

**Compilation of Submissions Received in Response to the
MAB Circular Letter of 6 March 2014 on the
Development of the New MAB Strategy**

**Compiled by the UNESCO MAB Secretariat
21 May 2014**

List of content

MAB Nat Coms. & Focal Points and UNESCO Nat Coms.	Date received
Vietnam	21 March 2014
Austria	31 March 2014
Egypt	01 April 2014
Canada	04 April 2014
Sudan	08 April 2014
Nigeria	09 April 2014
Spain	10 April 2014
South Africa	10 April 2014
Pakistan	10 April 2014
Hungary	10 April 2014
United Kingdom	10 April 2014
Russian Federation	11 April 2014
Lebanon	12 April 2014
Belgium	14 April 2014
Philippines	16 April 2014
France	16 April 2014
Zimbabwe	16 April 2014
Turkey	16 April 2014
Belarus	16 April 2014
Switzerland	17 April 2014
Japan	18 April 2014
Colombia	22 April 2014
Chile	12 May 2014
Germany	13 May 2014
Sweden	21 May 2014
Regional Networks	
EuroMAB network	25 April 2014
Biosphere Reserves	
Ramat Menashe BR (Israel)	09 April 2014
Black Sea BR (Ukraine)	18 April 2014
La Palma BR (Spain)	21 April 2014
Karst BR (Slovenia)	28 April 2014

Recommendations and suggestions from Vietnam MAB National Committee.

To be submitted to UNESCO/MAB Paris

Cc: UNESCO Hanoi Office, Vietnam Commission for UNESCO

Submitted by Vietnam MAB National Committee

Contact address: Prof. Dr. Nguyen Hoang Tri, President and Secretary General of MAB Vietnam

Email: Hoangtri1951@gmail.com

These recommendations and suggestions carried out from recent workshop of MAB Vietnam ‘Orientation of MAB VN and Vietnam National network of biosphere reserve for 2014-6 and upon 2020, held in Hanoi, 20th March 2014, UNESCO National Commission(NatCom)’s Meeting Hall.

We all agree with the set of document of the world network of biosphere reserves (WNBR) post rio+20 opportunities and towards a strategy for 2014-2021 and would like to contribute to the future strategy for the period by following points:

1. National MAB committees and BRs should be recognised legally by Central Government and their activities should be integrated into the Governmental and sectoral policies, especially National Agenda 21 and national priorities of social-economical plans in all levels. We may suggest that the WNBR should review the legal situations and issue relevant guidelines to apply to all BRs within WNBR. A sustainable financially mechanism should be mainstreamed in national priorities.
2. It is very appreciated to focus on sustainable development/SD Goals and using BRs as tools/platform or modalities for sustainable development and a guideline from WNBR would be needed.
3. MAB Vietnam appreciates the term of BRs activated as a mini UNESCO or interdisciplinary approach. MAB VN are going ahead in using their own approach called SLIQ (**S**ystem thinking; **L**andscape planning; **I**ntersectoral coordination; **Q**uality economy) with explaining that seeing BR as a whole system including different components, not separated and interrelationship and partnership development will be worked out from both philosophical and practical needs; the effectiveness of zonation and outlines of BR will be improved by using principles and knowledge from landscape ecology; intersectoral coordination should be encouraged to

change the single sector dominated into new integrated coordination among and between sectors including civil society, private sectors and community participation; quality economy in developing country like Vietnam will be conservation-based economy and green growth including poverty reduction and benefits from BRs.

4. Following items should be focused in the early two year (2014-2015) in the strategy:

- BR legal status within the Nation/Province, and budget line established
- Climate Change adaptation methods developed and working well
- Healthy robust ecosystems, ecosystems intact and functioning to support environment conservation
- Culture of BR sustained and very active in support of environmental conservation and social well being
- Social cohesion within the BR with a common vision of its function, and active participation in maintaining BR values
- Poverty overcome and human population stable
- Infrastructure which supports environmental conservation and business opportunities
- Tourism management systems coordinated and badged with BR label
- Cultural events which highlight BRs
- International Meeting on promoting cultural activities in support of environmental conservation
 - . Public associations support and activities encouraged
 - . Private business understanding how supporting BR values can improve their business activities
 - . Business and public associations active in promoting and developing BR brand as beneficial for their activities e.g. tourism; clean/green production particularly in agriculture and aquaculture
 - . Financial and legal support for BR actions permanently established
 - . Education and research support roles well established

From: Köck, Günter []
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Man & Biosphere
Cc: Bouamrane, Meriem; Han, Qunli
Subject: RE: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 / Future Stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère 2014-2014

Dear colleagues,,

Here are some thoughts/comments/suggestions from the Austrian MAB Committee for the new MAB Strategy 2014-2015.

All the best
Günter

To Point 1. Vision and Mission Statement....

We would suggest a statement of health aspects, e.g. "Biosphere reserves as resources for human health and well-being - restorative theories, empirical findings and potentials" "

Perhaps missing: an explicit note to "facilitating research"

Perhaps missing in the vision statement: state of natural condition. Maybe add something like "...via a reduced environmental impact..".

To Point 4. Future MAB Research.....

Integrated comparative monitoring schemes (piloting and implementation)

The monitoring of ecological and socio-economic effects of Biosphere Reserves over the time (development monitoring) and in comparison with other Biosphere Reserves and similar non-Biosphere Reserve areas (structural monitoring) can be an important strategic management tool. This comparative data would provide much needed insights in the success and failure of Biosphere Park strategies. The slim monitoring schemes should be based on secondary data and tailored to the bio-physical and socio-cultural characteristics of Biosphere Reserves in similar geographical contexts (e.g. integrated monitoring schemes for Alpine Biosphere Reserves, for Coastal Biosphere Reserves, etc.). Pilot studies should result in the actual implementation of feasible monitoring schemes that then can be transferred to other Biosphere Parks.

Evaluation of the BRIM framework

We propose to move from Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring (BRIM) to Biosphere Reserve Integrated Assessment (BRIA), by distinguishing between observation and monitoring on the one hand and assessment and management on the other. Observation would lead to indicators, which after thorough analysis would lead to management decisions. Moreover, we propose to focus observation and monitoring on the use-related interactions between the social and natural systems in BRs. This implies that some funds should be reserved for research directly related to attaining the BR goals, rather than research performed within their premises.

To Point 5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

Increase the Visibility of the networks and better communication of the work done with the public.

To Point 7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners

Experiment with new tools, in part. "crowd funding" (which could also have a double benefit of increasing visibility of the projects).

To Point 8. Communication and Information

Improve sharing of information within networks via the organisation of research conferences, but also electronically by sharing of resources, publications, case examples etc.

Improve the transdisciplinary function of the networks.

Check out the new eco.mont – Journal on Protected Mountain Areas Research:

<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ecomont/>. Now registered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (Thomson Reuters)!

Dr. Günter Köck

Nationale und internationale Forschungsprogramme

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften

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1010 Wien

Österreich

The Egyptian National MAB Committee met last week and decided that they would like you to know their views as given below:

The Committee would like to emphasize that they prefer to limit the focus for Egyptian BRs into not more than 6 areas:

Focus area 4. Education

Focus area 6. Water and sanitation

Focus area 14. Sustainable Consumption and Production

Focus area 15. Climate

Focus area 17. Ecosystems and biodiversity

The Committee sees that Focus area 1. (Poverty eradication) is an all-encompassing area that will be guiding activities governing in particular Focus area 14.

The Committee commented on the issues evoked in the Annex as such:

1. Vision and Mission: The answer is yes, but the priorities of Rio+20 (the SDGs) must be referred to as a point of take-off.
2. Key issues: The relation between processes and events is to be made clear. The most important goals and achievements should strive towards: (1) Good Management (2) Appropriate Education (3) Intelligent Marketing of BR eco-friendly products and (4) Promotion of eco-tourism.
3. MAB services: They should deliver know-how. The Egyptian Committee produces the bi-lingual quarterly *Egypt MAB Bulletin* since 1977 for the benefit of the Egyptian intellectual public, education, and know-how for a wide public in Egypt and in Arab countries.
4. Future MAB Research: Same comment as for #2.
5. MAB Networks: They need to be properly funded. The ArabMAB Network is remembered only when dates its scheduled meetings are imminent. Furthermore, and in spite of weak funding, the Committee proposed linkages for Universities engaged in conservation teaching and research, for National administrative entities (Ministries of Environment), and grass-roots NGOs.
6. MAB Governing Mechanisms. The Committee did find this an essential issue.

7. Funding Mechanisms: The Committee placed a great importance for this issue. All the given examples were welcome and that they cannot be prioritized, and are to be pursued step-by-step.

8. Communication and Information: The Committee proposes to establish a facebook account for every Biosphere Reserve and every MAB NatCom.

With best wishes
Prof. Samir GHABBOUR
Chairman,
EgNatCom



27 March 2014

April 4, 2014

Comments on the UNESCO circular letter

MAB Future Strategy

(ref: CL/MAB/2014/1)

Prepared by
Stan Boychuk, Chair Canadian MAB Committee
Jean-Philippe L. Messier, Member Canadian MAB Committee/ Chair Canadian
Biosphere Reserves Association
Dominique Potvin, Program Officer, Natural Sciences, Canadian Commission for
UNESCO



1. Vision and mission for MAB and WNBR

Updated Proposed Vision:

The WNBR is a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence. These sites are the main international tool to implement and understand sustainable development.

Proposed elements added to the existing mission and writing proposition:

MAB is a network of sites that operationalize sustainable development in a wide array of local contexts.

The WNBR fosters the harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue; knowledge sharing; poverty reduction and human well-being improvements; respect for human rights and cultural values, particularly of indigenous peoples and society's ability to cope with change - thus contributing to the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Comments on actual mission:

These following statements are part of the current mission. From our perspective, they are strategic objectives to complement the vision and mission statements rather than an integral part of the mission:

To ensure environmental, economic and social (including cultural and spiritual) sustainability through:

- the development and coordination of a worldwide network of places acting as demonstration areas and learning sites with the aim of maintaining and developing ecological and cultural diversity, and securing ecosystem services for human well-being;
- the development and integration of knowledge, including science, to advance our understanding of interactions between people and the rest of nature;
- building global capacity for the management of complex socio-ecological systems, particularly through encouraging greater dialogue at the science-policy interface; environmental education; and multi-media outreach to the wider community.

2. Key issues, international processes and strategic goals

3 strategic goals for the programme are recommended:

- A network consisting of fully functioning sites that work in concert with the MAB programme

- A common and agreed upon understanding of the programme mandate (to put behind the confusion existing on the gap of understanding on what the MAB programme is).
- A focus on operationalizing sustainability (including social and economic) at the local level, supported through community-based research and the new economy.

3. MAB services

2 main services linked to the mission proposed for the MAB programme are recommended:

- Support learning exchanges among BRs internationally
- Sharing best practices of operationalization of sustainability (including social and economy) at the local, regional, and international levels

Both of these services must better link BRs to the post 2015 global agenda.

4. Future MAB research, policies and action agenda

One priority for the field of research for the MAB programme, linked to the proposed mission, is being recommended :

- Community based research, that focuses on implementation and operationalization of sustainability (including social and economic) at the local level, bridging with regional and international levels.

5. MAB regional/thematic networks

Four important aspects concerning the future strategy are recommended to be recognized:

- Strong value of regional networks (ex: EuroMAB)
- Strong value of thematic networks (NordMAB)
- Encourage national BR association of BRs (ex: CBRA)
- We recommend flexibility in the way existing networks function in order to keep relevant and efficient in the context of their areas of work
- Informal networks should be promoted according to expressed needs

6. MAB governing mechanisms

One important change concerning MAB governance is being recommended for the future MAB strategy :

- Designation should be for a 10 years period (not-permanent), renewal only upon resubmission (rather than periodic review). (Ex.: UNESCO's Chairs)

General comment:

- In terms of mechanism, a more rigorous and consistent application of existing norms/procedures is critical for the future success of the programme.

7. Funding mechanisms and implantation partners

General comments on this aspect:

- There is a crucial need to enhance level of partnership around the MAB programme. The goal should be to generate private sector partnerships.
- Local first: It is the responsibility of the individual BRs, and through their national associations, to find proper financing and partnerships.
- This being said, it is the responsibility of the international level (ex. MAB secretariat, Regional networks) to promote international level partnerships (ex: with multinational companies) facilitating the engagement of BRs to benefit from partnerships that they would not have the leverage to achieve alone.
- Theses partnerships need to be promoted at local, national and international levels.

8. Communication and information

General comments on this aspect:

- Simple, cheap and accessible communication through social media among BRs is critically urgent.

De : Salwa Mansour Abdelhameed _____

Envoyé : mardi 8 avril 2014 13:15

À : Man & Biosphere

Objet : FW: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 / Future Stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère 2014-2014

Dear

Please find attached

With regards

Ms. Salwa Mansour Abdelhameed

Chair National MAB Committee

Sudan

Subject: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserve (2014-2021)

1- The Vision and mission of MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserve

- Well written reflecting the main goals of MAB.
- No need to be changed. The challenges are the same and will continue in the future – may be edited because the period for MDG, s goals is about to finish.

2- Key Issues , international process and strategic goals

- More focus on research, training, capacity building and demonstration agendas of MAB at the interface between the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities.
- More Focus on partnership approach and integrated international, national and local efforts to meet global targets, specifically under the role of the WNBR and regional networks.
- Focus and attention should be given to the future global challenge on water resources scarcity especially in BRs, MAB need to join the UNESCO IFP program, in its efforts on Eco-hydrology program. A new thematic group should be initiated to deal with this aspect.

3- MAB Services

- MAB should continue to elaborate the four distinct categories of services: supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural services. But more attention should be given to socio-cultural services in transition zone.

4- Future MAB Research, Policy, and action Agendas.

- More focus on regional collaboration for research, implementation and monitoring.
- Formulation of step by step guidelines for policy development is needed.
- Demonstration of methodologies for implementation of research actions, to all, at regional and local levels is responsibility of regional networks.
- Dissemination of research findings and excellent implemented examples would not achieve the goal if only via awards. Might be by developing MAB Journal, MAB Committees could disseminate it to BR, s in the developing countries where most of them have no internet.
- The partnership approach to achieve the vision and mission of the MAB Programme, not fully maintained, because “Responsibility” as stated in MAP main four actions, for action implementation are by many actors. The cooperation and collaboration for implementation at regional levels should be strengthened.
- For the new Strategy, the revision of the (4) main action areas, with 31 targets and 65 actions that are critical to achieving the vision and mission of the MAB Programme, is excellent and would pave the way forward for the new strategy to be more concise, focusing on lesser number of targets and actions that could be possible and applicable at local, national or international, within the time-frame set (2014- 2021), bearing in mind the challenges especially the global economic crises.

5- MAB Regional and thematic network.

- Communication between members of specific network is weak, it is just during regional meetings. The funding mechanisms for some regional network is behind the weak performance.
- Development of Thematic working groups within each network is possible. The themes should focus on the ecosystem services; especially eco-hydrology, conservation, land use and development issues.
- Annual assessment of Regional Networks’ performance is essential

6- MAB Governing mechanisms

- Yes, at national level, should be considered an essential main issue.
- MAB Committees have great, critical role to do regarding the achievement of the vision and mission of the MAB Programme.
- Guidelines for National MAB Committee, including the structure and responsibility, may be disseminated to those countries where there is no MAB Committee, just a focal point for MAB.

7- Funding mechanisms and implementation partners

- In most of the developing countries most of BR lack human and financial resources, should reserve priority attention.
- For MAB to promote its integrated approach, and to maintain its contribution to other international convention; Bio-diversity and Climate Change, Forestry Agenda, Desertification....etc. joint funding mechanisms and co-operation of certain project

- implementation with international, regional organizations is needed. Need to convince the Private Sector, NGOs with the benefits and incentives.
- MAB regular budget is minimal if compared to its strategy and action plans, hence more focus for extrabudgetary funds.

8- Communication and implementation

- WNBR acts as a demonstration library, disseminating the Data base of successful implementation examples for each regional network.
- Exchange of information and demonstration of successful implementation among members of all regional networks and thematic groups would foster the communication and implementation and is possible via a WNBR international meeting.
- Communication with BR, s in the developing countries where most of them have no internet, is very difficult. Regular regional network meetings should be increased to strengthen the communication between BRs.

Building on the lessons learned from Seville Strategy and experience gained from MAP , the implementation of any new strategy will require an adaptive approach by region and strong coordination among the MAB family at all levels (ICC, WNBR, Regional networks, National MAB Committees, Regional Centres, Biodiversity Chairs, etc.).

The regional offices for Arabs are mostly of uni-sectoral nature and with no effective coordination between the various UNESCO Programmes. Although the integration between the different programs is stated in UNESCO Strategy. There is a need to the reform of these regional offices to be UNESCO multi-sectorial regional offices with all the five sectors represented, for better implementation of UNESCO programme in the different regions. To keep the regional dimension of the MAB programme, it is imperative to put in place a coordination mechanism among these multi-sector regional offices within the same UNESCO region. MAB activities in the region will require networked communication and planning among all regional offices, national committees, UNESCO Regional Networks and WNBR. This coordination should be done by a regional specialists(eg ecologists) posted at one of the all regional offices, and who will coordinate joint MAB activities in collaboration with other related sciences sectors, because the interrelated challenges are to be addressed by the new MAB Strategy as by others UNESCO Programmes' strategies.

This new structure, particularly in Arab region, provides an opportunity to strengthen partnership with the Biodiversity units or Government institutions and to align interventions with the priorities of the region and different state party. Special attention should be given to strengthen the involvement of national MAB committees in the implementation of the new Strategy together with related International Conventions.

De : Adeshola Adepoju

Envoyé : mercredi 9 avril 2014 10:54

À : Man & Biosphere

Objet : NIGERIAN NATIONAL MAB COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE STRATEGY FOR MAB AND WNBR 2014-2021

Sir,

Kindly find the attached NIGERIAN NATIONAL MAB COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE STRATEGY FOR MAB AND WNBR 2014-2021

Shola Olatunde Adepoju (Ph.D)

Provost

Coordinator/Liaison Officer, (FRIN)

Dept. of Agric. Ext. & Mgt.

Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN)

Federal Ministry of Environment

NIGERIAN NATIONAL MAB COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE STRATEGY FOR MAB AND WNBR 2014-2021

Response to Possible Questions to Address in the Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

1. The Vision and Mission statement for MAB and its WNBR is in order and need no amendment, as the strategy is comprehensive enough and satisfactory.
2. Most important goals should be sustainable livelihood and sustainable enterprise principles to achieve poverty reduction.
3. MAB and Its WNBR should provide services, such as, capacity building, skill acquisition, improved technology practices and machinery in communities within and around biosphere reserves.
4. Future MAB research should focus on activities and enterprises that promote improved livelihood and sustainable development of biosphere reserves, as well as forum for exchange of ideas by researchers. MAB should also facilitate and encourage financial support for these activities.
5. The present MAB regional and Thematic Networks seems okay, but could be made to function better through adequate financial support and corporate sponsorship.
6. The MAB Governing Mechanisms at present is okay and need no revisit.
7. The private sector entrepreneur and other supporting groups could be encouraged as new implementation partners, but various governments or nations commitment is also paramount to the funding mechanism.
8. Communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments would be of advantage if comprehensive network could be sustained and guaranteed.

De : Secretaría MAB - España

Envoyé : jeudi 10 avril 2014 18:00

À : Man & Biosphere

Cc : Cantos Mengs, Francisco Jose; de Torres Suárez, Alvaro; Secretaría MAB - España

Objet : Propuestas para la nueva estrategia del Programa MaB 2014-2021

Estimados señores:

Como respuesta a la comunicación remitida al Comité Nacional del Programa MaB en España en marzo de 2014 y firmada por el señor Han Qunli, Director de la División de Ecología y Ciencias de la Tierra de la Secretaría del Programa MaB de la UNESCO, referente a la contribución al proceso de elaboración de la Nueva Estrategia del Programa MaB 2014-2021, remitimos desde la Secretaría del Comité MaB Español un documento de respuesta siguiendo el cuestionario anexo a la comunicación del señor Han Qunli.

Esperamos que nuestros comentarios, así como los de otros comités nacionales puedan facilitar la redacción y aprobación de un documento consensuado y útil para el futuro desarrollo del Programa MaB.



Secretaría del Comité MaB Español.

SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DRAFT STRATEGY FOR THE 2014-2021 MAB PROGRAMME

1. Vision and mission statements of the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

The vision and mission statements for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) contained in the Madrid Action Plan are appropriate and remain in force. We believe that it would indeed be appropriate to add the following:

Biosphere reserves shall be **places in which responses to adapt to worldwide change will be tried and tested with emphasis on sustainability** so that successful responses can subsequently be applied in the rest of the territory.

2. Key themes, international issues and strategic objectives

The strategic challenge is to ensure that the WNBR operates as a network of places of excellence for **experimenting with and demonstrating genuine sustainable development, transcending theoretical discourse**. The necessary condition is to **continue strengthening those biosphere reserves which maintain effective activity and to formulate an exit strategy for those unable to meet MAB Programme objectives**, which will lead to an increase in the value and prestige of the MAB Programme and of the biosphere reserves.

Biosphere reserves are places in which to establish alliances between conservation officials, development promoters and economic and social stakeholders in order to put **genuinely sustainable development models into practice**, including proper governance models.

- Dissemination of the significance of the MAB Programme and the biosphere reserves must be addressed at all echelons (the Secretariat, Regional Offices, the national level and individual biosphere reserves) in order to **offset any lack of information and understanding of MAB Programme objectives** on the part of citizens and politicians.
- **Efficient evaluation systems** must generally be linked, in collaboration with the biosphere reserves themselves and, in particular, with the National Committees, in order to identify the best demonstration cases and implement the exit strategy efficiently.

3. MAB services

Involve all MAB stakeholders in a **major communication operation**, while seeking synergy among the various efforts.

- The MAB Programme must operate as a **hub for knowledge** derived from biosphere-reserve and network research and practice and as a **clearing house** for such knowledge, with special attention being paid to successful experiments.
- Develop the **UNESCO/MAB website in order to meet the information needs of various users** such as biosphere reserve inhabitants, National Committees, Regional Offices, various networks and youth. It must be devoted to information intended for politicians by providing them with knowledge-policies-practices links).
- Take advantage of **online social-network opportunities** to disseminate key MAB Programme messages.
- **Help identify effective means of evaluating** biosphere reserves in order to facilitate implementation of the exit strategy.

4. Research, policies and activities for the future of MAB

- Encourage biosphere reserves to experiment with **innovative responses to conditions of worldwide change** and to link facilities to disseminate success in the form of demonstration cases.
- Strengthen the **biosphere reserves' demonstrative role and research ways and means of including biosphere reserves into national development policies**, land-use planning and the environment (laws, policies and programmes).
- Strengthen the **“transitional zone” concept as specific to biosphere reserves** and as an example of unprotected areas, by integrating biosphere-reserve conservation, development and logistical functions into planned transitional zones:
 - highlight the need for them to be large enough;
 - stress their major role in achieving strategic biosphere reserve objectives by hosting the bulk of the population and by developing economic activity.

5. Regional networks and issues

- The new thematic networks must propose a period **of applicability** after which to assess its results and situation and decide whether it should be continued.
- **The objectives**, barriers, achievements and strengths of existing thematic networks must be reviewed at the end of a maximum of ten years' operation and the question addressed of whether or not to continue them.
- It is recommended that provision be made for **coordination and communication among its components** to ensure the smooth running or long-term maintenance of regional and thematic networks. For this it would be helpful to:
 - identify the **commitment of actual countries** (preferably more than one) for long enough (perhaps five years) in order to coordinate and maintain communication flows in each network;
 - select or design **a readily usable computer tool** which would facilitate communication, exchange and storage of network exchange products, and which could be managed by the lead country for each period, without being lost;
 - at the end of the coordination period, the coordinating country(ies) must leave a **record of performance and achievements** of that period;
 - Possible provision of space on the UNESCO/MAB website to **store each network's high-value products on completion**.
- some thematic networks on topics of great socio-economic and environmental consequence, such as energy, livestock breeding and agriculture, and tourism, could be identified and suggested for the immediate future.

6. MAB governance mechanism

At the country level, it is desirable that there be **National MAB Committees or National Commissions for UNESCO** that see to the development of the MAB Programme, provide a well-defined institutional support and are operationally connected with biosphere-reserve managers.

UNESCO's Regional Offices can play an important part in communication flows between countries and the MAB Programme Secretariat so that all countries may genuinely participate in strategic MAB Programme decisions and in transmitting recommendations from the Programme to the biosphere reserves.

7. Financing mechanisms and establishment of partnerships

- The basic operational resources of the MAB Programme and the biosphere reserves must be **provided from regular budgets** for all levels of implementation: the UNESCO Secretariat, the Regional Offices, the National Committees/ National Commissions for UNESCO, each biosphere reserve.
- external partnership (institutional or private) **can be considered to be of great assistance in the achievement of MAB objectives**, diversifying the source of contributions for the implementation of activities or programmes, without compromising the main thrusts of activities to be carried out under programme principles.

8. Communication and information

MAB must work to **develop web forums** for the exchange of knowledge, information on interesting initiatives and the circulation of good examples.

Biosphere reserves need support to capitalize on those exchanges either by linking up with reserves taking similar initiatives or by publicizing their own initiatives. The structure must permit: **access to a database of significance to biosphere reserves**; the conduct of **virtual meetings and workshops** on topics identified by officials active in those topics; the provision of an **online tutorial or coordination scheme** for each virtual working group.

De : Vongani Maringa

Envoyé : jeudi 10 avril 2014 15:27

À : Man & Biosphere

Cc : M Mr : Social & Economic Affairs Mhangwane; MS : Subdir : Social Development Programmes Muenda; Natcom South Africa; Natcom SouthAfrica1; S Ms : Social Development DIRCO Msindo; makatut@dirco.gov.za

Objet : Re: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 / Future Stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère 2014-2021

Good day

Herein kindly receive comment/input by South African Man and Biosphere National Committee for your attention. The official letter from the MAB focal point will follow shortly.

Regards

Mr. Maringa V.N

Department of Environmental Affairs

Directorate: Protected Areas Governance

Sub-Directorate: International Governance Support

Private bag X 447

Pretoria

0001

Website: www.environment.gov.za

ANNEX

COMMENTS FROM SOUTH AFRICAN MAN AND BIOSPHERE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Possible questions to address in the elaboration of the key elements of the draft new strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

1. Vision and mission statement for MAB and the WNBR

Madrid Action Plan's overall vision and mission still applicable

2. Key issues, international processes and strategic goals

2.1 Integration and close linkages of international Programme (World Heritage Sites, GeoParks etc)

Provide for a coordination mechanism amongst the UNESCO programme as well as other international programmes. These programmes are all seeking to achieve similar objectives however coordination is not at the desired level.

2.2 Climate Change mitigation/adaptation

Provide a focus approach on the contribution of Biosphere Reserves towards mitigating the impacts of climate change and resultant loss of biodiversity through the creation of corridors (altitudinal, latitudinal and longitudinal) across large landscapes.

2.3 Capacity Building for indigenous communities

Provide a focus approach on how capacity building for indigenous communities should be integrated in the MAB programme.

2.4 Strengthening the involvement of indigenous people/communities in the Management of BRs

Provide a focus approach/ mechanism on how indigenous people/communities should play a role in the management of Biosphere Reserves

3. MAB services

3.1 Awareness raising programmes/campaign

MAB should assist Biosphere Reserves and National MAB Committees in creating awareness at International (**international celebration days**) as well as national level of member states of the value of the MAB Programme for landscape management; and towards marketing the MAB Programme as a valuable landscape management tool in the quest to showcase sustainable development and promote sustainable living practices.

4. Future MAB research, policy and action agendas

Future research agendas could include:

- (i) global research studies on the true effectiveness and efficiency of Biosphere Reserves in fulfilling the three functions of the Biosphere Reserve concept and making a difference in the lives of people living and working in Biosphere Reserve regions;
- (ii) a global agenda to capacitate Biosphere Reserve managers and/or coordinators in implementing the Biosphere Reserve concept to the benefit of all relevant stakeholders;
- (iii) global research studies on the economic impact of the existence of Biosphere Reserves – within the respective region of individual Biosphere Reserves, but also with respect to national economic impacts and influences.
- (iv) Better alignment between policy frameworks and implementation
- (v) Better valorisation of demonstration sites/ research findings – How can this be achieved

5. MAB regional and thematic networks

5.1 Establishment of permanent secretariat for Regional Networks

There should be more effective, regular communication within regional networks (specifically with regards to AfriMAB). A full-time, secretariat would be beneficial to the efficiency of a regional network (in contrast to part-time professional).

5.2 Development of online interactive communication network

An online interactive web page where Biosphere Reserve staff could post questions and requests could be helpful. Such a page would need to be actively managed.

**There is no need for an additional Network at this stage.

6. MAB governing mechanisms

Yes, there is a need to revisit the governing mechanism, especially on the role and responsibility between National MAB Committee and regional Networks and how this could complement each.

7. Funding mechanisms and implementation partners

Many Biosphere Reserves struggle financially and face a constant challenge to secure long-term monetary resources, especially with regards to operational funding. Donor funding towards implementation of projects is easier to obtain, but a Biosphere Reserve usually needs an operational office and a small staff complement. In countries where the MAB Programme is not supported and funded by national governments, operational funding for Biosphere Reserves pose a serious problem. Innovative solutions to this problem are sometimes considered such as the establishment of an independent national Biosphere Reserve trust fund in the case of South Africa. The MAB secretariat could assist Biosphere Reserves (maybe through regional networks) to make the Biosphere Reserve case with major donor organizations in order to secure long-term financial support to the MAB Programme in its entirety.

8. Communication and information

Member States often use a series of seemingly different instruments to practice landscape-scale management, such as World Heritage Sites and Transfrontier Parks. The Biosphere Reserve concept sometimes finds it difficult to obtain prominence amongst these different landscape initiatives. Nonetheless, Biosphere Reserves are special sites wherein sustainable development is promoted. For this reason, the biosphere reserve concept has much to offer towards long-term sustainable social-ecological land management. MAB secretariat should assist Biosphere Reserves to convey the message to respective governments to ensure better visibility of the MAB Programme at large international conferences and workshops.

From: Dr Muhammad Rafique
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 9:21 AM
To: Man & Biosphere;; Shah, Raza; Nagata, Kozue Kay;
Subject: Input from Pakistan for Future Strategy for MAB and WNBR 2014-2021

Reference to UNESCO circular letter No. CL/MAB/2014/1, dated 6 March, 2014 received via email. In this regard, the input for structuring “**Future Strategy for MAB and World Network of Biosphere Reserve 2014-2021**” has been prepared. In the capacity of Country Focal Person for MAB-Pakistan, I am directed to enclose the said input for your kind perusal.

Regards

Dr. Muhammad Rafique
Country Focal Person for MAB-Pakistan/
Director, Zool. Sc. Div.
Pakistan Museum of Natural History,
Garden Avenue, Shakarparian Islamabad



MAB SECRETARIAT-PAKISTAN

Ref: GOP/PMNH/MAB/(1)-2012

Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserve 2014-2021

Q.1- Vision and mission statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR)

In the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the Madrid Action Plan and if so, what elements should be changed/added?

Vision Statement:

The World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and the Biosphere Programme consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence. It fosters harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue, knowledge sharing, poverty reduction and human well-being improvements, respect for cultural values and society's ability to cope with change, thus contributing to the MDGs and the SDGs. Accordingly, the WNBR is one of the main international tools for strengthening synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and develop and implement sustainable development approaches in a wide array of contexts.

Mission Statement:

To ensure environmental, economic, social (including cultural and spiritual) sustainability through:

- *development and coordination of a worldwide network of places acting as demonstration areas and learning sites with the aim of maintaining and developing ecological and cultural diversity, and securing ecosystem services for human well-being;*
- *development and integration of knowledge including science for advancing our understanding of interactions between people and the rest of nature; building global capacity for the management of complex socio-ecological systems particularly through encouraging greater dialogue at the science-policy interface, environmental education and multi-media outreach to the wider community.*

Q2- Key issues, international processes and strategic goals

What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?

Key Issues:

Global warming: Global warming has been considered as the most pressing environmental issue. It is influenced by human activities through the production of greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. Global warming has the effect on melting polar ice caps, displacing people from tropical and coastal islands and can ultimately threaten the survival of human race on Earth.

Clean and Renewable energy: The human race is faced with the environmental problem of cleaning up or replacing the burning of fossil fuels that enhanced industrial revolution during 18th century. Unless a clean and renewable energy is found as an alternative, our planet risks being turned into an inhabitable and hostile not fit for human survival. There is need for the development and adoption of clean energy.

Water degradation: In the modern world the quality of water is under threat from the fast growing population. The quality of inland water is under compromise from dumped industrial and chemical wastes, untreated sewage, pesticide's residues and fertilizers and chemical run off. The above activities worsen the already existing problem of water pollution. The increased use of underground water in coastal regions results in the intrusion of salt water.

Biodiversity conservation: Biodiversity is critical for the survival of the ecosystem because it can help in food production and fiber, disease control, crop pollination and recreation. We are losing our biodiversity at an alarming rate which is a direct threat for survival of the human beings.

Increased human population: The world's population is increasing at much faster rate than ever before. This has resulted in over consumption of limited natural resources, intensification of urbanization, overexploitation and unsustainable use of natural resources, accelerating pollution and environmental degradation.

New technologies: Increased demand for food globally has forced scientists to manipulate plant DNA to produce strong and drought and disease resistant crops. There is the general fear that GMO products are harmful to human beings. When GMO food products are released to the environment, they may not be recalled, making it a dangerous global experiment.

Habitat loss and fragmentation due to deforestation and human development: This is considered as the major cause of diminishing biodiversity globally. Many species are faced with extinction.

Climate change: Climate change continues to be of paramount concern to the future of human kind and a big challenge of our time. It is a complex global problem linked with other issues like economic development and poverty reduction.

Overexploitation of Resources: The current scales of unprecedented exploitation of our natural resources calls for improved governance and stewardship of the world's natural resources.

International processes:

MAB Programme has the flexibility for its connectivity with global agenda leading to sustainable development. There are many national and international opportunities where biosphere reserves can play key roles at the interface of environmental conservation, research on human-environment interactions, sustainable development, cultural identity, and learning for a sustainable future. At the international level, biosphere reserves should be firmly embedded in the science and development arena linking science, society and policy. One such opportunity is the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The other promising programme is the Future Earth which is a new 10-year international research initiative that will develop the knowledge for responding effectively to the risks, opportunities of global

environmental change and for supporting transformation towards global sustainability in the coming decades. Future Earth aims at mobilizing thousands of scientists while strengthening partnerships with policy-makers and other stakeholders to provide sustainability options and solutions in the wake of Rio+20.

The MAB and its Network of Biosphere Reserves can contribute to Post-2015 Development Agenda and successor of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the assessment of reaching the MDGs by 2015 is still outstanding and as the precise shaping of the SDGs is still work in progress, MAB and its WNBR should be strategically positioned to assume their roles in the international development arenas such as on ensuring environmental sustainability and green economy. For example, the proposed SDG-5 to “Protect and Sustainably Manage Biodiversity” may have as an indicator the “Number of countries which have UNESCO designated biosphere reserves within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves”.

Biosphere reserves established in disputed territory among countries can also act as peace parks. As biosphere reserves are characterized through their multiple functions in the fields of environmental conservation and sustainable development based on scientific studies and cooperation, they could well respond to any emerging concepts which aim to make our planet a safe place for the harmonious coexistence of people and nature, but also among people by establishing an enabling environment for promoting a culture of peace with regard to the use of and benefit from shared natural resources, especially at the trans-boundary level.

The MAB and its WNBR should continue, as in the past, to be closely involved with the work of the three *Rio Conventions* (Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change). Collaboration with the World Heritage Convention for natural world heritage and with the emerging Geoparks Network will provide great latitude for creating synergy effects regarding the visibility of UNESCO-designated sites the world over, while at the same time maintaining the specific identities and functions of biosphere reserves.

Strategic Goals:

- Promoting the interface between science, policy makers and society for sustainable development
- Strengthening international science cooperation and culture for peace, sustainability and social inclusion
- Using biosphere reserves for social development, environmental protection, sustainability of ecosystems, conservation of biodiversity, resource management, for addressing global challenges and mitigation of their impacts by active engagement of the local communities and their indigenous knowledge.

- Using biosphere reserves as specific sites to be used as learning laboratories for sustainable development, creation of scientific knowledge, climate change adaptation, and building of peace and sustainability.
- The MAB Programme will continue to provide the scientific and institutional frameworks to ensure UNESCO's inputs into the post- 2015 development agenda.
- The contribution of biosphere reserves for implementing relevant research programmes and building human capacity.
- Design research programmes to mitigate climate change and improve resilience of ecosystems to maintain and restore ecosystem services.
- Establishment of trans-boundary Biosphere reserves for management of ecosystems and promote peace among the neighboring countries especially with regards to solving conflicts around natural resource use and benefit sharing.

Q3- MAB Services

What are the most important services that MAB and its WNBR should deliver to the benefit of UNESCO Member States?

- Protected areas in disputed territories may be declared as peace parks by establishing Biosphere Reserves
- BRs should serve as model sites for strengthening synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other relevant conventions.
- BRs should act as model sites to provide a wide range of both direct and indirect ecosystem services including clean water supply, production of fuel wood and raw materials for charcoal, timber for construction, food, medicinal plants, socio-cultural and spiritual services.
- The Biosphere Reserves should be model sites for environmentally, socially and economically viable models for boosting Green Economies.
- BR should be a model site to conserve biodiversity, reduce poverty, and contribute to economic development and sustainable use of natural resources.
- BRs should support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity building that promote environmental awareness, conservation and protection of ecosystem, respect biodiversity and cultural diversity.
- BR should contribute to the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment.
- BR should address the issues of human and environment interactions and help out in policy making

Q.4: Future MAB, research, policy and action agendas

What key items should be included in MAB's future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and to ensure the effective development and delivery of the services?

Future MAB Research should focus on:

- Climate change
- Green Economy
- Restoration of ecosystems
- Eco-tourism development
- Enhancement of community involvement in conservation
- Equitable sharing of benefits of natural resources
- Promoting the interface between science, policy and society
- Water and land use management
- Aquatic pollution and environmental flows
- Interaction among biological, ecological, social, political, economic and cultural factors
- Estimation of exploitable natural resources and establishment of microfinance system for development of different Entrepreneurs.
- Generate database on the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Future MAB Policy and Agendas should encompass:

- Livelihood diversification through Green Economies.
- Formulation of National policy on MAB Programme
- Allocation of budget for MAB activities
- Involvement of local businessmen for creating business opportunities.
- Protected areas situated in disputed territories may be declared as “Peace Parks”.
- One of the indicators in CBD annual report should be reflected by the number of biosphere reserves present in the country.
- Biosphere reserve should be highlighted as major tool of conservation and sustainable development in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Biosphere reserve should be integrated with the other programmes of SDGs

Q5- MAB regional and thematic networks

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statutes of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes? If so, what themes?

- The effectiveness of MAB regional and thematic networks can be enhanced by their restructuring, streamlining the working methods and improving/formulating the status of existing networks.
- The functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks need to be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

- The regional and thematic MAB networks need to be strengthened for an integrated planning and decision making at the international, national and local levels.
- Strengthen synergy and communication, for improved collaboration and coordination between Biosphere Reserves and other Conventions, Agreement and similar initiatives

Q6- MAB Governing Mechanism

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels? If so, why ?

- MAB national committees should be represented by their focal points. Biosphere reserves should be represented by their managers, local community representatives and relevant Govt. officers as part of various Biosphere Management committees.
- Countries shall share the composition of their MAB national/ regional committees, to MAB/UNESCO Secretariat.
- Progress regarding MAB programme should be communicated in the form of an annual report to the regional networks and MAB Secretariat.
- Functioning of regional networks should be based on:
 - Members charter
 - Statutes of the network including new themes
 - Short term and long term action plans and targets
- The regional networks should have the following organs:
 - A general assembly comprising of the member states. Meeting of the general assembly be convened statutorily once in a year in different countries and its functions be spelt out in the Statutes.
 - A Bureau which should be elected at general assembly meeting as per Statutes
- The Bureau shall be composed of:
 - A Chairperson (member of the MAB National Committee of the country chosen to host the next General Assembly meeting of the Network
 - A Secretary General
 - Five technical coordinators facilitating intellectual and scientific activities of the Network and also dealing with major issues affecting the network and the challenges identified by the MAB Programme.

Technical coordinator 1: Managing, zoning and enhancing the functioning of Biosphere Reserves

Technical coordinator 2: Participation of partners and social stakeholders; equitable benefit-sharing of income, strengthen synergy and communication/ coordination between Biosphere Reserves and other Conventions, Agreements etc.

Technical coordinator 3: Scientific research and capacity building

Technical coordinator 4: Transboundary biosphere reserves

Technical coordinator 5: Role of biosphere reserves in boosting the concept of

green economy and mitigation of Climate Change.

- **Functions of the Bureau:**

The Bureau shall be responsible for:

1. Coordinating the activities of the network
2. Establishing relations between other regional networks
3. Sourcing for and exploiting financing opportunities in member states, regional initiatives and institutions, the private sector and international organisations
4. Preparing the working documents of the various forums and drafting the reports.
5. Disseminating information within the Network
6. Preparing draft Five-year Strategic Plans with the support of the network of focal points
7. Preparing the draft regulatory documents of the Network (internal rules, partnership agreements etc.

Q7- Funding mechanisms and implementation partners

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, what could be done to ensure that sufficient funds are mobilized? Is there a need to bring in new implementation partners, such as leading research groups, think tanks, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organizations? If so, what should the priorities be in terms of new partners?

- UNESCO should design funding mechanism at the level of regional and individual biosphere reserve for management plans, research, community programmes, training workshops and meetings of the national as well as regional MAB networks.
- UNESCO and UN funding agencies should divert some of their funds in conservation activities in Biosphere Reserves to encourage the establishment and management of Biosphere Reserves.
- The international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, may be requested at UNESCO level for providing financial resources for the promotion of sustainable development and poverty eradication through MAB Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- UN should make it mandatory for member states to allocate an appropriate fund for establishment and management of biosphere reserves.
- Funding of Mega projects to be initiated in biosphere reserves should be structured in such a way that a specific amount of their income should be allocated as Carbon/ nature fund for sustainable development and community programmes in the area.
- Innovative programmes like Trophy hunting should be encouraged, wherever possible, in Biosphere Reserves for conservation and financial uplifting of local communities.

Q. 8- Communication and information

How could MAB and its WNBR take better advantage of contemporary communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments for visibility and benefit to Member States and to society?

- MAB broadband networks should be developed for both public and professionals at local, regional, and international level, where new innovations, success stories and issues related to MAB Programme could be highlighted for general awareness.
- Innovative information and communication technologies like Facebook, Twitter, and Skype may be used for knowledge sharing and communication, technical cooperation and capacity building between different local and regional networks.



**Possible Questions to Address in the Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft
New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021**

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

(In the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?)

Proposal

- In the Vision and Mission Statements of the new Strategy the Hungarian MAB National Committee would favour the supporting of the environmental education of the new generations in order to maintain a sustainable future.
- In the Mission and Vision of the new strategy we suggest specifying the protecting of biodiversity and nature values as well.

2. Key Issues, Processes and Strategic Goals

(What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?)

Proposal

- In our opinion the key issues are: preparing for climate change impacts, preservation of ecosystem services (e.g. fresh water, soil ecosystems etc.), protecting biological diversity and traditional living practices (farming, forestry, fisheries, social habits etc.). These are important heritage and basic pillars for developing new methods.
- It is important to define a term for finalization the overview and qualification of “old” biosphere reserves.
- The MAB program should encourage the harmonization of national/EU agricultural support systems for sustainable conservation of natural and cultural values of land use, by focusing on the costs and availability of demonstrated results.

3. MAB Services

(What are the most important services that MAB and its WNBR should deliver to the benefit of UNESCO Member States?)

Proposal

- The MAB and WNBR should facilitate cooperation between countries participating in biosphere reserves initiatives in Europe. It should be very useful providing more best practice, and specific field methods, organizing field trips to

well-functioning European biosphere reserves, compilation of specific guides and other publications in this theme.

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas

What key items should be included in future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and to ensure the effective development and delivery of the services?

Proposal

- Policy: We recommend the representation of “exit strategy” process developed for biosphere reserves don’t meet the MAB criterias. The completion of the process should be a mile stone as well.
- More emphatic lobbying, and horizontal activities with other initiatives (eg. UNESCO World Heritage, Ramsar Convention, IPBES, Global Network of National Geoparks, European Geopark Network etc.)
- Supporting researches to demonstrate the results achieved by extensive land use methods.

5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statutes of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes? If so, what themes?

Proposal

- EuroMAB (only for European countries)
- Thematic Networks: for example MABWET (network of wetlands within the MAB Programme)

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels? If so, why?

Proposal

- In our opinion there is no need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at national, regional and international level.

7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, what could be done to ensure that sufficient funds are mobilized? Is there a need to bring in new implementation partners, such as leading research groups, think tanks, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organizations? If so, what should the priorities be in terms of new partners?

Proposal

- To ensure sufficient funds for MAB is very important. There is a need to bring in new implementation partners, leading research groups, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organizations.

8. Communication and Information

How could MAB and its WNBR take better advantage of contemporary communication and sharing tools and instruments for visibility and benefit to Member States and to society?

Proposal

- We think, that the “name” of the strategy conveys the main message of this important document, so it should be considered not to give its name about the city where it was adopted.
- We suggest providing a “MAB Agenda” at the beginning of every year, which contains the main planned annual programs, events (discussions, meetings, sessions) and tasks related to biosphere reserves and MAB Programme. This should help the planning and preparation for MAB tasks.
- It should be very useful to standardize the communication with countries participating in MAB Programme, in order to avoid disorder information
- We recommend updating of the UNESCO website, and to ensure easier availability of information.
- It should be useful to present more detailed information about programmes and events.
- MAB National Committee should be recognised as “focal point” at sharing strategic tools and documents (Unfortunately neither this 8 questions, nor the “Madrid Action Plan questionnaire” has been sent directly to the Hungarian MAB National Committee, only to the local focal points at biosphere reserves, and to the Hungarian UNESCO Committee).
- Besides providing more detailed information about MAB programs on web pages, it is suggested a more active presence on social networking sites (such as facebook) as well.

De : Koczka Krisztina
Envoyé : jeudi 10 avril 2014 16:53
À : Man & Biosphere
Cc : Bouamrane, Meriem; Érdiné dr. Szekeres Rozália; Natcom Hungary2; Hudecz Bálint
Objet : Inputs of the Hungarian MAB National Committee to the new UNESCO MAB Strategy

Dear Mr. Han Qunli,

The Hungarian MAB National Committee is very pleased to contribute to the new MAB Strategy building process.
Please find enclosed the Hungarian inputs structured according to the questions sent by the UNESCO.

We hope, that the first draft of the new Strategy will be drafted soon, and the final text will be hopefully adopted by the MAB ICC in 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Krisztina Koczka
secretary of the MAB National Committee

On behalf of Rozália Érdiné Szekeres
Head of Department
Chairperson of the Hungarian MAB National Committee

cid:image001.gif@01CC2423.6E482960

Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Nature Conservation

H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth tér 11. HUNGARY



**Possible Questions to Address in the Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft
New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021**

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

(In the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?)

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2. Key Issues, Processes and Strategic Goals

(What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?)

Proposal

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Subject:UK MAB Committee advice summary submission: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

Date:Thu, 10 Apr 2014 14:04:29 ++0100

From:James Bridge

To:mab@unesco.org

CC:

Dear MAB Secretariat,

On behalf of the UK MAB Committee, please find the UK submission on the future strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 attached in Word and PDF form.

Please would you acknowledge receipt?

Yours faithfully,

Dr Beth Taylor and James **Bridge**
UK National Commission for UNESCO

James **Bridge**

Chief Executive/Secrétaire Général

UK National Commission for UNESCO

Suite 98, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL

Website: www.unesco.org.uk

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Possible Questions to Address in the Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

Response from the UK MAB Committee

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

In the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?

The Vision Statement and Mission Statement in the MAP are still appropriate to the WNBR. However, the former should be replaced by a shorter and more compelling vision defining an optimal future state.

Within the timeframe of a new Strategy, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) referred to in the current Vision statement will be replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If the current version of the Vision statement is used as a basis for a new version, it should be updated to remain relevant in the context of global sustainable development processes.

On a more fundamental level, the continued use of 'Man' in the title of the MAB Programme is outdated, and the term 'Biosphere Reserve' (BR) is not acceptable in many countries (if it can be translated meaningfully). Many countries now refer to their BRs as 'Biosphere', 'Biosphere Area', 'Biosphere Park', 'Biosphere Region' etc. – or equivalents in languages other than English. A key reason is that the term 'Reserve' sends out an exclusionary message which may not reflect well the real nature of BRs as areas/regions within which it is precisely the interaction between human beings and their environment that is of interest.

On one hand, changing the name of the MAB Programme and/or BRs would have serious implications with regard to the renaming of an intergovernmental programme and its elements, and other risks in terms of communication and buy-in. One relatively simple change would be to replace the word 'Reserve' with 'Region', which begins with the same letter, is relatively neutral, can generally be translated quite easily, and links to the aim stated in the Statutory Framework for BRs to be "sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale". On the other hand, renaming could also show that UNESCO is giving due consideration to these issues and moving with the times: it could be a good news story and, as such, offer the opportunity to publicise the whole rationale for the network. This could also be linked to the implementation of the 'exit strategy', once all BRs actually do conform to the criteria in the Statutory Framework and are able to effectively contribute to the implementation of the vision. A more significant action would be for UNESCO to give comparable levels of prominence to World Heritage Sites and BRs, possibly renamed as 'World Biosphere Regions' or 'World Biosphere Sites'.

2. Strategic Goals, Key Issues and International Processes

What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?

A considerable number of key issues that are relevant to MAB and the WNBR can be identified. This diversity is a challenge; and the key issues will vary from one region, country, or BR to another. That said, key issues include (in no order of priority):

- climate change: impacts, adaptation and mitigation;

- degradation of ecosystem services, including biodiversity;
- more integrated approaches to the provision of ecosystem services and their contribution to health and well-being, both within BRs and more widely;
- the current and potential contributions to, and enhancement of, ecosystem services by the administrations, businesses, and citizens of urban areas embedded within BRs;
- rights and responsibilities of those utilizing and benefitting from ecosystem services deriving from BRs – both within BRs and extending more widely, including to sometimes distant urban areas – including investment in their effective management;
- equity of resource use/access (including to ecosystem services);
- economies and development compatible with sustainable development;
- full consideration of environment and society in economic decision-making;
- making (more) sustainable development an increasing reality (against tangible real-life indicators);
- cultural diversity, supporting UNESCO's role with regard to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, reflecting the links between cultural diversity and biodiversity.

All of these key issues are tied into international processes and milestone events, in particular those relating to:

- the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals;
- global conventions and their scientific and technical subsidiary bodies, particularly:
 - the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the IPCC;
 - the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and the IPBES;
 - the UN Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
- the Future Earth global research programme;
- the International Model Forest Network;
- the activities of IUCN, especially the World Conservation Congresses and World Parks Congresses;
- European Commission programmes including Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+, which can include activities and partners not only in the European Union but in other European countries and other parts of the world.

In all of these contexts, BRs have the potential to act as learning and demonstration sites for:

- the implementation of the ecosystem approach;
- the conservation and management of biological and cultural diversity;
- adaptation to climate change;

through ecosystem-based approaches. As such they should contribute to the implementation of global initiatives and should be centre stage in this regard. This also relates to the next point (question 3), in relation to the contribution of MAB to UNESCO Member States.

The challenge, particularly given the limited capacity of the MAB Secretariat and all those involved in MAB in individual regions and countries, is to prioritise efforts in order to most effectively deliver on the implementation of the vision and mission statements. This needs to be discussed further as the strategy evolves. Co-operation with the above-named bodies should be strengthened where possible

3. MAB Services

What are the most important services that MAB and its WNBR should deliver to the benefit of UNESCO Member States?

As noted above, the WNBR should act as an integrated global network of learning and demonstration sites for innovation in sustainable development, including ecosystem-based management, the conservation of biological and cultural diversity, adaptation to climate change, and economic activities based on and supporting regional identity. These activities should be supported by research and monitoring (both biophysical and socio-economic), including evaluation of the implementation of integrated policies. This would benefit both the Member States where individual BRs are located, through contributing to innovative management and policy, and much wider constituencies (e.g., the international initiatives mentioned above). BRs should be clear examples of the implementation of many aspects of global conventions.

The MAB programme should aim to secure funding, and in particular, sponsorship for this function, which links to the implementation of initiatives including post-2015 Sustainable Development, Future Earth, and European Commission programmes, all of which are implemented in individual countries.

To ensure added value of these services, the MAB Secretariat should host (or facilitate, through one or more appropriate partners), an internet database of research needs/questions posed by BRs across the world, and examples of good practice.

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas

What key items should be included in MAB's future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and to ensure the effective development and delivery of the services?

A wide variety of themes (e.g., ecosystem services and their trade-offs, and related policy and practice; socio-economic development; climate/environmental change and biodiversity loss/change; biological and cultural diversity; contributions of, and linkages to, urban areas) have been listed within the responses to questions 2 and 3. As noted, a key challenge is to prioritise efforts in order to most effectively deliver on the implementation of the vision and mission statements. This needs to be discussed further as the strategy evolves.

At the scale of individual BRs, high priority should be given to research which shows how communities, businesses, and organisations within these BRs – and, where appropriate, in adjacent or nearby urban areas – can benefit from supporting the aims of BRs (e.g. studies into social enterprise, and the economic benefits from products and services which draw from and feed back into BRs).

BRs should also be sites for research which tests and evaluates regional approaches to adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of, climate change, and how they can combat climate change (e.g. by sequestering carbon, REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)).

Such activities will assist in many ways to increasing public and government (at all scales) support and resources for BRs, and contribute to policy and practice not only in BRs but more widely; successful examples from BRs should be suitable for wide implementation elsewhere.

Transnational and international collaboration is essential to add value to all of these activities. It is notable that, while there are databases for the WNBR, there are no comparable databases for scientists working in BRs. Thus, complementing what is noted under question 3, the MAB Secretariat should host (or facilitate, through one or more appropriate partners), an internet database of active researchers in BRs, including their fields of activity, and their outcomes from research in BRs.

5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statutes of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes? If so, what themes?

Experience among the members of the UK MAB Committee suggests that the aims and activities of MAB networks generally seem to be poorly communicated/disseminated, with little or no action between meetings and a poor sense of progress/resolution of issues over time. However, where adequate resources, especially funds for a dedicated secretariat, exist (e.g., IberoMAB), there can be a real added value to such networks.

These networks need support from dedicated members of staff, using funds to enable participation by actors from less wealthy Member States. The MAB Secretariat and regional networks should work to raise funds for these purposes. Funding secretariats is not attractive to many donors, so that networks need to be able to respond to opportunities; they must be orientated to task-and-finish, action-orientated activities. In parts of the world with existing regional inter-governmental structures, regional MAB networks should evaluate how they can be best aligned to these structures' goals and objectives, to deliver outcomes that are of valuable for the region. This should also bring benefits in the concerned countries and outside the region (e.g., across the WNBR).

Networks on new topics, or for new regions, could always be created, but MAB should secure the future and the quality of existing networks before starting any new ones.

Nevertheless, given that more than half of the global population lives in urban areas and – as recognized in the MAP – urbanization is a principal driver for ecosystem-wide pressures, there could be an argument for creating a new thematic network focusing on the interactions of BRs and urban areas, whether or not these are wholly or partially within BRs. The UK MAB Urban Forum is keen to support the creation of similar urban fora in the countries, but would need funding to do this.

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms and Stakeholders

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels?

At the national level, MAB national committees should include a wide range of stakeholders from diverse sectors, including representation from BRs. This is not only to widen understanding of, and involvement in BRs, but also to bring in additional sources of funding.

At present, there are no governing mechanisms *per se* at regional level; the regional networks have the potential to play a variety of roles, including linkage to regional institutions and processes, collaborative research and policy development, and mutual support. However, as mentioned above, this implies a need for adequate resources.

Globally, the ICC is working much more effectively, especially since meetings have become annual. Decisions supported by a majority of members from many different parts of the world (if not by consensus) show that the members of the ICC are able to govern in the interest of achieving MAB's goals, vision and mission. It may be appropriate to review the membership and remit of the Bureau; and it is essential that all of its members to contribute fully to its activities; such a commitment should be made by any prospective member before being elected to the Bureau.

The reference group of Permanent Delegates to UNESCO is increasingly working well for advocacy for the MAB programme (e.g., with regard to General Conferences), and should

continue to contribute to communications and advocacy to the benefit of MAB; this requires continued strategic work by the MAB Secretariat.

7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, what could be done to ensure that sufficient funds are mobilized? Is there a need to bring in, for example by bringing in new implementation partners, such as leading research groups, think tanks, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organizations? If so, what should the priorities be in terms of new partners?

UNESCO has one of the most famous and best-recognised global 'brands'. MAB's priority should be to establish how this brand can be used to raise funds for the WNBR and its BRs without damaging the image which built the brand in the first place. Funders generally require results-based activities. However, MAB generally does not have a good evidence base of effectiveness. This needs to be pulled together to grab the attention of donors. In other words, there is a clear need for a review of how MAB, at all levels, works with the private and philanthropic sectors on action and implementation, and what opportunities exist. This task could be undertaken within the MAB programme and/or with collaboration from other parts of UNESCO. To some extent, this may be easier when the 'exit strategy' has been implemented, so that all BRs do conform to the criteria in the Statutory Framework and provide examples of good practice that can be communicated to donors.

As noted previously, MAB should strategically consider how its goals are aligned with those of the major international organisations, initiatives etc. identified under question 2, and specifically how BRs can be used to achieve outcomes that are mutually beneficial and reduce pressure on Member States in terms of implementation and reporting commitments from global conventions. There are, for example, opportunities with regard to the 2014-2020 programming period of the European Commission.

At both the national level and for individual BRs, widening the range of stakeholders involved in governance will not only widen understanding of, and involvement in BRs, but should also bring in additional sources of funding. For individual BRs, a key need is to find ways in which communities, businesses, and organisations within and close to BRs (e.g., in nearby urban areas) can benefit from supporting the aims of BRs, e.g., through social enterprise, products and branding which help promote income generation from activities which enhance BRs and support local livelihoods. Universities have key roles to play in this; they are increasingly required to undertake applied research and provide practical learning opportunities, so that partnerships with universities have great potential for bringing money and other resources into BRs.

8. Communication and Information

How could MAB and its WNBR take better advantage of contemporary communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments for visibility and benefit to Member States and society?

The WNBR and its individual BRs need to be made more relevant to people's everyday lives; as noted above, the majority of the Earth's population live in urban areas, so that greater emphasis needs to be placed on the benefits of BRs for urban areas: their administrations, businesses, and citizens.

As noted under question 1, many of the words that remain associated with the MAB programme – e.g., 'Man', 'Biosphere Reserve', 'logistic function' – after four decades do not help with communication. As proposed above, renaming could help: a simple change could be to rename the sites 'Biosphere Regions': UNESCO could also give comparable levels of

prominence to World Heritage Sites and BRs, perhaps renamed as 'World Biosphere Regions' or 'World Biosphere Sites'.

For public communication purposes, it would be desirable to be able to reduce the Vision and Mission statements to one sentence each.

Information about BRs on websites, especially the UNESCO website, needs to be accurate and kept up to date – which it often is not: Member States need to continuously provide current information to the MAB Secretariat, which should make the necessary changes expeditiously. This is also true for information about national MAB Committees, networks, etc. Communications within the WNBR, within its networks, and among scientists active in BRs, require an effective clearing house platform.

MAB should open its website to, or create a new internet presence specifically for, BRs to use to promote their activities. For example, BRs throughout the world produce many excellent products, and collectively they represent a large international market; any website which helps BRs to buy from and sell products and activities to each other would create huge opportunities for both individual BRs and the WNBR.

All such activities should be undertaken collaboratively between the different elements of MAB – Secretariat, networks, national committees, BRs – and where appropriate and possible, other organisations or businesses with similar goals and vision to MAB.

Finally, 2015 will be 20 years since the Seville Conference in 1995. There is value in trying to hold another gathering, preferably in a developing country. The purpose would be not just to refresh MAB, but to deal with rejuvenation, as many of the points above convey. Both Seville and Madrid were good impulsion points for change; it is time for another global meeting to mark the implementation of the new Strategy and ensure that BRs fulfil all their great potential.

From: RusMabCom
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 2:22 PM
To: Han, Qunli
Cc: Rusnatcom
Subject: Re: New strategy for MAB and WNBR during 2014-2021 - suggestions from V. Neronov

Dear Qunli,

We studied carefully your letter on 6 March 2014 (CL/MAB/2014/1) with the attached Annex with Questions concerning New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves - 2014-2021, which we received from our Commission for UNESCO. It is important document for future cooperation of all countries taking part in MAB program, which is already more than 40- years old. We organized some consultations with experts involved into implementing different aspects of MAB Program in our country and managers of our numerous Biosphere Reserves. Relevant letter, besides our MAB Committee, was sent by the Commission of RF for UNESCO to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology responsible for a governance of the national network of Biosphere Reserves. It is pity that we still don't know the official position of the Ministry concerning each of the proposed 8 questions in your letter. After its preparing I guess it will be submitted to MAB Secretariat by the Commission of RF for UNESCO in response to your request.

Based on the above mentioned consultations please have my personal thoughts after my 40 years service to MAB Program:

1) **Vision and Mission Statements.** It will be difficult to change or add to them something new since they are already very comprehensive. May be, the MAB Secretariat could use its long term experience in contacts with different countries and regional networks and will suggest what is necessary to improve in the Statements.

2) **Key issues, International Processes and Strategic Goals.** Due to enormous impacts of the present Climate Changes on some World's regions priority in the coming years should be given to mitigating these impacts. Analysis of long term observations conducted in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves should be conducted and obtained results presented to decision makers. Some positive results of usage of the applied research in this field should be widely distributed and promoted. We need also some priority studies how to clean our environment from accumulated solid wastes without any further damage and avoid any negative impacts of GMO on human health.

3) **MAB Services.** During MAB Program development many useful recommendations have been made to UNESCO Member States and each year at the ICC MAB sessions there are more efforts to improve situation with biodiversity conservation, to promote sustainable (and even green) development, to strengthen a capacity in ecological education, etc. but I don't know any country, where such recommendations have been officially included into the national plans. The legal status of this intergovernmental Program and particularly its Networks of Biosphere Reserves should be upraised. Besides such not obligatory documents, as the Seville Strategy or Madrid Action Plan, the special Convention for MAB and BRs initiated by UNESCO and signed by all country-members could improve MAB services considerably.

4) **Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas.** In the New Strategy special attention should be given to the Applied aspects of MAB Program and more Case studies based on recommendations of the conducted fundamental ecological research should be organized with involvement of different business communities and local population. Sharing

the results of such case studies could help in capacity building of regional networks and should be included into bilateral agreements covering also transboundary cooperation of BRs.

5) **MAB Regional and Thematic Networks.** Russian MAB Committee is participating in two Regional networks (EuroMAB and EABRN) and also in some thematic networks. According to my personal experience the EABRN is better covering expectations of member-countries than such huge network as EuroMAB. Accordingly I believe it will be proper to split the EuroMAB into several subregional networks (for Southern, Western, Eastern and Northern Europe) and in this case the country-members of them will have more similar problems in the Nature conservation and Socio-economic development to discuss and solve. May be the North American countries (Canada and USA) will have more benefit in cooperation with some other countries at their continent than with European ones.

6) **MAB Governing Mechanisms.** ICC MAB sessions are fine for me, but regional networks should have Governing Mechanisms also. They should take special care about presentation of their Regions' problems and needs at the ICC MAB sessions and such presentations should be included in advance into the Agenda of Sessions. The Bureau of ICC MAB with representatives of all regions recognized by UNESCO should meet more often for better management and coordination of MAB activities in the World.

7) **Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners .** Unfortunately during long history of MAB Program the reliable mechanism of funding of MAB projects at the national, regional and global levels was not established. After Stockholm conference (1972) UNEP was helping to implement some projects in some occasions (f.e. Minsk congress on BRs in 1983), now I don't see such help to MAB from UNEP or FAO. The MAB secretariat should try to strengthen a cooperation of MAB Program with Secretariats of different UN Conventions, with GEF, UNDP, World Bank. Biosphere Reserves particularly are suffering from lack any support to their normal functioning and are needing such funds to purchase modern equipment for some research. May be it will be useful to convene in HQ of UNESCO a special International Forum ""MAB and Business"" with a presentation of selected case studies from different regions (and/or Biosphere Reserves) which could be attractive for business and future funding of innovations presented by MAB Program.

8) **Communication and Information.** Internet and Social networks are very powerful mechanisms of communication at the present time. We need to discuss all details how better to use them at ICC MAB session. For better visibility of MAB program UNESCO should convince its country--members to produce more TV and Video presentations about their achievements in implementing MAB Program and to support their show at the prominent Broadcasting systems (or may be UNESCO could have its own TV channel for such purpose).

That is all for today, as you requested for the further discussions.

With best wishes. Sincerely, Valery Neronov, Deputy Chair of Russian MAB Committee.

From: Ghassan Ramadan Jaradi
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2014 12:59 PM
To: Han, Qunli
Subject: FW: New Strategy for MAB

Dear Han

I hope this email finds you well,

The president of National MAB Committee (Georges Tohme) sent me papers concerning the new strategy received through diplomatic channels from UNESCO-MAB. I answered him (see below and attachment) in this forwarded message with the hope that he will send them to you very soon. In case, his answer is delayed due to diplomatic processes, you may count on the attached file. If he timely replies then please disregard the present attachment.

Best regards

Ghassan RAMADAN JARADI

QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY MAB-LEBANON TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING A NEW STRATEGY FOR MAB PROGRAMME

Question 1: There no need, in our opinion to revisit the vision or the mission of MAB and its International Network.

Question2:

Lack of interests in incorporating Biosphere Reserves in National land use maps and plans.

Lack of harmonization among regional Biosphere Reserves.

Unequal expertise in Biosphere Reserve management among the different MAB BR Networks.

Objectives:

- **Link Biosphere Reserves to National and Regional Protected Areas Networks.**
- **Encourage Regional Biosphere Reserves working on reaching Aichi Targets and updated CBD Global Strategies.**
- **Encourage exchange of expertise between Networks of Biosphere Reserves during regional trainings, upgrading skills, planning and capacity building.**

Question 3:

To publish successful case studies and research within biosphere reserves and make publications accessed by all managers of biosphere reserves so that benefits are reaching all interested people.

Establish a programme to support members of UNESCO in training on socio-economic evaluation of natural resources so that each country's biosphere reserves will become strong enough to defend their rights and functions.

Question 4:

The programme of research should consider innovation and collaboration among researchers.

The programme should incorporate wide fields of knowledge (Multidisciplinary).

The programme should establish cooperation with national research institutes and agencies.

The programme may have a compromise between general policies applied in Biosphere Reserves and realistic needs at national and regional levels.

Question 5:

Yes there is a need to rationalize the methods of work and the statutes of the existing networks. This is crucial to reactivate some networks and revive some members to avoid stagnancy. Members of

Bureaux of Networks should be more revealed to accountability. On the other side, the methods of work are not necessarily limited to costly workshops as they can be used throughout an active networking or discussion spaces. A limited number of issues should be identified before these issues are discussed over social media like Facebook for example.

Question 6:

The statutory mechanisms are there and fine. What is missing is the application of these mechanisms at all levels.

Question 7:

New partnerships merit of being considered. Example: contracting a specialized and experimented organization to do the job in place of the manager but in cooperation with him. This is like bringing new blood to managers. As for the priorities concerning the partnerships:

- 1- Enterprise from the Private Sector
- 2- Organizations from the civil society supported by groups of researchers
- 3- Groups of reflection

Question 8:

By linking the International Network with each of the successful Biosphere Reserve Website and vice-versa; and

By providing each manager of these successful Biosphere Reserves with a password in order to access its biosphere reserve webpage on the International Network website to update its findings and its updates.

De : D'Hoest, Tijs

Envoyé : lundi 14 avril 2014 15:54

À : Man & Biosphere

Cc : DECADT Brigitte r.missotten Bouamrane, Meriem; Natcom Belgium(Francophoneandgermanophone); Herman, Rudy

Objet : RE: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 / Future Stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère 2014-2014

Dear Mr Qunli,

Dear Ms Bouamrane,

First of all I wish to express my sincere apologies for the delay in our response. I have set the deadline of April 10th in my agenda, but due to a lot of activities of National Commissions in Paris during the EXB, I did not find the time to have an in-depth meeting with our experts. I send you hereby the position paper of our Flemish expert, Mr Robert Missotten. I also copy the Secretary-General of the Belgian French and German Speaking Commission, Mr Faure and Ms Decadt, focal point for the MAB-Programme in Belgium.

I hope this input can still be of relevance for your research and we are sincerely looking forward to increasing our cooperation with your Programme.

With my very best regards,

Tijs D'Hoest

**Tijs
D'Hoest**

Beleidsmedewerker Multilateraal Beleid | *Policy Officer Multilateral Affairs*
Algemeen secretaris Vlaamse Unesco Commissie | *Secretary-general of the
Flemish Commission for UNESCO*

Departement internationaal Vlaanderen | *Flemish Department of Foreign
Affairs*

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Belgium

MAB-MAP Questionnaire

Q 1. Vision and Mission Statements

Although the statements were written in 2008 as part of the MAP they remain valid.

The Vision statement is quite broad and could provide a better explanation of the link between MAB and WNBR. It would be helpful to outline the strategy of the MAB Programme in other areas than BR development. The reference to MDG's can be changed to SDG's as the environment will remain a priority area.

The Mission statement clearly links the environmental domain to the socio-economic and cultural domains. It could further emphasize the need for an interdisciplinary approach in the study of the environment at regional and global scale.

Q 2. Key issues, International Processes and Strategic Goals

MAB will have to contribute to the realization of the SDG's but should also be focused and produce measurable deliveries. In particular the Programme should contribute to the 3 Rio Conventions on Climate Change, Desertification and Biological Diversity. MAB need to provide a platform facilitating the dialogue between the scientific and policy making communities. Through the further development of the WNBR it should increase the interdisciplinary research efforts between the developing and industrialized countries. Its educational efforts should be broadened from the specialized scientific communities to involve all partners of the civil society. A closer cooperation with ASpnet could be developed.

Q 3. MAB Services

MAB ecosystem services were articulated around the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and were grouped into 4 service categories: supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural. Given the resources available this approach should be re-evaluated and appropriate prioritization should be introduced taking into account the added value the Organization can provide. The public and private sector partnerships in ecosystem services should be further developed in areas where the Programme has a specific comparative advantage.

Q 4. Future MAB Research, Policy & Action Agendas

As UNESCO is the only UN Specialized Agency with a mandate to designate specific areas as BR the development of the WNBR should be continue to be a key priority for MAB. Increased use should be made of the BR as research facilities in developed and industrialized countries to conduct integrated environmental research, making use of the archives of long time observations and environmental monitoring and management experiments in the core, buffer and transition zones. The delineation of the zones, especially of the older BR, still needs to be improved. The international scientific community needs to be better informed on the potential of the WNBR to facilitate efficient N-S & S-S cooperative research on climate change and biodiversity evolution. BR needs to be more intensely used as learning sites for local and regional sustainable development. MAB needs to enhance its

interdisciplinary projects, the cooperation with IHP in the field of eco-hydrology is a positive step. Similar cooperation could be developed with the geology programme.

Q 5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

Regional networks are quite successful in certain parts of the world. They have variable working methods and statutes which address local needs and need not necessarily be harmonized. The overall functioning of some regional networks suffer from a dramatic lack of resources, this could be alleviated by developing creative twinning & tripartite arrangements and by stimulating private sector involvement.

The more recent development of thematic networks is an important stimulus for trans-boundary research and should primarily focus on work related to the 3 Rio Conventions. Their structure should be kept flexible and a sun set clause could be introduced.

Q 6. MAB Governing Mechanisms

In general the governing mechanisms were adapted over time and are functioning. However given the increased constraints on resources a cost benefit analysis of the governing mechanisms could be conducted and cost saving measures could be proposed especially by reinforcing electronic consultation processes and electronic communication. The communication between the National MAB Committees and the National UNESCO Commissions needs to be strengthened further.

Q 7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners

Funding mechanisms have evolved over the last few years in order to facilitate the alignment of the donor proposals and the work-programme of the Organization. More work in that direction is needed to increase medium term funding-mechanisms to co-finance research in priority areas as SDG's and the 3 Conventions. More flexible mechanisms need to be introduced to address short term research and capacity building and awareness raising projects. The establishment of the MAB Special Account is one approach to introduce more flexibility in the funding process. Fundraising should indeed include new implementation partners not only through increased geographic diversification but also through participation in "calls" from regional funding mechanisms as the EU Horizon 2020 and also by addressing more the innovation industry.

Q 8. Communication and Information

MAB and WNBR are adapting the communication and information policy to take better advantage of modern communication tools. Cooperative arrangements such as with SCOPE led to interesting publications such as the policy briefs for decisionmakers on scientific and technical issues. Improved use of DB and mapping tools could further raise the interest of the scientific community, NGO's and policy-makers.

De : unescoph

Envoyé : mercredi 16 avril 2014 05:19

À : Man & Biosphere

Objet : RE: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 /
Future Stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère 2014-2021

Dear Mr. Qunli,

This Commission wishes to submit the attached inputs re the development of a new MAB strategy.

Thank you.

UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines

NOTICE:

Effective March 2014, we will launch our new website under the domain name

www.unesco.gov.ph

In view of this, kindly send all email communications for the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines to secretariat@unesco.gov.ph

UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines

Department of Foreign Affairs

2330 Roxas Boulevard

Pasay City Philippines

Website: www.unesco.gov.ph

THE PHILIPPINES
RESPONSE TO MAB QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Vision and Mission Statement

The MISSION statement may be revisited.

Below is a suggested re-phrasing of the MISSION STATEMENT:

To ensure environmental, economic and socio-cultural (including spiritual) sustainability through:

- establishment of a worldwide coordinated network of learning and demonstration sites with the aim of maintaining and developing ecological and cultural diversity and securing ecosystem services for human well-being;
- development and integration of scientific knowledge to further understanding of interactions between people and nature;
- building global capacity for the management of complex socio-ecological systems by encouraging enhanced dialogues at the science-policy interface, environmental education and multi-media outreach to the wider community;

(Suggested Additions)

- devising acceptable mechanisms that will inhibit vested interest groups from ravishing biodiversity and culture-rich sites for commercial exploitation;
- development and strengthening of linkages with academic institutions with the aim in view of coming up with innovative learning and research programs for the youth regarding key issues like climate change, biodiversity loss/conservation, impacts of burgeoning population, growth of urban centers, etc.

2. Key Issues, International Processes and Strategic Goals

The key issues and international processes are mentioned above, namely climate change, biodiversity loss/conservation, burgeoning population, and growth of urban centers. MAB should address those inasmuch as they impact on Biosphere Reserves and the world, in general, and are also interconnected.

3.

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas

It is suggested that future MAB research focus on the key issues enumerated above.

Cooperation with other international partners should be strengthened, like the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the Kyoto Protocol, WWF for Nature, etc.

Within countries, national research councils, science agencies, universities, etc. should be invited to participate in MAB activities and researches.

5.

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms

Personnel at the MAB site should have greater involvement in National MAB Committees.

7.

8. MAB could improve its visibility. There should be wider dissemination and propaganda on what MAB and its WNBR are through use of contemporary communication and information data sharing tools and instruments.

De : Catherine Cibien
Envoyé : mercredi 16 avril 2014 14:21
À : Venter, Sylvie
Cc : Bouamrane, Meriem
Objet : éléments pour Stratégie du MAB 2014-2021

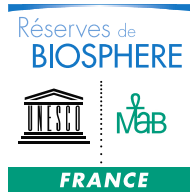
Chers Collègues,

En réponse à la lettre circulaire du MAB invitant à contribuer au processus d'élaboration de la nouvelle Stratégie du MAB, je vous adresse des éléments produits par le comité MAB France.

Je vous prie de bien vouloir nous excuser pour le retard, dû à la date de réunion de notre Bureau en fin de semaine dernière. Nous avons en effet choisi de discuter des différentes questions et ce jour avait été fixé de longue date.

Je vous prie de croire à mes meilleurs sentiments.

Catherine Cibien
MAB France
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31321 CASTANET TOLOSAN CEDEX
www.mab-france.org



Eléments de contribution à la future Stratégie du MAB et du Réseau mondial de Réserves de biosphère 2014-2021

1. Vision et déclaration de mission pour le MAB et le Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère (WNBR)

Dans le contexte de la nouvelle Stratégie du MAB, y a-t-il un besoin de revisiter la vision et les déclarations de mission sur MAB et son Réseau mondial contenus dans le Plan d'Action de Madrid (PAM), et si c'est le cas, quels éléments devraient être changés / ajoutés?

La vision pour le Réseau mondial énoncée à Séville et brièvement rappelée à Madrid demeure valable. Mais comme on observe un aggravement des problèmes plutôt que leur atténuation, l'expérimentation de la transition écologique devrait être ajoutée au mandat du Réseau mondial. Il pourrait également être rappelé que les Réserves de biosphère intéressent l'ensemble des champs d'action de l'Unesco, et pas seulement le secteur des sciences

2. Problèmes-clés, Processus internationaux et Buts stratégiques

4. Futurs Programmes de recherche, de Politique et d'Action du MAB

Quels sont les problèmes-clés, les processus internationaux et les événements clés sur lesquels le MAB et son Réseau devraient se concentrer dans les années à venir ? Par rapport à ces questions, processus et événements, quels sont les objectifs et les accomplissements les plus importants vers lesquels le MAB devrait s'employer ?

Le type des problèmes auquel l'humanité doit faire face n'a pas changé de nature, mais d'acuité, notamment du fait de l'urgence climatique et de ses conséquences en terme de biodiversité comme de développement.

Les Réserves de biosphère sont désormais organisées pour être des lieux d'expérimentation de la transition écologique, lien entre le local et le global, à l'interface entre science et société.

Quels éléments clés devraient être inclus dans les futurs programmes de recherche, de politique et d'action du MAB pour atteindre les objectifs stratégiques et assurer le développement effectif et la livraison des services.

Transition énergétique (énergies alternatives, renouvelables), économie circulaire, écologie territoriale

Transition agro écologique : quelles mutations accomplir en fonction des niveaux d'action et de gouvernance (du consommateur à l'exploitation au territoire, Etat et au delà), intégrer la biodiversité à la production

Adaptation aux changements climatiques, adaptation des pratiques, jeux d'acteurs

Réserves de biosphère transfrontières

3. Les Services du MAB

Quels sont les services les plus importants que le MAB et son Réseau mondial devraient rendre

pour le bénéfice des Etats membres de l'UNESCO ?

Le MAB devrait être pourvoyeur de réflexion, de connaissance et d'expériences concrètes pour les Etats membres, grâce à une plateforme d'échange performante et un site web amélioré.

L'image de l'Unesco est positive, et très valorisante pour les acteurs locaux. Elle est un moteur pour leur engagement. Le moyen d'être en contact plus étroit avec les parties prenantes des Réserves de biosphère (élus par exemple) devrait être étudié : journées à l'Unesco, déplacements des personnes du Secrétariat dans les Réserves de biosphère... L'aspect symbolique et protocolaire est important.

Les Réserves de biosphère comme lieux d'excellence pour le développement durable impliquent une gestion effective et rigoureuse du réseau. L'examen périodique en est un élément clé, générant un processus dynamique de gestion adaptative des sites suivant un pas de temps de 10 ans. Il permet aux Etats d'évaluer les progrès accomplis, de revoir les lacunes, de remobiliser les parties prenantes et d'améliorer le fonctionnement au vu de l'expérience. Il offre également la possibilité au Secrétariat de produire périodiquement des états du réseau, à condition de disposer de bases de données opérationnelles, de possibilités de cartographie, et d'indicateurs permettant de qualifier son état. L'utilisation de ces outils contribuerait à renforcer la crédibilité générale du réseau pour les Etats membres.

Le MAB devrait pouvoir offrir les Réserves de biosphère comme terrains d'expérimentation pour des chercheurs : cela nécessite la mise à disposition de données dans des conditions clarifiées, du point de vue des chercheurs comme du point de vue du MAB Unesco.

Le MAB devrait identifier, promouvoir et faire connaître la multiplicité des approches innovantes et réussies provenant de différents contextes sociaux, culturels, environnementaux.

Il devrait donc faciliter les échanges entre les expériences et mettre les informations à disposition.

Le MAB devrait être associé aux agences de financement (notamment de la recherche, par exemple en Europe).

5. Réseaux régionaux et thématiques du MAB

Comment le fonctionnement des réseaux régionaux et thématiques du MAB pourrait être amélioré ? Y aurait-il un besoin de rationaliser les méthodes de travail et les statuts des réseaux existants ? Des réseaux supplémentaires devraient-ils être établis pour couvrir de nouveaux thèmes ? Si c'est le cas, quels sont ces thèmes ?

Il n'est pas utile de favoriser la multiplicité des réseaux, mais de s'appuyer sur l'expérience de ceux qui fonctionnent le mieux et de transférer leurs acquis : gouvernance, animation, communication.

Il est aussi indispensable que le secrétariat assure une bonne coordination entre eux.

Des projets (avec financement) devraient être développés dans le cadre des réseaux régionaux, par exemple en EDD, formation, modalités de participation ou d'autres aspects de la recherche ou de la gestion... Une aide à leur montage devrait être apportée.

6. Les mécanismes statutaires du MAB

Y aurait-il un besoin de revisiter les mécanismes statutaires du MAB aux niveaux national, régional et international ? Si c'est le cas, pourquoi ?

Non, pour le niveau international. Le Cadre statutaire du Réseau mondial reste tout à fait approprié.

Au niveau national, les modalités dépendent des pays : En France, une plus grande reconnaissance et une meilleure visibilité des Réserves de biosphère est recherchée.

7. Les mécanismes de financement et la mise en œuvre de partenariats

Pour assurer la mise en œuvre effective de la Stratégie aux niveaux national, régional et international, que pourrait-il être fait pour que soient mobilisés les fonds nécessaires ? Y aurait-il un besoin d'apporter des nouveaux partenaires de mise en œuvre, comme par exemple des groupes de recherche de pointe, des groupes de réflexion, des entreprises du secteur privé, et des organisations de la société civile ? Si c'est le cas, quelles devraient être les priorités en termes de nouveaux partenariats ?

En Europe, il est essentiel que le MAB collabore avec l'Union européenne, pour le financement de projets de recherche, comme d'intervention dans les Réserves de biosphère. Des fonds européens sont couramment utilisés par les territoires. Il conviendrait d'établir des partenariats plus formels pour le financement de projets de coopération, le réseautage...

Des réseaux de praticiens, de nombreuses ONG (sur l'énergie, l'agriculture bio, l'alimentation locale par ex) travaillent à l'international dans le domaine du développement durable. Il serait important de développer des partenariats avec ces initiatives.

8. Communication et Information

Comment le MAB et son Réseau mondial pourraient-ils prendre avantage des outils et instruments de communication et d'information/partage des données des outils contemporains pour sa visibilité et pour le bénéfice des Etats membres et de la société ?

Le MAB et les Réserves de biosphère restent peu connues et peu visibles.

Un fonctionnement plus efficace du Réseau et des Réserves de biosphère pleinement opérationnelles contribueraient à sa communication par les relais dans la presse...

Il manque toujours une stratégie de communication (avec cibles et outils différenciés) dotée de moyens correspondants, ainsi que des outils d'échanges au sein du réseau (page web performante, réseau social), annuaires et de bibliothèques à jour, facilement accessibles...

15/04/2014

De : Christopher H. D. Magadza

Envoyé : mercredi 16 avril 2014 13:08

À : Man & Biosphere; Ndhlovu

Objet : Re: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 /
Future Stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère 2014-2021

Dear Hun

Our apologies for late submission of our contribution to the Future MAB strategy document. Please find attached our contribution.

Best regards

Chris Magadza (Chairman MAB Zimbabwe)

Contribution to the future strategy planning

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

In the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?

We believe the MAB vision and mission statements are adequate.

2. Key Issues, International Processes and Strategic Goals

What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?

1. MAB should be involved in the climate change discussion/ negotiations for the stabilisation of greenhouse emissions. The current reports from the IPCC clearly indicate that the emission levels now constitute “dangerous interference with the earth’s climate” (Article 2. UNFCCC)
2. In the post Rio environment MAB should be engaged in creating a future post Rio framework.

3. MAB Services

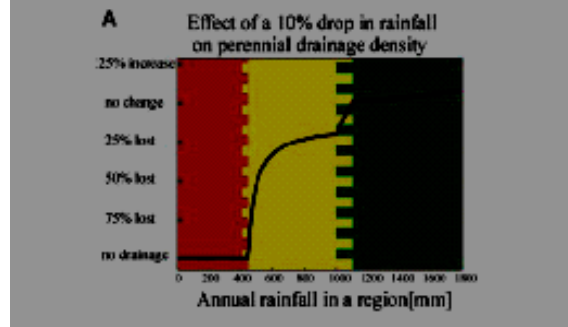
What are the most important services that MAB and its WNBR should deliver to the benefit of UNESCO Member States?

Strengthen the Earth Sciences, especially in developing countries, for the better appreciation of ecosystem services. In particular the understanding and management of surface and ground water resources in tropical sub humid-semi arid savannahs

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas

What key items should be included in MAB’s future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and to ensure the effective development and delivery of the services?

Few countries have the capability of projecting ecosystem responses to global warming. There is need for new visions on land use-global warming response of ecosystems, particularly in regions where livelihoods are highly dependent on basic ecosystem services. This should include the capability of developing ecosystem responses to the combination of



land use and global warming. As example, the figure illustrates the probable change in perennial drainage density for a drop of 10% rainfall. Most sub-Saharan sub humid savannas fall in the category where the drainage density could rapidly fall by as much as 50%. Unsustainable land use practices could worsen the situation.

5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statutes of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes? If so, what themes?

Present arrangement satisfactory. However, some regions might need financial support.

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels? If so, why?

Present mechanisms are satisfactory

7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, what could be done to ensure that sufficient funds are mobilized? Is there a need to bring in new implementation partners, such as leading research groups, think tanks, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organizations? If so, what should the priorities be in terms of new partners?

1. Collaborating with other organisations, e.g. UNDP, WWF, IUCN etc would be helpful especially to developing country member states.
2. Partnering with research groups would also be very useful, especially with Item 4 above. However there must be a clear skills and technology transfer framework spelt out in the partnership for capacity building.
3. Thirdly twinning biosphere reserves can also contribute to capacity building as well as encouraging trans-boundary and transnational cooperation and engendering good will.

8. Communication and Information

How could MAB and its WNBR take better advantage of contemporary communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments for visibility and benefit to Member States and to society?

1. IPCC has a data-clearing centre. A similar facility for MAB, especially for ecosystem and other biofunctions models, would be appreciated.
2. Another facility that could be very useful is satellite data on remote sensing and GIS.

3. An instrumentation guide, showing instrumentation options and manufactures would also be useful.

Ref

Maarten de Wit* and Jacek Stankiewicz 2006. Changes in Surface Water Supply Across Africa with Predicted Climate Change. *SCIENCE VOL 311 31 MARCH 2006* pp 1917-1920.



Paris, 15 April 2014

Ref:2014/71965393-UNESCO DT/4522557

Dear Mr. Director,

With reference to your letter dated 6 March 2014 (Ref: CL/MAB/2014/1) concerning the Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021, I have the honor to share the following comments transmitted by my authorities:

- Promoting the creation of more projects aiming at education and exchange of information among UNESCO-MAB member countries,

and

- Development of a standard format on management plan with a special emphasize on "planning of biosphere reserves management" should be included in the Future Strategy.

On this occasion, allow me to inform you about activities related to MAB Programme and its relationship with capacity development and environmental matters.

- 6th International Education Programme on capacity building of countries in Central Asia, Balkans and Africa affected by desertification will be held this year in Mersin and Konya. The programme carried out jointly by the Ministry of Forestry and Water of Turkey and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) and supported by the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification, in the context of land rehabilitation/combating desertification and forestry regional cooperation project.

- The International Research and Training Center on Combating Desertification will be founded in Turkey in accordance with the decision taken during the first experts meeting of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures (AIGK/CICA).

Please accept, Mr. Director, of my highest consideration,

Esra Doğan Grajower
First Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Delegate

Mr.Han Qunli
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Secretary, Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme

De : Natallia Rybianets
Envoyé : mercredi 16 avril 2014 18:44
À : Man && Biosphere;
Objet : New MAB Strategy

Dear Mr HAN Qunli,
Please find attached some comments on proposed questions for
Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and
the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021.
Hope, some of them could be useful for the purpose.
With all the best wishes,
Natallia Rybianets

Natallia Rybianets
Member of the ICC MAB Bureau
Vice-Chairperson
Belarus UNESCO-MAB National Committee
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Possible Questions to Address in the Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

In the context of the New MAB Strategy is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and the WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?

MAB Secretariat and main players of the MAB Community - MAB national committees, MAB Focal points and Biosphere Reserves – made a great input into the New MAB Strategy development, so New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) contains the necessary elements on vision and mission statements for MAB and WNBR and might serve a road map for realization of the Madrid Action Plan - MAP (2008-2013).

2. Strategic Goals, Key Issues and International Processes

What are the most important goals that MAB should strive towards and what are the key issues and international process that MAB with its WNBR should focus on in the coming years?

(1) One of the potential important goals that MAB can achieve
–Demonstration on basis of biosphere reserves - “sites of excellence” – model of sustainable development of the territories that might serve as a model for sustainable development of the regions.

Potential instrument for the goal achievement: establishing the data base of the World network of biosphere reserves as a whole system with compiling the information from the sites of the WNBR in the direction of biotic and abiotic monitoring, ecosystems’ monitoring and social monitoring. Climate change and biodiversity interactions might be shown on basis of analysis of compiled data.

(2) The other potential important goal –
Strengthening international cooperation between neighboring countries in transboundary sites of the WNBR and ‘site-to-site’ cooperation - that leads to sustainable development of the regions and maintenance of neighborliness.

3. MAB Services

What are the most important concrete services that MAB and the WNBR should deliver to the benefit of Member States?

Encouraging and promoting the WNBR sites in international cooperation of different groups of BRs’ stakeholders - local population, researchers, with emphasis on maintenance of close cooperation of young generation in frame of joint projects.

Using real-world objects of the WNBR as platforms for education of local young people, pupils and students will enhance the interest of young people in preservation of natural areas.

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas

What key items should be included in MAB’s future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and for the development and delivery of the services?

(1) Establishing the data base of the World network of biosphere reserves as a whole system with compiling the information from the sites of the WNBR in the directions:
biotic monitoring (flora, fauna - as vertebrates and invertebrates);
abiotic monitoring, including hydrology and surface water objects quality/quantity;
monitoring of ecosystems
social monitoring.

(2) Climate change and biodiversity interactions might be shown on basis of analysis of compiled data. Summarized information on climatic characteristics in the sites of the WNBR—temperature, humidity, pressure, snow and blanket of snow, cloudiness, wind et al. - for the period of decades will allow further analysis the interaction of biodiversity and climate change.

(3) Development and publication of teaching materials with an interdisciplinary approach for managers of Biosphere Reserves and other valuable territories of high international status in printed and electronic form

5. MAB Governing Mechanisms and Stakeholders

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels, for example by bringing in new stakeholders and partners, such as leading research groups and think tanks, private sectors and civil society organizations?

Stewardship of the MAB program in different countries can be special; revision strategy of national MAB committees is a national matter.

As for governing mechanisms of MAB at the regional and international levels – proposed bringing into the MAB Programme new stakeholders and partners (such as leading research groups, private sectors and civil society organisations) looks prospectively.

6. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statutes of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes?

Establishing a 'Network of Transboundary Biosphere Reserves' will allow participants and stakeholders of the TBRs to share best practices for solving problems arising in the conditions of existence of cross-border sites.

7. Funding Mechanisms

What could be done to ensure that sufficient funds are mobilized for the effective implementation of the Strategy?

No comments

8. Communication and Information

How could MAB and the WNBR better take advantage of contemporary communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments for visibility and public benefit?

Creation of information forum or platform for exchanging information on best practices in and around Biosphere Reserves could be useful.

9. Milestones MAB and WNBR during 2014-2017

What milestone events and achievements should be targeted in the next coming years?

2016: Development and Publication of results of MAB Programme activity for 45 years.



CH-3003 Berne, OFEV, OSC

Han Qunli
Secrétaire
Programme sur l'Homme
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N° de référence: N164-1333
Votre référence:
Notre référence: OSC
Dossier traité par: OSC
Berne, le 17 avril 2014

Contribution à la Stratégie du MAB

Monsieur le Secrétaire,

Au nom du comité national du programme MAB j'ai le plaisir de vous envoyer la contribution de la Suisse au processus de développement de la nouvelle stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère. Les membres du comité tiennent à vous remercier de cette opportunité.

Vision et déclaration pour le MAB et le Réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère

Il serait d'abord utile de pouvoir s'appuyer sur une évaluation détaillée du Plan d'Action de Madrid pour pouvoir élaborer la nouvelle stratégie. En général, nous pouvons remarquer que le taux de réalisation du Plan d'Action de Madrid n'est pas 100%. Il serait donc utile de continuer ses actions sur la prochaine période en se focalisant sur des activités prioritaires. En tenant compte de l'état du budget actuel il n'est pas envisageable de commencer de nouvelles activités, il serait par contre judicieux d'explorer le plus possible les possibilités de synergies avec des programmes, projets et conventions existantes.

Problèmes-clés, Processus internationaux et Buts stratégiques

Les thèmes importants au niveau international restent la protection de la biodiversité, les changements climatiques et les services écosystémiques. Le programme MAB devrait s'intégrer dans les processus, les projets et des programmes internationaux existants sur ces thèmes (IPBES, Future Earth, ecc.) et apporter sa contribution basée entre autre sur l'important Réseau de réserves de biosphère qu'il abrite. Dans le cadre de la recherche de synergies avec des programmes, projets et des conventions de l'UNESCO, le programme MAB devrait se baser entre autre sur le rapport

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concernant les moyens possibles de protéger et renforcer la reconnaissance de la marque des réserves de biosphère, des biens du patrimoine mondial et éventuellement des géoparcs mondiaux de l'UNESCO que la 37^{ième} Conférence générale a demandé à la Directrice générale. Dans ce cadre il est aussi nécessaire de coordonner les processus en amont au niveau national pour ces différentes labellisations de façon à ce que les Etats puissent avoir des orientations claires pour la reconnaissance de leurs sites.

Les services du MAB

Au vu des ressources disponibles le MAB devrait se concentrer sur les activités de coordination et sur son rôle de multiplicateur en se basant le plus possible sur des programmes et projets existants.

Réseaux régionaux et thématiques du MAB

Les réseaux régionaux fonctionnent bien et constituent des plateformes intéressantes. Les réseaux thématiques sont à notre avis trop nombreux. Il faudrait pouvoir trouver un système plus flexible pour aborder des thèmes importants. Par exemple, constituer des task force thématiques ayant une durée limitée dans le temps selon les besoins.

Les mécanismes statutaires du MAB

Les compétences des différents groupes et comités internationaux du programme MAB et de la Direction générale de l'UNESCO devraient être définies plus clairement.

Les mécanismes de financement et la mise en œuvre de partenariats

Avant de se lancer dans la recherche de partenariats, il faut analyser si le secrétariat MAB a les ressources nécessaires et quel est le potentiel du programme d'attirer des partenaires. Sans cela le risque est grand de consommer beaucoup de ressources dans la recherche de fonds sans obtenir des résultats probants. Le mode de financement proposé par le réseau mondial des géoparcs avec des cotisations par site est à étudier. Ce système est intéressant, mais il ne tient pas compte de la distribution des richesses au niveau mondial et pourrait potentiellement désavantager des pays ou des régions économiquement faibles.

Communication et information

Il faudrait améliorer la communication centralisée en se focalisant sur les informations importantes en les communiquant de façon détaillée et rapide. Cela laisserait plus de temps aux Etats pour des consultations internes.

En espérant d'avoir pu contribuer de façon constructive aux discussions, nous vous prions de recevoir, Monsieur le Secrétaire, nos salutations distinguées

Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV



Carlo Ossola

Copie:

- Membres du comité MAB suisse

De : yokodama

Envoyé : vendredi 18 avril 2014 13:46

À : Man & Biosphere

Cc :

Objet : Re: TR: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 / Future Stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère 2014-2021

Dear Mr Han Qunli

We are sorry about the delayed response to your request.

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO submits our views and suggestions to Future Strategy for MAB and the WNBR 2014-2021 as the attachment file.

If there are additional comments, we will submit them again later.

Best regards,

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KODAMA Yoko

Office of the Director-General for International Affairs

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

(MEXT)

☆☆-----

Answers to the questions to Address in the Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

MAB Japanese national committees

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves(WNBR)

Is the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?

Answer:

Of the following answers, 2 and 3 should be reflected in the new strategy in particular.

From the viewpoint of "sustainable development", the framework of BR comprising mainly secondary nature (human-influenced natural environments such as SATOYAMA) should be considered. In addition, we need a clearly specified criteria for zoning (connection with other zones and areas which is not part of the BR).

2. Key Issues, International Processes and Strategic Goals

What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?

Answer:

Sustainable coexistence of nature and human society.

Introduction of the concept of "Sustainability Science" which is the integrated approach of natural science, humanities and social sciences.

3. MAB Services

What are the most important services that MAB and its WNBR should deliver to the benefit of UNESCO Member States?

Answer:

Providing information and supporting to build the regional sustainable development models of recycling-based social and economic system, such as Recycling-oriented social and economic systems which can enjoy benefits of ecosystem services by the protection and preservation of the natural environment

sustainably.

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas

What key items should be included in MAB's future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and to ensure the effective development and delivery of the services?

Answer:

Sustainable use of ecological system.

local development based on protection and preservation of the natural environment.

Strengthen cooperation between measures and BR management structure of local community.

Building cooperating management methods of BR consisting of multiple communities

5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statues of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes? If so, what themes?

Answer:

Sharing measures, characteristics and good practices of each BR.

Exchange of each BR persons in charge as well as liaison officers.

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels? If so, why?

Answer:

Japan reviewed the management structure of BR to actively participate in the MAB program in which main actor is each local government and so on. Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (MAB Subcommittee) is in charge of the entire system design and coordination.

7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, what could be done to ensure that sufficient funds are

mobilized? Is there a need to bring in new implementation partners, such as leading research groups, think tanks, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organizations? If so, what should the priorities be in terms of new partners?

Answer:

It is necessary to position MAB activities in the policy of the local government.

While new implementation partners, such as research institution, industries, NGOs, are important for the capacity building in the region, we need to be careful not to lose independence and order in local community, if they are outsider of the region.

8. Communication and Information

How could MAB and its WNBR take better advantage of contemporary communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments for visibility and benefit to Member States and to society?

Answer:

It is believed that if building databases of WNBR where keyword search is available and easy to access, information sharing will be promoted.

Use of SNS is effective to transmit and share information of each BR.



MinAmbiente
Ministerio de Ambiente
y Desarrollo Sostenible

**PROSPERIDAD
PARA TODOS**

Colombia's views on key elements to be considered in the preparation of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

Colombia, through its MAB Focal Point for the World Network of the Biosphere Reserves, welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the key elements of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021.

Answers and proposals addressing some of the questions outlined in the Annex to the Circular Letter CL/MAB/2014/1 are below.

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of the Biosphere Reserves

In the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?

The Madrid Action Plan (MAP) laid out three emerging challenges to sustainable development and the potential role of Biosphere Reserves (hereafter BRs) in addressing them: (i) accelerated climate change with consequences for societies and ecosystems; (ii) accelerated loss of biological and cultural diversity with unexpected consequences that impact the ability of ecosystems to continue to provide services critical for human wellbeing and (iii) rapid urbanisation as a driver of environmental change.

Since the formulation of the MAP, such challenges have continued to grow in extent, their potential consequences are now known with increased certainty and it has been widely recognised that enhanced action in all three fronts is urgently required should irreversible, unpredictable changes be avoided. It is Colombia's view that strengthened actions need to be deployed in a context of promoting a smart use of natural resources that does not enter into conflict with economic growth, human development and the improvement of livelihoods and opportunities at the local level.

Future actions under MAB and the World Network of the Biosphere Reserves (henceforth WNBR) should therefore have foundations on the overall goal of fostering harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development (which should remain unchanged), and be guided by MAB's potential to provide for concrete, on the ground and immediate actions that are based on the concept of sustainable development and could therefore contribute to diminishing the socioeconomic and environmental negative impacts of the abovementioned challenges.

Under this rationale, Colombia wishes to submit the following proposals on elements to be added to the Vision and Mission Statements for MAB and the WNBR:



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Elements to be added to the Vision Statement

- *A specific vision within a timeframe and contribution to SDGs:* to achieve, by 2025, conciliation between biological diversity conservation and development whilst maintaining associated cultural values, thus contributing to the peace, MDGs and SDGs.
- *An intention to make significant contributions to addressing the three emerging challenges outlined in the MAP:* The WNBR is one of the main international tools to develop and implement sustainable development approaches in the context of climate change adaptation and/or mitigation, biodiversity and ecosystem services loss and rapid urbanisation.

Elements to be added to the Mission Statement

To ensure environmental, economic, social (including cultural and spiritual) sustainability through:

- Development and coordination of a worldwide network of places acting as demonstration areas and learning sites with the aim of maintaining and developing ecological and cultural diversity, securing ecosystem services for human well-being and *stimulating economic activities that are consistent with sustainable development in the face of climate change adaptation and/or mitigation, biodiversity and ecosystem services loss and rapid urbanisation.*
- Development, integration *and sharing* of knowledge including science for advancing our understanding of interactions between people and the rest of nature; *promoting specific actions to build* global capacity for the management of complex socio-ecological systems particularly through encouraging greater dialogue at the science-policy interface, *stimulating research on tools and methods for environmental management and development*, environmental education and multi-media outreach to the wider community.

2. Key issues, international processes and strategic goals

What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?

The MAP is ambitious in nature and sets out a comprehensive package of action areas, goals and actions that aim at fulfilling the Programme's overall objectives. Actions for 2014-2021 should too focus on ensuring compliance of existing BRs to the strategic framework outlined in the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework, but providing innovative, updated alternatives under each current action area that are in line with the three challenges that the Programme aims at addressing and the aforementioned international processes.

In line with this vision, the possible strategic goals and achievements that MAB and the WNBR should strive towards are:



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- Effectively contributing to compliance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) stemming from the Rio+20 Conference.
 - Enhancing compliance of existing BRs by providing Member States with technical advisory on BR zoning, monitoring and institutional strengthening.
 - Promoting cooperation between the academy, decision-makers, community stakeholders and economic sectors in order to design and implement actions aimed at improving socioeconomic and environmental conditions in existing BRs
 - Facilitating access to and sharing of methods and approaches to zoning, planning and decision-making to address the priorities of local communities residing in BRs against the backdrop of conservation and sustainable development
- Strengthening cooperative and more coordinated action with relevant Conventions, inter alia, CBD, Ramsar, Convention on Desertification and UNFCCC, focusing on their knowledge-sharing and systematic observation platforms, research programs, outreach strategies and financial mechanisms.
 - The WNBR could be promoted and positioned as a long-standing, well established option to developing and financing climate change mitigation and adaptation pilot projects under the umbrella of the GEF, the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. The potential of BRs to address climate change should be realised through the direct involvement of existing and future sites in projects and adaptation/mitigation plans and strategies.
 - Mechanisms should be devised to maximise the involvement and enhance dialogue between MAB and specific programs and processes under relevant conventions in a way that ensures that BRs are seen as learning sites of excellence by donors and implementing agencies.
- Streamline MAB and the WNBR within existing international, regional and national research initiatives and programs that could contribute to enhance management and planning at the Network and individual BRs levels: the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) – GEO-BON, GCOSS, the Global Ecosystem Monitoring Networks and Programs, etc.
 - Develop and implement a promotion strategy to establish a solid, prioritised position of MAB and the WNBR within existing international, regional and national research initiatives and programs that could contribute to enhance management and planning at the Network and individual BRs levels
 - Liaise with existing international, regional and national research initiatives, programs and institutes in order to foster research and knowledge-sharing at the Network and individual BRs levels.
 - Generate capacity building programs directed to managers and BR authorities that allow for improvement of the sustainable development actions implemented and technologies applied in individual BRs



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3. MAB Services

What are the most important services that MAB and its WNBR should deliver to the benefit of UNESCO Member States?

- Provide technical assistance to Member States on how existing BRs could better contribute to addressing climate change, rapid and unplanned urbanisation and biodiversity/ecosystem services loss.
- Facilitate and promote cooperation and exchange between the academy, decision-makers, politicians and economic sectors in and across Member States in order to develop actions to improve the socioeconomic and environmental conditions of BRs and resident communities.
- Promote and support research programs that articulate the academy, traditional knowledge and social organisations aimed at providing solutions to the problems experienced in BRs
- Generate training and capacity building programs directed to BR authorities and managers with the aim of improving the technologies and actions implemented in BRs.

4. Future MAB research, policy and action agendas

What key items should be included in MAB's future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and to ensure the effective development and delivery of the services?

Research agenda

- Cost-effective methods and tools to conduct more effective and continuous monitoring of the ecosystem services provided by BRs and the success of actions implemented to promote sustainable development
- Role of payments for environmental services in the creation of long-term financial strategies to support conservation and sustainable development activities in BRs
- Methodologies and tools to develop organic production systems that ensure a minimum use of chemical substances

Policy agenda

- Enhance dialogue between science and policy-makers in order to generate consensus regarding the BRs potential to address climate change, unsustainable urbanisation and biodiversity/ecosystem services loss and encourage best practices in decision-making.
- Provide national MAB committees and BR authorities with periodic summary reports on available methods, technologies and approaches to BR's zoning, planning and monitoring
- Explore the potential links between BRs and reforestation/prevention of forest degradation activities, biodiversity conservation strategies and land use planning frameworks in Member States

Action agenda

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- Provide technical assistance to Member States on how existing BRs could better contribute to addressing climate change, rapid and unplanned urbanisation and biodiversity/ecosystem services loss.
- Promote the development of strategies such as the implementation of special stamps to enhance the commercial attractiveness of products that are generated in BRs
- Promote the conversion of productive systems that affect conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity

5. MAB regional and thematic networks

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statutes of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes? If so, what themes?

Based on the experiences of the IberoMAB network, which has had good results at the regional level, Colombia is of the view that existing thematic networks should be strengthened in order to enhance participation by Member States, and new themes should be included within their existing scope if necessary.

Statutes should be flexible enough to allow for the inclusion of new themes within existing networks (following a discussion and analysis process). Working methods should include and favour the use of web-based resources and platforms to increase participation and streamline knowledge-sharing processes.

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels? If so, why?

Defining whether or not MAB's governing mechanisms need to be revisited requires a detailed examination of the ways in which the current structure positively or negatively impacts the effective implementation of strategic actions. At the national level, this depends on internal factors that vary across Member States. It is therefore suggested that, rather than deciding upfront on the fate of MAB's governing mechanisms, an assessment process aimed at establishing the strengths, weaknesses and possible alternatives to the current governing mechanisms is included within the future strategy, so decisions are made on an informed basis.

7. Funding mechanisms and implementation partners



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In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, what could be done to ensure that sufficient funds are mobilised? Is there a need to bring in new implementation partners, such as leading research groups, think tanks, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organisations? If so, what should the priorities be in terms of new partners?

The WNBR should be seen as a collection of sites of excellence to promote learning and pilot concrete actions on climate change adaptation and mitigation and biodiversity conservation, so individual BRs are granted more access to available financial resources from existing programs led by multilateral agencies and international funds.

In order to lower the costs of implementation of the Strategy at the international and national level, leading research groups and think tanks should be more effectively brought in by MAB. Arrangements could be established in a way that research on ecosystem monitoring and methods for environmental management targets individual BRs or BR regional networks, and results are shared amongst BRs authorities and national committees.

The same is applicable to private sector enterprises. A stocktaking exercise of success cases could be used to gather private actors and increase MAB's buy-in from an economic perspective, whilst ongoing projects and actions on sustainable production in existing BRs could be listed and periodically updated on a web-based clearing-house that companies and donors could have access to.

8. Communication and information

How could MAB and its WNBR take better advantage of contemporary communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments for visibility and benefit of Member States and to society?

- MAB web-based platform should be interactive, allowing feedback from national committees, individual BRs and regional networks; sharing of MAB-related technical and scientific documents, success cases, workshops, invitations, amongst others.
- MAB's updates, key messages and events could be published on a continuous basis in major social networks.
- MAB side events could be held in the margins of conferences of the Parties of major relevant conventions.
- Training programs directed to MAB focal points and BR authorities could be made available online.

De : Mario Galvez

Envoyé : lundi 12 mai 2014 15:10

À : Man & Biosphere

Objet : Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

Señores Programa MAB:

Conforme lo solicitado por el señor HAN Qunli, adjunto envío contribuciones para la elaboración de la Estrategia Futura del MaB y su red Mundial de Reservas de Biosfera.

Solicito excusas por la fecha en que se responde pero la solicitud fue dirigida a otra dirección de correo, que no es la de este Punto Focal.

Saludos;

Mario Gálvez Fernández

Punto Focal en Chile, Programa MaB - UNESCO
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Algunos elementos para la elaboración de la nueva estrategia del MaB y su Red global de Reservas de Biosfera

- ✚ Con relación a los aportes requeridos en fecha reciente, que permitan preparar el primer borrador de la nueva estrategia del MaB y su Red global de Reservas de Biosfera, el Punto Focal de Chile, quien ha asumido tal responsabilidad recién en el mes de octubre del año 2013, puede señalar lo siguiente:

No se considera necesario introducir cambios en la VISIÓN ni en la MISIÓN que se explicita en el Plan de Acción de Madrid, acordado en el 3er Congreso Mundial de Reservas de Biosfera celebrado en Madrid, en febrero de 2008. Sin embargo si resulta necesario perseverar en ambas. A juzgar por lo que he podido observar en el tiempo que me he desempeñado como Punto Focal, percibo que a pesar del tiempo transcurrido, tanto la declaración de la Visión, como la referida a la Misión, más bien se han ido quedando en el papel.

Al revisar la literatura, ver por ejemplo el documento de trabajo N° 41, de 2011, el cual informa de los resultados y análisis de la evaluación de los países de la Red IberoMaB, para el período 2008 – 2010, es posible observar que, del total de los países que entregaron respuesta a la encuesta, 18 de un total de 23, varios objetivos del PAM no parecieran haber tenido la atención adecuada. El mismo documento sugiere algunas mejoras de manera tal que se de adecuado cumplimiento al PAM

- ✚ Un aspecto clave en el cual debe existir progreso, es el que comenzó a tratar en la XXV reunión del Consejo del MAB, celebrado en mayo de 2013. En la oportunidad el Consejo abordó la denominada "estrategia de salida", la que permitirá mejorar la calidad y la credibilidad de las reservas de biosfera. Este es, en mi parecer, un aspecto clave que permitirá asegurar la continua adhesión de los sitios establecidos como reservas de la biosfera, a los objetivos de su creación y para garantizar, como ya fue señalado, la credibilidad y la coherencia de la Red Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera.

Otro aspecto clave dice relación con la creación de un mecanismo de financiamiento sostenible, destinado a reforzar las reservas de la biosfera, el Programa MAB y las redes regionales, así como a promocionar la implementación del Plan que otorgue continuidad al Plan de Acción de Madrid.

La UNESCO, debe perseverar requiriendo a los Estados miembros y al Secretariado, para que lleven a cabo acciones que permitan la utilización óptima de las reservas de la biosfera para la promoción del desarrollo sostenible. Al mismo tiempo se debe instar a los Estados a dotar de un marco legal a las Reservas de Biosfera que reconozca no sólo la existencia, de las zonas núcleo, sino también los territorios que comprenden las zonas de amortiguación o desarrollo y las zonas de transición.

Si bien varios son los países que han incluido referencias a las Reservas de Biosfera en su legislación nacional y sólo algunos han adoptado una legislación específica acerca de estas, una cantidad importante de Naciones, como es el caso de Chile, no poseen en su legislación referencia alguna a las Reservas de Biosfera, salvo las zonas núcleos que son áreas protegidas, jurídicamente constituidas.

Otro de los aspectos claves a ser considerado en el futuro plan estratégico, debe ser la recomendación a los Estados miembros, que las Reservas de Biosfera deben ser parte de los planes de ordenamiento territorial de los Estados y, como tal, deben ser reconocidos por los instrumentos jurídicos que avalen dichos planes de ordenamiento.

🚩 Respecto de los servicios más importantes a los Estados miembros, en mi parecer uno de ellos está dado por las actividades cooperativas de la Red, (Artículo 7° del PAM). El fortalecimiento de las Redes, debería ser uno de los temas que recoja la nueva Estrategia.

La difusión y el intercambio de conocimiento e información constituyeron un aspecto relevante del PAM. Si bien mucha de la información que se ha generado en el programa no ha sido compartida, lo que debe ser corregido, este intercambio de información y conocimiento debe ser parte de una estrategia futura, especialmente el intercambio subregional entre países con intereses comunes.

La facilitación y/o creación de alianzas entre donantes, agencias, ONG, sector privado, etc. debería ser otro de los servicios importantes que el MaB y la RMRB, deberían entregar como beneficio a los Estados miembros.

🚩 Con referencia a elementos claves que deban ser incluidos en futuros programas de investigación, de política de acción del MaB con el fin de alcanzar los objetivos estratégicos y garantizar el desarrollo y la entrega de los servicios efectivos, considero que con especial preocupación debe abordarse la sobreexplotación del recurso hídrico tanto superficial como subterráneos (acuíferos), idéntica situación que ocurre con los humedales. Ciertamente el crecimiento desmedido de la agricultura, especialmente aquella cuyos cultivos son altamente demandantes en agua de riego, está ocasionando un fuerte deterioro a las reservas de biosfera, en especial a aquellas situadas en zonas en donde las precipitaciones son más escasas.

Otra de las preocupaciones relevantes debería ser el impacto que está generando sobre los territorios declarados reservas de biosfera, el urbanismo desatado, muchas veces carente de planificación y en muchas oportunidades al margen de la ley. El daño que está ocasionando el urbanismo sobre las reservas de biosfera, está generando una fragmentación importante de los ecosistemas presentes en estos territorios.

Es opinión del suscrito que la función de investigación en el programa MaB, ha sido cumplida muy parcialmente durante la vigencia del PAM, debiendo esto revertirse en una futura estrategia.

Los mecanismos de gestión de las reservas de biosfera es otro de los aspectos en los cuales estimo el avance ha sido lento. La ausencia de gestión o la gestión no siempre adecuada de muchas reservas de biosfera, se ha traducido en la deficiente o nula planificación de las actividades desarrolladas al interior de estas con los consiguientes resultados. Por cierto muchas veces esta ausencia de gestión encuentra respuesta en la insuficiente asignación de recursos humanos y financieros, los cuales deberían ser proporcionados principalmente por los Estados. No son pocas las reservas de biosfera en las que no se ha constituido un comité de gestión o de iniciativas, por ello el territorio no muestra muchas diferencias, respecto de su gestión, antes y después de la declaratoria como reserva de biosfera.

Otro aspecto que no debe quedar fuera de una nueva estrategia es el referido al trabajo en red. Las actividades cooperativas, en áreas como la educación, la investigación científica, el intercambio de experiencias, entre otras, podría mejorar sustantivamente el desempeño del programa MaB. A esto debe sumarse una mejora en los sistemas de comunicación y gestión de la información conocida hasta ahora. Sin duda esta es un área en la cual se debe avanzar mucho más lo que se traduciría en un fortalecimiento del programa.

Tal como fue señalado al momento de ser aprobado el Plan de Acción de Madrid, se debe señalar hoy que el cambio climático, la pérdida acelerada de la diversidad cultural y biológica y la rápida urbanización, siguen siendo las principales amenazas para las Reservas de Biosfera, por lo cual de ello debe hacerse cargo la nueva estrategia que se formule.

Mario GÁLVEZ
Punto Focal MaB Chile

Vayan las excusas por el atraso en la entrega de este conjunto de ideas. Lamentablemente la invitación a proveer de aportes no llegó oportunamente a la dirección electrónica de este Punto Focal. Por ello solicito registrar nuevamente mi e-mail: mario.galvez@conaf.cl

[Answers of the German MAB-Committee in red] (as of 13. May 2014)

Possible Questions to Address in the Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021

Contribution of the German MAB National Committee

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

In the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?

Proposal for a revised vision for the MAB-Programme:

- The intergovernmental MAB Programme of UNESCO is one of the guides of the international community on its way towards sustainable development, offering a unique world network of model regions for sustainable development.
- The intergovernmental MAB Programme of UNESCO contributes, in the framework of its mandate and in coordination with other relevant institutions and programmes, to guide the international community on its way to sustainable development, in particular to implementing the sustainable development goals and to comply with its commitments in the framework of Multilateral Environmental Agreements as well as social and cultural conventions and agreements including those on human rights and on the diversity of cultural expressions.
- Through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves it supplies its Member States with the necessary knowledge and tools to sustainably use and protect their biological resources.
- Member States have strong criteria and structures in place to take full advantage of the Programme at national level, to use it for international cooperation and for channeling ODA resources.
- The MAB-Programme is recognized by the international community as a major contribution to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and as an asset to sustainably use and conserve biological diversity and ecosystem services to thereby fulfill the CBD-goals.

The Madrid Action Plan (MAP) should not be considered as concluded. As a document, MAP should rather be revised and maybe shortened, taking into account the results of the ongoing evaluation and the political developments since its adoption in 2008. The revised action plan (2014 onwards) shall focus on further improving the implementation of MAB Programme, based primarily on the Seville Strategy and, at national, regional and thematic levels, through the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

Proposal for a revised vision statement for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) implementing the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the Seville Strategy:

“The World Network of Biosphere Reserves of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence. It fosters harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue, knowledge sharing, poverty reduction and human well-being improvements, respect for cultural values and society’s ability to cope with change, thus contributing to the achievement and/or implementation of

- the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, particularly to the set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be developed and building upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and converging with the post 2015 development agenda
- the post 2014 agenda of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
- the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity by 2020
- the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change

Accordingly, the WNBR is one of the main international tools to develop and implement sustainable development approaches in a wide array of contexts.”

Proposal for a new mission statement for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) implementing the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the Seville Strategy:

“To ensure and further advance environmental, economic, social (including cultural and spiritual) sustainability at all levels through:

- Development, operation and coordination of a worldwide network of areas acting as model areas and learning sites with the aim of maintaining and developing ecological and cultural diversity, and securing ecosystem services for human well-being
- development and integration of knowledge including science for advancing our understanding of interactions between people and nature
- building global capacity for the management of complex socio-ecological systems particularly through encouraging greater dialogue at the science-policy interface, education for sustainable development and efficient outreach to the wider community through all available channels

By 2021, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

- consists only of biosphere reserves with recognized high quality standards based on the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework for the WNBR. The high quality standards are verified and maintained by the Periodic Review Process.
- Member States propose biosphere reserves for designation only in as far they add value to the World Network as model areas for sustainable development.
- Member States increasingly designate and manage transboundary biosphere reserves to ensure ecosystem based management of natural resources, and improve the management of existing areas.
- The MAB-Secretariat seeks and disseminates knowledge and information within the WNBR and to all relevant partners, in particular UN agencies, processes and conventions.

2. Key Issues, International Processes and Strategic Goals

What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?

- BRs shall be real model areas and learning sites (not laboratories) for developing and testing solutions which lead countries to sustainable development, and that countries can apply the results of the models developed also in other areas. This contributes to the outcomes of the Rio + 20 “The future we want” and to the SDGs which are currently elaborated by the Open Ended Working Group.
- Climate change will be one of the main challenges for BRs. Strategies for adaptation and mitigation need to be developed – the Dresden Declaration is an excellent basis in this respect.
- Education for Sustainable Development is a prerequisite for and a leading instrument in all BR-related activities to follow-up the outgoing decade.
- Analysis of zonation schemes and determining **percentage minimum sizes for core areas and buffer zones**
- Countries must develop strict national-specific criteria, including optimal and efficient functional zonation schemes based on the Statutory Framework of the WNBR and the Seville Strategy.
- Demographic change is a threat to many biosphere reserves – people are leaving rural areas and concentrate increasingly in urban areas. The relation of cities with their rural environments must be subject of BR management.
- BR shall contribute to Green Economies by *inter alia* implementing the TEEB-Programme in BRs.
- BR shall contribute to the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services’ values into BR’s sustainable development strategies and management plans is crucial.
- The needs of women and the importance of ensuring their participation and access to the sustainable use of natural resources need to be taken into account.
- The needs of indigenous and local communities and the importance of ensuring their participation and access to the sustainable use of natural resources need to be taken into account.
- Contribution to the achievement of the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity by 2020
- Implementation of the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change
- Important contribution the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, particularly to the set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be developed and building upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and converging with the post 2015 development agenda

3. MAB Services

What are the most important services that MAB and its WNBR should deliver to the benefit of UNESCO Member States?

Benefits and added values

- Effective implementation of the Seville Strategy
- Increased cooperation and coordination with existing international programmes and initiatives and increased linkages between biosphere reserve activities and sustainable development initiatives at multiple scales and levels
- Integrated information & communication & education strategy for sustainable development, which are crucial for wide distribution of and awareness raising for the biosphere reserve approach and its chances and opportunities for sustainable regional development; strategies need to be integrated with national and higher levels
- Participation in regional networks
- Enhanced cooperation between experts and practitioners in relevant key issues on innovative practices
- Provision of open and participatory procedures and processes in the designation, planning and implementation
- Provision of enhanced legal safeguards and recognition
- Use of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO Member States for their work with other ISPs, including IOC and MOST
- Use biosphere reserves as a mechanism to address rural-urban interrelation issues in a regional context
- Use biosphere reserves as learning sites for research, adaptation, mitigation in relation to climate change
- Improved financial mechanisms for biosphere reserves and regional networks
- Improved generation of profits and livelihood benefits through sustainable production, harvesting, processing and marketing of biosphere reserve products
- Increased involvement, support and buy-in of private sector

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas

What key items should be included in MAB's future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and to ensure the effective development and delivery of the services?

Main deliveries

- Advising function to MAB National Committees in each country
- Contribution to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target of the Convention on Biological Diversity to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth
- Regular undertaking of periodic reviews and related actions to update zonation, management and other changes to meet Seville & MAP requirements and recommendations
- Establish functional zonation, taking into account the interrelationship of all three zones

- Biosphere reserves to provide co-operative conservation and development strategies
- Site-based policy-relevant research programmes, including on ecosystem services
- Training of biosphere reserve managers and other relevant stakeholders
- Biosphere Reserves conduct research programmes on analyses of ecosystem services and their management through stakeholder participation
- Biosphere reserves conduct research programmes linked to the development of the management plan and zoning
- Follow-up and implementation of the post 2014 agenda of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) programmes with educational and research institutions
- Exchange of educational resources for widespread adaptation and application
- Exchanges between biosphere reserves in the WNBR
- Promote partnerships
- Biosphere reserves promote peace, security and conflict management

Biosphere reserves should promote research which is useful for biosphere reserve management. This means that managers, stakeholders and communities should participate in framing the research question (“co-design” of research); they should participate in devising methods and in the knowledge-generation (“co-production” of knowledge). Interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity, co-design and co-production are usually referenced as key aspects of “Sustainability Science”. Biosphere reserve managers should engage with research such that research projects on their territory follow the principles of “Sustainability Science” – this can greatly improve the relevance and usefulness of these research projects. The interaction of managers and scientists must be a win-win-situation, from which both benefit. For win-win-situations, managers and scientists need to openly discuss to identify their respective expectations, rules and constraints. Managers can be supportive in many ways in order to improve and intensify relevant research on the biosphere reserve:

- Identify all available databases, articles and reports about past research on the biosphere reserve and help creating inventories of empiric data;
- Promote the creation of capacities for long-term monitoring and to support research, e.g. through capacities for processing of data, of IT-based model building etc.
- Make accessible to the biosphere reserve all primary or secondary data (as far as possible within the limits of Intellectual Property Rights).
- Improve the mapping capacity of the biosphere reserve, including GIS referenced data, exact zonation, and map overlays
- Strategically collect and document/report your open questions and your limits of knowledge.
- Organize a “biosphere research day” and establish framework agreements or MoUs with suitable universities and research institutes.
- Incorporate research recommendations which are targeted at improving management into your routines and practices.
-

Traditional knowledge should be used as a “knowledge input” for biosphere reserves.

Biosphere reserve managers should

- have an open mind towards traditional knowledge;

- promote its use as complementary to scientific research, improving management effectiveness;
- empower indigenous communities as important but vulnerable guardians of unique knowledge;
- actively involve communities in research co-design.

5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statutes of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes? If so, what themes?

- In general the German MAB Committee does not see the need for additional networks. The number of already existing networks is very high already. Also the capacity of the Secretariat to effectively support these networks is rather limited (and no improvement of the staff situation is in sight)
- Strategically the regional networks are of imminent importance and should receive support from the Secretariat. Thematic networks should be self-organized, preferably been built within or around projects which contribute to the costs of the network for the project's life span.
- Networks should be evaluated and closed down when they do not deliver the expected results.
- However, existing networks could be better involved through cooperation with new partners.

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels? If so, why?

- MAB-Germany regards the governance of the MAB-Programme through the ICC, Bureau and Advisory Committee appropriate. However, more transparency in the appointment of members of the IAC is required.
- Countries should have National MAB Committees which are to be docked with the Ministry in charge of conservation and/or land management. This allows a vertical information flow from the model biosphere reserve to the authorities in charge of political decisions. The composition of the membership of the National Committees should be multi-transdisciplinary and include representatives from the public and private sectors.
- Delegations to the ICC should always include representatives from national government institutions to provide political in- and oversight.
- MAB-Germany sees the need for a prominent/outstanding and experienced person chairing the MAB-ICC (modalities to be discussed), well known and respected by donor organizations and institutions relevant for cooperating with MAB and who is lobbying for the MAB-programme and acts as a broker in funding questions. This would also result in an increased international visibility and recognition of the MAB programme.

7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global level, what could be done to ensure that sufficient funds are mobilized? Is there a need to bring in new implementation partners, such as leading research groups, think tanks, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organizations? If so, what should the priorities be in terms of new partners?

- UNESCO approved biosphere reserves should receive a basic funding from public budgets. The basic funding covers administration and personnel costs of the BR and should not be organized in project form because it is an indefinite public task and responsibility, because the responsibility for the application of new and evaluation of existing BRs underlie the sovereignty of the country/state.
- Additional research and development projects should also receive the necessary funding from respective donors or from partnerships with the private sector.
- In countries eligible for ODA the MAB-Committees should strive to increase the importance of MAB and biosphere reserves internally for bilateral negotiations with donor countries and international funding organizations.
- Capacities in member countries for writing project proposals to funding institutions (EU, World Bank, Regional Development Banks, Foundations, ...) and administrative capacities should be improved. The Secretariat should assist Members in writing project proposals and act as a broker.

8. Communication and Information

How could MAB and its WNBR take better advantage of contemporary communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments for visibility and benefit to Member States and to society?

- The establishment of the joint BiosphereSmart Initiative goes in the right direction to make information on biosphere reserves easily available. The links to the individual BR on the interactive map is very useful. Also it is appreciated that the new formats for the periodic review and nomination have standardized formats for the description of individual biosphere reserves. The Secretariat should continue to complete the initiative.
- However, the data base can only be as good as the data provided and put in by National Committees and biosphere reserves. They should be requested to regularly update their input and create webpages, if they don't already have one.
- The Secretariat should elaborate a system of how to retrieve information from biosphere reserves as UNESCO's contribution to IPBES.
- The Secretariat should establish and maintain a list of calls for proposals from funding organizations (EU, World Bank etc.) where BR-managers and National Committees explore and examine current financing opportunities.
- Means should be found for the production by the Secretariat of e-learning opportunities for capacity building. MAB information materials should be made available in the form of apps for android and I Pad, MAB and the WNBR should have a presence in social networks.



United Nations
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Man and
the Biosphere
Programme

Swedish MAB Committee

New Strategy for MAB and the WNBR

Recommendations from the Swedish MAB-committee

A key purpose of Biosphere Reserves is to be model areas for developing innovative approaches on living and working in harmony with nature, including conservation of biodiversity and development of ecosystem services. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves constitutes a unique arena for co-production of knowledge for sustainable development between practitioners and researchers. Biosphere reserves provide local experiences on dealing with global sustainability issues, such as mitigating and adapting to climate change, dealing with urbanization, re-connecting to the biosphere and fostering sense-of-place, mainstreaming ecosystem services into policy making, ensuring food security and restoring degraded ecosystems to mention a few. Many of the challenges that biosphere reserves face are similar across the globe and there is a lot to be learned between the sites and from the program as a whole. There is a great but largely untapped potential of this arena to contribute to production of new knowledge which can be released by lowering thresholds for co-operation between, on one hand, practitioners in the Biosphere Reserve community and, on the other hand, the research community.

We propose the following key elements in promoting co-production of knowledge in Biosphere Reserves:

Providing easy access to information:

- Information gathered by researchers in or on Biosphere Reserves shall be made easily accessible for both practitioners and other researchers
- UNESCO's information on Biosphere Reserves shall be made easily accessible
- Mechanisms for easy feedback of research to practitioners in Biosphere Reserve shall be developed. Education/training/capacity-building are possible mechanisms. The MAB secretariat can assist by coordination/facilitation.
- An open, easy-to-use web platform for communication on biosphere reserves should be developed and promoted

Involving researchers in the MAB program:

- Appoint an international advisory scientific committee, with the task to suggest measures promoting co-production of knowledge in Biosphere Reserves.
- Encourage biosphere reserves to formulate and share their research

needs (e.g. on the MAB web-platform), to enable match-making between researchers and practitioners

- Encourage new biosphere reserve candidates to involve civil society, enterprises and academic institutions to ensure the dedication to co-production of knowledge already from the beginning

Enable learning from experimentation and therefore also “failures”

- There are currently limited incentives to share experiences of e.g. dealing with conflict, resource limitations, exploitation pressures such as mining, challenges to involve civil society, and other struggles that many biosphere reserves have in common. If reflection and sharing were encouraged, a wealth of experience could be made available. Currently, biosphere reserves risk losing their status if values are in decline, even if there is a good process in place to reverse negative trends. Assessments of Biosphere reserve performance should not only take into account indicators of biodiversity and wellbeing, but also look at the capacity to respond to negative trends, learn from experiences and share these experiences with others.

Finally, we would like to encourage the alignment of MAB research with the themes developed in the Future Earth initiative (future-earth.info). We believe that the MAB program with its biosphere reserves are particularly well positioned to contribute to sustainability science through the co-production of knowledge and the themes of Future Earth are therefore briefly introduced below.

Dynamic planet

How is the planet changing due to human activity and natural phenomena? What are the environmental and societal trends, drivers and processes affecting change and how do they interact? What are the global thresholds and risks surrounding these trends?

Global development

How can we address humanity’s most pressing needs including fair and sustainable stewardship of food, water, biodiversity, energy and other materials that make life viable and valued?

Transformation towards sustainability

What are the options and opportunities for change towards sustainability? How do they relate to human values, emerging technologies and economic development pathways? How should the global environment be governed and managed sustainably?

We propose the following key elements in promoting co-production of knowledge in Biosphere Reserves:

- Youth as a driver for change
- Civil society cooperation and local participation from civil society, institutions and enterprises to ensure an inclusive process for new BRs

Innovation

Around the world, well-functioning Biosphere Reserves engage local communities and stakeholders, in activities that promote sustainability issues, especially highlighting the local and global effects of community transformation. In Sweden, the Biosphere Reserves are unique arenas for dialogue, serving a function of combining conservation and development in a local context. Therefore, it is highly important that the Biosphere Reserves are sustainable and resilient organizations, with capability to respond to and act on local to global needs.

To increase organisational resilience of the biosphere reserves, different means for funding has to be explored. Sweden participated in the development of "Social entrepreneurship and biosphere reserve developmental framework" together with Canada, UK and Assist Social Capital. Sweden has good experiences of working with social innovation in Swedish biosphere reserves, and will take an active role in the continued development of the framework. Using this approach gives potentials to achieve a more resilient organisational structure when developing new biosphere reserves, and may further contribute to the success of biosphere reserves around the world.

We would like to encourage a deepened focus in the MAB Future Strategy on social innovation and social entrepreneurship as drivers within the biosphere reserve organisations.

Youth

Creating opportunities for younger generations and engaging youth in shaping their future is central. Therefore, several youth initiatives have been launched in Swedish biosphere reserves. Several with focus on education, like nature schools, and incorporation of the biosphere and sustainability in education. Further developed exchanges with other biosphere reserves are desirable. We like to encourage UNESCO MAB Secretariat to provide a supportive communication infrastructure that inspires to further developed exchanges and better access.

Sincerely,

Göran Blom
chair, Swedish MAB Committee

Comments on the circular letter

MAB future strategy

Presented by the EuroMAB Steering Committee

Günter Köck (Austria)
Toomas Kokovkin (Estonia)
Jean Philippe Messier (Canada)
Johanna Mac Taggart (Sweden)
Álvaro de Torres Suárez (Spain)

Comments



on circular letter

Note: The following
the Steering committee members, not their country position.

ideas represent the opinion of

1. Vision and mission for MAB and WNBR

Changed proposed vision:

The WNBR is a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence, being the main international tool to develop and implement sustainable development.

Proposed elements added to the existing mission and writing proposition:

MAB is a network of sites that operationalize sustainable development in a wide array of local contexts.

Considered as «Small UNESCO's» the WNBR are places for testing and implementation of adaptive responses to global change in terms of sustainability, that fosters the harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue; knowledge sharing; poverty reduction and human well-being improvements; respect for human rights and cultural values, particularly of indigenous peoples and society's ability to cope with change - thus contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Key issues, international processes and strategic goals

We are identifying those strategic goals linked to the mission proposed:

- Considers its BRs as “small UNESCO's”, encapsulating the goals of UNESCO regarding education, the natural and social sciences, as well as culture.
- MAB must work with BRs to establish a unified brand that can be marketed to the general public and encourages community engagement:
 - Create a simple logo and a slogan;
 - Create a simple but flexible description of and message from BR's;
 - Work on a campaign to market the BR brand globally.
- MAB must work to build BRs' capacities in certain areas. These capacities must be built through discussions and knowledge sharing among BRs working at the local level:
 - Indigenous recognition and participation in BR's;
 - Working with the industry in BR's;
 - Working with research programs as a network (e.g. water issues, climate change). MAB needs to facilitate a way to generate common language and methods for evaluation

among similar (larger-scale) research projects in order to generate broader conclusions and build a community of practice.

- MAB should help to build and market expertise within the network and within individual organizations to develop own-source revenue, since many countries cannot rely solely on public funding and private-sector altruism to support BRs:
- MAB must work to develop web-based forums for knowledge and information sharing about initiatives. There needs to be support mechanisms in place that allow for individual BRs to find and clarify information, and to connect with other BRs working on similar initiatives:
- MAB must have a network consisting of only fully functioning sites that will work in concert with the MAB programme by the further strengthening of BRs that maintain an effective activity, and to establish the exit strategy for those RBs that cannot meet the objectives of the MAB Programme, which will result in an increase in the value and prestige of the MAB Programme and BRs.
- MAB must have one understanding of what the programme is (to put behind the confusion existing on the gap of understanding on what the MAB programme is).
- MAB must establish partnerships between conservation managers, development promoters and economic and social actors, to implement real sustainable development models, including appropriate governance models.
- MAB must have a unique focus on operationalization of sustainability (including social, economy, cultural diversity and heritage) at the local level, supported through community-based research and the new economy.

3. MAB services

We are identifying :

- Support learning exchanges among BRs internationally
- Sharing best practices of operationalization of sustainability (including social, economy, cultural diversity and heritage) at the local, regional, and international levels
- Being a node gathering knowledge from research and practice of BRs and from the networks, and should be a distribution center of such knowledge, with focus on the success stories.
- Developing a UNESCO / MAB website in a way that will respond to the information needs of different users: inhabitants of BRs, National Committees and Regional Offices, various networks, youth, etc. Information should be given to politicians by providing them the connections between knowledge-politics-practice)
- Helping to define effective evaluation mechanisms for BRs to facilitate the implementation of the exit strategy.

4. Future MAB research, policies and action agenda

- Reinforce Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserves by facilitating multi-scale dialogue, supporting national MAB Committees in capacity building, specific to trans-boundary issues and the adoption of the TRB approach as a tool of “environmental diplomacy” to foster better international relationships.
- Put forward tools to build collaboration by exploring the tools and opportunities available to enhance sustainability of BR management, by evaluating our own BR success, by EuroMAB learning platforms and central information portals, and by sharing developments in technology for enhanced citizen engagement.
- Collaborating with locals with their specific traditions and traditional knowledge, including, where it is the case, indigenous Peoples; by a rethink of our approach and the engagement of communities as rights-holders and hosts of BRs.
- Work with industry and the private sector by understanding sharing sustainable mining practices, built on the outcome of local engagement processes and by better understanding and applying ICMM sustainable mining principles in local context and to exchange information with similar networks.
- Apply Ecosystem Services concept by training about why and how to use ecosystem services within BRs, the creation of a database including research themes, initiatives and research associates and the promotion of scientific research and case studies of BRs.
- Focus on implementation mechanisms, guidelines and solutions of what are "sites of excellence" and "models of sustainable development".
- Improve research ON Biosphere reserves (BRs as objects of research), considering that research IN Biosphere reserves (BRs as sites for research) is important but well established already.
- Incite BRs to experience innovative responses to global change conditions and implement facilities to disseminate the achievements in the form of show cases.
- Reinforce the demonstrative role of BRs and investigate methods of incorporating RB figure in national development policies, territorial planning and environment (legislation, policies and programs).
- Reinforce the concept of transition zone as something specific to RBs and as examples for non-protected areas, integrating the functions of conservation, development and logistics of BRs into transition zones projects.
- Highlight the important role of the BRs for hosting most of the population and for having the economic development activity in it.
- Establish integrated comparative monitoring schemes for ecological and socio-economic effects in BRs

5. MAB regional/thematic networks

We are identifying 4 important aspects concerning this item that the future strategy should recognize:

- Strong value of regional networks (ex: EuroMAB)
- Strong value of thematic networks (NordMAB)
- Encourage national BR association of BRs (ex: CBRA)
- We recommend flexibility among existing networks to keep relevant and efficient in the context they work in.
- Informal networks should be promoted according to expressed needs

In term of processes:

- The new thematic networks should propose a validity period, after which they should assess their results and situation and decide if its continuity is necessary.
- Existing thematic networks should do a review of their goals, barriers, strengths and achievements after max 10 years of operation, and to identify if it is interesting whether or not to continue.
- For proper operation, or maintenance in time of regional and thematic networks, we recommend the existence of a focal element and a communication mechanism between the components. This would be helpful:

6. MAB governing mechanisms

- In terms of mechanism, we believe that a more rigorous and consistent application of existing mechanism
- At a national level, it is advisable to have MAB National Committees or Commissions for UNESCO that deal with the development of the MAB Programme, with an institutional support well-defined and operational connection with the managers of BRs.
- UNESCO's Regional Offices can play a significant role in the flow of communication between the countries and the Secretariat of the MAB Programme, to ensure the effective participation of all countries in the strategic decisions of the MAB Programme and the transmission of the recommendations of the program to BRs.
- Explored how to revise the periodic review form to make it simpler and how to provide support and guidance to National Committees and BRs in preparing periodic reviews. The workshop recommended the World Network establish a joint working group with World Heritage programme to learn from their experience of periodic reviews.

7. Funding mechanisms and implantation partners

- There is a crucial need to enhance level of partnership around the MAB. The target should be to generate private sector partnerships.
- Local first: It is the responsibility of the individual BRs, and through their national associations and governments, to find proper financing and partnerships.
- This being said, it is of the responsibility or the international level (ex. MAB secretariat, Regional networks) to promote international level partnerships (ex: with multinational cies) to make the BRs to benefit from partnerships that they would not have the leverage to achieve alone.
- These partnerships need to be promoted at local, national and international levels.
- There should be a deeper involvement of -- and providing guidance to -- entrepreneurial sector of BRs, especially supporting Social enterprises and Green economies
- Experiment with new tools, in part. "crowd funding" (which could also have a double benefit of increasing visibility of the projects).

8. Communication and information

General comments on this aspect:

- Simple, cheap and accessible communication through social media among BRs is critically urgent.
- Improve sharing of information within networks via the organisation of research conferences, but also electronically by sharing of resources, publications, case examples etc.
- Improve the transdisciplinary function of the networks.
- The MAB should work to develop web forums that allow the exchange of knowledge, information on interesting initiatives and dissemination of showcases.



April 9 2014

מרחב ביוספרי רמת מנשה



Dear Han

מרחב ביוספרי



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

In reference to your questions about the key Elements I'm putting down some subjects that seem to me as relevant for MAB strategy in the coming years.

1. To define a different goals to each area accordingly to the main challenge that relevant to these area.



2. Implementing the sustainability as way of life" for the residents of the B.R and as a "guide line" for the "stake holders" in decision-making

3. The most important service that MAB should deliver is outcome of research that can be a base to management of the BR. and information about program that had being successful in other BR.

4. The most effective issue that should be studied is how to decrease the human affected on the nature systems

5. It seem to me that my ensure in paragraph 3# is relevant all so in these paragraph

6. According to my experience there's no need to change.

7. I think the best way to ensure the effective implementation is the combination all the sectors that you remind in your letter. If we can achieve their commitment to the strategy we will have partners to promote our goals.

8. Communication and information MAB can improve those subject by producing an periodic information (news later) memo to all the Members

**I was quit short in time when I was writing this letter if there any subject that you need more information you are more than welcome to be in contact.



מרחב ביוספרי רמת מנשה

Best regards



and thank you for sharing in wording the new strategy

מרחב ביוספרי

Hagar reuveni



Ramat Menasha BR

Coordinator

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Dear Colleagues,
Dear Mr Han Qunli



We send you our suggestions for the new edition of The conception of the international network of biosphere reserves

The First International Congress on Biosphere Reserves was held in Minsk on 1983, it clearly defined objectives for the development of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The main objective of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves was to preserve representative natural ecosystems and to detect unwanted effects of various global changes on time according to the environmental monitoring programs.

In 1995 the Seville Strategy was adopted. In this document the priorities have been changed. The first place was delivered to the sustainable use of biological resources and the implementation of the advantages associated with their exploitation.

We believe that the network of biosphere reserves should primarily serve nature conservation, preservation of natural biodiversity of species, landscapes, conservation of the natural mechanisms of the ecosystems cyclic development.

Please note our opinion under the editorial concept of the international network of biosphere reserves.

Sincerely,
Yurchenko Anatolij, Director of the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve

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De : Antonio San Blas Álvarez [mailto:asanblas@lapalmabiosfera.es]

Envoyé : lundi 21 avril 2014 10:27

À : Man & Biosphere

Objet : RE: Future Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021 /
Future Stratégie pour le MAB et son Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère 2014-2021

Estimado HAN Qunli:

En archivo adjunto remito cuestionario relativo a la Nueva Estrategia del Programa MAB y su Red Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera para el período 2014-2021 debidamente cumplimentado.

Ruego disculpe la tardanza en remitir el dicho cuestionario pero creí que lo había remitido el pasado 10 de abril. Si requiere de cualquier aclaración o ampliación de la información sólo tiene que indicármelo. Atentamente, Saludos Biosféricos.

*Antonio San Blas Álvarez
Gerente
Reserva Mundial de la Biosfera La Palma*

ANEXO

Possible Questions to Address in the Elaboration of the Key Elements of the Draft New Strategy for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2014-2021.

Preguntas posibles a abordar en la elaboración de los elementos clave del proyecto de Nueva Estrategia para el MAB y la Red Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera 2014-2021.

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

In the context of the New MAB Strategy, is there a need to revisit the vision and mission statements for MAB and its WNBR contained in the MAP and if so, what elements should be changed/added?

1. Visión y Misión para el MAB y la Red Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera (RMRB). En el contexto de la nueva estrategia del MAB, hay una necesidad de volver a examinar la visión y misión declaradas de MAB y su RMRB contenidas en el MAP y si es así, ¿qué elementos deben ser cambiada / Sumada?.

La **VISIÓN** de la Red Mundial de Reservas de la Biosfera (RMRB) en el marco del Programa Persona y Biosfera (MAB), consideramos que ha de consistir en promover estos territorios como lugares de “excelencia” en los que es posible aplicar los principios de sostenibilidad. El programa MAB ha de contribuir, decididamente, al fortalecimiento e implementación de estrategias de integración armónica de las poblaciones y la naturaleza, a fin de promover un desarrollo sostenible mediante un diálogo participativo, el intercambio de conocimiento, la reducción de la pobreza, la mejora del bienestar, el respeto a los valores culturales y la capacidad de adaptación de la sociedad ante los cambios, contribuyendo de esta forma al logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM).

Esta visión, según el punto de vista de la Reserva Mundial de la Biosfera La Palma (RMBLP), ha de centrarse en lograr que estos lugares “de excelencia” focalicen sus esfuerzos en “las personas”, promoviendo una evolución de la concepción que percibe la población de una reserva de la biosfera como espacio protegido a Espacio Protector de la Sociedad.

Esta es la nueva visión de la Reserva Mundial de la Biosfera La Palma, contemplada en su Plan de Acción 2013-2022, lo que supone la materialización de una visión globalizadora que ha de sustentarse en sólidas bases que conjuguen la gestión de la investigación científico-técnica y la innovación con el conocimiento tradicional de los pobladores locales desde un enfoque integrador de las diversas sensibilidades sectoriales que han de realizarse, esto es:

El Compromiso Ético: Ser un territorio reserva de la biosfera conlleva una serie de compromisos éticos inherentes que han de impregnar cualquier acción que se desarrolle en el seno de la misma y que tiene que ver con la honestidad, igualdad, sinceridad, veracidad y transparencia en un marco común de concertación que facilite el entendimiento y el consenso entre los agentes implicados, personas e instituciones, y sus interrelaciones.

“hacer lo que se dice y decir lo que se hace”

Fortalecimiento de la Institucionalidad: El fortalecimiento y consolidación del carácter público ha de vincular dinámicas y aplicaciones de sistema de gestión adaptativa, con la utilización de las más avanzadas herramientas tecnológicas y la construcción de espacios colaborativos público/privados que hagan de la propia institución un laboratorio de aprendizaje de gestión para la excelencia, para todo lo cual, el sector público ha de proveer medios e instrumentos que posicionen adecuadamente a la entidad como ente de gestión referente de la sostenibilidad.

“vector de utilidad pública”

Vertebración del paradigma Personas-Participación: La gestión participada y el diálogo abierto serán el pilar base de la planificación y desarrollo de la actividad en el territorio como elemento favorecedor de la creación de un sentimiento de cohesión en la población que se reivindica como modelo a seguir tomando en especial consideración los extremos generacionales y los escenarios para esa relación, lo cual fomentará los valores de identidad y de arraigo.

“todos somos reserva de la biosfera”

Laboratorios de Aprendizaje: El territorio ha de constituirse como un excelente lugar de aprendizaje donde la población local junto con los colectivos implicados trabaje para convertir los principios globales del desarrollo sostenible en prácticas locales apropiadas. Este laboratorio de aprendizaje ha de combinar la investigación científica con el saber popular como fuentes de generación de nuevos conocimiento.

“laboratorio al aire libre”

Espacio de Vida: Promover la evolución del paradigma de espacio protegido a espacio protector de la sociedad, donde se potencien los valores históricos y culturales tomando como base la biodiversidad y los recursos naturales, tangibles e intangibles, a través de una correcta gestión integral del territorio que provean de beneficios y articulen la calidad de vida.

“el lugar de vida”

Revivir lo Intangible: La preservación del patrimonio intangible, muestra un humanismo que está en marcha, en tanto que permite mostrar valores que antes no se percibían. Lo inmaterial es lo que permanece y corresponde a las necesidades más profundas del ser humano. La conservación de este patrimonio supone una socialización del universo y aunque frágil, es un factor que ayuda a mantener la diversidad cultural frente a la creciente globalización.

“humanismo en marcha”

Solidaridad y Cooperación: El carácter tricontinental ha de favorecer un intercambio fructífero de experiencias promoviendo nuevos enfoques y soluciones orientadas a solucionar problemas de la sociedad actual que terminarán por repercutir en la mejora del bienestar de los ecosistemas y la humanidad, lo que asociado al desarrollo de acciones dirigidas al fomento de la solidaridad y el compromiso social contribuirá a la transformación positiva de la isla y del mundo.

“problemas comunes soluciones compartidas”

Esta es la nueva visión de la Reserva Mundial de la Biosfera La Palma, más abierta, más participativa y más solidaria.

Respecto a la **MISIÓN** de la RMRB en el marco del Programa MAB, el Plan de Acción de Madrid, establece garantizar todos los aspectos de la sostenibilidad medioambiental, económica y social (incluida la cultural y espiritual) a través de:

- El desarrollo y la coordinación de una red mundial de lugares que sirvan de áreas de demostración de aprendizaje con el fin de mantener y desarrollar la diversidad ecológica y cultural, y garantizar los servicios prestados por los ecosistemas para el bienestar de los seres humanos;
- El desarrollo y la integración de conocimientos incluyendo las ciencias para profundizar en nuestra comprensión de las interacciones entre las poblaciones y el resto de la naturaleza.
- La capacitación global para la gestión de sistemas socio-ecológicos complejos, especialmente a través del fomento de un mayor diálogo entre la interfaz ciencia-política, la educación ambiental y la difusión multimedia de alcance para la comunidad en general.

Pues bien, la nueva misión de la RMB La Palma, trasladable a la RMRB, tiene como objeto centrarse en promover, ejecutar y demostrar una relación equilibrada entre los seres humanos y la biosfera a todas las escalas, funcionando como lugar de ensayo y aprendizaje de métodos de conservación y desarrollo sostenible, impulsando la gestión planificada y coordinada con la participación efectiva y concertada de los actores sociales, y tomando como referente el compromiso ético y la función protectora con el desarrollo de la investigación, la innovación y las prácticas adecuadas para el uso eficiente de los recursos, a fin de preservar los valores ambientales y culturales que la identifican y favorecer el desarrollo integral de la población local.

Para garantizar todos los aspectos de la sostenibilidad medioambiental, económica, social, cultural e identitaria la encomienda de esta misión ha de moverse en unos escenarios de trabajo polivalentes y adaptativos, a saber:

1.- FUNCIONALIDAD TERRITORIAL

Un territorio reserva de la biosfera contiene múltiples espacios que cumplen distintas funciones para los ecosistemas naturales, rurales y urbanos. La correcta zonificación en función de sus características y aptitudes, más la adecuada gestión de estos territorios mediante distintos planes y programas, puede permitir la conservación de espacios con alto valor ecológico, biológico o de alta fragilidad y singularidad, al mismo tiempo que potenciar la actividad económica responsable en aquellos lugares del territorio aptos para albergar las actividades humanas.

La correcta zonificación del territorio, unido a la gestión integrada del mismo contribuye al equilibrio entre la conservación de la diversidad biológica y la promoción del desarrollo económico y el mantenimiento de los valores culturales asociados. Una adecuada planificación territorial es esencial para la armonización de estos objetivos, minimizando las perturbaciones, a la vez que se contribuirá a la salvaguarda de los servicios que prestan los ecosistemas y los paisajes.

Para la consecución de estas metas será necesario establecer una correcta gestión del conocimiento, generando canales de comunicación entre las diversas entidades generadoras y/o promotoras de estos conocimientos. Todo ello favorecerá al equilibrio entre crecimiento y conservación, mejorando la calidad de vida de las personas sin hipotecar la de generaciones futuras.

2.- ECONOMÍA VERDE

Siguiendo el concepto establecido por el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA), se entiende por Economía Verde, un sistema de actividades económicas relacionadas con la producción, distribución y consumo de bienes y servicios que genera un mayor bienestar para el ser humano y reduce las desigualdades a largo plazo, sin exponer a las generaciones futuras a riesgos ambientales importantes ni a carencias ecológicas significativas. Estas actividades son consideradas como fuerzas que generan nuevas oportunidades económicas compatibles con el biosistema, que pueden ser abordadas con la generación de productos competitivos. La expansión y reestructuración del espacio para el desarrollo económico y el mantenimiento de los valores naturales y culturales asociados, implicando a las comunidades locales y poniendo en valor sus señas de identidad.

3.- DINAMIZACIÓN DEL CONOCIMIENTO

El incremento exponencial del ritmo de creación y acumulación del conocimiento ha llevado a las sociedades actuales hacia un nuevo paradigma denominado economía del conocimiento: un sistema en el que éste es la verdadera esencia de la competitividad y se convierte en el motor del desarrollo a largo plazo.

El conocimiento se ha convertido en el principal valor de una sociedad, más allá de sus recursos naturales o de la capacidad de las infraestructuras disponibles. Ante este rápido y constante cambio a nivel global, solo se podrá competir y alcanzar cierto bienestar social a través de una correcta gestión del conocimiento y de la innovación.

4.- PERSONA Y BIENESTAR

Los escenarios de trabajo, anteriormente mencionados, guían a las personas a una nueva calidad de vida donde el factor que se debe potenciar es la cohesión social. Es decir, impulsar un estado en el que exista una visión compartida, donde se trabaja por un interés común afrontando desigualdades y desafíos, atendiendo nuevas oportunidades para el bienestar y fortaleciendo un sentimiento de pertenencia por parte de la población de que todos somos reserva de la biosfera como sinónimo de calidad de vida.

Un territorio reserva de la biosfera protege al individuo y vigila su bienestar. La sociedad se beneficia y enriquece de los valores tangibles e intangibles con los que cuenta una reserva de la biosfera, a la vez que ésta, en relación simbiótica, necesita de la cohesión e implicación de las poblaciones locales y agentes sociales en la gestión del territorio. Es decir, garantizando relaciones basadas en la reciprocidad y confianza, se persigue ser un espacio de vida donde exista realmente armonía entre desarrollo, conservación y satisfacción de las necesidades humanas.

Desde la RMB La Palma para el nuevo decenio se plantean nuevos retos y oportunidades a afrontar y, por ello se ha convenido en definir como **leitmotiv**, basado en la visión, misión y funciones que hemos de cumplir el siguiente:

“ECONOMÍA VERDE MÁS ALLÁ DE LO TANGIBLE”
El ser humano como valor y nexo de cohesión de un espacio de vida

Así, cuando hablamos de “economía verde”, asociamos la función de conservación y desarrollo, a través de la expansión y reestructuración del espacio para el desarrollo económico y el mantenimiento de los valores naturales y culturales asociados, con la función de logística, involucrando a las comunidades locales y poniendo en valor sus señas de identidad, y con el trasladarlo más allá de lo “tangible”, se muestra un humanismo que está en marcha y que supone un proceso de socialización universal. El “ser humano”, es el actor principal y destinatario final, que actúa como “nexo de cohesión” en un “espacio de vida” que ha de compartir, bajo principios de respeto y solidaridad, y sin exponer a las generaciones futuras a riesgos ambientales importantes ni a carencias ecológicas significativas.

2. Key Issues, International Processes and Strategic Goals.

What are the key issues, international processes and milestone events that MAB and its WNBR should focus on in the coming years? In relation to these issues, processes and events, what are the most important goals and achievements that MAB should strive towards?.

2. Principales problemas, procesos y objetivos estratégicos internacionales.

¿Cuáles son los temas claves, procesos internacionales y acontecimientos importantes que el MAB y su RMRB debe centrarse en los próximos años?. En relación con estas cuestiones, procesos y acontecimientos, ¿cuáles son las metas y los logros más importantes que el MAB debería esforzarse?.

Los temas claves o ejes estratégicos sobre los que debe centrarse el futuro del MAB, su RMRB y las reservas de la biosfera, desde el punto de vista de la RMB La Palma, han de ser coincidentes con la misión a afrontar, desarrollada en la cuestión anterior, esto es:

1.- La funcionalidad territorial de un espacio de vida excelente articulando como vectores estructurantes el paisaje, la funcionalidad de los ecosistemas y la conservación de los recursos naturales.

2.- La economía verde sustentada en el turismo responsable y las economías de calidad.

3.- La dinamización del conocimiento bajo parámetros de promoción de la investigación científica y aplicada con estrategias cooperativas con el hecho cultural y los elementos identitarios guiados por principios socializadores del conocimiento y el favorecimiento de la innovación continuada.

4.- Las personas como actores principales y destinatarios finales de toda estrategia.

Estos temas claves deberán ser desarrollados tomando como esencia conceptual el programa MAB y como principios y ejes transversales la participación pública y la colaboración ciudadana; la innovación y el aprendizaje continuado; la solidaridad, la cooperación y el intercambio de conocimientos y experiencias; y, la gestión activa y adaptativa al cambio.

3. MAB Services.

What are the most important services that MAB and its WNBR should deliver to the benefit of UNESCO Member States?

3. Servicios del MAB.

¿Cuáles son los servicios más importantes que el MAB y su RMRB deben entregar en beneficio de los Estados Miembros de la UNESCO?

Partiendo del principio general que la UNESCO es un espacio de encuentro para la educación, la ciencia y cultura, que el MAB es un programa internacional cuyo principal instrumento es la figura de las reservas de la biosfera, que se han definido los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM) y que para todo ello existen unos órganos rectores con participación activa de los estados miembros, los servicios a prestar han de articularse a promover herramientas, mecanismos y procedimientos que posibiliten un impulso real para que las reservas de la biosfera sean, de forma efectiva, escenarios de sostenibilidad y espacios de aproximación a la consecución de los ODM.

En este contexto, la puesta a disposición de los estados miembros de las dichas herramientas, mecanismos y procesos, necesariamente, tendrán que estar interconectados con los temas claves. Así, a los meros efectos explicativos, podríamos indicar, a modo de ejemplo, en el área temática de economía verde, en el eje correspondiente al turismo responsable, como herramienta: el marco estratégico del turismo responsable en la RMRB y su aplicabilidad al estado miembro; como mecanismo para la consecución del marco estratégico: la creación del club de producto turístico de la RMRB, redes regionales y subregionales; y como proceso, la elaboración de los protocolos de creación, desarrollo, evaluación, seguimiento e identificación de líneas financieras.

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas.

What key items should be included in MAB's future research, policy and action agendas in order to reach the strategic goals and to ensure the effective development and delivery of the services?

4. Futuro MAB Investigación, Política y Acción Agendas.

¿Qué elementos clave deben ser incluidos en los futuros programas de investigación, de política y de acción del MAB para alcanzar los objetivos estratégicos y garantizar el desarrollo y la entrega efectiva de los servicios?.

Como cuestión previa ha de avanzarse en la gestión y socialización del conocimiento, desde una perspectiva de diagnóstico compartido, a nivel regional y subregional, de los tres ámbitos clave que permitan avanzar hacia la consecución de los objetivos estratégicos, a saber:

CONOCIMIENTO DEL PATRIMONIO NATURAL. El manejo y gestión de la biodiversidad y ecosistemas se sustenta en el conocimiento de los principios fundamentales que rigen la naturaleza y la relación entre sus organismos y el impacto del ser humano. En este sentido, es necesario impulsar y desarrollar investigación básica cuyo objeto sea determinar los principales problemas de conservación y aportar soluciones prácticas para el correcto manejo de la biodiversidad. El desarrollo de este tipo de actividades queda también justificado por la carencia en muchos lugares de centros de investigación de referencia.

CONOCIMIENTO DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL. Entendemos el patrimonio cultural como la herencia propia del pasado de una comunidad que se trasmite a las generaciones presentes y futuras. De este modo, se desarrollarán una serie de procedimientos llevados a cabo con la finalidad de obtener nuevos conocimientos fehacientes sobre los elementos de valor histórico, etnográfico y artístico, tanto tangibles como intangibles, que reflejan el pasado, presente y futuro de la sociedad. Así, las actividades favorecedoras de la gestión del conocimiento del patrimonio cultural tendrán como campos de importancia la investigación de las tradiciones, costumbres y hábitos de la cultura y la catalogación de los bienes integrantes de dicho patrimonio con propuesta de acciones de salvaguarda de éstos.

CONOCIMIENTO DE LA REALIDAD SOCIOECONÓMICA Y TERRITORIAL. El objetivo primordial de cualquier actuación, también para las acciones de investigación, debe ser el bienestar de las personas, es decir, el lograr la mejora de su calidad de vida. Para avanzar en este objetivo han de desarrollarse una serie de procedimientos con la finalidad de obtener nuevos conocimientos fehacientes sobre el conjunto de los factores sociales, económicos y territoriales, teniendo en cuenta sus niveles de interacción. De esta manera, las actividades favorecedoras de la gestión del conocimiento en este campo deberán centrarse en la situación de la realidad social, tales como las nuevas dinámicas socioeconómicas y territoriales: cambios en las estructuras familiares, evolución demográfica, el mercado laboral, mecanismos de protección social o el desarrollo y promoción de las áreas rurales, entre otras.

Paralelamente y posteriormente, pueden implementarse, mediante la acción política, la determinación de medidas sustantivadoras, tales como, la promoción y favorecimiento de todo tipo asociaciones estratégicas: multilaterales, financieras y bancarias, de posicionamiento o de promoción, entre otras.

5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks.

How could the functioning of the regional and thematic MAB networks be further enhanced? Is there a need to streamline the working methods and statutes of existing networks? Should additional networks be established to cover new themes? If so, what themes?

5. MAB Redes Temáticas Regionales.

¿Cómo podría el funcionamiento de las redes regionales y temáticas del MAB mejorar aún más?. ¿Hay una necesidad de racionalizar los métodos de trabajo y los estatutos de las redes existentes?. ¿Deberían establecerse redes adicionales para cubrir los nuevos temas?. Si es así, ¿qué temas?.

Partiendo del principio que las redes regionales y temáticas han de considerarse como espacios voluntarios y colaborativos para la implementación de la estrategia MAB para una región (EuroMaB, IberoMaB, etc.) o una temática determinada (Islas, Zonas Costeras, etc.), para la mejora de su funcionamiento de ésta deberán establecerse estructuras orgánicas operativas y profesionalizadas vinculadas a la funcionalidad de la red y al avance en la consecución de los objetivos temáticos principales a alcanzar. Ello conllevaría, entre otros, el establecimiento de centros o sedes de referencia y/o la especialización de las redes en diversos objetivos temáticos. A tal efecto, sirva como posible referencia a lo expuesto y que podría ser replicable en otras redes, regionales o temáticas, el caso de la Red Temática de Islas y Zonas Costeras Reservas de la Biosfera que cuenta con dos sedes especializadas para los principales objetivos temáticos de esta red, a saber: la Reserva de la Biosfera de la isla de Jeju (República de Corea) para cometidos relacionados con el cambio climático y la Reserva de la Biosfera de la isla de Menorca (España) para los temas vinculados con el desarrollo sostenible.

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms.

Is there a need to revisit the governing mechanisms of MAB at the national, regional and international levels? If so, why?

6. MAB, mecanismos de gobierno

¿Existe la necesidad de revisar los mecanismos de gobierno de MAB en los planos nacional, regional e internacional?. Si es así, ¿por qué?.

Si. Hemos de considerar que las estructuras de gobierno de cualquier programa, convención o país deben concebirse como flexibles, operativas y adaptativas a la evolución y el cambio si se aspira a ser efectivos y eficientes; por tanto, la evaluación y seguimiento permanente de la acción y de los mecanismos de gobierno han de entenderse como habituales en una estrategia de adaptación a la evolución y al cambio que permite reformular objetivos en virtud de las múltiples variables aplicables y del análisis de los resultados obtenidos.

7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional, and global levels, what could be done to ensure that's sufficient funds are mobilized? Is there a need to bring in new implementation partners, such as leading research groups, think tanks, private sector enterprises or groups, and civil society organizations? If so, what should the priorities be in terms of new partners?

7. Mecanismos de financiación y socios de implementación

Con el fin de garantizar la aplicación efectiva de la Estrategia a nivel nacional, regional y mundial, ¿qué es lo que se puede hacer para asegurar que se movilicen fondos suficientes?. ¿Hay una necesidad de atraer a nuevos asociados en la ejecución, como los grupos de investigación líderes, grupos de reflexión, empresas del sector privado o grupos y organizaciones de la sociedad civil? Si es así, ¿Cuáles deberían ser las prioridades en términos de nuevos socios?.

Inicialmente, hemos de considerar tres cuestiones previas antes de formular cualquier elemento de captación o movilización de fondos, partiendo que se formulan desde una posición generalizada de desconocimiento del marco económico existente y de la política financiera de la UNESCO. No obstante, partimos de: 1) MAB es un programa internacional no vinculante para los estados miembros; 2) las aportaciones a UNESCO no están reglamentadas con criterios objetivos y transparentes; y, 3) los costes de funcionamiento de la UNESCO absorben la mayor parte del presupuesto. Ante ello y exclusivamente desde la perspectiva económica financiera, podría avanzarse en los siguientes campos de actuación, a saber:

- a) La conversión del MAB de programa a convenio/convencción vincularía, política y económicamente, al estado miembro con la UNESCO, si bien ello conllevaría perder el carácter voluntario y abierto con que se formuló inicialmente.
- b) La UNESCO, como parte integrante del sistema de Naciones Unidas (ONU), ha de promover en este marco una reglamentación, de ámbito internacional y carácter combinativo financiero-fiscal/tributario (estado miembro-empresa-ciudadano) que permita la provisión de fondos para programas/convenios de carácter internacional favorecedores de la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM), tales como: el Programa MAB o los enclaves Patrimonio Mundial, entre otros. La provisión de fondos se realizaría a partir de incorporar el estado miembro en su reglamentación fiscal y tributaria, para personas y empresas, de un porcentaje para este fin (equiparable al existente, por ejemplo en España, para la Iglesia Católica o para Fines Sociales). Por su parte, el estado miembro deberá contribuir para este fin con igual cantidad a la recaudada por ese porcentaje aplicado a personas y empresas.
- c) Establecimiento de un tributo financiero tanto a las grandes empresas que concurren a los grandes proyectos de convocatoria internacional como a las grandes fortunas cuyos beneficios bancarios superen un límite a determinar.

Por otro lado, hoy en día no existe prácticamente ningún estado, gran empresa e incluso importantes grupos de investigación o de la sociedad civil que no cuente entre sus estructuras de gobierno, asesoramiento o apoyo de lobby que favorezcan sus intereses; por tanto, la cuestión es ¿por qué la UNESCO no ha de dotarse de una estructura similar?.

8. Communication and Information.

How could MAB and its WNBR take better advantage of contemporary communication and information/data sharing tools and instruments for visibility and benefit to Member States and the society?

8. Comunicación e Información.

¿Cómo podría el MAB y su RMRB un mejor aprovechamiento de la comunicación contemporánea y herramientas e instrumentos para la visibilidad y el beneficio para los Estados miembros para compartir información / datos y a la sociedad?

Ruego me permitan cierta licencia de libertad para responder esta última cuestión con un ejemplo bastante ilustrativo, a saber:

El Fútbol Club Barcelona (FCB), España, hace, aproximadamente, cuatro o cinco años no ocupaba puestos “top ten” en el ranking de entidades deportivas con mayor número de seguidores en las redes sociales, por tanto su visibilidad, capacidad de negocio y beneficio económico y social (esta entidad es abanderada del tópico “más que un club”, lo que lleva aparejada una gran y amplia política social). La creación de un equipo multidisciplinar y profesionalizado para las áreas de tecnologías de la comunicación y la información, así como para el área social ha convertido al FCB en la primera entidad deportiva del mundo en redes sociales con más de 400 millones de seguidores.

A mayor abundamiento en esta estrategia, el FCB publicita en sus camisetas Qatar Foundation, que le reporta, creo recordar, unos 30 millones de euros anuales y UNICEF con la que tiene un programa en la que es el FC Barcelona quien aporta los fondos para su desarrollo, cifrado en varios millones de euros. Por su parte, el Club de Fútbol Málaga, equipo también de la liga española, publicita en sus camisetas a la UNESCO, si bien desconozco cuál es su contribución.

Conclusión ante esta última cuestión: ¿por qué la UNESCO no analiza estas realidades y explora su traslación a la acción de gobierno?.

*Antonio San Blas Álvarez
Gerente
Reserva Mundial de la Biosfera La Palma*

De : Vanja Debevec Gerjevič
Envoyé : lundi 28 avril 2014 07:24
À : Man & Biosphere
Objet : MAB Strategy

Dear Sylvie,

please find attached some of my comments for MAB strategy.

I am sorry for being so late.

Thank you for your kind patience.

Best regards,

Vanja
The Karst Biosphere Reserve.

PS. Could you confirm you received the file? I had some troubles opening it. I hope it will be ok.

Future MAB Strategy 2014 – 2021

While working with people living in protected areas, participating in education, research and development activities, some modest thoughts have started to grow in my mind as concerns while becoming aware of possible difficulties and enthusiasm due to great potential that MAB programme has in addressing these issues presented below.

1. Vision and Mission Statement for MAB and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

We should all be oriented towards improvement of quality of life, natural and cultural heritage conservation, peoples well being. New changes in society, culture and nature, are challenging us to develop an education mechanism or system of actions that will bring self-awareness to the people, which will foster intergeneration connections that will underline the solidarity, cooperation, collective spirit and responsible attitude towards the communities. It is with this work, with passing on our stories and knowledge, our care for other people, that we will shape the good will and positive spirit in people, demonstrating the real power of human mind and soul – to learn and share, to respect and live better. In this way we will be not just protecting our heritage, but actually we will be creating our heritage for future generations.

2. Key Issues, International Processes and Strategic Goals

In years to come we should be focused on participation of young people. The education programme should be designed in a way that will enable not only gathering new knowledge, but also understanding the past, history, new changes and challenges that could be faced with proper use of technology and sustainable use of resources. We should encourage programmes that teach how to become independent through smart use of natural resources and how to implement this in everyday's life and policy.

There has already been achieved an incredible advance in biological and genetic research studies. In long term the results will undoubtedly bring precious solutions in medicine and public health and other fields. Beside this also an emphasis should be put in enabling the people to act more responsibly, to act and think according to ethical and moral principles.

3. MAB Services

- Capacity building,
- Exchange of ideas, knowledge and practices,
- Multicultural dialogue,
- Promotion of the programme on international level,
- Visibility of the programme among other programmes and designations,
- Promotion of best practice and successful stories of BRs on international level
- Promotion of impact assessments mechanisms that are reflected in cultural, economical and social impacts.

4. Future MAB Research, Policy and Action Agendas

The research should be further encouraged in the areas of climate change, ecosystems services, socioeconomic research, and protection of natural and cultural values, participatory processes. As the sustainable development is promoted, the effects of its implementation should be monitored and presented to the public. We are facing some changes due to economical development, climate changes, and politics. We should provide the tools for people to be able to deal with the changes on social and cultural level.

Some actions should be oriented in education and promotion of responsible attitude of people towards their environment and other people. It is necessary to introduce critical thinking and society where interdependence of living systems processes are understood and respected.

More research studies should be oriented towards urban areas, providing them with proper solutions and procedures to be undertaken in order to enable the quality environment for the people.

5. MAB Regional and Thematic Networks

In EuroMAB we have already started to work in working groups. We are still at the start, but leading BRs or other entities are necessary otherwise, the thematic networks will not work properly. In my opinion, there is a need for groups of interest and capacities in the field. Thematic networks might cover the topics: participation of local communities, ecosystem services, sustainable tourism, socioeconomic research, etc.

6. MAB Governing Mechanisms

In my opinion, there is no need to revisit them. The system has been designed in a way to provide its best performance.

7. Funding Mechanisms and Implementation Partners

The idea to involve partners in the Strategy implementation might result in better funding of certain projects and activities. On the other hand, it might foster also rise in public awareness and involvement of local communities. Cooperation among partners could be very useful in promotion and implementation of sustainable development. On larger scale leading research groups, think tanks, will help in rise of public awareness and increase in participation on BRs level as well. In addition, private sector enterprises involvement might result in the same actions. Of course, there should be some mechanisms or criteria established upon which a partner could be approved as an appropriate one. We should take into account not only the financial contribution, but also the respect and reputation, the trust and confidence, gained while acting as environment friendly entities that are proud to promote and sustain biodiversity, cultural diversity, and protection of natural and cultural heritage and smart use of resources.

8. Communication and Information

There has been done a lot of quality work in the field. Though internet is of great help, there are some things to be considered as very useful in promoting the Strategy and MAB programme.

- *Films, DVDs, CDs*

Member States can develop their own material, but the input of WNBR with general information and updating might be very useful and would benefit the work in network. If there could be some DVDs/CDs available for specific groups of BRs related to specific ecosystems, it could be excellent tool for education and training of managers.

- *Thematic publications*

If some case studies or research results could be published in a specific MAB Journal or Book this could result in higher visibility and credibility of research work done in BRs and also managers' practice that are being implemented and covering a large aspect of interdisciplinary subjects. Some journals or scientific papers are difficult to access and limited to small networks of scientists.

- *Radio and TV broadcasting*

WNBR could facilitate the appearance of BRs and introduction of MAB programme in Member States on radio and TV by inviting them to participate or organise a joint event in respectful countries when several BRs would present approach to the same topic, like for example a title of campaign: 50 BRs on radio celebrating sustainable fishing. It is important topics be always named as activities performed by people, not just protecting but living and acting. When this action is launched in MAB Secretariat, there might be some help needed for individual BRs to promote the idea on local level, but it could later result in joint multicultural reportages from all over the world.

- *The MAB Day*

It might be very useful if we could establish one day in year to be celebrated as MAB Day. Of course it will be left to Member States possibilities to perform certain actions, but anyhow this will encourage individual BRs to perform certain actions and to make them public and involve media as well.