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Programme

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Implementation of the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan

This document, which contains preliminary information received from Member States, Biosphere Reserves and associated networks, on the implementation of the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves in response to UNESCO MAB Circular Letter of 24 June 2016, is compiled as background to Document 200 EX/5 Part I (B) '*Progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025).*'

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<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphereprogramme/strategies-and-action-plans/new-mab-strategy-and-action-plan/documents/>

<u>Submission by</u> (in chronological order received)	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page</u>
Sweden	17 July 2016	1
Romania	18 July 2016	3
Austria	20 July 2016	15
Japan	21 July 2016	17
Social Enterprise & Biosphere Reserve (SEBR) thematic network	21 July 2016	19
UK	21 July 2016	22
Karst Biosphere Reserve, Slovenia	22 July 2016	31
Georgia	13 September 2016	44
Spain	14 September 2016	45
Iran	19 September 2016	49
Slovakia	20 September 2016	56
Hungary	20 September 2016	59
Germany	21 September 2016	63
Belarus	21 September 2016	64
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Romania	21 September 2016	66
China	21 September 2016	70
<u>Annex</u>		
MAB Circular Letter	24 June 2016	74
MAB Circular Letter	4 August 2016	76
MAB Circular Letter	9 September 2016	77

SWEDEN

From: Goran.Blom@naturvardsverket.se [mailto:Goran.Blom@naturvardsverket.se]

Sent: dimanche 17 juillet 2016 21:29

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

Cc: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>; julia.loden@gov.se

Subject: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Swedish MAB input to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board

The Swedish Biosphere Programme has started the implementation of the new MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan. A first activity undertaken is a work-shop with representatives from the National Committee, Swedish BR:s and candidate areas and the Swedish Unesco secretariat. The work-shop focused on the LAP and to list a) LAP activities Swedish BR:s already has a focus on in strategies or action plans with undertaken or planned activities, b) which activities in the LAP should be given highest priority by the Swedish Biosphere programme. The work-shop results will be further developed and incorporated in a new Swedish MAB Strategy.

Another initiated activity is a survey on how Swedish BR:s can help implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The survey includes an inventory of ongoing or planned activities with relevance to the SDG, and a proposal for how these activities can be developed and strengthened in the future through a developed national structure, a learning platform or other relevant measures. The results will be presented in a report in the beginning of 2017.

Best regards

Göran Blom

chair/ Swedish MAB committe

ROMANIA

From: ioan jelev [mailto:ijelev@yahoo.com]

Sent: lundi 18 juillet 2016 14:07

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

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Subject: Romanian MAB Committee Report after Lima World Congress

In the attention of Mr. HAN Qunli,
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB)
(CC Peter DOGSE)

Your Excellency,

I send you attached the required report about the activities of the Romanian MAB Committee after the Lima World Congress and the Romanian Strategy and Action Plan, correlated with the Lima Action Plan.

Best regards,

Ioan JELEV
President of Romanian MAB Committee

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AND PLANNED BY ROMANIAN MAB NATIONAL COMMITTEES, TO IMPLEMENT THE MAB STRATEGY AND THE LIMA ACTION PLAN.

At the IV th World Congress on Biosphere Reserve (4WCBR), Romania was represented by Ioan JELEV, chairman of Romanian National MAB Committee, Grigore BABOIANU, governor of the Administration of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (ARBDD), Ion MUNTEANU (ARBDD), Marian TUDOR, general director of the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development and John Shamad SMARANDA, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests.

The participation took place following the invitation of Mr. Han QUNLI, Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences and Secretary of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme from UNESCO Paris.

During the Congress, as President of the Romanian MaB National Committee, I was involved in many interactive debates with some contributions related to:

- MaB governance and biosphere reserves;
- improvement of MaB national committee activities, including new organizational solutions like those promoted by France;
- trans boundary biosphere reserves and cooperation in the framework of biosphere reserve, particularly in the case of the Danube Delta biosphere reserve and the so called trilateral reserve Romania, the Ukraine, Moldova.;
- scientific research in MaB Program;
- ecologic reconstruction;
- presentation of some aspects concerning the Romanian National MaB Committee activities. These issues are described in the documents drawn up and submitted to UNESCO Paris like:
 - Report on the MAB Romanian National Committee activity 2013-2016.
 - „Existing Biosphere Reserves in Romania”.
 - “Cross border cooperation in Danube Delta hand Lower Prut River”.

In a detailed Report which was handed to Ms. Marie PRCHALOVA, I provided information about my activities during the Congress, the further utilization of gained information and knowledge and the main recommendations. Considering the further utilization of gained information and knowledge we have had in view:

- Necessity to develop national actions plans, considering the Lima Actions Plan.
- Connection of management plans of biosphere reservations to the provisions of the Lima Action Plan.
- Improvement of communication by the capitalization of all the existing means.
- Conservation of ecosystems to ensure all their services and adaptation to the climate changes.
- Support for the research networks.
- Adaptation of touristic activities and other activities to the climate change challenges.
- Biosphere reserves as model and source of inspiration for sustainable development, education and communication.
- Periodical revision of the implementation process of action and management plans.
- Re-establishing the collaboration with UICN.
- Increasing the private sector involvement in MAB governance particularly for biosphere reserves.

During a meeting of Romanian MAB Committee, in June 2016, I introduced the main objectives and outcomes of the Lima Congress and the Committee has taken into consideration the following future main activities:

- To elaborate the project of the National Action Plan considering the framework provisions of the Action Plan adopted at Lima, emphasizing the involvement of key stakeholders, opportunities created by public/private partnerships, the improvement of communication process, as well as specific actions at the local level in the trans-boundary and regional context.
- Intercession at the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests through the UNESCO National Commission for Romania for setting up a joint work Commission of the representatives of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserves in the Ukraine and Romania.
- Development and improvement of the application for UNESCO Paris, to set up the biosphere reserve "Iron Gates".
- A common approach with MAB Committees from other countries (Republic of Moldavia, Greece, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, France etc., to promote some regional projects financed from European funds regarding the first generation biosphere reserves (Romania-Rodna and Retezat) for supporting them to meet the criteria of Seville Strategy.
- To promote some research projects for biosphere reserves in the mountain areas.
- To complete the applications for the new biosphere reserve based on the Maramures Mountains Natural Park area.
- To finalize the extension of the Danube Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve by including the Lower Meadow Reserve of Prut River.

In the next month after the Congress, we have finalised the draft of the Romanian MAB Strategy and Action Plan, in concordance with the Lima Action Plan and Strategy. During a dedicated meeting of the Romanian MAB Committee, The draft Strategy and Action Plan were introduced to the members of the Committee and analysed. In the annexes we have attached the drafts of these two important documents. Also, we detailed some aspects like the following:

- **Experience of France regarding the organization of the MAB National Committee**

France example, namely the organization of French MAB National Committee, represented a remarkable interest. As the old structure of French MAB National Committee did not have legal personality, without power of decision, with limited visibility, after its reorganization as an association with legal personality able to access projects and funds, a revival of the activity was felt. For this structure, the representatives of biosphere reserves, research institutes, experts and scientific personalities can adhere but as associated members, the representatives of ministries, economic organisms, candidates in obtaining the statute of biosphere reservation can adhere too.

➤ **New biosphere reserves overlapped with existing natural parks**

A special interest for us was the debate and exchange of experience regarding the governance at the level of biosphere reservations where I mentioned Romania's case in the promotion of the new biosphere reservations "The Iron Gates", a reservation overlapped on the already existing natural park. I found out that in such situations it is necessary to exist an unique governance system to represent all the functions of the natural park and biosphere reservation, having defined clear responsibilities in order to avoid confusions. I also noticed that there were few situations to promote biosphere reservation beginning with a natural park. Most situations refer to the promotion of a biosphere reservation beginning with a national park, when it is compulsory to extend the park area in order to include human settlements. To achieve a biosphere reserve from a natural park doesn't always suppose the extension of the area. The statute of a natural park is almost very close to that of the biosphere reserve, the dwelled areas being included into it. On the contrary, if the activity of a natural park is concentrated mostly on the activity of nature conservation, that activity gets new functions in a biosphere reserve, concerning the economic activity, conservation of traditions and cultural heritage, social component namely sustainable development. In conclusion, the governance system must clearly answer to these desiderata.

The experience mentioned above is extremely useful to Romania, considering both situation of biosphere reservations beginning from a natural park "the Iron Gates" but also from national parks (Pietrosul Rodnei and Retezat) where the extension of the area is obligatory for including the dwelled areas.

➤ **Trans-boundary biosphere reserves**

Another important conclusion refers to the trans-boundary biosphere reserves, where Romania is confronted with two distinct situations. On the one hand it is the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, a transboundary reservation between Romania and The Ukraine and the possible extension as a trilateral trans-boundary reservation by including the Inferior Prut reservation from the Republic of Moldavia. Considering the working group for transboundary reservations I actively participated presenting Romania's experience also benefiting from the experience of some trans-boundary reservations from other countries functioning for many years. The highest emergency for Romania is to finalize and start the operative transboundary reservation coordination unit activity the Danube Delta - Romania, the Ukraine as well as to prepare and finalize together with the specialists from the Ukraine and the Republic of Moldavia, the designation of the protected area "the Inferior Prut from the Republic of Moldavia" as the reservation of the biosphere and then the setting up the biosphere reservation the Danube Delta, Romania - The Ukraine - Moldavia. This action is also

advanced, benefiting of the active support of UNESCO Paris and the Bureau of Venice with the special involvement of Meriem BOUAMRANE and Mrs Marie PRCHALOVA.

Also the Romanian MAB Committees has analysed a new proposal for a biosphere reserve in the so called North Bucovina area and the measures necessary to improve the documentation for the Iron Gates Biosphere Reserve.

See below the ANNEXES attached to this report

Annexes

DRAFT OF THE FOLLOW-UP STRATEGY OF THE ROMANIAN NATIONAL MAB COMMITTEE, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW ACTION PLAN FOR BIOSPHERE RESERVES 2016-2025.

In the new strategy of the Romanian National MAB Committee in the framework of the Lima Action Plan, a special emphasises will be put on the following aspects:

- I.involvement of the key stakeholders,
- II.opportunities to create private/public partnerships,
- III.communication, *and*
- IV.*in-situ* actions in transboundary and/or regional context.

The main objectives of the Romanian National MAB Committee for the next period are:

1. The increase of the number of the existing biosphere reserves from 3 to 6 biosphere reserves by promoting 3 new biosphere reserves: Iron Gate (Porțile de Fier), Maramureș Mountain (Munții Maramureșului) and North Bucovina (Bucovina de Nord). Concerning the Iron Gates proposal, the following steps will be undertaken:

- the submission of a further elaborated governance structure that differs from the Administration of the Iron Gates Natural Park and is inclusive, comprehensive and ensures local stakeholders' equal position in participation in the decision making processes and in biosphere reserve management, including a clear common, shared vision by the local communities for the designation as a biosphere reserve;
 - the submission of a proposal of measures to be adopted to distinguish the proposed biosphere reserve from the Natural Park to prevent confusion between the designations and purpose.
 - a detailed zonation map showing that all core areas are surrounded by or adjacent to buffer zones, noting that some of the transition areas proposed may be transformed into buffer zones as they meet the criteria for buffer zonation.
2. The enlargement of the actual borders of the Pietrosul Rodnei and Retezat Biosphere reserves, including human settlements.
 3. The enlargement of the existing biosphere area, including the possible unification of Rodna and Maramureş Biosphere reserves.
 4. Finalise all the needed actions for the full compliance of the actual transboundary Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Romania – Ukraine with the Pamplna Strategy. The following steps will be undertaken:
 - To provide a joint working plan with specified objectives, milestones and vision for the transboundary biosphere reserve, especially as regards scientific projects and sustainable development activities and implementation of the results in practice.
 - To establish the joint management structure.
 - To document processes of involvement of individual sites and stakeholders in the management of the site.
 - Initiate cooperation with other transboundary biosphere reserves within the WNBR.
 5. The establishment of new transboundary biosphere reserves with Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine by promoting the new biosphere reserves in Moldova (Prutul Inferior), Serbia (Gjerdap) and Ukraine (with the existing Maramureş Biosphere Reserve).
 6. Strengthen the cooperation between the Romanian MAB Committee and the similar committees from Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia, Bulgaria and Hungary.
 7. Improvement of the biosphere reserves governances system.
 8. Improve the Financial sustainability of BRs.
 9. **Strengthen the involvement of key stakeholders in the decision making process of the biosphere reserves (see details in the National Action Plan of the Romanian MaB Committee, point II, Annex V).**
 10. **Promotion of an efficient communication system with and between the MAB Committee and the Biosphere Reserves, in view to increase the awareness of all aspects of the MaB Programme (see details in the draft of National Action Plan of the Romanian MaB Committee, point IV and VI, Annex V).**
 11. Encourage the biosphere reserves to promote the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements objectives (MEAs), especially of the Climate Change Convention.
 12. Sustain and promote the Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs.
 13. Actions to facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from BRs implemented.
 14. Encourage the transnational and transboundary cooperation between BRs.
 15. Establishment of partnerships between MAB and other UNESCO programmes and entities, particularly with the IHP UNESCO Programme.
 16. **Encourage and create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with private sector (see details in the draft of National Action Plan of the Romanian MaB Committee, point III, Annex V).**

17. A better correlation with the Romanian Commission for Land Planning, in view to a better reflection in the land planning plans, of the specific aspects and functions of the biosphere reserves.
18. To promote a dedicated Education Program for the farmers in the mountain and biosphere reserves areas.
19. Interventions to the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Tourism or the Ministry of Land Planning for a better promotion of such area like Bucovina, Danube Delta and the Black Sea.
20. **In-situ actions in national and transboundary context (see details in the National Action Plan of the Romanian MaB Committee, point V, Annex V).**

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF THE ROMANIAN MAB COMMITTEE

This National Action plan of the Romanian MAB Committee is a first draft of the needed activities to put in practice the main objectives of the follow-up Strategy after the Lima World Congress of the Biosphere Reserves, in March 2016. In the same time, we have tacked into account the general frame and concept of the Lima Action Plan. Some of the main actions are:

I. Improve the Financial sustainability of BRs.



Outcome: A5. Financial sustainability of BRs.

Action: A5.1. Develop a business plan for the three Romanian BR (Danube Delta, Pietrosul Rodnei and Retezat) including generation of revenues. Identification of potential partnerships and funders.

Outputs: BR business plan developed.

Primary responsibility*: BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, Romanian Forestry Authority "ROMSILVA", with support from the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forestry.

Time range: By the end of 2018.

Performance indicator: Number of BRs with business plan.

Action: A5.2. Implement the business plan of the three BR, to produce revenues.

Outputs: BR business plan implemented.

Primary responsibility*: BRs, Local authorities, Romanian Forestry Authority "ROMSILVA" other stakeholders.

Time range: 2019-2025.

Performance indicator: Proportion of BR budget generated by BR and the number of BRs with sustained funding.

Action: A5.3. Strengthen national and subnational financial contributions to BRs, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forestry, Romanian Forestry Authority "ROMSILVA", the planed National Agency for the Protected Areas and the local Counties Councils.

Outputs: Increased funding for the three BRs from the above mentioned organizations.

Primary responsibility*: MAB National Committees, National and subnational Authorities.

Time range: 2016-2025.

Performance indicator: Number of BRs with sustained funding.

II. Strengthen the involvement of key stakeholders in the decision making process of the biosphere reserves.

Outcome: B1. Effective engaged stakeholders of BRs.

Action: B1.1. Organize education, capacity building and training programs at the level of the three biosphere reserves, in view to ensure the needed knowledges concerning the BRs governance system and the roll of stakeholders in the policy and decision making process.

Outputs: Educated managers, coordinators and stakeholders.

Primary responsibility*: MAB Secretariat with support from Regional and thematic MAB networks.

Time range: 2016 – 2025.

Performance indicator: Number of programs established. Number of events and participants.

Action: B1.2. Participation of managers, stakeholders, decision and policy makers at regional education, capacity building and training programs.

Outputs: Regional education, capacity building and training programs established and operational, including University courses.

Primary responsibility and the support of: MAB Secretariat, UNESCO Field Offices, Regional and thematic networks, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, *Universities*.

Time range: 2016-2025.

Performance indicator: Number of programs established. Number of events and participants, and BRs represented.

Outcome: B2. Inclusive regional and thematic networks.

Action: B2.1. Ensure the participation of the relevant stakeholders in regional and thematic networks.

Outputs: Regional and thematic network meetings have taken steps to ensure broader participation of stakeholders.

Primary responsibility: Regional and thematic networks.

Time range: 2016 – 2025.

Performance indicator: Number and diversity of participants in networks.

Action: B.2.2. Adaptation of the national regulation framework in concordance with the requirements of the new Lima Action Plan, in relation with the increased involvements of stakeholders in the decision making process and in the BRs governance system.

Outputs: A harmonized regulation with the requirements of UNESCO concerning the governance and management of BRs.

Primary responsibility*: MAB National Commission, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forestry.

Time range: 2016-2020

Performance indicator: The percenter of harmonized regulations from the hall regulations with references to the biosphere reserves.

III. Encourage and create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with private sector.

Outcome: C4. Recognition of the MAB Programme as a key partner by private sector.

Action: C4.1. Develop guidelines on private sector partnerships for national committees and BRs.

Outputs: Operational guideline developed.

Primary responsibility*: MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees.

Time range: Before MAB ICC in 2018.

Performance indicator: Adoption of guidelines by ICC in 2018.

Action: C4.2. Create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with private sector. Identified the potential partners and initiate discussions with these partners.

Outputs: Partnerships with some private entities.

Primary responsibility*: All MAB stakeholders.

Time range: 2018-2025.

Performance indicator: Number of collaborations and partnerships with private sector.

IV. Promotion of an efficient communication system with and between the MAB Committee and the Biosphere Reserves, in view to increase the awareness of all aspects of the MAB Programme.

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

Outcome: D1. Full availability of MAB documents, data, information and other material.

Action: D1.1. Implement in Romania the open access policy adopted by the ICC in 2014, in concordance with the regulations concerning the free access of the population to such information.

Outputs: Open access established to MAB documents, data, information and other materials.

Primary responsibility*: MAB Secretariat, National Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, the three Romanian BRs.

Time range: By the end of 2016.

Performance indicator: Online availability of documents data and other materials.

Outcome: D2. Increased awareness of all aspects of the MAB Programme.

Action: D2.1. Create a communication strategy and an action plan. (See at the end of this Action Plan, the draft of the **Romanian UNESCO MaB Committee communication strategy and plan, point VI**).

Outputs: Communication strategy and action plan created.

Primary responsibility*: Romanian MAB National Committee.

Time range: By the end of 2018.

Performance indicator: Communication strategy and action plan endorsed by the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO.

Action: D2.2. Implement the communication action plan.

Outputs: Communication and action plan implemented.

Primary responsibility*: Romanian MAB National Committees, the three Romanian BRs.

Time range: 2019TM 2025.

Performance indicator: Visibility of MAB as measured by: Number of visitors to MAB and BR web sites. Number of downloads of MAB- related documents. Number of MAB- related references in international media.

Action: D2.3. Create a web page of the UNESCO ROMANIAN MAB Committee in view to facilitate data and knowledge sharing.

Outputs: WEB page created.

Primary responsibility*: MAB Secretariat.

Time range: 2016-2025.

Performance indicator: Number of information and data produced.

Action: D2.4. Effectively implement the Romanian National MAB Committee web site.

Outputs: WEB site established and operational as the key communication, data and information for the Romanian MAB Committee, with a clear data policy.

Primary responsibility*: Romanian MAB Committee.

Time range: 2016-2025.

Performance indicator: Content on the WEB site is continually updated. Number of visitors of the WEB site.

Number of downloads of MAB-related documents.

Outcome: D3. Broader Engagement and outreach.

Action: D3.1. Use social media and other novel information and communication technologies.

Outputs: Social media and other novel information and communication technologies in place and operational.

Primary responsibility*: National Authorities, Romanian MAB Committee, the three Romanian BR and the stakeholders.

Time range: 2016-2025.

Performance indicator: Number of MAB stakeholders who use social media and other technologies. Average number of posts, blogs, documents and other activities.

V. In-situ actions in national and transboundary context.

➤ **Outcome: Increased awareness of all aspects of the MAB Programme and increased number of biosphere reserves.**

Actions:

➤ Bilateral or trilateral work meetings or festivities regarding the Danube Delta transboundary biosphere reservation together with the specialists from the Republic of Moldavia and the Ukraine.

➤ To organize meetings from experience exchange and correlation with the representatives of Commissions and MAB Committees from Moldavian Republic, The Ukraine and Serbia.

- To set up units to coordinate the Danube Delta transboundary Biosphere Reservation and participate at the reunions of the office at Tulcea, Kahul, Vâlkovo or Odesa.
 - To organize festivities on occasion of some anniversary days like:
 -
 - August 9th the international day of zoological gardens and parks to emphasize the importance of species conservation, to promote education and information of the public opinion regarding biodiversity conservation.
 - May 24th - The European Day of national parks to make aware the communities factors of decision and to the public regarding the value and the benefits of protected areas in Europe.
 -
 - The organization at the level of the biosphere reservations the Danube Delta, Retezat, Rodna, Natural Parck Iron Gates and the Maramures Mountains of some round tables destined to aware the interested parts considering the biosphere reservation and their part in using the concept or sustainable development.
 - The Organization by of turns of MAB National Committee reunions in the Danube Delta, Rodna, Retezat biosphere reservations.
 - Planning of workshops in view to improve the communication with the interested parties in order to promote the concept of biosphere reservation:
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 - Participants: businessmen in the field, journalists, politicians, local personalities etc
 - Location: The Danube Delta.
 - Purpose: The involvement of local, national communities to promote MAB projects in Romania.
 - Results: The image and belief for MAB program; the involvement of business environment associating this image with UNESCO program "Man and Biosphere".
 -
 - **Outputs:** image and belief for MAB program the sensitivity of the business environment associating it with UNESCO program „Man and Biosphere”; the improvement of communication with the interested parts to promote biosphere reservation "The Iron Gates", The Maramures mountains and transboundary reservations " The Danube Delta and The Iron Gates".
- Primary responsibility*:** Romanian MAB National Committee, the three biosphere reserves.
- Time range:** By the end of 2018.
- Performance indicator:** Communication strategy and action plan endorsed by the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO.

VI. Draft of the Romanian UNESCO MaB Committee communication strategy and plan

General principles:

For the Romanian National MAB Committee, information activity, awareness and publicity on the concept of the biosphere reserve is a priority. In this regard the Romanian MAB Committee will put the accent on a communications strategy and will promote the importance of the concept of a biosphere reserve in Romania.

-
- **The underlying principles of the communication strategy:**

- Awareness.
- Public Liability.
- Flexibility in approach and communication with the general public by numerous media (TV/Radio shows, informative materials, events, presentations, etc.) so it will be correctly informed about the values of Romanian heritage.
- Involvement/support policy.
- Increase motivation for addressing the problems it faces in the biosphere reserves in Romania.

Purpose:

Increase the understanding of the concept of a Biosphere reserve in Romania, development of policies for the protection of nature, legislative adjustments, participation in special events etc.

Objectives:

- Information and awareness in local communities.
- Informing the general public from Romania regarding the importance of the Biosphere.
- Inform the professional public (researchers) on the results of researches concerning the biodiversity.



➤ **Target audience:**



- Local communities.
- Visitors, tourists, backpackers.
- Researchers, experts, students, institutes.
- Companies, travel companies, hotels.
- NGOs.
- Local Authorities.
- National authorities: Ministry of environment, water and forests, Romanian Academy, Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences etc.).
- Other stakeholders.

➤ **Communication channels:**

1. **Direct communication** through the Organization of public information events to be invited to the target groups.
2. **Communication through PR material support** (press map for journalists from specific publications, catalogues, flyers and leaflets inserted in publications aimed at the target audience, informative newsletters, through a campaign of direct marketing: e-mailing, commercials, ads, banners).
3. **Documentation (print or video)** provided the media with regard to global trends vis-à vis the biosphere reserves.
4. **Interviews in print/Advertorials** in economic-financial/scientific publications, as well as in the tabloids with target audience medium-high.
- 5. **Guests on behalf of the Romanian MAB Committee**, in their capacity as experts commemorates nationally, with a very good image to represent the MAB brand in TV shows with economic-financial/scientific to present viewers with the concept of a biosphere reserve, as well as the challenges it faces at national and global levels.

6. Public events, in cooperation with local or national stations radio and television, with the aim of informing its target audience and promote results and positive experiences from the projects carried out.

➤ **7. Workshop to raise awareness among stakeholders** in order to promote the concept of a biosphere reserve and increasing their number:

➤

- Participants: businessmen, journalists, politicians, local personalities, etc.
- Location: The Danube Delta.
- Purpose: local communities ' involvement in the promotion of national projects of Romanian MAB Committee.
- Results: An improved image and credibility for the MAB program; environmental awareness of business by associating their image with that of UNESCO'S Programme on Man and Biosphere.

8. The workshop mechanism:

- **Date:** one day on Friday.
- **Time:** 11:00-16:00.
- **Participants:** businessmen, investors, journalists, local politicians, personalities etc.
- **Program:**
 - presentation of the concept of a biosphere reserve;
 - brain-storming to identify the best solutions, information and promotion of investment;
 - submission of successful projects already carried out;
 - the establishment of partnerships between investors and local authorities
 - cocktail.
- **The Workshop** will cover/ focus the understanding of the concept and its importance in the realization of medium and long term projects of the Romanian MAB Committe.

9. Media print:

- **Ziarul Financiar** - daily with economic-financial profile.
- **Business Magazin** - weekly economic and financial profile.
- **Capital magazine** - weekly economic and financial profile.
- **Business Week** - weekly economic and financial profile.
- **Jurnalul National** - daily tabloid target-audience with medium-high.
- **Evenimentul Zilei** - daily tabloid target-audience with medium-high.
- **Gândul (The Thought)** - daily tabloid target audience with medium-high.
- **Adevărul (The Truth)** - daily tabloid target audience with medium-high.

10. TV media:

- **TVR1** - Biziday.
- **Antena 1** – Observator (Observer).
- **PRO TV** – Știri (News).
- **Money Channel.**

- **DIGI World** - Digipedia.
- **Digi** – Știri (News).
- **Realitatea TV** - Newsroom.
- **B1TV** – Stiri (News).

AUSTRIA

From: Köck, Günter [mailto:Guenther.Koeck@oeaw.ac.at]

Sent: mercredi 20 juillet 2016 11:07

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

Cc: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>

Subject: RE: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear colleagues,

Please find enclosed the comments of the Austrian MAB Committee.

Best wishes for a relaxing summer

Günter



Inputs of the Austrian MAB National Committee to the progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015- 2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

The Austrian MAB National Committee has always been committed to strengthening the quality of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Since 2014, Austria has reduced the number of its biosphere reserves (BR) from seven to three. The former BRs "Gurgler Kamm", "Gössenköllesee", "Untere Lobau" and "Neusiedler See" (all implemented in 1977) were removed from the WNBR in 2014 and 2016, respectively. However, the quality of the remaining BRs "Großes Walsertal" (2000), "Wienerwald" (2005) and "Salzburger Lungau and Kärntner Nockberge" (2012) sets high international standards. Based on their periodic review reports both BR "Großes Walsertal" and "Wienerwald" were recommended as representative sites within the WNBR. All three Austrian BRs not only fulfill the requirements of the Seville Strategy but have implemented many points from the Madrid Action plan 2008-2013. In addition, numerous actions postulated in the Lima Action Plan (LAP) 2016-2025 have been implemented already.

In 2006 the Austrian MAB Committee approved a catalogue of Criteria for Austrian BRs, whose set of rules were binding for the designation of new BRs. However, the evolution of the MAB Programme (e.g. Exit Strategy, MAB Strategy 2015-2016, Lima Action Plan 2016-2025) made a revision of the "National Criteria for BRs in Austria" necessary. Ten years after the launch of the first edition of the criteria catalogue the Austrian MAB Committee has now updated the catalogue in line with the new MAB Strategy 2015-2025. In December 2015 the updated version of the National Criteria was adopted by the members of MAB Committee. In doing so Austria has set important steps to safeguard the quality and future success of the Austrian BRs. For example, the catalogue contains concrete rules for the implementation for future transboundary BRs. Furthermore, the

BR managements are under obligation to engage actively in the WNBR and its regional networks, and thus must be provided with a sufficient financial framework for participation in conferences and workshops with the aim of international networking and sharing expertise.

Within the next few years the Austrian MAB Committee together with the Austrian BRs will work towards the full implementation of the LAP making the Austrian BRs even more effective model regions for sustainable development. Important tasks are to

- promote Austrian BRS as study/monitoring sites for climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
- guide Austrian BRs to actively contribute to the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- increase and strengthen partnerships with universities/research institutions to undertake research in the field of sustainable development practices and the use of renewable energy.
- promote regional education, capacity building and training programmes.

Vienna, 20/07/2016/G. Köck

JAPAN

-----Original Message-----

From: yousb@mext.go.jp [mailto:yousb@mext.go.jp] On Behalf Of jpnatcom@mext.go.jp

Sent: jeudi 21 juillet 2016 06:54

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

Cc: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>; Natcom Japan1 <jpnatcom@mext.go.jp>; fsendai@mext.go.jp; kurita-a@mext.go.jp; motooka@mext.go.jp; kfukuda@mext.go.jp

Subject: Re: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear the MAB Secretariat,

Please find an attached file regarding implementation of the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan from Japanese National Commission for UNESCO.

Best regards,

Yoko Usuba

Office of the Director-General for International Affairs Japanese National Commission for UNESCO
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

(MEXT) - JAPAN

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Activities undertaken and/or planned by MAB National Committees, biosphere reserves and the regional and thematic networks to implement the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan.

MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan have been disseminated to all BRs and people concerned in Japan. For a better understanding and effective implementation of them, the Japanese language version will be distributed at the fourth meeting of Japanese Biosphere Reserves Network (JBRN) in July 2016.

The Japanese National Committee for MAB

The Japanese National Committee for MAB consists of the experts from various fields and the members from the National Commission, MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) and other concerned ministries such as Ministry of the Environment, Foreign affairs, and Forestry Agency. Implementation of the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan will be discussed at the 36th meeting of Japanese National Committee for MAB in August 2016. The Japanese National Committee for MAB annually updates the brochure of BRs and distributes them to MAB stakeholders including local authorities and schools to enhance the visibility of Biosphere Reserves.

Collaboration with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The Japanese National Commission is encouraging local authorities in BR

sites to liaise BR activities with ESD and the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), since BRs are expected to play an important role as learning sites of sustainable development.

East Asia Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN)

EABRN is functioning as a communication platform among Member States in East Asia. In addition to periodic meetings of EABRN, more exchanges and cooperation among BRs are to be expected under the framework of EABRN. The 14th East Asia BR Network Meeting was held at Shiga Highland BR in October 2015, financially supported by MEXT.

Japanese Biosphere Reserves Network (JBRN)

JBRN is expected to enhance the activities to revitalize local area through sharing research results, project strategy and know-hows. In addition, through the cooperation with BRs around the world, the network is contributing to the establishment of sustainable society in a global scale.

Jointly organized by EABRN Meeting mentioned above, the third meeting of JBRN was held with the presence of mayors of all seven BRs in Japan in October 2015 to discuss various issues such as the branding of UNESCO BRs, involvement of the local residents.

Social Enterprise & Biosphere Reserve (SEBR) thematic network

-----Original Message-----

From: Colin Campbell [mailto:colin@social-capital.net]

Sent: jeudi 21 juillet 2016 13:19

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

Cc: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>; Johanna Mac Taggart <johanna.mactaggart@vanerkulle.se>

Subject: SEBR Thematic Network Progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear HAN Qunli

Further to your email of 24th of June, I am writing with an update from the SEBR (Social Enterprise & Biosphere Reserve) thematic network, which we trust you will find of interest.

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to inform you of the progress being made by the network and its partners and look forward to hearing about other developments that have been taking place in response to the MAB Lima Strategy and Action Plan.

Kind regards

Colin

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ASPIRATION	ACTIONS			ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
	Local	National	Global		
1 For BRs to function as SEs (A4)	Design bespoke training for SE & BR SE & BR framework Tapping into already existing support mechanisms (e.g. government etc.) BR managers/ coordinators should behave like social entrepreneurs (Capacity-building on all network levels)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training initiatives, knowledge sharing - Involve SEs in creating local BR Action Plans (AP) - Build capacity within BR management/ staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of training provided on SEBR - No. of attendees
2 By 2025 15% of economic activities within BRs through SEs	BRs to be platforms that encourage SE development (2.3) SE & BR framework (BR as Learning Lab for SE)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include SE in BR Strategy - Promote SEBR framework & raise awareness - Have a supporting framework document with definition & description (incl. case studies on SEs in BRs) - Create a guide for existing SEs (e.g. package) to become SEs > have localised packages depending on community - Develop agenda to support SE development (e.g. teaching social entrepreneurship in schools, support networks etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SE in BR strategy - Publication & promotion of a document on BRs & SEs (promotion strategy?) - No. of transitions from existing enterprises/ organisations to SEs - No. of case studies
	Encourage BRs to include social entrepreneurship in their charter	Identify & promote SE policy			
	Push up information on SEs onto policy level				
	Innovation Hub & Business Support	Mapping out a thematic funding stream for SEs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a baseline of SE activity in each BR (Audit) to inform increase (use OASIIS) - Develop sustainable funding streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of SEs
Encourage existing enterprises & organisations to become SEs					

6 Generating Innovation through SEs (C6)	Innovation Hubs (provide business advice & support)	Infrastructure, Support & Funding (thematic which aligns with objectives of BRs)	Provide research, collating case studies etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge exchange - Business Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Increased) no. of innovations through SEs - No. of products
7 SE & BR branding (C7)	Establish strong connection between and SE and BR branding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish branding & labelling system - create guidelines - create plan on how to move forward on that (local, national and globally) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brand established - No. of branded services/ products - Revenue under brand 	
8 By 2025 15% of BRs public procurement through social economy	Design social clauses for BRs		Guideline for social clauses in BR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish social clauses in BRs' Charters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of public procurement through social economy
9 For majority of energy in BR to come from renewable energy (BR as LLab for SE/ community-owned renewable energy)	Energy provided through community-owned enterprises/ SEs, establish Hubs (information points for individuals & enterprises)	Investment policy oriented towards people (see Denmark law for investment: 50% of new energy owned by communities)	Provide research, case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify (audit) opportunities for each BR - establish distributed energy systems - create models for each community/ BR & individual households (e.g. carbon neutral households) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of renewable energy - Percentage of community-owned renewable energy - Percentage of renewable energy produced by individual households
10 Social Enterprise Research for Biosphere Reserves	Launch a programme to connect with research and encourage knowledge gathering		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a platform for SEBR research & exchange - Partner up with universities to do studies (can build relationships & students collating data) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of publications 	

UK

From: Martin Price [mailto:Martin.Price.perth@uhi.ac.uk]
Sent: jeudi 21 juillet 2016 16:41
To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>
Cc: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>; andrew.bell@devon.gov.uk; m.woods@aber.ac.uk; richard@crawfordton.net; Andy.Tully@defra.gsi.gov.uk; Helen.E.Jones@gov.scot; andy.rowland@ecodyfi.org.uk; mahon276@btinternet.com; Martin Price <Martin.Price.perth@uhi.ac.uk>; Dai.Harris@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK; peter.longworth@gov.im; Rich.Howorth@brighton-hove.gov.uk; joan@bagbie.co.uk; N.Ravenscroft@brighton.ac.uk; rscott@landlife.org.uk; Mark.Hammond@daera-ni.gov.uk; Natcom Uk2 <jbridge@unesco.org.uk>; Beth Taylor <Beth.Taylor@iop.org>; simon.fieldhouse@dumgal.gov.uk; Matthew Sudders <M-Sudders@dfid.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear Peter,

As requested, here is a report about progress in the UK, using the Lima Action Plan as a template, based largely on information kindly provided by BR coordinators.

For this and future reports, I should note that the Isle of Man is a Crown Dependency, and not part of the UK per se.

Following discussions at its meeting in June on the Isle of Man (kindly hosted by the Government of the Isle of Man), the UK national committee for MAB will be preparing its own action plan, starting at a meeting hosted by the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere in October.

I hope you find this report useful.

With best regards,

**Input to Progress report on implementation of the Lima Action Plan:
UK MAB Committee and BRs, July 2016**

Outcome	Action	UK actions
A1. Biosphere Reserves (BRs) recognized as models contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	A1.1. Promote BRs as sites that actively contribute to achieving the SDGs	NC: Draft briefing for UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, via UK National Commission for UNESCO, promoting new sites in Overseas territories and CD's based on successes within UK BLD: Sustainability Action Plan being implemented by Brighton City Council GSA: Working links established with local authorities to include discussions on sustainable development
	A1.2. Promote BRs as sites that actively contribute to	

Outcome	Action	UK actions
	implementing MEAs, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets	
	A1.3. Establish alliances at local, regional, international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people and benefits to local people, taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people	
	A1.4. Use BRs as priority sites/observatories for climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation, including in support of the UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement	<p>BLD: Adaptation measures being piloted, including Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) in urban greenspace</p> <p>GSA: Climate Ready Biosphere strategy and action plan created and implementation started</p> <p>IOM: Mitigation actions for carbon sequestration within soils and peat (quantified as 16.5mt CO₂e cf 0.8mt CO₂e from entire economy) and energy production and efficiency identified in 2050 energy strategy. This aims to work towards 2050 80% decrease in CO₂ emissions, and was endorsed by Tynwald July 2016.</p> <p>ND: There is one UK Environmental Change Network site in the BR. Mitigation actions for carbon sequestration and energy production/efficiency identified in Energy strategy</p>
	A1.5. Promote green/sustainable/social economy initiatives inside BRs	<p>BLD: Work with social enterprises on tourism and education</p> <p>D: Priority for feasibility work in proposed LEADER programme</p> <p>GSA: Biosphere charter in place, Business Development officer establishing Business events and engagement as part of Business week Oct 2016. Trademark and branding work being undertaken</p> <p>ND: Work with social enterprises on tourism and education</p>
	A1.6. Undertake research and ensure the long-term conservation of the socio-ecological systems of BRs including restoration and appropriate management of degraded ecosystems	<p>D: Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust leading proposed Sustainable Management Scheme project</p> <p>IOM: Manx Wildlife Trust leading development of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in association with DEFA, eg Ramsey Forest project to create linkages comprised of native broadleaf trees and inter-connect vestiges of ancient natural Woodland</p> <p>ND: BR research group re-established, responding to the research needs of the BR working groups</p>

A2. Open and participatory selection, planning and implementation of BRs.	A2.1 Provide guidelines to enable Member States to apply the BR concept and implement the Action Plan effectively	
	A2.2 Ensure processes for selecting, designing, planning, and nominating BRs are open and participatory, involving all concerned stakeholders, taking into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures, and based on sound science.	A number of potential new BRs are being discussed.
	A2.3. Ensure processes for implementing, managing, monitoring and periodic review of BRs are open and participatory and take into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures	GSA: Public engagement and formal consultation carried out as part of development of nomination application, continual engagement through social media . Biosphere strategy currently being developed to reflect outcomes required to report on periodic review IOM: New 0-3nm marine zoning configuration proposed with and by Manx Fish Producers Organisation (MFPO), in accordance with participatory approach. Communication plans for relevant sectors under development ND: New zoning configuration being designed in North Devon with participatory approach
	A2.4. Ensure that BRs have clear communication plans and mechanisms to implement these	BLD: Communication Plan and annual updates, plus development of a new integrated marketing & communications strategy to roll out new identity D: Communication Plan to be reviewed GSA: Communication and branding Plan outlines the marketing & communications required, supported by sub group IOM: Communication plan in development. Twitter and Facebook regularly used. Films being used to promote BR, including animated story on website. ND: Communication plan in place. Monthly newsletters, twitter and Facebook regularly used. Films being used more frequently on website.
A3 Integration of BRs into relevant legislation, policies and/or programmes complemented by support for the functioning of BRs	A3.1 Recognise BRs in legislation, policies and/or programmes at national and/or subnational levels	IOM: BR concept incorporated into Local Development Plan (LDP) for land use planning, subtitled – towards a Sustainable Island
	A3.2. Support effective governance and management structures in each BR	IOM: BR incorporated into workstreams of several government departments ND: Local authority funding for the core team of the BR continues...just WR: A Steering Group for the BR has been established and is now defining the most appropriate legal structure and financial support.

<p>A4 Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs</p>	<p>A4.1. Establish partnerships with universities/research institutions to undertake research, especially UNESCO Chairs and Centres</p>	<p>BLD: Research working group led by two local universities (Brighton, Sussex) to develop a research strategy D: Biosphere Partnership seeking agreement with Aberystwyth University GSA: Research strategy being developed and refreshed by partners within the University of Glasgow. GSA/WR: Involved in the development of a Project to the EU Northern Periphery and Arctic programme, together with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development) IOM: Biosphere Partnership working with Department of Education & Children (DEC), IOM Childrens Centre and Isle of Man College (UCM) ND: Research working group led by two local universities (Plymouth, Exeter) and two research insitutions (Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Rothamstead Research) to develop a research strategy</p>
	<p>A4.2. Establish partnerships with educational and training institutions, especially UNESCO Chairs, Centres and Associated schools, to undertake education, training and capacity building activities aimed at BR stakeholders, including managers and rights holders, taking into account the SDGs</p>	<p>BLD: Environmental education developed for local schools about the water cycle D: Ysgol Bro Hyddgen recently joined the UNESCO ASPnet. BR to promote to other local schools. GSA: Environmental education developed as part of the outdoor Education package linked to the curriculum for excellence outdoor learning section IOM: DEC working up lesson plans to be incorporated into DEC curriculum in KS1-4, and further reflect in Eco-schools concept ND: Environmental education developed for local schools and for A level curriculum. Local foundation degrees supported.</p>
	<p>A4.3 Provide adequate research infrastructure in each BR</p>	<p>GSA: To be considered as part of research strategy IOM: 2 universities often involved in biotic research (Bangor) and Chester (UCM) for socio-cultural research, MBA etc and U/G summer STEP research project with public and private sector partners ND: 2 local universities (Plymouth, Exeter) and 2 research insitutions (Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Rothamstead Research) support BR</p>
	<p>A4.4. Identify, and disseminate good practices for sustainable development, and identify and eliminate unsustainable practices in BRs</p>	<p>GSA: several study visits to other EuroMAB BRs to learn best practice IOM: Ecosystem service planning promoted via Department for Environment, Food & Agriculture (DEFA) landscape and amenity strategy ND: Promoted Ecosystem service planning via UK's Ecosystem Knowledge network</p>
	<p>A4.5. Encourage managers, local communities and other BR stakeholders to collaborate in designing and implementing projects that inform the management and sustainable development of their BR</p>	<p>BLD: Biosphere Delivery Board is developing shared portfolio of priority projects for implementation D: Natural Resources Wales to complete pilot study of issues and opportunities relating to sustainable management of natural resources GSA: Biosphere Board is contributing to the outcomes within local Authority Local Development Plans IOM: Voluntary Code of Practice for landowners adopted by Manx National farmers' Union (MNFU). Scope for further work in this area. DEFA keen to do so ND: Co design of projects through BR partnership board</p>
<p>A5. Financial sustainability of BRs</p>	<p>A5.1. Develop a business plan for each BR including, generation of</p>	<p>BLD/IOM/ND: Business Plan drafted but limited success to date in attaining financial sustainability GSA: Biosphere strategy being developed; engagement with Local authorities has secured short term funding to date</p>

	revenues and effective partnerships with potential funders	
	A5.2. Implement the BR business plan to produce revenues	BLD: limited success so far GSA: Biosphere strategy to be utilised to support this Activity once operational ND: Good success to date with 25:1 funding leverage in the BR
	A5.3. Strengthen national and subnational financial contributions to BRs	There are currently no direct national or subnational financial contributions to BRs
A6. The effective functioning of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, with all BRs complying with its Statutory Framework	A6.1. Implement an effective periodic review process as defined in the Statutory Framework	All UK BRs comply with the Statutory Framework
	A6.2. Apply adaptive management processes in BRs	IOM: New strategy for marine inshore fisheries demonstrates adaptive management ND: New strategy for BR demonstrates adaptive management
A7 BRs recognized as sources and stewards of ecosystem services	A7.1. Identify ecosystem services and facilitate their long-term provision, including those contributing to health and wellbeing	BLD: Modelling and mapping on ecosystem services carried out, including to inform green infrastructure projects D: BR is a partner in an Interreg Expression of Interest for ecosystem services in wetlands GSA: creation of species and hábitat action plans ND: Modelling and mapping on ecosystem services carried out, including to inform green infrastructure Projects, in 2014 with new iterations as technology improves. New MCZs established in the BR to restore marine natural capital.
	A7.2. Implement mechanisms for the equitable payment for ecosystem services (PES)	GSA: ecosystem services review undertaken, but no mechanisms yet to secure additional revenue IOM: Fisheries improvement plan in development for the marine area, through Fisheries Strategy, including Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) status for Queenie stock ND: Agri environment is largest PES, but there are others, e.g. angling with Westcountry Rivers Trust
	A7.3. Implement programmes to preserve, maintain and promote species and varieties of economic and/or cultural value and that underpin the provision of ecosystem services	BLD: Educational and practical demonstration projects developed promoting plants that benefit pollinating insects GSA: BR linked to the outdoor Education programme and working with partners to look at species and hábitats, delivering key Projects ND: Fisheries improvement plan in development for the marine area.

Outcome	Action	UK actions
B1. Effective BR managers/ coordinators and engaged stakeholders of BRs	B1.1. Organize global education, capacity building and training programmes	
	B1.2. Organize regional education, capacity building	

	and training programmes	
B2. Inclusive regional and thematic networks	B2.1. Ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders in regional and thematic networks	GSA: Facilitating UKMAB meeting and wider Partnership event in October 2016, funded by local authority
B3. Regional and thematic networks with adequate resources	B3.1. Develop a business plan for each network	
B4. Effective regional and thematic level collaboration	B4.1. Create opportunities for collaborative research, implementation and monitoring	
B5. Visibility of regional and thematic networks and their activities	B5.1. Disseminate results of network activities internally, and externally, including cases of good practice in BRs	
B.6. Transnational and transboundary cooperation between BRs	B6.1. Create and implement twinning arrangements between BRs in different countries	BLD/ND: Collaboration between these two UK BRS and Audomarois, Iroise BRs (France) D: Relationship with Urdaibai BR in the Basque Country (Spain)
	B6.2. Designate and implement transboundary BRs (TBRs)	
B.7 An active and open interdisciplinary network of scientists sharing MAB vision and mission	B7.1. Establish an international network-of scientists/knowledge holders, working in and with BRs, that engages with national and other international networks of scientists/knowledge holders	NC: Following discussions in Lima, the chair is discussing with other UNESCO Chairs the possibility of a meeting to move ahead with building this network. The ADG for Science has expressed her interest and support. BLD: University of Brighton has obtained travel funding from Santander Bank to go to Brazil in November to get the first bilateral agreement in place for a joint doctoral programme. Possible universities are: the Pontifical Catholic University in Porto Alegre (with an environment centre in a BR) and the University of the Vale of Itajai (UNIVALI), which has major environmental programmes around climate change and good connections with the same BR. The University of Alberta (Canada) is also interested.
	B7.2. Develop a joint research and knowledge exchange agenda for the international network	IOM: The Isle of Man Government's Small Countries Financial Management Centre (SCFMC) supports small developing countries with their capacity building in governance (140 delegates attended since 2009. Well-regarded by World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat etc.) Keen to further develop this resource. Scope to incorporate MAB and UN SDG's into course content. ND: Supporting the development of International Centre for Sustainable Rural Development in Canada

Outcome	Action	UK Actions
C1. Adequate resources for the MAB programme and the WNBR	C1.1. Prepare a business and a marketing plan to be endorsed by the ICC	

	C1.2. Implement the business and marketing plan	
C2. Recognition of the MAB Programme as a key partner within UNESCO and with other international organizations and relevant conventions	C2.1. Create and realise opportunities for collaboration and partnerships within UNESCO	D: Interest in stimulating networking between UNESCO-related entities within Wales, perhaps by forming a UNESCO Club IOM: Interested in scope for Small Countries Financial Management Centre to collaborate on this topic.
	C2.2. Create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with international programmes and relevant conventions	
C3. BRs and regional networks generating their own revenues	C3.1. Support capacity building in approaches to generate revenue	
	C3.2. Promote partnerships to raise funds from external entities with objectives that are compatible with those of the MAB Programme	
C4. Recognition of the MAB Programme as a key partner by private sector	C4.1. Develop guidelines on private sector partnerships for national committees and BRs	
	C4.2. Create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with private sector which are open, accountable and sustainable	
C5. Recognition that the MAB Programme contributes to the delivery of the objectives of national, regional funding programs	C5.1. Create opportunities for projects and activities funded by national and regional funding agencies	
C6. Entrepreneurs and social enterprises contribute to BR activities	C6.1. Provide guidance and training to entrepreneurs and social enterprises on involvement in BRs	
	C6.2. Create opportunities for entrepreneurs and social enterprises in BRs, including training, incentives	GSA: working with established Social enterprises to link in with the objectives of the Biosphere finding areas of collaboration, ACE video created for Lima IOM: Many partners are active social enterprises, eg The Children's Centre and co-operative ventures such as IOM Creamery. Keen to further their development

	and public procurement	ND: BR has a network of social enterprises and has programmes such as the Woodland Enterprise Zone to further their development. Also : Assist Social Capital, a social enterprise based in Scotland, has launched the OASIIS (Opening Access to Sustainable Independent Income Streams) Platform (https://www.oasiis-br.org/#/)
C7. Recognition of BRs nationally and internationally	C7.1. Undertake an analysis of a strengthened global BR brand, and establish this, with associated national guidelines	IOM: would be keen to be involved in this topic.
	C7.2. Use the brand in products and services in line with national guidelines	BLD: New brand identity for BR being developed GSA: New brand identity developed and being trademarked for GSA IOM: BR Pledge developed (modelled on Charter from Georgian Bay BR, Canada) ND: Charter developed and about to be remodeled in collaboration with France and BLD
C8. Enhanced synergies between BRs	C8.1. Encourage joint promotion and marketing of BR products and services among BRs and beyond	GSA: Biosphere Business officer investigating through the branding work undertaken IOM: Further discussions and research on scope of SCFMC to make reference to SDGs and BR concept ND: Developing Interreg project on biocultural heritage tourism with 3 other BRs

Outcome	Action	UK Actions
D1. Full availability of MAB documents, data, information and other material	D1.1. Implement the open access policy adopted by the ICC in 2014	
D2. Increased awareness of all aspects of the MAB Programme	D2.1. Create a communication strategy and an action plan	
	D2.2. Implement the communication action plan	
	D2.3. Implement a coordinated publications programme to facilitate data and knowledge sharing	
	D2.4. Effectively implement the MAB web site (MABNet).	
D3. Broader Engagement and outreach	D3.1. Use social media and other novel information and communication technologies	D: Continue facebook page activity and increase Twitter & YouTube activity IOM: Twitter and Facebook updated frequently, making reference to partner activities. ND: Twitter and Facebook updated twice a week

Outcome	Action	UK Actions
E1 Strong support for the implementation of the MAB programme from the governments of Member States	E1.1. Ensure the active participation of at least one representative of each ICC Member State at each MAB ICC session	NC: The UK sends at least one representative to each MAB ICC session. The UK National Commission for UNESCO covers travel and subsistence for the Chair of the Committee.

	E1.2. Provide institutional support and resources to ensure that each MAB Committee and National BR network can carry out its mission	NC: The UK government and devolved administrations provide no institutional support or resources to the national MAB Committee, apart from facilities for committee meetings; these are also provided for alternate meetings by the BR hosting these meetings. The first meeting of a national BR network, including BR coordinators and other stakeholders, will take place in October 2016, with support from one of the local authorities involved in the GSA BR.
E2 MAB National Committees have a trans-disciplinary membership	E2.1. Ensure that each MAB national committee has transdisciplinary and representative composition	NC: The committee has a broad membership, including representatives from each BR, UK and devolved government departments, academia, and networking NGOs (IUCN, Urban Forum)
E3. Regular progress updates by Member States and monitoring of the Action Plan	E3.1. Submit a biennial report to the ICC covering progress made in each Member State, using a template provided by the MAB secretariat	
	E3.2. Evaluate mid-term implementation of the action plan	
E4. Effective functioning of regional and thematic networks	E4.1. Develop plan with objectives, performance assessment mechanism and timeframe for each regional and thematic network	
	E4.2. Submit an annual report to the ICC on performance of the regional and thematic network	

KARST BIOSPHERE RESERVE, SLOVENIA

From: Vanja Debevec [mailto:vanja.debevec@psj.gov.si]

Sent: vendredi 22 juillet 2016 16:38

To: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>

Cc: Gordana.Beltram@gov.si; Stojan Ščuka <stojan.scuka@psj.gov.si>; simona.kaligaric@zrsvn.si; tea.lukan-klavzer@tnp.gov.si; jost.stergarsek@notranjski-park.si; Borut Peric <borut.peric@psj.gov.si>; Natcom Slovenia1 <marjutka.hafner@gov.si>; Natcom Slovenia2 <gasper.hrastelj@gov.si>; Drago.Balent@gov.si; Darja Kranjc <darja.kranjc@psj.gov.si>

Subject: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear Peter,

Karst Biosphere Reserve, Slovenia (KBR) has welcomed new MAB Strategy 2015 - 2025 and Lima Action Plan (LAP) as very useful tools that enables us to perform good quality work and management of biosphere reserve.

KBR's working plan for 2016 has been prepared according to the strategic objectives stated in new MAB Strategy, and will be further elaborated in Strategic Working plan for KBR, that will be presented as a draft by the end of this year. Prior to that, meetings will be held with BR's Committees and other stakeholders in order to assure the proper presentation of Lima Action Plan and thus obtaining inspiring and feasible proposals for activities.

As new MAB Strategy 2015 – 2025 is providing us with new challenges, KBR decided to organise a workshop for Slovenian BRs, Local Action Groups and stakeholders, where strategic objectives will be presented along with LAP based on BRs level of responsibilities. It is expected that BRs will join in a project in 2017, strengthening communication, international twinning, entrepreneurship and support of local economy in BRs. The workshop "BRs in light of new MAB Strategy" will be held in Škocjan Caves Park on October 19th 2016. Case studies and instructive experiences from Austrian and Czech BRs will be shared by respectful experts.

KBR has prepared on overview of the ongoing work and short term proposed activities related to LAP. Please find the file enclosed to this mail.

If any further data or information are required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We appreciate the support and guidance that MAB Secretariat is kindly providing and we look forward to reach prosperous results in joint work.

Best regards,

Vanja Debevec

Ref. No.: 81-1/2016-3

Date: July 20th, 2016

Ref. No.: 81-1/2016-3

Date: July 20th, 2016

To whom it may concern

**Feed-back on activities undertaken and/or planned by
Karst Biosphere Reserve, Slovenia (KBR)
to implement the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan**

Karst Biosphere Reserve, Slovenia (KBR) prepared the annual working plan for 2016 according to proposed Strategic Action Areas in 2015.

By the end of this year a draft of Strategic Working Plan for KBR will be prepared in participatory way, thus activities planned might increase in number and content.

The text presented here is a short overview of work in progress, with tendency to develop further on in advanced activities with prominent results according to Lima Action Plan.

STRATEGIC ACTION AREA A.

The World Network of Biosphere Reserves consisting of effectively functioning models for sustainable development

A1. Biosphere Reserves (BRs) recognized as models contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Action: A1.1. Promote BRs as sites that actively contribute to achieving the SDGs

Output: BRs have made measurable contributions in support of the achievement of the SDGs that can be replicated and scaled – up

KBR's work in progress:

- *Delivery of specially designed posters with SDGs for all members of Slovene Association of Parks and promotion of SDGs during workshop on ecosystem services and biosphere reserves in 2015.*
- *Delivery of SDGs list to all schools in the Schools network of the Škocjan Caves Park.*
- *Proposal for educational activities related to global and local in sight of the nature, cultural, social context of SDGs prepared*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Presentation of schools research work related to SDGs on global, national and local level and start with awareness campaign in 2017,*

- *Identification and promotion of joint activities with KBR's Committees, municipalities and other stakeholders in KBR that support the SDGs,*

Action: A1.2. Promote BRs as sites that actively contribute to implementing MEAs, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Output: BRs managed and supported with a focus on ensuring their successful contributions to MEA implementation

KBR's work in progress:

- *Project proposal for rising awareness on biodiversity and sustainable farming is being prepared,*
- *Invasive and alien species are identified and measures are taken according to national guidelines.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Research, education and promotion of biodiversity related to Natura 2000 species and protected species in KBR will start in 2017.*
- *Enhancing joint cooperation with stakeholders for presentation of genetic diversity, promoting seed banks establishments,*
- *Implementation of measures for water and air quality monitoring with direct involvement of stakeholders.*

Action: A1.3. Establish alliances at local, regional, international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people, taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people

Output: MAB and BRs have established or joined alliances for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local and indigenous people

KBR's work in progress:

- *Škocjan Caves Park volunteers rangers service has been active since 1997, activities include survey of the areas with high anthropogenic impact in BR,*
- *Committee for Nature Conservation of KBR has been active since 2014, activities include education of local communities, activities for rise in public awareness,*
- *Network of universities and Škocjan Caves Park performed research study on ethnobotanics,*
- *Research studies, popularisation and protection of flora and fauna of dry stone walls was performed within Partnership for preservation and popularization of Karst dry stone walling*
- *Regular trainings are organised by KBR.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Strengthen the cooperation with biodiversity conservation institutions on regional and international level,*
- *Promotion of case studies and success stories including biodiversity conservation and benefits on local level.*

Action: A1.4. Use BRs as priority sites/observatories for climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation, including in support of the UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement

Output: BRs used as priority sites and as observatories for ecosystem-based climate change action

KBR's work in progress:

- *Ecological – meteorological station was established in 2006, limited data have been collected for several decades even before that date. The work is performed in cooperation with Agency of Republic Slovenia for Environment,*
- *Meteorological data are collected by schools network in KBR*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Promotion of meteorological observations,*
- *Public awareness activities related to protection of underground water basin,*
- *Programme of restoration of water wells in villages of KBR,*
- *Research study on emerging ecosystems in KBR.*

Action: A1.5. Promote green/sustainable/social economy initiatives inside BRs

Output: Sustainable development initiatives established that are inclusive and environmentally integrative. Labels for products and services developed that reflect the BR objectives.

KBR's work in progress:

- *Preparation of criteria for KBR label*
- *In order to promote local food and suppliers a Menu of KBR was prepared, three providers received a certificate for preparation, delivery and promotion of local food and BR.*
- *Establishing of parking lots for visitors outside the core area and organisation of public transportation for visitors,*
- *Establishing of cycling routes in transition and core area*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Promotion of services and products with KBR label,*
- *Trainings for local stakeholders with labelled products and services,*
- *Strengthen cooperation with Assistance and Working Therapy Centre Koper in Divača and Ilirska Bistrica unites*
- *Preparation of project with Local Action Groups and Slovenian BRs in order to promote visibility, communication and environmentally integrative entrepreneurship.*
- *Establishing riding route in buffer zone within cooperation with local entrepreneurs in tourism and University in Ljubljana*

Action: A1.6. Undertake research and ensure the long-term conservation of the socio-ecological systems of BRs including restoration and appropriate management of degraded ecosystems

Output: Socio-ecological systems in BRs are well conserved and maintained

KBR's work in progress:

- *Discussions with universities and Slovene Society for Birds Observation and Research have been going on in order to prepare special programme for students field work in KBR,*
- *Committee for Cultural Heritage Conservation has documented water tanks along railway in core and transition zone of BR. Proposals for restoration are being prepared.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Research studies on socio-ecological systems in KBR,*
- *Research studies for presentation and promotion of socio-ecological systems in KBR,*
- *Restoration of water tanks and reservoirs with municipalities and Slovene Railroad Company.*

A2. Open and participatory selection, planning and implementation of BRs.

Action: A2.2 Ensure processes for selecting, designing, planning, and nominating BRs are open and participatory, involving all concerned stakeholders, taking into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures, and based on sound science.

Output: BR nomination files and BR management plans produced and implemented through participatory approaches, considering local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures and based on sound science.

KBR's work in progress:

- *KBR's Committee for Cultural Heritage Conservation, KBR's Committee for Nature Protection, KBR's Committee for Sustainable Tourism, KBR's Committee for Entrepreneurship, were established in 2014. Members work actively upon annual working plans.*
- *Research studies have been performed in order to document traditional knowledge,*
- *Partnership for preservation and popularization of Karst dry stone walling, including academic institutions, traditional knowledge holders, public service agencies, municipalities and individual people from Slovenia and Italy. Activities are performed upon annual working plans.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Preparation of Strategic Working plan for KBR in participatory way,*
- *Nomination of dry stone walls as UNESCO serial representative intangible heritage in cooperation with Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Spain and Switzerland,*
- *Establishing partnerships with different stakeholders in KBR in order to foster nature and culture conservation, promoting solidarity, responsible attitude and local economy.*

Action: A2.4. Ensure that BRs have clear communication plans and mechanisms to implement these

Output: BR communication plans and mechanisms that ensure communication between BR managers and both stakeholders and MAB networks are developed.

KBR's work in progress:

- *Regular meetings are held on local and national level*
- *Exhibitions, lectures and workshops are organised in core area, buffer zone and transition area,*
- *Students projects are published in booklets,*
- *In 2015 a Škocjan Caves Park and Karst Biosphere Reserve and River Basin bulletin was published*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Preparation of Communication Strategy for KBR in participatory way,*
- *Evaluation of Communication in KBR*

A3 Integration of BRs into relevant legislation, policies and/or programmes complemented by support for the functioning of BRs

Action: A3.1 Recognise BRs in legislation, policies and/or programmes at national and/or subnational levels

Output: BRs integrated into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and/or programmes

KBR's work in progress:

- *Working plan for KBR is a part of Management Plan of Škocjan Caves Park, manager of KBR since 2004.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Joint project on visibility of BRs in Slovenia with BRs and Local Action Groups,*

- *Preparation of annual working plans and Strategic Working Plan for KBR in accordance with national MAB guidelines.*

<p>A4 Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs</p>
--

Action: A4.1. Establish partnerships with universities/research institutions to undertake research

Output: Partnerships established, maintained, and reinforced. Capacity building events organized.

KBR's work in progress:

- *Network of Universities of Škocjan Caves Park was established in 2014. It consists of University Ljubljana, University Nova Gorica, University of Littoral Università del Litorale*
- *Several projects are ongoing; project proposal for public awareness is being prepared.*
- *Training courses and filed work are performed in KBR*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Presentations of KBR for students at Universities,*
- *Invitation of University in Maribor in Slovenia and foreign Universities to join the network,*
- *Organisation of summer schools for students with international participation for training in dry stone walling, archaeology, socio-ecology along with sustainable development practices.*

Action: A4.2. Establish partnerships with educational and training institutions, especially UNESCO Chairs, Centres and Associated schools, to undertake education, training and capacity building activities aimed at BR stakeholders, including managers and right holders, taking into account the SDGs

Output: Partnerships established, maintained, and reinforced. Education and training courses and programmes implemented

KBR's work in progress:

- *International Schools Network was established in 2003, including five schools in Slovenia and two in Italy. Several activities are ongoing based on annual working plan,*
- *Capacity building courses for rangers and other protected areas in Slovenia are organised.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Cooperation with University of Littoral Università del Litorale in the process of establishing UNESCO Chair with emphasis on BR principles and KBR as learning platform.*

Action: A4.3 Provide adequate research infrastructure in each BR

Output: Research activities undertaken and research outputs generated that inform BR management and increase knowledge

KBR's work in progress:

- *Classroom for laboratory activities,*
- *Several monitoring studies ongoing, data base prepared,*
- *Preparation of data base for available literature and historical archive materials in the library and archive of Škocjan Caves Park.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Establishment of GIS system in KBR,*
- *Official opening of the library of Škocjan Caves Park,*
- *Overview of past research studies performed by Universities and other research institutions.*

Action: A4.4. Identify, and disseminate good practices for sustainable development, and identify and eliminate unsustainable practices in BRs

Output: Good practices identified through research, and shared to inform BR management

KBR's work in progress:

- *Promotion of local food production and preparation as "Menu of Karst Biosphere Reserve". In this project, three local cooks are promoting family heritage, local products and several local food suppliers.*
- *Workshops with presentation of case studies abroad are organised.*
- *Good practices from around the world are shared with our followers on the FB page and the members of our Committees.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Training courses for label holders,*
- *Public awareness and capacity building for municipalities and entrepreneurs.*

Action: A4.5. Encourage managers, local communities and other BR stakeholders to collaborate in designing and implementing projects that inform the management and sustainable development of their BR

Output: Collaborative research projects undertaken. Results of research integrated in management plans

KBR's work in progress:

- *Committees for Nature Conservation, Cultural Heritage Conservation, and Sustainable Tourism propose several activities in KBR that are included in annual working plans of Škocjan Caves Park. The Committees also organise several events for promotion of KBR and their work.*
- *KBR appointed 18 ambassadors in 2012 and another 19 in 2014, three new ambassadors will be appointed in 2016. They promote KBR but also suggest the future activities based on evaluation of the work.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *To be defined in Research Strategy for KBR*

A5. Financial sustainability of BRs
--

Action: A5.1. Develop a business plan for each BR including generation of revenues and effective partnerships with potential funders

Output: BR business plan developed

KBR's work in progress:

- *N.A.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *To be defined in Strategic Working Plan for KBR*

Action: A5.2. Implement the BR business plan to produce revenues

Output: BR business plan implemented

KBR's work in progress:

- *N.A.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *To be defined in Strategic Working Plan for KBR*

A6. The effective functioning of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, with all BRs complying with its Statutory Framework

Action: A6.1. Implement an effective periodic review process as defined in the Statutory Framework

Output: Periodic review process implemented in line with the Statutory Framework

KBR's work in progress:

- *Presentation of PR's questions that were not addressed fully due to lack of data or research, measures to be taken to upgrade the activities identified.*
- *Data base for annual working plans, articles and pictures is established*

KBR's activity planned:

- *Second PR is to be sent in 2024.*

Action: A6.2. Apply adaptive management processes in BRs

Output: Adaptive management processes applied by BRs

KBR's work in progress:

- *N.A.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *To be defined in Strategic Working Plan for KBR*

A7. BRs recognized as sources and stewards of ecosystem services

Action: A7.1. Identify ecosystem services and facilitate their long-term provision, including those contributing to health and wellbeing

Output: Actions to facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from BRs implemented

KBR's work in progress:

- *Preparation of joint work with Universities on promotion and research of ecosystem services.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *To be defined in Strategic Working Plan for KBR*

Action: A7.2. Implement mechanisms for the equitable payment for ecosystem services (PES)

Output: Equitable PES mechanisms in BRs implemented

KBR's work in progress:

- *N.A.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *To be defined in Strategic Working Plan for KBR according to national legislation*

Action: A7.3. Implement programmes to preserve, maintain and promote species and varieties of economic and/or cultural value and that underpin the provision of ecosystem services

Output: Initiatives with these goals or that include these goals among others implemented

KBR's work in progress:

- *Upgrade of web page "Biodiversity between nature and culture" for participatory monitoring.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Capacity building for implementation of participatory monitoring,*
- *Educational workshops and public awareness activities.*

STRATEGIC ACTION AREA B.

Inclusive, dynamic and result-oriented collaboration and networking within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserve

B6. Transnational and transboundary cooperation between BRs

Action: B6.1. Create and implement twinning arrangements between BRs in different countries

Output: Operational twinning arrangements established

KBR's work in progress:

- *Introduction of cooperation with schools in Ghana and Schools Network of Škocjan Caves Park to teachers in Slovenia,*
- *Cooperation with Sweden MAB Committee in BR Challenge: Games that are developed democratically and promote mobility outside*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Elementary Schools in Schools Network will elaborate a film about Sustainable Commandments that were proposed as a result of Comenius project with Swedish partners in project ToDoIt.*
- *Exchange of presentation of species, habitats and cultural heritage with schools in Ghana,*
- *Research cooperation with Universities, Local Action Groups and stakeholders from KBR and BRs in Austria, Czech and Italy*
- *Connection of BRs with caves in thematic regional group.*

B7. An active and open interdisciplinary network of scientists/ knowledge holders sharing MAB vision and mission

Action: B7.1. Establish an international network of scientists/knowledge holders, working in and with BRs, that engages with national and other international networks of scientists/knowledge holders

Output: International network of scientists/knowledge holders active in and with BRs established

KBR's work in progress:

- *Partnership for preservation and popularization of Karst dry stone walling was established in 2015.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Connection of researchers and knowledge holders in Partnership for preservation and popularization of Karst dry stone walling with experts from partners in serial nomination for UNESCO.*
- *Established International network of BRs with caves*
- *Active participation in International network of BRs with rivers.*

Action: B7.2. Develop a joint research and knowledge exchange agenda for the international network

Output: Joint research and knowledge exchange agenda developed

KBR's work in progress:

- *An E-library was established in KBR in 2016, available for all BRs to share their work, reports, experiences, research.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Establishing special topics upon which the exchange of publication will be made and further promoted.*
- *Biannual publications*
- *Capacity building for managers and researchers, members of BRs within Biosphere Reserve with caves network.*

STRATEGIC ACTION AREA C.

Effective external partnership and sufficient and sustainable funding for the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserve

C3. BRs and regional networks generating their own revenues

Action: C3.2. Promote partnerships to raise funds from external entities with objectives that are compatible with those of the MAB Programme

Output: Partnerships established and funds mobilized for projects that target the application of policies or programmes external to BRs

KBR's work in progress:

- *KBR became member of Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network in 2016.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *Active participation in future project proposal presentation and implementation.*

C5. Recognition that the MAB Programme contributes to the delivery of the objectives of national, regional funding programs

Action: C5.1. Create opportunities for projects and activities funded by national and regional funding agencies

Output: Project proposals prepared targeting national and regional funding agencies in line with shared objectives

KBR's work in progress:

- *Two projects for Universities were funded by Public fund for scholarships in 2015. One will be submitted in 2016.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *To be defined in Strategic Working Plan for KBR according to national legislation.*

C6. Entrepreneurs and social enterprises contribute to BR activities

Action: C6.2. Create opportunities for entrepreneurs and social enterprises in BRs, including training, incentives and public procurement

Output: Entrepreneurs and social enterprises provided with ideas, partnerships and mechanisms to engage with BRs

KBR's work in progress:

- *Workshop on green procurement for BRs and interested institutions has been organised. New procedure for procurement according to the national legislation is being prepared for Škocjan Caves Park.*
- *Joint project of Slovene BRs and Local Action Group is being prepared.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *Identification of social enterprises in KBR and possibilities in joint activities in public awareness and tourism*

C7. Recognition of BRs nationally and internationally

Action: C7.2. Use the brand in products and services in line with national guidelines

Output: BR brand used in marketing of goods and services in line with national guidelines

KBR's work in progress:

- *An interactive map with natural, cultural features, local producers and service deliveries has been prepared. Each location was assigned specially designed board with information.*
- *Definition of the criteria for label are prepared.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Promotion of products and services with labels.*
- *KBR logo displayed on schools building, municipalities and other partners organisation,*

C8. Enhanced synergies between BRs

Action: C8.1. Encourage joint promotion and marketing of BR products and services among BRs and beyond

Output: Information exchanged on the availability of goods and services in BRs and joint schemes implemented

KBR's work in progress:

- *In order to promote local economy KBR is trying to buy goods from local suppliers and arrange for local services. On Cave's festival "Belajtnga" regularly held in May, local suppliers present themselves in an open market.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *To be defined in Strategic Working Plan for KBR according to national legislation.*

STRATEGIC ACTION AREA D.

Comprehensive, modern, open, and transparent communication, information and data sharing

D1. Full availability of MAB documents, data, information and other material

Action: D1.1. Implement the open access policy adopted by the ICC in 2014

Output: Open access established to MAB documents, data, information and other materials

KBR's work in progress:

- *E-library established in 2016.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *Systematic communication with BRs and sharing the published materials on-line also based on specific topic.*

STRATEGIC ACTION AREA E.

Effective governance of and within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

E4. Effective functioning of regional and thematic networks

Action: E4.1. Develop plan with objectives, performance assessment mechanism and timeframe for each regional and thematic network

Output: Plans with objectives and performance assessment mechanism developed by regional and thematic networks

KBR's work in progress:

- *N.A.*

KBR's activities planned:

- *Development of working plan for Network of BRs with caves and inclusion of objectives into annual working plans*
- *Including the objectives of Mediterranean Biosphere Reserve Network into annual working plans*
- *Including the objectives of Network of BRs with rivers into annual working plans*

Action: E4.2. Submit and annual report to the ICC on performance of the regional and thematic network

Output: Annual performance reports submitted to the ICC by regional and thematic networks

KBR's work in progress:

- *N.A.*

KBR's activity planned:

- *Participation in preparation of report with other members of the networks*

GEORGIA

From: Shukri Japaridze [mailto:japaridzeshukri@yahoo.com]

Sent: mardi 13 septembre 2016 18:23

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>; Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>

Subject: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear Colleagues,

I am Shukri Japaridze, Scientific secretary of the program Man and the Biosphere (MAB) in Georgia. Because of uncertain reasons, we've got your mail with time lag. As soon as we got the letter, we promptly answer to you. For the moment we are ready to share with you with the brief content of the strategy (2015-2025) of our organisation.

following the recommendation of of the "Man and Biosphere" program (increasing level of safety of the environment due to creation of the international network of Biospheric reserves or wildlife reserves) to the activity, The strategy of our organisation is:

- Trans boundary BR - Adjusted Territories of Machakhela National Park (Georgia) and Jamil BR (Turkey)
- Trans boundary BR - Adjusted Territories of Zakhatala Nature Reserve (Azerbaijan) and Lagodekhi Nature Reserve (Georgia)
- Trans boundary BR - Border Areas of Javakheti National Park (Georgia) and Aspia national park (Armenia)

Experience of the choice of the places of BR has shown the difficulties at all levels - Local, State and International.

for the solution of these important issues we hope for the help and support of UNESCO. we also hope that other college from other countries will share BR collected experience in case of creation as model territories of sustainable development and key tools for our cross-border cooperation and joint management of separate ecosystems.

Best regards,
Shukri Japaridze

Scientific secretary of Man and Biosphere (MAB) in Georgia;
Professor of the technical University;
Chemistry science Dr.

SPAIN

From: Secretaria MAB [mailto:Secretaria.MAB.esp@oapn.es]

Sent: mercredi 14 septembre 2016 08:48

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

Cc: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>

Subject: RE: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear Mr. Qunli,

In response to your request concerning the progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board, please find attached the Spanish MAB Committee report on the implementation of the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan in our country.

Many thanks for your attention.

Best regards,

Francisco José Cantos Mengs

Jefe de Área de Relaciones Internacionales y Reservas de la Biosfera.

Ministerio de Agricultura Alimentación y Medio Ambiente

Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales.

c/ José Abascal, 41 28003 Madrid.

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COMITÉ ESPAÑOL DEL PROGRAMA MaB

INFORME SOBRE LA IMPLEMENTACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA DEL MAB 2015-2025 Y EL PLAN DE ACCIÓN DE LIMA (2016-2025) EN ESPAÑA

1. PARTICIPACIÓN ESPAÑOLA EN EL IV CONGRESO MUNDIAL DE RESERVAS DE LA BIOSFERA, LIMA, 14-17 DE MARZO

El IV Congreso Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera, organizado por la Secretaría del Programa MAB de la UNESCO, el Ministerio del Ambiente de Perú y el Comité MaB peruano, se celebró en Lima (Perú) del 14 al 17 de marzo. Los principales resultados de este Congreso fueron la “Declaración de Lima” y el “Plan de Acción de Lima” para el Programa MaB de la UNESCO y su Red Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera (2016-2025).

La delegación española en el Congreso estuvo formada por más de 30 personas entre las que se encontraban: miembros del Comité Español del Programa MaB, representantes de comunidades autónomas y administraciones locales, gestores y técnicos de once reservas de la biosfera españolas y tres miembros del Consejo Científico, órgano asesor del Comité Español MaB.

Durante el Congreso, los delegados españoles participaron en los diferentes talleres regionales y temáticos que se acordaron para discutir y acordar las aportaciones al Plan de Acción de Lima. También asistieron a los diferentes eventos paralelos propuestos por distintos comités nacionales, reservas de la biosfera, científicos y otros agentes asociados al Programa MaB y la Red Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera. España lideró tres de estos eventos paralelos: uno sobre "Igualdad de género y desarrollo sostenible", otro sobre "Financiación público/privada en las reservas de la biosfera" y un tercero sobre "Reservas de la Biosfera Transfronterizas", este en colaboración con los comités MaB de Portugal, Alemania y Francia

Además, la Reserva de la Biosfera de Ordesa-Viñamala (España) fue seleccionada por los organizadores del Congreso, como uno de los dos ejemplos prácticos de reservas de la biosfera dentro de la región IberoMaB, al haber sido elegida por la propia Red IberoMaB junto a la RBT Trinacional Trifinio-Fraternidad (El Salvador, Honduras y Guatemala).

España siempre ha sido uno de los países más activos en la UNESCO. Siempre ha manifestado un apoyo continuo al Programa MaB de la UNESCO, organizando la 2ª Conferencia Mundial sobre Reservas de la Biosfera, de 1995, en Sevilla; la reunión Internacional de Pamplona (Sevilla+5) en el año 2000, y el III Congreso Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera, en 2008 en Madrid, que dio lugar al Plan de Acción de Madrid 2008-2013 (PAM).

Continuando con este marco de colaboración de España con la UNESCO, y con Perú, país anfitrión del 4º Congreso Mundial, España ha realizado un importante esfuerzo financiando la participación de 26 representantes de los Comités MaB y reservas de la biosfera de países iberoamericanos en el Congreso de Lima.

2. PRINCIPALES AVANCES EN LA IMPLEMENTACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA DEL MAB Y EL PLAN DE ACCIÓN DE LIMA EN ESPAÑA

Desde la adopción del Plan de Acción de Lima por el Consejo Internacional de Coordinación del Programa MaB, en su 28ª Sesión celebrada en Lima, celebrada a continuación del 4º Congreso Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera, en España se han puesto en marcha los mecanismos necesarios para la adaptación del PAL a la realidad española. Se pretende seguir un procedimiento similar al que se llevó a cabo, en España, hasta la aprobación del Plan de Acción de Montseny, como adaptación del Plan de Acción de Madrid a nivel nacional, en el año 2009.

Las principales actuaciones desarrolladas en estos meses son las siguientes:

2.1. Reunión del Consejo de Gestores de Reservas de la Biosfera españolas

Del 7 al 9 de septiembre de 2016 se ha celebrado en Valsain (Segovia) una reunión del Consejo de Gestores de las reservas de la biosfera españolas. Este Consejo está formado por los 48 gestores de las reservas que existen actualmente en nuestro país. La reunión contó con una elevada participación, lo que da muestra del gran interés por el tema y la importancia que tiene el trabajo en red para las reservas de la biosfera españolas.

Entre otras cuestiones, en esta reunión se acordó la creación de un grupo de trabajo para la organización de un congreso nacional de reservas de la biosfera en 2017, que tendría como principal objetivo la adopción de un Plan de Acción propio como adaptación del Plan de Acción de Lima a la realidad española.

2.2. Proceso de adaptación del Plan de Acción de Lima a la realidad española

En los próximos meses, la Secretaría del Comité Español del MaB participará activamente, junto al grupo de trabajo y al resto de los miembros del Consejo de Gestores, en la elaboración de un borrador del documento de adaptación del Plan de Acción de Lima. En este proceso se definirán acciones e indicadores específicos para el desarrollo del PAL y el Programa MaB en España durante la próxima década.

Como ya se ha mencionado, está previsto que este borrador sea discutido, ultimado y aprobado, si procede, durante un Congreso de Reservas de la Biosfera Españolas que, previsiblemente, tendría lugar en septiembre de 2017 en la Reserva de la Biosfera de Ordesa-Viñamala, coincidiendo con la celebración del 40 aniversario de creación de esta reserva de la biosfera, una de las primeras de la España junto con la de la Sierra de Grazalema.

3. Apoyo a la Red IberoMaB

Durante la 16ª reunión de la Red IberoMaB celebrada en Barcelona (España) en diciembre de 2015 fueron elegidos como Presidente D. Sergio Guevara Sada (México), Vicepresidente D. Mario Gálvez (Chile) y la Secretaría de IberoMaB recayó en España.

La participación de la Red Regional IberoMaB en el 4º Congreso Mundial fue muy activa y contó con una amplia representación de representantes de Comités Nacionales, puntos focales MaB y reservas de la biosfera de la región. Los representantes de 20 Comités Nacionales y Puntos focales MaB, y de 6 reservas de la biosfera de IberoMaB, participaron con el apoyo financiero del Gobierno de España, que financió sus viajes y estancia en Lima durante el Congreso.

Durante los meses previos al 4º Congreso, la Red IberoMaB estuvo trabajando, a través de un grupo de trabajo específico, en los sucesivos borradores del Plan de Acción de Lima (PAL) preparados por el Secretariado del Programa MaB de la UNESCO, y a los que IberoMaB presentó numerosas aportaciones y sugerencias.

3.1. 17ª Reunión de la red IberoMaB

El día 15 de marzo de 2016 se celebró en Lima en las instalaciones del 4º Congreso, la 17ª Reunión de la Red IberoMaB en la que participaron 21 países miembros de IberoMaB. La reunión estuvo presidida por D. Sergio Guevara Sada (México) y D. Mario Gálvez (Chile), presidente y vicepresidente de la red IberoMaB, respectivamente, que estuvieron acompañados en la mesa por el anfitrión D. Pedro Gamboa (Perú)

El principal resultado fue establecer los mecanismos y el calendario para adaptar el vigente Plan de Acción de IberoMaB 2010-2020 al recién aprobado Plan de Acción de Lima 2016-

2025, que será ratificado durante la reunión que la Red tiene previsto celebrar en 2017 en Colombia.

3.2. Seminario sobre “Fuentes de financiación de proyectos en la Red IberoMaB”.

También como consecuencia de las conclusiones de la 17ª Reunión de la red, la Presidencia, Vicepresidencia y Secretaría de IberoMaB, en colaboración con la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID), la UNESCO y el Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales de España, están coordinando la organización de un Seminario sobre “Fuentes de financiación para la Red IberoMaB”, que se celebrará en la ciudad de Antigua (Guatemala), entre los días 7 y 11 de noviembre próximos. De esta manera y, en cumplimiento de los objetivos del PAL, se continúa con el Programa de Formación de IberoMaB, iniciado en 2015 con el “Seminario sobre desarrollo sostenible en reservas de la biosfera de IberoMaB”, celebrado en Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia).

IRAN

From: Science Dept.INC for UNESCO [mailto:science@irunesco.org]

Sent: lundi 19 septembre 2016 11:26

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

Cc: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>

Subject: Re: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please find the attachment.

With kind regards,

Iranian National Commission for UNESCO



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

کمیسیون ملی
یونسکو-ایران

Iranian National
Commission for
UNESCO

Ref.: 25-3-7 / 1673

Date: 19/9/2016

trace code
599244

Mr HAN Qunli
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences,
Secretary, MaB Programme
UNESCO
MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org

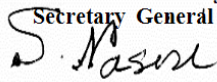
Sir,

Pursuant to your email of 24 June 2016, calling for inputs to the progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025), this is with pleasure to submit, as attachment to this letter, the report of the Iranian National Committee for MaB on the required information.

We would be more than grateful for any measures taken to have the results of the evaluation of the submitted report conveyed to the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sadollah Nasiri Gheydari

Secretary General


Copy : - Mr Peter Dogse
MaB Programme
p.dogse@unesco.org

Progress report of MAB strategy and Lima Action Plan in Iran:

1. Determine the new members of the National Committee of MAB UNESCO, in which all stakeholder groups and governmental bodies including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc. as well as experts and university professors and one representative from civil society are involved.
2. Holding four meetings of the National Committee of MAB UNESCO, in line with the implementation of Lima Action Plan, and also determining the financial mechanisms and methods for wider participation of local communities and other stakeholder groups in the management of biosphere reserve.
3. Following for a defined budget for the financial sustainability of the biosphere reserves through the government and parliament.
4. Plan for implementation of the Lima Action Plan at the national and transnational level.
5. Preparation of the proposed training plan related to the management of biosphere reserves at the national and regional level, a copy of which was sent to the Regional Office of UNESCO in Tehran, for the necessary action.
6. developing a two-year biosphere reserve management plan in Iran, according to the timeframe of Lima Action Plan and the executive priorities of relevant organizations. Details of this program is as follows, in which the progress have been specified in the last column.

Country's two-year program on Biosphere Reserve Management, based on Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

2016-2018

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility	Time range	Performance indicator	Progress report
A1. Biosphere Reserves (BRs) recognized as models contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	A1.3. Establish alliances at local, regional, international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people, taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people	MAB and BRs have established or joined alliances for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local and indigenous people	Member States, National and subnational Authorities, National MAB Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, and BRs.	By the end of 2018	Number of BRs with alliances for conservation and development	5%
	A1.4. Use BRs as priority sites/observatories for climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation, including in support of the	BRs used as priority sites and as observatories for ecosystem-based climate change action	Member States, National Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO and BRs	By the end of 2020	Number of climate change-related projects implemented in BRs, Number of national climate	5%

	UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement				change strategies acknowledging the role of BRs	
A2. Open and participatory selection, planning and implementation of BRs.	A2.1 Provide guidelines to enable Member States to apply the BR concept and implement the Action Plan effectively	Operational guidelines developed, providing a global framework within which regional and national specificities can be taken into account	MAB Secretariat in consultation with MAB ICC Members	End 2017	Adoption of guidelines by MAB ICC in 2018	3%
A4. Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs	A4.1. Establish partnerships with universities/research institutions to undertake research, especially UNESCO Chairs and Centres	Partnerships established, maintained, and reinforced. Capacity building events organized.	BRs, MAB National Committees, <i>Partner universities, research institutions, etc.</i>	By the end of 2020	Number of strategic and functional partnerships. Number of publications. Number of training and capacity building events	5%
	A4.2. Establish partnerships with educational and training institutions, especially UNESCO Chairs, Centres and Associated schools, to undertake education, training and capacity building activities aimed at BR stakeholders, including managers and rights holders, taking into account the SDGs	Partnerships established, maintained, and reinforced. Education and training courses and programmes implemented	BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, <i>Educational and training institutions including those involved in the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD</i>	By the end of 2020	Number of partnerships. Number of training events and programmes at national and BR levels	
	A4.3 Provide adequate research infrastructure in each BR	Research activities undertaken and research outputs generated that inform BR management and	BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	By the end of 2020	Number of research outputs generated that are applicable to management and	

		increase knowledge			training	
A5. Financial sustainability of BRs	A5.1. Develop a business plan for each BR including, generation of revenues and effective partnerships with potential funders	BR business plan developed	BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, National and subnational Authorities	By the end of 2018	Number of BRs with business plan	2%
C1. Adequate resources for the MAB programme and the WNBR	C1.1. Prepare a business and a marketing plan to be endorsed by the ICC	Draft business and marketing plan presented to the ICC for adoption	MAB Secretariat	Before MAB IC C in 2018	Plan endorsed by ICC	
E4. Effective functioning of regional and thematic networks	E4.1. Develop plan with objectives, performance assessment mechanism and timeframe for each regional and thematic network	Plans with objectives and performance assessment mechanisms developed by regional and thematic networks	Regional and thematic networks	By the end of 2017	Number of networks with adequate plans	5%
B3. Regional and thematic networks with adequate resources	B3.1. Develop a business plan for each network	Network business plan developed	Regional and thematic networks	By the end of 2018	Number of networks with business plan	
B.6. Transnational and transboundary cooperation between BRs	B6.1. Create and implement twinning arrangements between BRs in different countries	Operational twinning arrangements established	Member States, National Authorities, BRs, National MAB Committees	By the end of 2018	Number of twinning arrangements	10%
	B6.2. Designate and implement transboundary BRs (TBRs)	TBRs designated and implemented	Member States, National Authorities, National MAB Committees	By the end of 2020	Number of TBRs	
B.7 An active and open interdisciplinary network of scientists/knowledge holders sharing MAB	B7.1. Establish an international network of scientists/knowledge holders working in and with BRs, that engages with	International network of scientists/knowledge holders active in and with BRs established	Scientists/knowledge holders in National MAB Committees, regional and thematic networks <i>Other</i>	By the end of 2017	Number and profile of members of the network. Formal links between the network and other national	3%

vision and mission	national and other international networks of scientists/knowledge holders		<i>scientists/knowledge holders working in/with BRs</i>		and international networks of scientists/knowledge holders	
	B7.2. Develop a joint research and knowledge exchange agenda for the international network	Joint research and knowledge exchange agenda developed	Scientists in National MAB Committees, BRs, regional and thematic networks	By the end of 2019	Quality and content of the joint research agenda. Number of activities undertaken by the network	
C2. Recognition of the MAB Programme as a key partner within UNESCO and with other international organizations and relevant conventions	C2.2. Create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with international programmes and relevant conventions	Proposals developed and discussed with international programmes and relevant conventions concerning collaboration and partnerships	MAB Secretariat, networks and MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	By the end of 2017	Number of collaborations and partnerships with international programmes	5%
C4. Recognition of the MAB Programme as a key partner by private sector	C4.1. Develop guidelines on private sector partnerships for national committees and BRs	Operational guidelines developed	MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees	Before MAB ICC in 2018	Adoption of guidelines by ICC in 2018	5%
C7. Recognition of BRs nationally and internationally	C7.1. Undertake an analysis of a strengthened global BR brand, and establish this, with associated national guidelines	Global BR brand established with associated national guidelines	MAB Secretariat, National MAB Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	By the end of 2018	Official launch of the brand and guidelines	2%
D1. Full availability of MAB documents, data, information and other material	D1.1. Implement the open access policy adopted by the ICC in 2014	Open access established to MAB documents, data, information and other materials	MAB Secretariat, Networks, Member States, National Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, BRs	By the end of 2016	Online availability of documents data and other materials. Number of countries implementing the open access policy	5%
D2.	D2.1. Create a	Communic	MAB Secretariat,	By	Communica	3%

Increased awareness of all aspects of the MAB Programme	communication strategy and an action plan	action strategy and action plan created	National and subnational Authorities, and MAB National Committees	the end of 2018	action strategy and action plan endorsed by ICC	
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SLOVAKIA

From: Zuzana Guziova [mailto:zuzanaguzi@yahoo.com]

Sent: mardi 20 septembre 2016 12:49

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>; Han, Qunli <q.han@unesco.org>; Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>

Cc: Julius Oszlanyi <julius.oszlanyi@savba.sk>; Venter, Sylvie <S.Venter@unesco.org>; klara.novotna@mzv.sk; Freaud, Jarmila <j.freaud.sk@unesco-delegations.org>; Natcom Slovakia2 <edita.filadelfiova@mzv.sk>; Ing. Milan Boroš <milan.boros@sopsr.sk>; Michal Adamec <michal.adamec@sopsr.sk>; Michaela Mrázová <michaela.mrazova@sopsr.sk>; Vladimira Fabriciusova <vladimira.fabriciusova@sopsr.sk>; Mário Perinaj <mario.perinaj@sopsr.sk>; Pavol Majko <pavol.majko@sopsr.sk>; Jan Kilik <jan.kilik@sopsr.sk>; Slavomír CELER <slavomir.celer@sopsr.sk>

Subject: MAB Strategy: Input for ExBoard Session

Dear Qunli,

in response to your circular letter concerning input for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board on implementation of the MAB Strategy and LAP, we send you herewith a short information.

Should you have supplementary questions, do not hesitate and contact us.

Best regards,
Zuzana Guziova
Executive Secretary of the Slovak MAB Committee



Slovenský výbor programu Človek a biosféra

Slovak National Committee for the Programme on Man and the Biosphere

Comité slovaque national pour le Programme sur l'homme et la biosphère

Han Qunli
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth
Sciences
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere
Programme
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
F-75352 Paris 07 SP

Bratislava, 20 September 2016

Dear Mr. Han,

we refer to the circular letter received 09//09/2016 through which you have invited us to provide input to the progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy for 2015-2025 and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025).

In Slovakia, early period after adoption of the aforementioned documents is dedicated to taking governance, planning and administration related measures that will ensure smooth and full implementation of both documents.

As the first step, MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan have been translated into Slovak in order to make it universally understandable to a broad range of national and local stakeholders. Simultaneously, process of developing National Action Plan for implementation of MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan (Action Plan) has been initiated. It is believed that consultations and planning for national actions will contribute to establishment of implementation partnerships called for in Strategic Action Area C of the MAB Strategy. As soon as the Action Plan is adopted in early 2017, it will be shared with the MAB Secretariat.

In conjunction with the restructuring of the Slovak National UNESCO Commission and taking into account the need for (i) improved governance of the MAB programme in Slovakia and (ii) transdisciplinary membership, the Slovak National MAB Committee has been undergoing a deep reconstruction (Strategic Action Area E).

Besides that, numerous activities and initiatives, that started already prior to adoption of the MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan but are closely related and support their implementation, have continued.

Address of the Chairman: Dr. Július Oszlányi, Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Štefánikova 3, P.O.Box 254, SK-814 99 Bratislava, Slovakia.
Tel.: +421 2 209 20 309, Fax: +412 2 5 249 4508, E-mail: julius.oszlanyi@savba.sk



Slovenský výbor programu Človek a biosféra

Slovak National Committee for the Programme on Man and the Biosphere

Comité slovaque national pour le Programme sur l'homme et la biosphère

Biosphere reserves were integrated into the national Nature and Landscape Conservation Act and thereby legally recognised as established internationally significant areas. Four Slovak biosphere reserves, of which two are transboundary reserves, have established or are taking steps towards participatory governance. Updated biosphere reserves action/management plans resulting from participatory processes have been developed or are close to completion. Product branding has been in testing phase in one biosphere reserve. Research and monitoring programs have been under way: many of them generate data that contribute to assessing (i) the level of implementation of Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi targets as well as Sustainable Development Goals, and (ii) contribution of biosphere reserves to this global effort.

Last but not least, it is believed that information provided in this letter represent a modest contribution to implementing strategic action area E3.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julius Oszlányi'.

Dipl. Ing. Julius Oszlányi, PhD
Chairman of the Slovak National
MAB Committee

Cc:

Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to UNESCO, klara.novotna@mzv.sk, j.freaud@unesco-degations.org,
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HUNGARY

From: Koczka Krisztina [mailto:krisztina.koczka@fm.gov.hu]

Sent: mardi 20 septembre 2016 17:07

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>; Dogse, P.
<p.dogse@unesco.org>

Cc: Érdiné dr. Szekeres Rozália <rozalia.szekeres.erdine@fm.gov.hu>; Varga Ildikó dr.
<ildiko.varga@fm.gov.hu>; Hajdu-Kriston Krisztina <krisztina.kriston@unesco.hu>

Subject: Progress report on the implementation of the MAB Strategy for 2015-2025 and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025) - HUNGARY

HAN Qunli

Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB)

Dear Mr. Qunli,

In response to the MAB Circular Letter on 9th September, please find enclosed the progress report of Hungary about the implementation of the MAB Strategy for 2015-2025 and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025).

Best regards,

On behalf of

Érdiné dr. Rozalia Szekeres
Head of Department
Chair of MAB National Committee

Ms. Krisztina Koczka

councillor



Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Nature Conservation

H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth tér 11.
phone: (+36-1)795-2134
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www.kormany.hu; www.termeszetvedelem.hu



Kérem, óvja a természetet, ha nem szükséges, ne nyomtassa ki ezt az e-mailt!

**Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board
(4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the
associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)**

Hungary, as an UNESCO member state joined the MAB program in 1970s as one of the first countries.

Five biosphere reserves are typical “first generation” biosphere reserves, whereby the emphasis of the original nomination was to place international focus on the protection and scientific research of ecosystems that have a high natural value partly due to the extensive, long-lasting interactions between man and nature, in other words “Man and Biosphere”. The new Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve is the first transboundary biosphere reserve in the country was nominated by Hungary and Croatia in 2012.

Date of designation:

Aggtelek Biosphere Reserve	1979
Lake Fertő Biosphere Reserve	1979
Hortobágy Biosphere Reserve	1979
Kiskunság Biosphere Reserve	1979
Pilis Biosphere Reserve	1980
<i>Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve</i>	<i>2012</i>

Followed the Madrid Action Plan and Seville Strategy of the UNESCO were scoping whole structures, new functions of areas and natural interactions between biosphere reserves and local people living the area. In response to the ongoing revision of the UNESCO standards, the responsible organizations had to make a comprehensive revision on the Hungarian biosphere reserves, basically on their zonation system.

A long process started in 2012, when a multiple zonation system has been developed for the so called “first generation” biosphere reserves on the basis of the Seville Strategy and the Madrid Action Plan and in parallel with the Hungarian national legislation on zonation systems. The main goal was to establish the multiple zonation system. In 2013 a periodic review report has been prepared about the results.

In order to fulfil the criteria of the Statutory Framework, and recommendations of the MAB ICC, a number of consultations were held during 2014, 2015 and 2016. The preparatory work was also supported by recommendations and greatly appreciated personal assistance of the MAB Secretariat. The process was supervised by the MAB National Committee.

Following the recommendations of the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme (Jönköping, 2014.), and considering the principles of the upcoming new MAB Strategy, the zonation in every biosphere reserve was reviewed in 2014-15. Special emphasis was placed for joining clusters, ensuring connectivity between zones, and on providing the appropriate size of the transition area where it was possible. Great emphasis was laid to the designation of the transition zones to assign those areas which are suitable to ensure properly the development function.

Strengthening the involvement of local communities and other stakeholders was also an essential role during the development process. Based on this, number of meetings began in 2014 with local governments and other stakeholders, aiming closer cooperation. From 2015,

we followed the vision of the MAB Strategy as to help people working together to thrive in healthy places.

The fluent discussion, the step-by-step partnership building procedure with the municipalities finally led to the expansion of the transition zone in the case of Pilis BR and Kiskunság BR. At these biosphere reserves Coordination Boards have been established in 2016, which means major structural changes in the decision-making system. The two coordination boards were established under local stakeholder forums (“Forum for biosphere of the Pilis” and “Forum for biosphere of Kiskunság”), which were held in 2016, with the participation of the main local stakeholders (mayors of municipalities, forest company, local farmers, local NGO’s etc.).

After a long time Hungary can take an active part in the UNESCO MAB Programme again. The Chair of the MAB National Committee, Head of Department in the Ministry of Agriculture won membership for the period 2013-2017 in the MAB ICC as a voting member.

Main results in 2015-2016

- **New zonation system**
Following the suggestions of the MAB ICC, the zonation system (developed in 2012) in every Hungarian biosphere reserve was reviewed in 2014-15. Every biosphere reserve was completed by a transition zone, which helps the achievement of the objectives in connection with strengthening the sustainable development in the affected regions.
- **Management plans**
Management plans for five Hungarian biosphere reserves (Aggtelek, Lake Fertő, Pilis, Kiskunság, Hortobágy) have been compiled in 2015, in order to support management activities related to the biosphere reserves. The management plans were prepared considering the formal and content requirements learned from the international practice.
- **Involvement of local stakeholders**
The involvement of local communities in management and conservation activities was completely reviewed. In order to take into account the needs of the local stakeholders, number of personal consultation were initiated with local municipalities, NGOs etc. Stakeholder forums have been established in 2016 in the case of two biosphere reserves (Pilis BR, Kiskunság BR), with the participation of the main local stakeholders (mayors of municipalities, forest company, local farmers, local NGOs etc.).
- **Establishing of co-ordination boards**
In the case of the Pilis BR and Kiskunság BR, Coordination Boards were elected by the stakeholder forums in 2016. The main role of coordination boards is to involve local people in the management activities and decision-making processes of the biosphere reserves.
- **Active work in the MAB International Coordination Committee (MAB ICC), as one of the voting members (in the period 2013-2017).**

- **Transboundary (Interreg) projects are in progress, or are under preparation related to the biosphere reserves** (in the case of Aggtelek BR, Mura-Drava-Danube BR, Pilis BR and Kiskunság BR). These projects help to improve the living conditions of local communities (for example eco-tourism, free-time activities, local events, environmental activities of municipalities etc.), develop environmental responsibility in local populations, furthermore help to maintain the ecosystem and habitats by continuous data collection, and facilitate the accurate management by supporting decision making and involvement of stakeholders. Submitted project proposal contains also researches on the potential expansion of Mura-Drava-Danube BR.
- **Twinning cooperations**
In order to meet the “best practices” about the management of biosphere reserves, fruitful cooperative relationships were established with BRs between Pilis Biosphere Reserve and biosphere reserves in different countries: Wienerwald Biosphärenpark, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Entlebuch Biosphere Reserve and Polana Biosphere Reserve.

Implementation of the MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan in Hungary

The MAB National Committee (the main supervisor organisation of the MAB Programme in Hungary) held its annual meeting in May 2016. Rozália Érdiné dr. Szekeres (member of the MAB ICC, and chairman of the MAB National Committee) reported on the new MAB Strategy, and detailed the key elements of the Lima Action Plan (endorsed by the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves on 17 March 2016, and as adopted by the 28th MAB ICC).

The National MAB Committee has reviewed the two strategic documents, and drew attention to the number of new tasks arising from them. The documents have been shared with each biosphere reserves as well. Discussions started with the managements of the biosphere reserves.

We plan to make available the new documents relating to the MAB program to the public by the end of 2016.

Compiled by the Hungarian MAB National Committee
Budapest, 19th September 2016.

GERMANY

From: Juergen Nauber [mailto:Juergen.Nauber@BfN.de]

Sent: mercredi 21 septembre 2016 08:39

To: Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>

Cc: marc.auer@bmub.bund.de

Subject: Wtrlt: TR: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear Peter,

On behalf of our chairperson I give a brief Statement to the question of Qunli for Input to the Progress Report:

“The Lima Action Plan was translated into German and widespread. A joint working group between the MAB National Committee and the Permanent Working Group of the German biosphere reserves will be established. Inter alia the group will have the task to determine in how far national processes in the area of periodic reviews, the nomination of new biosphere reserves and the elaboration of management plans can best be improved. Also we believe that the credibility of the MAB Program in policy, science and economy has increased with the new MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan in place.”

Best regards

Jürgen

Jürgen Nauber

Geschäftsführer/Executive Secretary

of the German UNESCO MAB-National Committee

Bundesamt für Naturschutz/Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Leiter der Arbeitsgruppe/Head of Section I 2.3

Internationaler Naturschutz/International Nature Conservation

Geschäftsstelle MAB, Zusammenarbeit mit Staaten Mittel- und Osteuropas, IPBES

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BELARUS

De : mab [<mailto:mab@bsu.by>]

Envoyé : mercredi 21 septembre 2016 14:39

À : Venter, Sylvie <S.Venter@unesco.org>

Objet : Re: TR: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear HAN Qunli,

Dear Sylvie,

Please, find attached some sentences which might be useful as Input to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board.

With all the best wishes,

Natallia Rybianets

--

Natallia Rybianets
Vice-Chairperson
Belarus UNESCO-MAB National Committee
Tel/Fax:+375 17 328 64 01
e-mail: mab@bsu.by
Belarusian State University
4 Nezavisimosti Ave.
Minsk 220030 Republic of Belarus

**Proposal for Inputs to progress report
for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016)
on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025)**

***Dr Natallia Rybianets,
Vice-Chairperson, Belarus MAB National Committee
mab@bsu.by***

Biosphere reserves are recognized as platforms for learning the basic principles of the existence of nature in harmony with humankind and its economic activities. Attracting a large number of participants and enthusiasts to the embodiment of the idea of biosphere reserves, the widespread introduction of the system of environmental education, promotion of ecological way of thinking allows reduce damage of the Biosphere caused by the global industrialization.

Global experience of Concept of Biosphere Reserves implementation is reflected in different national strategies for development of national Biosphere Reserves networks in many countries over the world. The following directions of the BRs Concept create a fan of harmony between nature and human:

- sustainable development of national networks of Biosphere Reserves;
- building sustainable cooperation between like-minded people, as well as the interaction between national, regional, sub-regional BR networks;
- education of professionals for sustainable development of Biosphere Reserves;

- Biosphere Reserves branding and full using the brand of Biosphere Reserves;
- involving youth into Biosphere Reserve activities, creation of favorable conditions for work and life of youth.

Global and national strategies for BR activity in different countries in 2016-2025 years will be aimed at sustainable development of the regions over the world and altogether to reach the overall goal "To promote the development of a healthy society and prosperous settlements in harmony with the Biosphere".

DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE, ROMANIA

-----Original Message-----

From: cparceog@ddbra.ro [mailto:cparceog@ddbra.ro]

Sent: mercredi 21 septembre 2016 13:45

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>; Dogse, P. <p.dogse@unesco.org>

Subject: MAB circular letters

(See attachment)

Dear Mr. Han Qunli,

We received the circular letter concerning the implementation of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and Lima Action Plan 2016-2025 and we will present as follows some of the actions started by Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, with regards to these documents.

Lima Action Plan 2016-2025

Strategic Action Area A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves consisting of effectively functioning models for sustainable development A1. Biosphere Reserves (BRs) recognized as models contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) A1.3. Establish alliances at local, regional, international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people, taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (DDBRA), Romania, and Le Syndicat mixte de gestion du Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue (PNRC)- France, will signed in 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation for natural protected areas.

A2. Open and participatory selection, planning and implementation of BRs.

A2.3. Ensure processes for implementing, managing, monitoring and periodic review of BRs are open and participatory and take into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures

DDBRA will access funds from European Union under The Operational Programme Big Infrastructure 2014-2020 to update its management plan, taking into account the local traditions, practices and cultures, new climate changes impact, and will be an open and participatory process.

A3 Integration of BRs into relevant legislation, policies and/or programmes complemented by support for the functioning of BRs

A3.1 Recognise BRs in legislation, policies and/or programmes at national and/or subnational levels

The legal framework regarding the environmental protection in general and especially the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is continuously updated and improve for the best protection and management.

A3.2. Support effective governance and management structures in each BR.

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority increased its staff number during the last two years and have many projects in implementation, with international funds, to improve its annual budget. In the next years

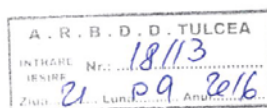
(2016-2020) many other projects will be implemented.

A4 Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs A4.1. Establish partnerships with universities/research institutions to undertake research, especially UNESCO Chairs and Centres

DDBRA have many partnerships with research institutes under many projects in different fields of activity related to environmental protection and sustainable development. The DDBRA's staff members are actively participating in many training programmes and capacity building courses.

Yours sincerely,

Governor,
Grigore BABOIANU



MINISTERUL MEDIULUI, APELOR ȘI PĂDURILOR
ADMINISTRAȚIA REZERVAȚIEI BIOSFEREI DELTA DUNĂRII

To: **Man and the Biosphere Programme**
Mr. Han Qunli, Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences

Ref: Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025)
MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org, p.dogse@unesco.org

Dear Mr. Han Qunli,

We received the circular letter concerning the implementation of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and Lima Action Plan 2016-2025 and we will present as follows some of the actions started by Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, with regards to these documents.

Lima Action Plan 2016-2025

Strategic Action Area A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves consisting of effectively functioning models for sustainable development

A1. Biosphere Reserves (BRs) recognized as models contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

A1.3. *Establish alliances at local, regional, international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people, taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people*

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (DDBRA), Romania, and Le Syndicat mixte de gestion du Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue (PNRC)- France, will signed in 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation for natural protected areas.

A2. Open and participatory selection, planning and implementation of BRs.

A2.3. *Ensure processes for implementing, managing, monitoring and periodic review of BRs are open and participatory and take into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures*

DDBRA will access funds from European Union under The Operational Programme Big Infrastructure 2014-2020 to update its management plan, taking into account the local traditions, practices and cultures, new climate changes impact, and will be an open and participatory process.

A3 Integration of BRs into relevant legislation, policies and/or programmes complemented by support for the functioning of BRs

A.R.B.D.D. - Ocroteste natura și păstrează tradițiile! ®

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E-mail: arbdd@ddbra.ro
<http://www.ddbra.ro>
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A3.1 Recognise BRs in legislation, policies and/or programmes at national and/or subnational levels

The legal framework regarding the environmental protection in general and especially the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is continuously updated and improved for the best protection and management.

A3.2. Support effective governance and management structures in each BR.

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority increased its staff number during the last two years and has many projects in implementation, with international funds, to improve its annual budget. In the next years (2016-2020) many other projects will be implemented.

A4 Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs

A4.1. Establish partnerships with universities/research institutions to undertake research, especially UNESCO Chairs and Centres

DDBRA has many partnerships with research institutes under many projects in different fields of activity related to environmental protection and sustainable development. The DDBRA's staff members are actively participating in many training programmes and capacity building courses.

Yours sincerely,

Governor,
Grigore BABOIANU



n.r. 915 / scp / cp / 19.09.2016

A.R.B.D.D. - Ocrotește natura și păstrează tradițiile! ®

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CHINA

From: 马雪蓉 [mailto:xrma@cashq.ac.cn]

Sent: mercredi 21 septembre 2016 15:56

To: Venter, Sylvie <S.Venter@unesco.org>

Cc: Wang Ding <wangd@ihb.ac.cn>

Subject: Re: TR: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear Ms. Sylvie Venter,

Thank you for the reminding. The attachment is the *Feedback from China MAB*. Because of the network problem, we're running one day behind schedule. I'm sorry for the inconvenience.

With best regards,

Ma Xuerong
Secretary of China MAB

Feedback from Chinese National Committee for Man and Biosphere Programme on the MAB Strategy 2015-2025

Since their foundation in 1978, China-MAB and its secretariat have been committed to their duties, especially duties in preserving biodiversity and cultural diversity. As of 2016, 33 nature reserves in China have successfully joined UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). We also established China Biosphere Reserve Network (CBRN), which is the first of the kind in international community, and founded the journal *Man and the Biosphere*, the only public journal about the MAB Programme.

Over the past four decades, China has been one of the most active countries in the MAB Programme, provided a large number of cases and an abundance of experience, and made outstanding contributions to promoting and developing the concept of the Programme.

In 2015, UNESCO developed a new draft of the MAB Strategy. The Chinese National Committee for MAB attaches great importance to the development of the new strategy.

In June 2015, the Chinese National Committee for MAB held a seminar in Fanjingshan Biosphere Reserve, Guizhou Province, to discuss the new strategy. At the meeting, experts specializing in sustainable development presented UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy, the new progress in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the draft of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 to Chinese biosphere reserve managers.

In March 2016, the Chinese National Committee for MAB led a delegation made up by 19 biosphere reserve managers and other representatives to attend the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves. They shared their experience in the management of biosphere reserves, community development and environmental education in

sub-forums and actively participated in discussions regarding *Lima Action Plan*. At the convention, UNESCO's Michel Batisse Award was given to Wudalianchi Biosphere Reserve.

In response to “Strategic Action Area D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, information and data sharing”, and other programs of action in the MAB Strategy 2015-2025, the Chinese national Committee for MAB has taken the following actions.

1. Establish Chinese Biosphere Reserve Training System

In order to further improve the management of biosphere reserves as well as to promote the sharing of ideas and experience in management, the Chinese National Committee for MAB established Chinese Biosphere Reserve Training System, in hopes that the system will, through training and communication, help biosphere reserves correctly handle the relationship between development, raise the efficiency of protection and management, explore appropriate sustainable development methods, promote work in all areas by drawing upon the experience gained on key points and promote sustainable, steady and healthy development of nature reserves in China, so that world biosphere reserves can truly become demonstration projects for sustainable development.

So far, we have established two training bases (i.e., Fanjingshan and Shennongjia) and organized three training activities related to reserve management and promotion.

The Chinese National Committee for MAB will continue to hold CBRN Convention every year to further promote and interpret the MAB Strategy, to organize training programs and to exchange experience in reserve management.

2. Establish the Young Scientist Award and the Greenguard Award for biosphere reserves in China

The Young Scientist Award was established to encourage young researchers of member units of the CBRN and to improve the research and development competence of the member units of the CBRN. The Greenguard Award is granted to employees of

the member units of the CBRN who are working in the front line of reserve management and protection, aiming to promote the sense of responsibility and the sense of honor among them, to increase social awareness of biosphere reserves and to increase the effectiveness of promotion efforts.

3. Strictly implement the end-of-decade assessment procedures

Since 2014, the Committee has been organizing files on world biosphere reserves in China on a regular basis and developed an assessment plan every three years. The 2014-2016 Assessment Plan has been basically completed. The Committee is currently compiling assessment data. For more specific information, see the table below.

The 2017-2019 Assessment Plan is currently being drafted. In the meantime, in order to further standardize assessment activities, China MAB Secretariat has developed notes to assessment (draft), deciding on specific assessment criteria, required materials, etc., and has authorized experts to develop specialized materials based on that, including the standard of map, and released the *Guide on the Assessment of World Biosphere Reserves in China*.

Meanwhile, during the archiving process, the Chinese National Committee for MAB discovered several problems, including the incompleteness of data on world biosphere reserves for early phases and illegible paper files. It plans to submit a file examination application to UNESCO at the end of 2016 after the first round of file checking is completed.

On the basis of the above efforts, the Chinese National Committee for MAB will actively develop a national action plan in accordance with the New MBA Strategy.

Chinese National Committee for MAB

ANNEX

De : MAB circular letters

Envoyé : vendredi 24 juin 2016 15:39

À : MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

Objet : Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Importance : Haute

To: [MAB National Committees and Focal Points; BR Managers and Focal Points, Regional and Thematic MAB and BR Network Focal Points](#)

cc.: [Permanent Delegations to UNESCO](#)

Subject: **Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)**

Dear Colleagues,

As you recall, the General Conference at its 38th session (November 2015) endorsed the MAB Strategy 2015-2025, requesting the MAB Secretariat to prepare a progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy for 2015-2025 and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025).

For this purpose, we would very much welcome your feed-back on activities undertaken and/or planned by MAB National Committees, biosphere reserves and the regional and thematic networks to implement the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan. It is proposed that inputs received will be made available on the MABnet on page: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/strategies-and-action-plans/new-mab-strategy-and-action-plan/documents/>

I would welcome your inputs **by 21 July 2016** to be sent at the following address email MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org and copy to Peter Dogse (p.dogse@unesco.org).

Thanks in advance.

Best regards,

HAN Qunli

Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences

Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Yours sincerely,

Aux : **Comités Nationaux du MAB et Points Focaux, Managers des RB et Points Focaux, Points Focaux Régionaux et Thématique du MAB et du Réseau de RB**

cc. : **Délégations Permanentes auprès de l'UNESCO**

Objet : Commentaires sur le rapport d'avancement pour la 200e session du Comité exécutif de l'UNESCO (4-18 Octobre 2016) sur l'application de la Stratégie du MAB (2015-2025) et du Plan d'Action de Lima associé (2016-2025)

Chers collègues,

Comme vous vous en souvenez, la Conférence Générale a approuvé la Stratégie du MAB 2015-2025 lors de sa 38e session (novembre 2015). Par conséquent, en vue de la 200e session du Comité Exécutif de l'UNESCO (4-18 octobre 2016), le Secrétariat du MAB s'est vu attribuer la tâche de rédiger un rapport d'avancement sur la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie du MAB 2015-2025 et du Plan d'Action de Lima associé (2016-2025).

A cet effet, nous vous appelons à nous faire part de vos suggestions et impressions sur les activités visant à appliquer la Stratégie du MAB 2015-2025 et le Plan d'Action de Lima (2016-2025), entreprises et/ou prévues par les Comités Nationaux du MAB, les réserves de biosphère, et les réseaux régionaux et thématiques.

Les commentaires reçus seront disponibles sur le MABnet à la page suivante :

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/strategies-and-action-plans/new-mab-strategy-and-action-plan/documents/>

Je serais très heureux de recevoir vos apports d'ici le **21 juillet 2016** à l'adresse email suivante MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org et copie à Peter Dogse (p.dogse@unesco.org).

Je vous en remercie par avance.

Bien cordialement,

HAN Qunli

Directeur, Division des sciences écologiques et de la terre
Secrétaire, Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère MAB

De : MAB circular letters

Envoyé : jeudi 4 août 2016 15:37

Cc : MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>; **Objet :** TR: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to thank once more those of you who kindly have provide inputs in response to the below MAB Circular Letter.

Due to the ongoing holiday season in many Member States, please kindly note that the deadline has been extended to **5 September 2016**, in order to facilitate the MAB National Committees and focal points for biosphere reserves to submit their inputs.

Thanks in advance for your kind attention.

Best regards,

HAN Qunli
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB)

Chers Collègues,

Nous renouvelons nos remerciements à chacun de ceux qui ont soumis leurs commentaires en réponse à la Lettre circulaire du MAB que vous trouverez ci-après.

En cette période estivale pour nombre d'Etats membres, je vous prie de bien vouloir prendre en considération la nouvelle date limite fixée au **5 septembre 2016** afin de laisser l'opportunité à chacun des points focaux MAB et des réserves de biosphère de soumettre leurs contributions.

Je vous en remercie par avance.

Cordialement,

HAN Qunli
Directeur, Division des sciences écologiques et de la terre
Secrétaire, Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère MAB

From: Venter, Sylvie

Sent: vendredi 9 septembre 2016 13:39

To: MAB circular letters <MAB.circular.letters@unesco.org>

Subject: TR: Inputs to progress report for the 200th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (4-18 October 2016) on the implementation of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the associated MAB Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)

Dear Colleagues,

It turns out that the MAB Circular Letter below could not be received by a number of recipients. That is why we address you again this circular letter extending the deadline to **20 September 2016**.

Many thanks in advance for your kind attention.

Best regards,

HAN Qunli
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB)

Chers Collègues,

Il s'avère que la lettre circulaire du MAB ci-dessous n'a pas pu être réceptionnée par un certain nombre de destinataires. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous vous adressons à nouveau cette lettre circulaire en prolongeant le délai de réponse **au 20 septembre 2016**.

Je vous en remercie par avance.

Cordialement,

HAN Qunli
Directeur, Division des sciences écologiques et de la terre
Secrétaire, Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère MAB