 3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises. Thus, biosphere reserves integrate biological and cultural diversity, especially the role of traditional and local knowledge in ecosystem management. They focus on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often have highly innovative and participative governance systems.

At the global level, the MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The next level of governance is represented by regional and thematic networks. Governance at the national level is through MAB National Committees.

MAB and other UNESCO Programmes

UNESCO has developed several international programmes to assess and manage the Earth's resources better. UNESCO's primary objective – besides working together with its Member States to develop and promote education, science and culture in all countries of the world – is to achieve mutual understanding among nations and peoples. Towards this goal, the Member States of UNESCO have established two programmes that recognize the global importance of natural and cultural heritage. The first, in 1971, was the MAB programme. The second, in 1972, was the Convention for the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which established a World Heritage List of Cultural and Natural Sites, inscribed for their outstanding universal value. For these sites, the main concerns are the conservation and management of exceptional natural and cultural sites, as well as raising awareness for heritage preservation.

In addition to these globally-important sites designated under UNESCO, others are designated under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), signed in 1971. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Many biosphere reserves are also designated as World Heritage Sites, under the Ramsar Convention, and/or as Global Geoparks. Such multiple designations emphasize even further the global importance of these regions and offer opportunities for synergies between these global programmes all of which, like the MAB programme, have ongoing review processes to ensure that activities in the constituent sites/regions continue to move towards defined goals.

Given the diverse objectives of biosphere reserves and the stakeholders involved in them, there are clear opportunities for synergies with other UNESCO programmes, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST). There are also good opportunities for collaboration with the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and the UNESCO Institutes, Centres, Chairs and networks, such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet). In all of these contexts, collaboration with UNESCO's Communication and Information sector is essential.

Global Context for the MAB Strategy

Sustainability issues are at the centre of the international debate, as human activities continue to fundamentally alter the Earth's systems, with profound impacts on freshwater resources; on the ocean, atmosphere and climate; and on ecosystems, habitats and their biodiversity. These trends are underscored in the Rio+20 Outcome document, "The Future We Want", which also recognizes that they will have significant impacts on all societies; that they have economic, cultural and social drivers; and that they are likely to be accentuated in the coming decades. The global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets to simultaneously address human needs and environmental change. These explicitly take into account other global imperatives, such as the targets set under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The MAB Strategy within UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy

Peace and equitable and sustainable development are the overarching objectives in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4). Africa and gender equality are Global Priorities. UNESCO

emphasizes the critical importance of greater knowledge sharing in order to induce the transformative changes needed to address the complex and inter-related challenges of sustainable development. UNESCO is therefore promoting international scientific cooperation and integrated scientific approaches to support Member States in effectively managing natural resources, reducing knowledge divides within and among countries, and building bridges for dialogue and peace. Building on its experience in leading intergovernmental and international science programmes and on their global observation capacities, UNESCO seeks to contribute to shaping the research agenda of global and regional scientific cooperation, based on the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” and the post-2015 development agenda. The important role of MAB and its WNBR is emphasised in UNESCO’s Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021, notably in relation to UNESCO’s Strategic Objective 5: ‘Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development’, as well as Strategic Objective 4: ‘Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally’.

The Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework and the Madrid Action Plan

The evolution of the MAB programme and its WNBR has been steered by a series of meetings, beginning with those of a MAB Task Force in 1974 and continuing with the First International Biosphere Reserve Congress in Minsk, Belarus in 1984, which led to an Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. A second international conference on biosphere reserves took place in Seville, Spain in 1995, and started a new era for the WNBR. The actions decided at that meeting were incorporated into the *Seville Strategy* and the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves*, both approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995. In Pamplona, Spain in 2000, a Seville+5 meeting was held and various actions were decided, following through on the strategic recommendations from Seville, particularly with regard to transboundary biosphere reserves.

The Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves was held in Madrid in 2008. This agreed the *Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves* (MAP), building on the *Seville Strategy* and aiming to capitalize on the strategic advantages of the Seville instruments and raise biosphere reserves to be the principal internationally-designated areas dedicated to sustainable development in the 21st century. The MAP articulated actions, targets and success indicators, partnerships and other implementation strategies, and an evaluation framework, for the WNBR for 2008-2013. It took fully into consideration the recommendations of the Review Committee that evaluated UNESCO’s Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences Programmes.

In 2013-14, UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service evaluated the MAP. Particular challenges limiting this process included the broad scope of the MAP, lack of clarity in the formulation of particular elements, and the lack of an implementation logic. The validity of conclusions was further constrained by low response rates to the survey (39% of biosphere reserves and 45% of national committees); and there were significant regional variations in response rates. Despite these limitations, five main recommendations of areas for improvement were made: 1) strengthen the value of the WNBR for biosphere reserves and actively involve them in the activities of the WNBR; 2) strengthen the clearing house function of the WNBR; 3) develop the WNBR’s global role as a laboratory of ideas; 4) raise the profile of the WNBR; 5) strengthen the financial and human resource base of the WNBR.

The MAB Strategy, 2015-2025

The MAB programme with its WNBR constitutes an important and valuable partner and instrument for research and experimentation on the ground, to build knowledge on practice-based sustainable development and share it globally. Thanks to this practical approach, the MAB programme supports the efforts of UNESCO Member States to address critical issues related to biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change, and other aspects of global environmental change. [To be] Adopted by the MAB ICC at its 27th session, the MAB Strategy provides a comprehensive while succinct framework for this purpose. The MAB Strategy is developed in line with the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021, the Seville Strategy and Statutory Framework of the WNBR, and with due consideration to the recommendations emerging from the final evaluation of the MAP. The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (to be presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves in 2016); their implementation will be assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework.

Vision and Mission of MAB and the WNBR

Our vision is that people work together to thrive in healthy places.

Our mission is to inspire a positive future by connecting people and nature today. Over the next 10 years and beyond, we will assist Member States to reach sustainable development goals through learning from our network of model [regions/sites] where development policies and actions, and the stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources, are explored and demonstrated; and lessons learned are harnessed through sustainability science, education, and knowledge exchange.

Strategic Objectives

MAB's Strategic Objectives for 2015 – 2025 derive directly from the three functions of biosphere reserves identified in the Statutory Framework for the WNBR and the key global challenge of climate change, identified in the Madrid Action Plan. These Strategic Objectives are to:

- 1. Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**
- 2. Contribute to Building Sustainable, Healthy and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements**
- 3. Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development**
- 4. Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change**

Strategic Objective 1. Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a critically important challenge. Biodiversity provides insurance and supports human well-being through a range of *ecosystem services*. Loss of biodiversity results in reductions in ecosystem services, creating direct threats to human well-being, and is an important indicator of an unbalanced system where vital components are affected. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development and unsustainable consumption and production patterns are among the major causes of diminishing biodiversity globally. The current scales of unprecedented exploitation of our natural resources call for their improved governance and

stewardship. In particular, the sustainable and equitable use of freshwater and access to energy are critical prerequisites for security, sustainability, inclusion and peace.

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Expected results

- 1.1. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in contributing to the implementation of global conventions and other **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** and the achievement of SDGs relating to the conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystem services.
- 1.2. Alliances at local, national and regional level are established to support biosphere reserves to carry out their biodiversity conservation function and provide benefits to local people, thus contributing to the achievement of the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD**.
- 1.3. Effective, equitable and participatory planning for sustainable development in biosphere reserves specifically takes into account the rights, needs and capacities of women and indigenous and local communities, and their ownership and access to, and sustainable use of, natural resources in and around biosphere reserves.
- 1.4. States, local government, international organizations, and the private sector support biosphere reserves through the effective use of the **ecosystem approach**, to ensure the continued delivery of **ecosystem services** both within biosphere reserves and to the wider communities which rely on their provision for their health and well-being.

Strategic Objective 2. Contribute to Sustainable, Healthy, and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements

A burgeoning world population, increasingly concentrated in rapidly expanding urban areas of all sizes, notably in coastal regions, has resulted in the overexploitation and unsustainable use of limited natural resources, accelerating pollution and environmental degradation, with significant impacts on human well-being. Healthy and equitable societies and economies, and thriving human settlements are essential elements of the quest for long-term sustainability and social development. To achieve this requires in-depth knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, socio-economic realities and innovative approaches to increase resilience. Through its WNBR, MAB is uniquely well placed to support the transition to thriving economies and sustainable societies, not only in individual Member States, but also through transboundary biosphere reserves. These can act as peace parks: enabling environments which foster the harmonious coexistence of people, and of people and nature, and promote a culture of peace with regard to the use of, and benefits from, shared natural resources.

Expected results

- 2.1. Biosphere reserves act as, and are recognized and supported by, all levels of government as model [regions/sites] for promoting sustainable development and advancing the implementation of the SDGs relating to equitable and healthy societies and settlements.
- 2.2. Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] for exploring, establishing and demonstrating sustainable economic systems that positively affect the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.

- 2.3 Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] to explore, establish and demonstrate innovative approaches that foster the resilience of communities, through livelihood diversification, green businesses, and social enterprise, including responsible tourism and quality economies.
- 2.4. Functional mechanisms are established to ensure that those who facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from biosphere reserves are equitably compensated and supported by those who utilize and benefit from these ecosystem services, often in distant urban areas.
- 2.5. Biosphere reserves contribute directly to the health and well-being of those who live in them and those who visit them.
- 2.6. Transboundary biosphere reserves are reinforced through multi-scale dialogue and capacity building specific to transboundary issues, and promoted for cooperation, environmental diplomacy, peace, security and conflict management.

Strategic Objective 3. Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Sustainability science is an integrated, problem-solving approach that draws on the full range of scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge in a trans-disciplinary way to identify, understand and address present and future economic, environmental, ethical and societal challenges related to sustainable development. At a biosphere reserve level, this requires collaboration between all the different stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, members of local communities, and the private sector. **ESD** promotes the inclusion of key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning, to motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour through acquiring new skills, competencies and values and take action for sustainable development. biosphere reserves, particularly through their coordinators, managers, and scientists have key roles to play in operationalizing and mainstreaming sustainability science and ESD at local and regional levels, in order to build scientific knowledge, identify best practices and strengthen the interface between science, policy and education and training for sustainable development.

Expected results

- 3.1. MAB and its WNBR are fully engaged with international, regional and national research initiatives and programmes that contribute to the post-2015 development agenda.
- 3.2. The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and other stakeholders, coordinated by an advisory committee.
- 3.3 Each biosphere reserve has an active research programme, based on the principles of sustainability science, which provides the basis of participatory decision-making and management in the biosphere reserve.
- 3.4. Traditional knowledge is used as a “knowledge input” for managing biosphere reserves while recognizing the importance of both empowering indigenous communities as guardians of unique knowledge and of maintaining cultural identity.
- 3.5. Each biosphere reserve has training and capacity building activities addressing the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and

adaptation to climate change, and the socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities.

- 3.6 ESD activities take place in all biosphere reserves, including all partners of civil society.
- 3.7. Increased partnerships between biosphere reserves and UNESCO Education Sector programmes, such as the *Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD*, the *UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)*, and the *UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme*.

Strategic Objective 4. Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change

Climate change continues to be of paramount concern for the future of humankind. It is now extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. According to the 5th Assessment Report of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, warming of the climate system is unequivocal; many of the observed changes since the 1950s have been unprecedented over decades to millennia. The specific values of, and opportunities for, biosphere reserves in relation to climate change were recognized in the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) and the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change (2011), aiming at placing greater focus on the capacities of the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and for integrating their contributions effectively into national and international climate strategies and policies. This requires simultaneously addressing the complex interactions between climate change and other aspects of global environmental change, such as loss of biodiversity, urbanization, desertification, degradation of land and water resources, and stratospheric ozone depletion.

Expected results

- 4.1. WNBR recognized as a global network of regions to promote learning and pilot innovative actions to monitor, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change and other types of global environmental change.
- 4.2. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the *Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)*.
- 4.3. Member States and other decision makers recognize and promote biosphere reserves as priority regions [sites] in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular through 1) energy efficiency and the development and adoption of renewable and clean energy, including energy saving through responsible consumption and 2) approaches related to carbon sequestration and **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).
- 4.4. Member States actively promote the transfer of approaches developed in biosphere reserves to other countries and regions.

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Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas]

MAB's Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] for 2015 – 2025 are:

- | | |
|----|---|
| A. | The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development |
| B. | Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR |
| C. | Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR |
| D. | Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing |
| E. | Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR |

The first three of these objectives [Strategic Action Areas] have specific foci: A – on individual biosphere reserves in the context of the countries in which they are located; B – on networking within the MAB Programme; C – primarily on partnerships outside the MAB Programme. The objectives [strategic action areas], together with their respective expected results [strategic lines of action], are outlined below.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development

By 2025, the WNBR aims to be an integrated global network of learning and demonstration sites for innovation in sustainable development. Once biosphere reserves reach their optimum functionality, they will represent a key interface between science, policy and society at local, national, regional and global levels, to the benefit of their populations, the Member States in which biosphere reserves are located and much wider constituencies. As model [regions/sites], biosphere reserves should contribute to sustainable development, including conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty. Linking increasingly effective model [regions/sites], the WNBR is a unique forum for the co-production of knowledge for sustainable development between the inhabitants of biosphere reserves, practitioners and researchers. The WNBR must consist of fully functioning, well managed sites that comply with the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework. Ensuring this has been the aim of the exit strategy adopted by the ICC in 2013.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- A.1. The periodic review process supports an effectively functioning WNBR, generating a dynamic process of adaptive management of biosphere reserves.
- A.2. Procedures and processes for selecting, designating, planning and implementing biosphere reserves are open and participatory, taking into account local practices and traditions and cultures, and involving all relevant stakeholders.
- A.3. States and other entities with territorial and governance competences explicitly integrate biosphere reserves into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and programmes, and support effective governance and management structures in each BR.

- A.4. Biosphere reserves and national MAB Committees have partnerships with universities and research institutes, to undertake applied research and provide practical learning and training opportunities that support the management and sustainable development of biosphere reserves.
- A.5. Financial sustainability of biosphere reserves is much improved, with a diverse funding base.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR

Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking are essential for MAB and its WNBR to provide effective contributions towards the SDGs and related targets. At the international level, collaboration will especially focus on South-South and North-South-South triangular cooperation, as a catalyst for dialogue and co-production of scientific knowledge, in synergy with local and indigenous knowledge brokers, and for *science diplomacy*. Collaboration and networking shall target all four strategic objectives. The importance of MAB's regional and thematic networks should be emphasized in this context. The regional networks have variable working methods and [statutes, which](#) address regional needs and should be flexible in order to be relevant and efficient in the context of their regions, and the thematic networks typically should be self-organized.

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Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- B.1. Global and regional capacity building and training programmes directed to BR managers/coordinators and other stakeholders facilitate the delivery of the Strategic Objectives.
- B.2. Networks are strengthened through enhanced participation of Member States – including UNESCO National Commissions, MAB National Committees, and relevant Ministries – and other public stakeholders, as well as universities, civil society organisations, the private sector, and stronger cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- B.3. Networks have the infrastructure and adequate resources to fulfill their potential to implement their objectives.
- B.4. Networks foster collaboration in research, implementation and monitoring, including through exchanges between biosphere reserves.
- B.5. Networks communicate and disseminate their aims and activities effectively, both internally and externally.
- B.6. An increased number of BR twinning arrangements foster transboundary and transnational cooperation and engender goodwill.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] C. Effective partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR.

Effective partnerships aimed at strengthening biosphere reserves, networks and the MAB Secretariat, and to promote the implementation of plans and strategies, particularly through sustainable financing mechanisms, are a priority for the MAB programme. While the basic operational resources of the programme and members of the WNBR must be provided from regular budgets for all levels of implementation, there is a clear need to bring in new partners – such as

research groups, private sector enterprises or groups, museums, seed banks, and civil society organizations – either to strengthen existing partnerships or create new ones. In doing so, each country's administrative organization must be respected and local communities must not lose their independence and influence, especially if the partners are from other regions. To increase organizational, including financial, resilience in MAB and individual biosphere reserves, different means of funding should be explored. In addition to financing, new partnerships should increase public awareness of the values and benefits of biosphere reserves as well as the involvement of local communities. UNESCO has one of the most famous and best-recognized global 'brands': a key challenge is how to use it to raise funds for the WNBR and its biosphere reserves.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- C.1. A comprehensive business and marketing plan for the WNBR, regional and thematic networks, national MAB Committees and individual biosphere reserves is prepared, taking into account the priorities of bilateral and multilateral donors and the private and philanthropic sectors. (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan)
- C.2. The MAB Secretariat and National Committees strengthen collaboration and partnerships both within UNESCO and with key international organizations.
- C.3. The MAB Secretariat assists biosphere reserves and regional networks to build expertise in developing their own revenue, and to share this expertise.
- C.4. Private sector partnerships generated around the MAB Programme at local, national and international levels.
- C.5. An increased number of projects and activities support biosphere reserves and networks funded through regional funding mechanisms, especially those that emphasise the need for multi-national partnerships.
- C.6. Deeper involvement of, and guidance provided to entrepreneurs active in biosphere reserves, especially those supporting social enterprises and green economies.
- C.7. A strengthened global Biosphere Reserve brand is established, supplementing local biosphere reserve brands.
- C.8. Joint promotion of BR products/services between biosphere reserves is enhanced.
- C.9. Every biosphere reserve generates some of its own revenue.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing

The success of the MAB programme depends on effective and open communication, data and knowledge exchange, based on a clear and shared vision of the BR concept, both among the different actors on the programme – biosphere reserves, national committees, networks and the Secretariat – and externally. Contemporary communication and information, social media, and data sharing tools have huge potential for the Programme. While the MAB Secretariat, National Committees, regional and thematic networks and individual biosphere reserves are starting to make good use of these tools, there is an urgent need to widen their application not only within the MAB

programme but also to engage diverse external audiences. Yet many countries still have poor access to modern communication facilities, which implies a continued focus on traditional means of communication and information exchange. The task to communicate more effectively depends not only on how well MAB mobilizes communication tools and instruments, but also on MAB's success in producing outcomes and services that are appreciated and available in as many languages as possible, starting with UNESCO's official languages. Good outcomes will attract press and media attention, so they communicate on our behalf.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- D.1. Full implementation of the open access policy to MAB and WNBR-related documents, data, information and multimedia materials.
- D.2. A comprehensive communication strategy complemented by an action plan (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan).
- D.3. The MAB Secretariat has a coordinated publication programme and effectively implements the MAB web site (MABNet), as the key communication, data and information hub for MAB.
- D.4. Biosphere reserve coordinators/managers, National Committees, and regional networks ensure wide access to information concerning biosphere reserves.
- D.5. Increased use of video conferencing, social media and new information and communication technologies for knowledge sharing, communication, technical cooperation, and capacity building.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] E. Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR

The MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The Statutory Framework of the WNBR remains the basis for its governance. Well-structured and effectively implemented and managed governing mechanisms are at the foundation of a successful MAB Programme. MAB National Committees have critical roles to play in implementing the vision and mission of the MAB Programme. Important lessons have been learned from many years of experiences working with the Seville Strategy and from the implementation and evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of actions and governance mechanisms are essential in order to ensure timely and effective adaptation to change.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- E.1. The governments of Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO support the implementation of the MAB Programme, including through well-defined institutional support.
- E.2. Each MAB National Committee has a transdisciplinary membership, including representatives from the public, private, research and education sectors, and a wide range of other stakeholders, including representation from biosphere reserves.

- E.3. Member States regularly update the MAB Secretariat and regional networks regarding progress regarding implementation of the MAB Strategy and Action Plan within their country.
- E.4. Each regional network has a defined governance mechanism, including annual assessment of performance.
- E.5. New thematic networks, if any, have an inbuilt review mechanism and a sunset clause.
- E.6. The International Support Group (ISG) of Permanent Delegations to the MAB Programme continues to contribute to communications and advocacy to the benefit of the Programme.

Strategy Implementation Evaluation Framework

The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (see below) and assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework founded in strategic intervention logic. This will connect the strategic objectives and implementation objectives [strategic action areas] contained in the present strategy with the key activities and outputs of the Action Plan. Under the Framework, performance indicators will be developed, together with corresponding sources of verification and monitoring, and included in an evaluation plan that sets out roles and responsibilities of the key actors involved in the performance and achievement of the Strategy and the Action Plan. The Evaluation Framework and subsequent monitoring and evaluation will be developed and conducted in close cooperation with UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS).

MAB Action Plan

The MAB Action Plan (2016-2025) will provide a comprehensive set of actions for the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy. The Action Plan will be developed following the adoption of the MAB Strategy in 2015 and presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves and the 28th MAB ICC (Lima, Peru, 2016).

Glossary

Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Ecosystem approach
Ecosystem services
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD
Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Multilateral environmental agreements
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
Science diplomacy
Sustainability science
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)
UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Natallia Rybianets

28 April 2015 at 10:07

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Thomas Schaaf; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra

Dear Peter and MAB Strategy Group,

Thank you for sharing this version of Draft MAB Strategy. Thank drafting group for the hard work - Strategy is comprehensive, combining the activities of the MAB Programme and its participants over the next decade.

I don't have proposals for crucial changes to this version of Draft and glad to see that several proposals I sent earlier are included into this version, particularly, value of cross-border activities in biosphere reserves has become more significant emphasis, the need for partnerships/collaboration with UNESCO Chairs/ UNITWIN Programme also is included.

Nevertheless, an analysis of the Strategy would be more effective if Action Plan attached. Development of Action Plan appears necessary at the same time because (a) some elements of the expected results seem to be more appropriate in terms of Action Plan, (b) some important actions aimed at the sustainable development (Strategic Objectives 3 - Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development), are not reflected in the new version of the MAB Strategy.

Please, find attached some little comments on the text of the Strategy.

I look forward to contribute in building the Action Plan.

With all the best wishes,

Natallia Rybianets
Vice-Chairperson
Belarus UNESCO-MAB National Committee
Belarusian State University
4 Nezavisimosti Ave.
Minsk 220030 Republic of Belarus

MAB STRATEGY 2015-2025

DRAFT

(21 April 2015)

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Glossary

Executive Summary

Fostering sustainable development through stewardship of biodiversity is at the heart of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Over four decades, people across the globe have explored local solutions to global challenges under the umbrella of MAB, generating a wealth of experience and innovative potential for a sustainable future. In the coming 10 years, MAB will amplify its support to Member States in conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; building sustainable, healthy, and equitable economies, societies and thriving human settlements; and empowering people to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change. MAB will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and use modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information. MAB will ensure that the WNBR consists of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development, by implementing an effective periodic review process so that all members of the network adhere to its standards; by improving governance, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WNBR; and by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability. As the global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the MAB and WNBR will work towards these goals and contribute to implementing the Post-2015 agenda. This will be done through the implementation of the present Strategy, which includes a series of Strategic Objectives and Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] and an associated Action Plan, to be finalized in 2016.

Introduction

The biosphere reserve concept has proved its value beyond the protected areas which constitute its zones, and is increasingly embraced by scientists, planners, policy-makers, businesses and local communities to bring a variety of knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to link biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being. To understand and address the key challenges facing our world today – poverty, climate change, water and food security, loss of biological and cultural diversity, rapid urbanization and desertification – the MAB programme, through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and its regional and thematic networks will strategically address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable development actions carried out in partnership with all sectors of society – public and private sectors, stakeholders from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, local communities, scientists and planners, research and education centres – to ensure the well-being of people and their environment. The experience of the WNBR, MAB Networks and interdisciplinary approaches will be used to develop and test policies and practices to address the issues impacting different ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide. The MAB programme is an important means to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, in order to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

UNESCO

Founded in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, UNESCO celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2015. For seven decades, UNESCO has embodied high aspirations, hopes and an ongoing struggle for a better life, built on ideas of human dignity, mutual understanding and solidarity of humanity. These ideals and values are spelled out in the Organization's Constitution, which is the key to understanding UNESCO's history. Its pioneering work has helped change the way people everywhere understand each other and the planet we live on. UNESCO led the movement to protect the environment and sounded the alert over the planet's shrinking biodiversity, explicitly linking this

Mab 28/4/15 00:40

Commentaire [1]: Buffer zones and transition areas might be part of protected areas

Mab 27/4/15 23:22

Mis en forme: Souligné

to human development through the MAB programme. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO will, in the foreseeable future, continue to contribute across continents to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, the improvement of health, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, scientific activities, culture, communication and information.

MAB and the WNBR

Launched in 1971, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that, from its beginning, has aimed to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

Biosphere reserves are the implementing tool of the MAB Programme. They may contain terrestrial, coastal and/or marine ecosystems. Each promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, towards sustainable development at the regional scale. While biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located, their global status as biosphere reserves is internationally recognized. In their respective countries, biosphere reserves are considered as 'Science for Sustainability support sites' – special places to test interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

The MAB programme's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was launched in 1976. As of 2014, it comprises 631 biosphere reserves in 119 countries, including 14 transboundary biosphere reserves on the territory of two or more countries. As specified in the 1995 Statutory Framework for the WNBR, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. To do this, each biosphere reserve should combine three interconnected functions – conservation, development and logistic support – through appropriate zoning, comprising 1) one or more legally-constituted core areas, devoted to long-term protection; 2) adjacent buffer zones; 3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises. Thus, biosphere reserves integrate biological and cultural diversity, especially the role of traditional and local knowledge in ecosystem management. They focus on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often have highly innovative and participative governance systems.

At the global level, the MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The next level of governance is represented by regional and thematic networks. Governance at the national level is through MAB National Committees.

Mab 28/4/15 00:40

Commentaire [2]: Or National Commission for UNESCO?

MAB and other UNESCO Programmes

UNESCO has developed several international programmes to assess and manage the Earth's resources better. UNESCO's primary objective – besides working together with its Member States to develop and promote education, science and culture in all countries of the world – is to achieve mutual understanding among nations and peoples. Towards this goal, the Member States of UNESCO have established two programmes that recognize the global importance of natural and cultural heritage. The first, in 1971, was the MAB programme. The second, in 1972, was the Convention for the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which established a World Heritage List of Cultural and Natural Sites, inscribed for their outstanding universal value. For these sites, the main concerns are the conservation and management of exceptional natural and cultural sites, as well as raising awareness for heritage preservation.

In addition to these globally-important sites designated under UNESCO, others are designated under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), signed in 1971. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Many biosphere reserves are also designated as World Heritage Sites, under the Ramsar Convention, and/or as Global Geoparks. Such multiple designations emphasize even further the global importance of these regions and offer opportunities for synergies between these global programmes all of which, like the MAB programme, have ongoing review processes to ensure that activities in the constituent sites/regions continue to move towards defined goals.

Given the diverse objectives of biosphere reserves and the stakeholders involved in them, there are clear opportunities for synergies with other UNESCO programmes, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST). There are also good opportunities for collaboration with the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and the UNESCO Institutes, Centres, Chairs and networks, such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet). In all of these contexts, collaboration with UNESCO's Communication and Information sector is essential.

Global Context for the MAB Strategy

Sustainability issues are at the centre of the international debate, as human activities continue to fundamentally alter the Earth's systems, with profound impacts on freshwater resources; on the ocean, atmosphere and climate; and on ecosystems, habitats and their biodiversity. These trends are underscored in the Rio+20 Outcome document, "The Future We Want", which also recognizes that they will have significant impacts on all societies; that they have economic, cultural and social drivers; and that they are likely to be accentuated in the coming decades. The global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets to simultaneously address human needs and environmental change. These explicitly take into account other global imperatives, such as the targets set under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The MAB Strategy within UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy

Peace and equitable and sustainable development are the overarching objectives in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4). Africa and gender equality are Global Priorities. UNESCO emphasizes the critical importance of greater knowledge sharing in order to induce the

transformative changes needed to address the complex and inter-related challenges of sustainable development. UNESCO is therefore promoting international scientific cooperation and integrated scientific approaches to support Member States in effectively managing natural resources, reducing knowledge divides within and among countries, and building bridges for dialogue and peace. Building on its experience in leading intergovernmental and international science programmes and on their global observation capacities, UNESCO seeks to contribute to shaping the research agenda of global and regional scientific cooperation, based on the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” and the post-2015 development agenda. The important role of MAB and its WNBR is emphasised in UNESCO’s Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021, notably in relation to UNESCO’s Strategic Objective 5: ‘Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development’, as well as Strategic Objective 4: ‘Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally’.

The Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework and the Madrid Action Plan

The evolution of the MAB programme and its WNBR has been steered by a series of meetings, beginning with those of a MAB Task Force in 1974 and continuing with the First International Biosphere Reserve Congress in Minsk, Belarus in 1984, which led to an Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. A second international conference on biosphere reserves took place in Seville, Spain in 1995, and started a new era for the WNBR. The actions decided at that meeting were incorporated into the *Seville Strategy* and the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves*, both approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995. In Pamplona, Spain in 2000, a Seville+5 meeting was held and various actions were decided, following through on the strategic recommendations from Seville, particularly with regard to transboundary biosphere reserves.

The Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves was held in Madrid in 2008. This agreed the *Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves* (MAP), building on the *Seville Strategy* and aiming to capitalize on the strategic advantages of the Seville instruments and raise biosphere reserves to be the principal internationally-designated areas dedicated to sustainable development in the 21st century. The MAP articulated actions, targets and success indicators, partnerships and other implementation strategies, and an evaluation framework, for the WNBR for 2008-2013. It took fully into consideration the recommendations of the Review Committee that evaluated UNESCO’s Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences Programmes.

In 2013-14, UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service evaluated the MAP. Particular challenges limiting this process included the broad scope of the MAP, lack of clarity in the formulation of particular elements, and the lack of an implementation logic. The validity of conclusions was further constrained by low response rates to the survey (39% of biosphere reserves and 45% of national committees); and there were significant regional variations in response rates. Despite these limitations, five main recommendations of areas for improvement were made: 1) strengthen the value of the WNBR for biosphere reserves and actively involve them in the activities of the WNBR; 2) strengthen the clearing house function of the WNBR; 3) develop the WNBR’s global role as a laboratory of ideas; 4) raise the profile of the WNBR; 5) strengthen the financial and human resource base of the WNBR.

The MAB Strategy, 2015-2025

The MAB programme with its WNBR constitutes an important and valuable partner and instrument for research and experimentation on the ground, to build knowledge on practice-based sustainable development and share it globally. Thanks to this practical approach, the MAB programme supports the efforts of UNESCO Member States to address critical issues related to biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change, and other aspects of global environmental change. [To be] Adopted by the MAB ICC at its 27th session, the MAB Strategy provides a comprehensive while succinct framework for this purpose. The MAB Strategy is developed in line with the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021, the Seville Strategy and Statutory Framework of the WNBR, and with due consideration to the recommendations emerging from the final evaluation of the MAP. The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (to be presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves in 2016); their implementation will be assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework.

Vision and Mission of MAB and the WNBR

Our vision is that people work together to thrive in healthy places.

Our mission is to inspire a positive future by connecting people and nature today|

. Over the next 10 years and beyond, we will assist Member States to reach sustainable development goals through learning from our network of model [regions/sites] where development policies and actions, and the stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources, are explored and demonstrated; and lessons learned are harnessed through sustainability science, education, and knowledge exchange.

Mab 28/4/15 00:40

Commentaire [3]: Mission of the MAB Programme should be more concrete - may be this phrase is excessive

Strategic Objectives

MAB's Strategic Objectives for 2015 – 2025 derive directly from the three functions of biosphere reserves identified in the Statutory Framework for the WNBR and the key global challenge of climate change, identified in the Madrid Action Plan. These Strategic Objectives are to:

1. **Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**
2. **Contribute to Building Sustainable, Healthy and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements**
3. **Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development**
4. **Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change**

Strategic Objective 1. Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a critically important challenge. Biodiversity provides insurance and supports human well-being through a range of *ecosystem services*. Loss of biodiversity results in reductions in ecosystem services, creating direct threats to human well-being, and is an important indicator of an unbalanced system where vital components are affected. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development and unsustainable consumption and production patterns are among the major causes of diminishing biodiversity globally. The current scales of

unprecedented exploitation of our natural resources call for their improved governance and stewardship. In particular, the sustainable and equitable use of freshwater and access to energy is are critical prerequisites for security, sustainability, inclusion and peace.

Expected results

- 1.1. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in contributing to the implementation of global conventions and other **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** and the achievement of SDGs relating to the conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystem services.
- 1.2. Alliances at local, national and regional level are established to support biosphere reserves to carry out their biodiversity conservation function and provide benefits to local people, thus contributing to the achievement of the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD**.
- 1.3. Effective, equitable and participatory planning for sustainable development in biosphere reserves specifically takes into account the rights, needs and capacities of women and indigenous and local communities, and their ownership and access to, and sustainable use of, natural resources in and around biosphere reserves.
- 1.4. States, local government, international organizations, and the private sector support biosphere reserves through the effective use of the **ecosystem approach**, to ensure the continued delivery of **ecosystem services** both within biosphere reserves and to the wider communities which rely on their provision for their health and well-being.

Strategic Objective 2. Contribute to Sustainable, Healthy, and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements

A burgeoning world population, increasingly concentrated in rapidly expanding urban areas of all sizes, notably in coastal regions, has resulted in the overexploitation and unsustainable use of limited natural resources, accelerating pollution and environmental degradation, with significant impacts on human well-being. Healthy and equitable societies and economies, and thriving human settlements are essential elements of the quest for long-term sustainability and social development. To achieve this requires in-depth knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, socio-economic realities and innovative approaches to increase resilience. Through its WNBR, MAB is uniquely well placed to support the transition to thriving economies and sustainable societies, not only in individual Member States, but also through transboundary biosphere reserves. These can act as peace parks: enabling environments which foster the harmonious coexistence of people, and of people and nature, and promote a culture of peace with regard to the use of, and benefits from, shared natural resources.

Expected results

- 2.1. Biosphere reserves act as, and are recognized and supported by, all levels of government as model [regions/sites] for promoting sustainable development and advancing the implementation of the SDGs relating to equitable and healthy societies and settlements.
- 2.2. Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] for exploring, establishing and demonstrating sustainable economic systems that positively affect the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.
- 2.3. Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] to explore, establish and demonstrate innovative approaches that foster the resilience of communities, though livelihood

diversification, green businesses, and social enterprise, including responsible tourism and quality economies.

- 2.4. Functional mechanisms are established to ensure that those who facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from biosphere reserves are equitably compensated and supported by those who utilize and benefit from these ecosystem services, often in distant urban areas.
- 2.5. Biosphere reserves contribute directly to the health and well-being of those who live in them and those who visit them.
- 2.6. Transboundary biosphere reserves are reinforced through multi-scale dialogue and capacity building specific to transboundary issues, and promoted for cooperation, environmental diplomacy, peace, security and conflict management.

Strategic Objective 3. Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Sustainability science is an integrated, problem-solving approach that draws on the full range of scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge in a trans-disciplinary way to identify, understand and address present and future economic, environmental, ethical and societal challenges related to sustainable development. At a biosphere reserve level, this requires collaboration between all the different stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, members of local communities, and the private sector. **ESD** promotes the inclusion of key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning, to motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour through acquiring new skills, competencies and values and take action for sustainable development. biosphere reserves, particularly through their coordinators, managers, and scientists have key roles to play in operationalizing and mainstreaming sustainability science and ESD at local and regional levels, in order to build scientific knowledge, identify best practices and strengthen the interface between science, policy and education and training for sustainable development.

Expected results

- 3.1. MAB and its WNBR are fully engaged with international, regional and national research initiatives and programmes that contribute to the post-2015 development agenda.
- 3.2. The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and other stakeholders, coordinated by an advisory committee
- 3.3. Each biosphere reserve has an active research programme, based on the principles of sustainability science, which provides the basis of participatory decision-making and management in the biosphere reserve.
- 3.4. Traditional knowledge is used as a “knowledge input” for managing biosphere reserves while recognizing the importance of both empowering indigenous communities as guardians of unique knowledge and of maintaining cultural identity.
- 3.5. Each biosphere reserve has training and capacity building activities addressing the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities.
- 3.6. ESD activities take place in all biosphere reserves, including all partners of civil society.

Mab 27/4/15 23:52

Mis en forme: Souligné

Mab 28/4/15 00:40

Commentaire [4]: What kind of advisory committee- every network will be coordinated by its own AdvCom or it will be joint Adv Com?

- 3.7. Increased partnerships between biosphere reserves and UNESCO Education Sector programmes, such as the **Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD**, the **UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)**, and the **UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme**.

Strategic Objective 4. Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change

Climate change continues to be of paramount concern for the future of humankind. It is now extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. According to the 5th Assessment Report of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, warming of the climate system is unequivocal; many of the observed changes since the 1950s have been unprecedented over decades to millennia. The specific values of, and opportunities for, biosphere reserves in relation to climate change were recognized in the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) and the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change (2011), aiming at placing greater focus on the capacities of the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and for integrating their contributions effectively into national and international climate strategies and policies. This requires simultaneously addressing the complex interactions between climate change and other aspects of global environmental change, such as loss of biodiversity, urbanization, desertification, degradation of land and water resources, and stratospheric ozone depletion.

Expected results

- 4.1. WNBR recognized as a global network of regions to promote learning and pilot innovative actions to monitor, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change and other types of global environmental change.
- 4.2. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the **Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)**.
- 4.3. Member States and other decision makers recognize and promote biosphere reserves as priority regions [sites] in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular through 1) energy efficiency and the development and adoption of renewable and clean energy, including energy saving through responsible consumption and 2) approaches related to carbon sequestration and **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).
- 4.4. Member States actively promote the transfer of approaches developed in biosphere reserves to other countries and regions.

Mab 28/4/15 00:40
Commentaire [5]: Recognising at what level –UN, UNESCO, Member State governments?

Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas]

MAB's Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] for 2015 – 2025 are:

A.	The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development
B.	Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR
C.	Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR
D.	Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing
E.	Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR

The first three of these objectives [Strategic Action Areas] have specific foci: A – on individual biosphere reserves in the context of the countries in which they are located; B – on networking within the MAB Programme; C – primarily on partnerships outside the MAB Programme. The objectives [strategic action areas], together with their respective expected results [strategic lines of action], are outlined below.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development

By 2025, the WNBR aims to be an integrated global network of learning and demonstration sites for innovation in sustainable development. Once biosphere reserves reach their optimum functionality, they will represent a key interface between science, policy and society at local, national, regional and global levels, to the benefit of their populations, the Member States in which biosphere reserves are located and much wider constituencies. As model [regions/sites], biosphere reserves should contribute to sustainable development, including conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty. Linking increasingly effective model [regions/sites], the WNBR is a unique forum for the co-production of knowledge for sustainable development between the inhabitants of biosphere reserves, practitioners and researchers. The WNBR must consist of fully functioning, well managed sites that comply with the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework. Ensuring this has been the aim of the exit strategy adopted by the ICC in 2013.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- A.1. The periodic review process supports an effectively functioning WNBR, generating a dynamic process of adaptive management of biosphere reserves.
- A.2. Procedures and processes for selecting, designating, planning and implementing biosphere reserves are open and participatory, taking into account local practices and traditions and cultures, and involving all relevant stakeholders.
- A.3. States and other entities with territorial and governance competences explicitly integrate biosphere reserves into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and programmes, and support effective governance and management structures in each BR.
- A.4. Biosphere reserves and national MAB Committees have partnerships with universities and research institutes, to undertake applied research and provide practical learning and training

Mab 28/4/15 00:43

Commentaire [6]: Maybe the point should be included into Action Plan as preparation of BR recognising –not as element of expected result

opportunities that support the management and sustainable development of biosphere reserves.

A.5. Financial sustainability of biosphere reserves is much improved, with a diverse funding base.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR

Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking are essential for MAB and its WNBR to provide effective contributions towards the SDGs and related targets. At the international level, collaboration will especially focus on South-South and North-South-South triangular cooperation, as a catalyst for dialogue and co-production of scientific knowledge, in synergy with local and indigenous knowledge brokers, and for *science diplomacy*. Collaboration and networking shall target all four strategic objectives. The importance of MAB's regional and thematic networks should be emphasized in this context. The regional networks have variable working methods and statutes which address regional needs and should be flexible in order to be relevant and efficient in the context of their regions, and the thematic networks typically should be self-organized.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- B.1. Global and regional capacity building and training programmes directed to BR managers/coordinators and other stakeholders facilitate the delivery of the Strategic Objectives.
- B.2. Networks are strengthened through enhanced participation of Member States – including UNESCO National Commissions, MAB National Committees, and relevant Ministries – and other public stakeholders, as well as universities, civil society organisations, the private sector, and stronger cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- B.3. Networks have the infrastructure and adequate resources to fulfill their potential to implement their objectives.
- B.4. Networks foster collaboration in research, implementation and monitoring, including through exchanges between biosphere reserves.
- B.5. Networks communicate and disseminate their aims and activities effectively, both internally and externally.
- B.6. An increased number of BR twinning arrangements foster transboundary and transnational cooperation and engender goodwill.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] C. Effective partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR.

Effective partnerships aimed at strengthening biosphere reserves, networks and the MAB Secretariat, and to promote the implementation of plans and strategies, particularly through sustainable financing mechanisms, are a priority for the MAB programme. While the basic operational resources of the programme and members of the WNBR must be provided from regular budgets for all levels of implementation, there is a clear need to bring in new partners – such as research groups, private sector enterprises or groups, museums, seed banks, and civil society organizations – either to strengthen existing partnerships or create new ones. In doing so, each country's administrative organization must be respected and local communities must not lose their independence and influence, especially if the partners are from other regions. To increase

organizational, including financial, resilience in MAB and individual biosphere reserves, different means of funding should be explored. In addition to financing, new partnerships should increase public awareness of the values and benefits of biosphere reserves as well as the involvement of local communities. UNESCO has one of the most famous and best-recognized global 'brands': a key challenge is how to use it to raise funds for the WNBR and its biosphere reserves.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- C.1. A comprehensive business and marketing plan for the WNBR, regional and thematic networks, national MAB Committees and individual biosphere reserves is prepared, taking into account the priorities of bilateral and multilateral donors and the private and philanthropic sectors. (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan)
- C.2. The MAB Secretariat and National Committees strengthen collaboration and partnerships both within UNESCO and with key international organizations.
- C.3. The MAB Secretariat assists biosphere reserves and regional networks to build expertise in developing their own revenue, and to share this expertise.
- C.4. Private sector partnerships generated around the MAB Programme at local, national and international levels.
- C.5. An increased number of projects and activities support biosphere reserves and networks funded through regional funding mechanisms, especially those that emphasise the need for multi-national partnerships.
- C.6. Deeper involvement of, and guidance provided to entrepreneurs active in biosphere reserves, especially those supporting social enterprises and green economies.
- C.7. A strengthened global Biosphere Reserve brand is established, supplementing local biosphere reserve brands.
- C.8. Joint promotion of BR products/services between biosphere reserves is enhanced.
- C.9. Every biosphere reserve generates some of its own revenue.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing

The success of the MAB programme depends on effective and open communication, data and knowledge exchange, based on a clear and shared vision of the BR concept, both among the different actors on the programme – biosphere reserves, national committees, networks and the Secretariat – and externally. Contemporary communication and information, social media, and data sharing tools have huge potential for the Programme. While the MAB Secretariat, National Committees, regional and thematic networks and individual biosphere reserves are starting to make good use of these tools, there is an urgent need to widen their application not only within the MAB programme but also to engage diverse external audiences. Yet many countries still have poor access to modern communication facilities, which implies a continued focus on traditional means of communication and information exchange. The task to communicate more effectively depends not only on how well MAB mobilizes communication tools and instruments, but also on MAB's success in producing outcomes and services that are appreciated and available in as many languages as

possible, starting with UNESCO's official languages. Good outcomes will attract press and media attention, so they communicate on our behalf.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- D.1. Full implementation of the open access policy to MAB and WNBR-related documents, data, information and multimedia materials.
- D.2. A comprehensive communication strategy complemented by an action plan (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan).
- D.3. The MAB Secretariat has a coordinated publication programme and effectively implements the MAB web site (MABNet), as the key communication, data and information hub for MAB.
- D.4. Biosphere reserve coordinators/managers, National Committees, and regional networks ensure wide access to information concerning biosphere reserves.
- D.5. Increased use of video conferencing, social media and new information and communication technologies for knowledge sharing, communication, technical cooperation, and capacity building.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] E. Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR

The MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The Statutory Framework of the WNBR remains the basis for its governance. Well-structured and effectively implemented and managed governing mechanisms are at the foundation of a successful MAB Programme. MAB National Committees have critical roles to play in implementing the vision and mission of the MAB Programme. Important lessons have been learned from many years of experiences working with the Seville Strategy and from the implementation and evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of actions and governance mechanisms are essential in order to ensure timely and effective adaptation to change.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- E.1. The governments of Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO support the implementation of the MAB Programme, including through well-defined institutional support.
- E.2. Each MAB National Committee has a transdisciplinary membership, including representatives from the public, private, research and education sectors, and a wide range of other stakeholders, including representation from biosphere reserves.
- E.3. Member States regularly update the MAB Secretariat and regional networks regarding progress regarding implementation of the MAB Strategy and Action Plan within their country.
- E.4. Each regional network has a defined governance mechanism, including annual assessment of performance.
- E.5. New thematic networks, if any, have an inbuilt review mechanism and a sunset clause.

- E.6. The International Support Group (ISG) of Permanent Delegations to the MAB Programme continues to contribute to communications and advocacy to the benefit of the Programme.

Strategy Implementation Evaluation Framework

The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (see below) and assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework founded in strategic intervention logic. This will connect the strategic objectives and implementation objectives [strategic action areas] contained in the present strategy with the key activities and outputs of the Action Plan. Under the Framework, performance indicators will be developed, together with corresponding sources of verification and monitoring, and included in an evaluation plan that sets out roles and responsibilities of the key actors involved in the performance and achievement of the Strategy and the Action Plan. The Evaluation Framework and subsequent monitoring and evaluation will be developed and conducted in close cooperation with UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS).

MAB Action Plan

The MAB Action Plan (2016-2025) will provide a comprehensive set of actions for the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy. The Action Plan will be developed following the adoption of the MAB Strategy in 2015 and presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves and the 28th MAB ICC (Lima, Peru, 2016).

Glossary

Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Ecosystem approach
Ecosystem services
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD
Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Multilateral environmental agreements
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
Science diplomacy
Sustainability science
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)
UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

RE: Draft MAB Strategy - for feedback by 27 April

Doris Pokorny

28 April 2015 at 10:39

To: Dogse, P.; Do-Soon Cho; Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi ; M. A. I. Lesnikovich ; Slovak MAB National Committee; Martin Solar; Martine GAUZE TOUAO; Graciela M. Pien; Samir Ibrahim Ghabbour; Asghar Mohammadi-Fazel; Siti Nuramaliati Prijono; Mr Nguyen Hoang Tri; Dr SV Reddy; Thomas Schaaf; Jürgen Nauber; Sheila Ashong; djafarou.tiomoko; Didier Babin; Doris.Pokorny; Arif Saeed Aqlan Alhammadi; Pierre GALLAND; Vitaliy GROMOV; Miph B. Musoke; Henry Joseph Ndangalasi; Ms Salwa Mansour; Tania Moreno; Ruida Pool-Stanvliet; Jurgen Tack; Jean Pierre D'huart; Baudouin Michel;

Cc: Martin Price; Roman Jashenko; guevarasada; daniel.amlalo; Cherinko; Comité national du MAB pour le Maroc; toomas; pmakenzi; mariemow; matsuda; Prof Salem; lisen.schultz; Han, Qunli; Vaessen, Jozef; Raondry Rakotoarisoa, Noeline; Clusener-Godt, Miguel; Bouamrane, Meriem; Ocloo, Melody; Venter, Sylvie; NIKOLOVA, Kremena; Ménard, Sandra

Dear Peter, sorry, I sent the wrong document, yesterday -.

Best regards

Doris Pokorny

Von: Pokorny, Doris Dr. (Reg UFr)
Gesendet: Montag, 27. April 2015 19:10

Dear Peter, and dear All

please find a few last comments in the attached paper.

Thanks for all your work.

Besides all discussion of appropriate wording - IF all the ideas expressed in the strategy will be fully implemented (and this will be our common long term homework), in the end of the day, BRs could truly be called "paradise" ;-)

Best regards Doris Pokorny

MAB STRATEGY 2015-2025

(21 April 2015)

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Glossary

Executive Summary

Fostering sustainable development through stewardship of biodiversity is at the heart of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Over four decades, people across the globe have explored local solutions to global challenges under the umbrella of MAB, generating a wealth of experience and innovative potential for a sustainable future. In the coming 10 years, MAB will amplify its support to Member States in conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; building sustainable, healthy, and equitable economies, societies and thriving human settlements; and empowering people to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change. MAB will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and use modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information. MAB will ensure that the WNBR consists of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development, by implementing an effective periodic review process so that all members of the network adhere to its standards; by improving governance, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WNBR; and by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability. As the global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the MAB and WNBR will work towards these goals and contribute to implementing the Post-2015 agenda. This will be done through the implementation of the present Strategy, which includes a series of Strategic Objectives and Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] and an associated Action Plan, to be finalized in 2016.

Introduction

The biosphere reserve concept has proved its value beyond the protected areas which constitute its core zones, and is increasingly embraced by scientists, planners, policy-makers, businesses and local communities to bring a variety of knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to link biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being. To understand and address the key challenges facing our world today – poverty, climate change, water and food security, loss of biological and cultural diversity, rapid urbanization and desertification – the MAB programme, through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and its regional and thematic networks will strategically address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable development actions carried out in partnership with all sectors of society – public and private sectors, stakeholders from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, local communities, scientists and planners, research and education centres – to ensure the well-being of people and their environment. The experience of the WNBR, MAB Networks and interdisciplinary approaches will be used to develop and apply policies and practices to address the issues impacting different ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide. The MAB programme is an important means to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, in order to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

UNESCO

Founded in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, UNESCO celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2015. For seven decades, UNESCO has embodied high aspirations, hopes and an ongoing struggle for a better life, built on ideas of human dignity, mutual understanding and solidarity of humanity. These ideals and values are spelled out in the Organization's Constitution, which is the key to understanding UNESCO's history. Its pioneering work has helped change the way people

Pokorny, Doris Dr. (Reg, 27/4/15 18:39)

Commentaire [1]: Protected areas are not only core areas but also in the buffer zone and sometimes even in transition areas

Pokorny, Doris Dr. (Reg, 27/4/15 19:06)

Supprimé: test

everywhere understand each other and the planet we live on. UNESCO led the movement to protect the environment and sounded the alert over the planet's shrinking biodiversity, explicitly linking this to human development through the MAB programme. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO will, in the foreseeable future, continue to contribute across continents to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, the improvement of health, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, scientific activities, culture, communication and information.

MAB and the WNBR

Launched in 1971, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that, from its beginning, has aimed to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

Biosphere reserves are the implementing tool of the MAB Programme. They may contain terrestrial, coastal and/or marine ecosystems. Each promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, towards sustainable development at the regional scale. While biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located, their global status as biosphere reserves is internationally recognized. In their respective countries, biosphere reserves are considered as 'Science for Sustainability support sites' – special places to test interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

The MAB programme's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was launched in 1976. As of 2014, it comprises 631 biosphere reserves in 119 countries, including 14 transboundary biosphere reserves on the territory of two or more countries. As specified in the 1995 Statutory Framework for the WNBR, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. To do this, each biosphere reserve should combine three interconnected functions – conservation, development and logistic support – through appropriate zoning, comprising 1) one or more legally-constituted core areas, devoted to long-term protection; 2) adjacent buffer zones; 3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises. Thus, biosphere reserves integrate biological and cultural diversity, especially the role of traditional and local knowledge in ecosystem management. They focus on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often have highly innovative and participative governance systems.

At the global level, the MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The next level of governance is represented by regional and thematic networks. Governance at the national level is through MAB National Committees.

MAB and other UNESCO Programmes

UNESCO has developed several international programmes to assess and manage the Earth's resources better. UNESCO's primary objective – besides working together with its Member States to develop and promote education, science and culture in all countries of the world – is to achieve mutual understanding among nations and peoples. Towards this goal, the Member States of UNESCO have established two programmes that recognize the global importance of natural and cultural heritage. The first, in 1971, was the MAB programme. The second, in 1972, was the Convention for the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which established a World Heritage List of Cultural and Natural Sites, inscribed for their outstanding universal value. For these sites, the main concerns are the conservation and management of exceptional natural and cultural sites, as well as raising awareness for heritage preservation.

In addition to these globally-important sites designated under UNESCO, others are designated under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), signed in 1971. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Many biosphere reserves are also designated as World Heritage Sites, under the Ramsar Convention, and/or as Global Geoparks. Such multiple designations emphasize even further the global importance of these regions and offer opportunities for synergies between these global programmes all of which, like the MAB programme, have ongoing review processes to ensure that activities in the constituent sites/regions continue to move towards defined goals.

Given the diverse objectives of biosphere reserves and the stakeholders involved in them, there are clear opportunities for synergies with other UNESCO programmes, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST). There are also good opportunities for collaboration with the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and the UNESCO Institutes, Centres, Chairs and networks, such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet). In all of these contexts, collaboration with UNESCO's Communication and Information sector is essential.

Global Context for the MAB Strategy

Sustainability issues are at the centre of the international debate, as human activities continue to fundamentally alter the Earth's systems, with profound impacts on freshwater resources; on the ocean, atmosphere and climate; and on ecosystems, habitats and their biodiversity. These trends are underscored in the Rio+20 Outcome document, "The Future We Want", which also recognizes that they will have significant impacts on all societies; that they have economic, cultural and social drivers; and that they are likely to be accentuated in the coming decades. The global community is advancing on establishing and implementing a comprehensive set of related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets to simultaneously address human needs and environmental change. These explicitly take into account other global imperatives, such as the targets set under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The MAB Strategy within UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy

Peace and equitable and sustainable development are the overarching objectives in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4). Africa and gender equality are Global Priorities. UNESCO

emphasizes the critical importance of greater knowledge sharing in order to induce the transformative changes needed to address the complex and inter-related challenges of sustainable development. UNESCO is therefore promoting international scientific cooperation and integrated scientific approaches to support Member States in effectively managing natural resources, reducing knowledge divides within and among countries, and building bridges for dialogue and peace. Building on its experience in leading intergovernmental and international science programmes and on their global observation capacities, UNESCO seeks to contribute to shaping the research agenda of global and regional scientific cooperation, based on the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” and the post-2015 development agenda. The important role of MAB and its WNBR is emphasised in UNESCO’s Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021, notably in relation to UNESCO’s Strategic Objective 5: ‘Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development’, as well as Strategic Objective 4: ‘Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally’.

The Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework and the Madrid Action Plan

The evolution of the MAB programme and its WNBR has been steered by a series of meetings, beginning with those of a MAB Task Force in 1974 and continuing with the First International Biosphere Reserve Congress in Minsk, Belarus in 1984, which led to an Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves. A second international conference on biosphere reserves took place in Seville, Spain in 1995, and started a new era for the WNBR. The actions decided at that meeting were incorporated into the *Seville Strategy* and the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves*, both approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1995. In Pamplona, Spain in 2000, a Seville+5 meeting was held and various actions were decided, following through on the strategic recommendations from Seville, particularly with regard to transboundary biosphere reserves.

The Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves was held in Madrid in 2008. This agreed the *Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves* (MAP), building on the *Seville Strategy* and aiming to capitalize on the strategic advantages of the Seville instruments and raise biosphere reserves to be the principal internationally-designated areas dedicated to sustainable development in the 21st century. The MAP articulated actions, targets and success indicators, partnerships and other implementation strategies, and an evaluation framework, for the WNBR for 2008-2013. It took fully into consideration the recommendations of the Review Committee that evaluated UNESCO’s Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences Programmes.

In 2013-14, UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service evaluated the MAP. Particular challenges limiting this process included the broad scope of the MAP, lack of clarity in the formulation of particular elements, and the lack of an implementation logic. The validity of conclusions was further constrained by low response rates to the survey (39% of biosphere reserves and 45% of national committees); and there were significant regional variations in response rates. Despite these limitations, five main recommendations of areas for improvement were made: 1) strengthen the value of the WNBR for biosphere reserves and actively involve them in the activities of the WNBR; 2) strengthen the clearing house function of the WNBR; 3) develop the WNBR’s global role as a platform of ideas; 4) raise the profile of the WNBR; 5) strengthen the financial and human resource base of the WNBR.

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Commentaire [2]: The term laboratory can be very misleading and is a respectful term considering people living in the BR

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The MAB Strategy, 2015-2025

The MAB programme with its WNBR constitutes an important and valuable partner and instrument for research and experimentation on the ground, to build knowledge on practice-based sustainable development and share it globally. Thanks to this practical approach, the MAB programme supports the efforts of UNESCO Member States to address critical issues related to biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change, and other aspects of global environmental change. [To be] Adopted by the MAB ICC at its 27th session, the MAB Strategy provides a comprehensive while succinct framework for this purpose. The MAB Strategy is developed in line with the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021, the Seville Strategy and Statutory Framework of the WNBR, and with due consideration to the recommendations emerging from the final evaluation of the MAP. The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (to be presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves in 2016); their implementation will be assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework.

Vision and Mission of MAB and the WNBR

Our vision is that people work together to thrive in [a healthy environment](#).

Our mission is to inspire a positive future by connecting people and nature today. Over the next 10 years and beyond, we will assist Member States to reach sustainable development goals through learning from our network of model [regions/sites] where development policies and actions, and the stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources, are explored and demonstrated; and lessons learned are harnessed through sustainability science, education, and knowledge exchange.

Strategic Objectives

MAB's Strategic Objectives for 2015 – 2025 derive directly from the three functions of biosphere reserves identified in the Statutory Framework for the WNBR and the key global challenge of climate change, identified in the Madrid Action Plan. These Strategic Objectives are to:

1. **Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**
2. **Contribute to Building Sustainable, Healthy and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements**
3. **Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development**
4. **Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change**

Strategic Objective 1. Conserve Biodiversity, Restore and Enhance Ecosystem Services and Foster the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a critically important challenge. Biodiversity provides insurance and supports human well-being through a range of *ecosystem services*. Loss of biodiversity results in reductions in ecosystem services, creating direct threats to human well-being, and is an important indicator of an unbalanced system where vital components are affected. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development and unsustainable consumption and production patterns are among the major causes of diminishing biodiversity globally. The current scales of unprecedented exploitation of our natural resources call for their improved governance and

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stewardship. In particular, the sustainable and equitable use of freshwater and access to energy is are critical prerequisites for security, sustainability, inclusion and peace.

Expected results

- 1.1. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in contributing to the implementation of global conventions and other **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** and the achievement of SDGs relating to the conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystem services.
- 1.2. Alliances at local, national and regional level are established to support biosphere reserves to carry out their biodiversity conservation function and provide benefits to local people, thus contributing to the achievement of the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD**.
- 1.3. Effective, equitable and participatory planning for sustainable development in biosphere reserves specifically takes into account the rights, needs and capacities of women and indigenous and local communities, and their ownership and access to, and sustainable use of, natural resources in and around biosphere reserves.
- 1.4. States, local government, international organizations, and the private sector support biosphere reserves through the effective use of the **ecosystem approach**, to ensure the continued delivery of **ecosystem services** both within biosphere reserves and to the wider communities which rely on their provision for their health and well-being.

Strategic Objective 2. Contribute to Sustainable, Healthy, and Equitable Societies, Economies and Thriving Human Settlements

A burgeoning world population, increasingly concentrated in rapidly expanding urban areas of all sizes, notably in coastal regions, has resulted in the overexploitation and unsustainable use of limited natural resources, accelerating pollution and environmental degradation, with significant impacts on human well-being. Healthy and equitable societies and economies, and thriving human settlements are essential elements of the quest for long-term sustainability and social development. To achieve this requires in-depth knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, socio-economic realities and innovative approaches to increase resilience. Through its WNBR, MAB is uniquely well placed to support the transition to thriving economies and sustainable societies, not only in individual Member States, but also through transboundary biosphere reserves. These can act as peace parks: enabling environments which foster the harmonious coexistence of people, and of people and nature, and promote a culture of peace with regard to the use of, and benefits from, shared natural resources.

Expected results

- 2.1. Biosphere reserves act as, and are recognized and supported by, all levels of government as model [regions/sites] for promoting sustainable development and advancing the implementation of the SDGs relating to equitable and healthy societies and settlements.
- 2.2. Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] for exploring, establishing and demonstrating sustainable economic systems that positively affect the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.

- 2.3 Biosphere reserves act as model [regions/sites] to explore, establish and demonstrate innovative approaches that foster the resilience of communities, through livelihood diversification, green businesses, and social enterprise, including responsible tourism and quality economies.
- 2.4. Functional mechanisms are established to ensure that those who facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from biosphere reserves are equitably compensated and supported by those who utilize and benefit from these ecosystem services, often in distant urban areas.
- 2.5. Biosphere reserves contribute directly to the health and well-being of those who live in them and those who visit them.
- 2.6. Transboundary biosphere reserves are reinforced through multi-scale dialogue and capacity building specific to transboundary issues, and promoted for cooperation, environmental diplomacy, peace, security and conflict management.

Strategic Objective 3. Facilitate Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Sustainability science is an integrated, problem-solving approach that draws on the full range of scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge in a trans-disciplinary way to identify, understand and address present and future economic, environmental, ethical and societal challenges related to sustainable development. At a biosphere reserve level, this requires collaboration between all the different stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers, members of local communities, and the private sector. **ESD** promotes the inclusion of key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning, to motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour through acquiring new skills, competencies and values and take action for sustainable development. biosphere reserves, particularly through their coordinators, managers, and scientists have key roles to play in operationalizing and mainstreaming sustainability science and ESD at local and regional levels, in order to build scientific knowledge, identify best practices and strengthen the interface between science, policy and education and training for sustainable development.

Expected results

- 3.1. MAB and its WNBR are fully engaged with international, regional and national research initiatives and programmes that contribute to the post-2015 development agenda.
- 3.2. The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and other stakeholders, coordinated by an advisory committee.
- 3.3 Each biosphere reserve has an active research programme, based on the principles of sustainability science, which provides the basis of participatory decision-making and management in the biosphere reserve.
- 3.4. Traditional knowledge is used as a “knowledge input” for managing biosphere reserves while recognizing the importance of both empowering indigenous communities as guardians of unique knowledge and of maintaining cultural identity.
- 3.5. Each biosphere reserve has training and capacity building activities addressing the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and

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Commentaire [3]: research-for – sustainability-issues should be incorporated in all committees, network and already existing MAB structures; disconnected research discussions as a possible result would not create implementable solutions

adaptation to climate change, and the socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities.

- 3.6 ESD activities take place in all biosphere reserves, including all partners of civil society.
- 3.7. Increased partnerships between biosphere reserves and UNESCO Education Sector programmes, such as the *Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD*, the *UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)*, and the *UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme*.

Strategic Objective 4. Support Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and other aspects of Global Environmental Change

Climate change continues to be of paramount concern for the future of humankind. It is now extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. According to the 5th Assessment Report of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, warming of the climate system is unequivocal; many of the observed changes since the 1950s have been unprecedented over decades to millennia. The specific values of, and opportunities for, biosphere reserves in relation to climate change were recognized in the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) and the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change (2011), aiming at placing greater focus on the capacities of the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and for integrating their contributions effectively into national and international climate strategies and policies. This requires simultaneously addressing the complex interactions between climate change and other aspects of global environmental change, such as loss of biodiversity, urbanization, desertification, degradation of land and water resources, and stratospheric ozone depletion.

Expected results

- 4.1. WNBR recognized as a global network of regions to promote learning and pilot innovative actions to monitor, adapt to, and mitigate the effects of climate change and other types of global environmental change.
- 4.2. Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as model [regions/sites] in implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the *Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)*.
- 4.3. Member States and other decision makers recognize and promote biosphere reserves as priority regions [sites] in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular through 1) energy efficiency and the development and adoption of renewable and clean energy, including energy saving through responsible consumption and 2) approaches related to carbon sequestration and **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).
- 4.4. Member States actively promote the transfer of approaches developed in biosphere reserves to other countries and regions.

Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas]

MAB's Implementation Objectives [Strategic Action Areas] for 2015 – 2025 are:

- | | |
|----|---|
| A. | The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development |
| B. | Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR |
| C. | Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR |
| D. | Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing |
| E. | Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR |

The first three of these objectives [Strategic Action Areas] have specific foci: A – on individual biosphere reserves in the context of the countries in which they are located; B – on networking within the MAB Programme; C – primarily on partnerships outside the MAB Programme. The objectives [strategic action areas], together with their respective expected results [strategic lines of action], are outlined below.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning model [regions/sites] for sustainable development

By 2025, the WNBR aims to be an integrated global network of learning and demonstration sites for innovation in sustainable development. Once biosphere reserves reach their optimum functionality, they will represent a key interface between science, policy and society at local, national, regional and global levels, to the benefit of their populations, the Member States in which biosphere reserves are located and much wider constituencies. As model [regions/sites], biosphere reserves should contribute to sustainable development, including conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty. Linking increasingly effective model [regions/sites], the WNBR is a unique forum for the co-production of knowledge for sustainable development between the inhabitants of biosphere reserves, practitioners and researchers. The WNBR must consist of fully functioning, well managed sites that comply with the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework. Ensuring this has been the aim of the exit strategy adopted by the ICC in 2013.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- A.1. The periodic review process supports an effectively functioning WNBR, generating a dynamic process of adaptive management of biosphere reserves.
- A.2. Procedures and processes for selecting, designating, planning and implementing biosphere reserves are open and participatory, taking into account local practices and traditions and cultures, and involving all relevant stakeholders.
- A.3. States and other entities with territorial and governance competences explicitly integrate biosphere reserves into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and programmes, and support effective governance and management structures in each BR.

- A.4. Biosphere reserves and national MAB Committees have partnerships with universities and research institutes, to undertake applied research and provide practical learning and training opportunities that support the management and sustainable development of biosphere reserves.
- A.5. Financial sustainability of biosphere reserves is much improved, with a diverse funding base.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within MAB and the WNBR

Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking are essential for MAB and its WNBR to provide effective contributions towards the SDGs and related targets. At the international level, collaboration will especially focus on South-South and North-South-South triangular cooperation, as a catalyst for dialogue and co-production of scientific knowledge, in synergy with local and indigenous knowledge brokers, and for *science diplomacy*. Collaboration and networking shall target all four strategic objectives. The importance of MAB's regional and thematic networks should be emphasized in this context. The regional networks have variable working methods and statutes which address regional needs and should be flexible in order to be relevant and efficient in the context of their regions, and the thematic networks typically should be self-organized.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- B.1. Global and regional capacity building and training programmes directed to BR managers/coordinators and other stakeholders facilitate the delivery of the Strategic Objectives.
- B.2. Networks are strengthened through enhanced participation of Member States – including UNESCO National Commissions, MAB National Committees, and relevant Ministries – and other public stakeholders, as well as universities, civil society organisations, the private sector, and stronger cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- B.3. Networks have the infrastructure and adequate resources to fulfill their potential to implement their objectives.
- B.4. Networks foster collaboration in research, implementation and monitoring, including through exchanges between biosphere reserves.
- B.5. Networks communicate and disseminate their aims and activities effectively, both internally and externally.
- B.6. An increased number of BR twinning arrangements foster transboundary and transnational cooperation and engender goodwill.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] C. Effective partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for MAB and the WNBR.

Effective partnerships aimed at strengthening biosphere reserves, networks and the MAB Secretariat, and to promote the implementation of plans and strategies, particularly through sustainable financing mechanisms, are a priority for the MAB programme. While the basic operational resources of the programme and members of the WNBR must be provided from regular budgets for all levels of implementation, there is a clear need to bring in new partners – such as

research groups, private sector enterprises or groups, museums, seed banks, and civil society organizations – either to strengthen existing partnerships or create new ones. In doing so, each country’s administrative organization must be respected and local communities must not lose their independence and influence, especially if the partners are from other regions. To increase organizational, including financial, resilience in MAB and individual biosphere reserves, different means of funding should be explored. In addition to financing, new partnerships should increase public awareness of the values and benefits of biosphere reserves as well as the involvement of local communities. UNESCO has one of the most famous and best-recognized global ‘brands’: a key challenge is how to use it to raise funds for the WNBR and its biosphere reserves.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- C.1. A comprehensive business and marketing plan for the WNBR, regional and thematic networks, national MAB Committees and individual biosphere reserves is prepared, taking into account the priorities of bilateral and multilateral donors and the private and philanthropic sectors. (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan)
- C.2. The MAB Secretariat and National Committees strengthen collaboration and partnerships both within UNESCO and with key international organizations.
- C.3. The MAB Secretariat assists biosphere reserves and regional networks to build expertise in developing their own revenue, and to share this expertise.
- C.4. Private sector partnerships generated around the MAB Programme at local, national and international levels.
- C.5. An increased number of projects and activities support biosphere reserves and networks funded through funding mechanisms, especially those that emphasise the need for multi-national partnerships.
- C.6. Deeper involvement of, and guidance provided to entrepreneurs active in biosphere reserves, especially those supporting social enterprises and green economies.
- C.7. A strengthened global Biosphere Reserve brand is established, supplementing local biosphere reserve brands.
- C.8. Joint promotion of BR products/services between biosphere reserves is enhanced.
- C.9. Every biosphere reserve will build the capacity to generate some of its own revenue.

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Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing

The success of the MAB programme depends on effective and open communication, data and knowledge exchange, based on a clear and shared vision of the BR concept, both among the different actors on the programme – biosphere reserves, national committees, networks and the Secretariat – and externally. Contemporary communication and information, social media, and data sharing tools have huge potential for the Programme. While the MAB Secretariat, National Committees, regional and thematic networks and individual biosphere reserves are starting to make good use of these tools, there is an urgent need to widen their application not only within the MAB

programme but also to engage diverse external audiences. Yet many countries still have poor access to modern communication facilities, which implies a continued focus on traditional means of communication and information exchange. The task to communicate more effectively depends not only on how well MAB mobilizes communication tools and instruments, but also on MAB's success in producing outcomes and services that are appreciated and available in as many languages as possible, starting with UNESCO's official languages. Good outcomes will attract press and media attention, so they communicate on our behalf.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- D.1. Full implementation of the open access policy to MAB and WNBR-related documents, data, information and multimedia materials.
- D.2. A comprehensive communication strategy complemented by an action plan (Key elements are identified below; others may be included in the action plan).
- D.3. The MAB Secretariat has a coordinated publication programme and effectively implements the MAB web site (MABNet), as the key communication, data and information hub for MAB.
- D.4. Biosphere reserve coordinators/managers, National Committees, and regional networks ensure wide access to information concerning biosphere reserves.
- D.5. Increased use of video conferencing, social media and new information and communication technologies for knowledge sharing, communication, technical cooperation, and capacity building.

Implementation Objective [Strategic Action Area] E. Effective governance of and within MAB and the WNBR

The MAB programme is governed by its International Coordinating Council, under the overall authority of the UNESCO General Conference and its Executive Board. The Statutory Framework of the WNBR remains the basis for its governance. Well-structured and effectively implemented and managed governing mechanisms are at the foundation of a successful MAB Programme. MAB National Committees have critical roles to play in implementing the vision and mission of the MAB Programme. Important lessons have been learned from many years of experiences working with the Seville Strategy and from the implementation and evaluation of the Madrid Action Plan. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of actions and governance mechanisms are essential in order to ensure timely and effective adaptation to change.

Expected results [Strategic lines of action]

- E.1. The governments of Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO support the implementation of the MAB Programme, including through well-defined institutional support.
- E.2. Each MAB National Committee has a transdisciplinary membership, including representatives from the public, private, research and education sectors, and a wide range of other stakeholders, including representation from biosphere reserves.

- E.3. Member States regularly update the MAB Secretariat and regional networks regarding progress regarding implementation of the MAB Strategy and Action Plan within their country.
- E.4. Each regional network has a defined governance mechanism, including annual assessment of performance.
- E.5. New thematic networks, if any, have an inbuilt review mechanism and a sunset clause.
- E.6. The International Support Group (ISG) of Permanent Delegations to the MAB Programme continues to contribute to communications and advocacy to the benefit of the Programme.

Strategy Implementation Evaluation Framework

The MAB Strategy will be implemented through the associated MAB Action Plan (see below) and assessed using a specific Evaluation Framework founded in strategic intervention logic. This will connect the strategic objectives and implementation objectives [strategic action areas] contained in the present strategy with the key activities and outputs of the Action Plan. Under the Framework, performance indicators will be developed, together with corresponding sources of verification and monitoring, and included in an evaluation plan that sets out roles and responsibilities of the key actors involved in the performance and achievement of the Strategy and the Action Plan. The Evaluation Framework and subsequent monitoring and evaluation will be developed and conducted in close cooperation with UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS).

MAB Action Plan

The MAB Action Plan (2016-2025) will provide a comprehensive set of actions for the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy. The Action Plan will be developed following the adoption of the MAB Strategy in 2015 and presented to the Fourth World Congress on Biosphere Reserves and the 28th MAB ICC (Lima, Peru, 2016).

Glossary

Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Ecosystem approach
Ecosystem services
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD
Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Multilateral environmental agreements
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
Science diplomacy
Sustainability science
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet)
UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme