



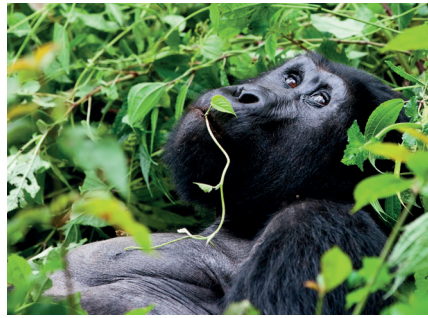
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Man and  
the Biosphere  
Programme

# A New Roadmap for the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves

## **MAB Strategy (2015-2025) Lima Action Plan (2016-2025) Lima Declaration**



A New Roadmap for the  
Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme  
and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves

**MAB Strategy (2015-2025)**

**Lima Action Plan (2016-2025)**

**Lima Declaration**

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# Foreword



Since 1971, the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme has worked to improve the relationship between people and the environment. By combining the natural and social sciences with economics, education and capacity-building, the MAB Programme has promoted the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity and natural resources.

In 2014 – 2015, the MAB Programme underwent a number of important developments at international, national and regional levels. Following a broad and transparent consultation process and the collective contributions of many Member States, the MAB Strategy 2015 – 2025 was adopted by the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. This document will guide the MAB programme for the next 10 years.

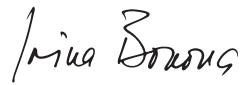
Today, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) encompasses 669 sites in 120 countries, including 16 transboundary biosphere reserves, covering over 680 million ha of terrestrial, coastal and marine areas, representing all major ecosystem types and diverse development contexts, which are home to approximately 207 million people ranging from rural communities and indigenous peoples to urban dwellers. MAB and its WNBR are thus well placed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to different extents, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 related to life on land, as well as SDG 13 on climate, SDG 6 on water, SDG 14 on sea and oceans, SDG 11 on cities, SDG 2 on food and SDG 1 on poverty alleviation.

Cooperation in research, training, exchange and capacity-building projects, both through UNESCO regular programme and extra-budgetary resources, as well as partnership projects has remained strong and dynamic. MAB's thematic and regional networks in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean are likewise highly active.

The 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves took place from 14 to 17 March 2016 in Lima, Peru. It was organized by the Secretariat of the MAB programme, the Ministry of Environment of Peru (MINAM) and its National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP), and the MAB National Committee of Peru.

The Congress, which took place for the first time outside Europe, gathered together over 1,100 participants from 115 countries and addressed issues related to the implementation of the MAB Strategy, notably in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement, such as education for sustainable development, green economies and green societies, biodiversity, climate change, and the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, among others.

I have the pleasure to present herewith the main outcome of this Congress, which were the adoption of the Lima Declaration and the Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's MAB programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025), which will serve as a roadmap for the implementation of the MAB Strategy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Irina Bokova". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Irina Bokova

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# MAB Strategy (2015-2025) for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves



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# Executive summary

Over four decades, people across the globe have utilized biosphere reserves, designated under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, to explore local solutions to global challenges, thereby generating a wealth of experience and innovative potential for a sustainable future that emphasizes the conservation of biodiversity. In the coming 10 years, MAB will strengthen its support to Member States with regard to conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; building sustainable, healthy and equitable economies, societies and thriving human settlements; and empowering people to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change. MAB will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and employ modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information. MAB will ensure that its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) consists of effective and functioning models for sustainable development by implementing an effective periodic review process so that all members of the network adhere to its standards; by improving governance, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WNBR; and by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability. MAB and its WNBR will work towards the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both within biosphere reserves and through global dissemination of sustainable development models developed in biosphere reserves. This will be done through implementation of the present Strategy, which consists of vision and mission statements, a series of Strategic Objectives and Strategic Action Areas, and an associated Action Plan to be finalized in 2016.

# Preamble

As the MAB Programme has evolved, biosphere reserves have become its principal means of implementation. The biosphere reserve concept has proved its value beyond the protected areas that each biosphere reserve contains, and is increasingly embraced by scientists, planners, policy-makers, businesses and local communities to bring diverse knowledge, scientific investigations and experiences to link biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for human well-being. To understand and address the key challenges facing our world – poverty, climate change, water and food security, loss of biological and cultural diversity, rapid urbanization and desertification – the MAB Programme, through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and its regional and thematic networks, will strategically address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable development actions in biosphere reserves, carried out in partnership with all sectors of society, to ensure the well-being of people and their environment. The experience of the WNBR, MAB Networks and interdisciplinary approaches will be used to develop and test policies and practices that address issues affecting different ecosystems, and ensure the delivery of the goods and services they provide. The MAB Programme is an important means to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their vital interlinkages, in order to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

## UNESCO

Founded in 1945, at the end of the Second World War, UNESCO celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2015. For seven decades, UNESCO has embodied high aspirations, hopes and an ongoing struggle for a better life, built on ideas of human dignity, mutual understanding and solidarity of humanity. These ideals and values are spelled out in the Organization's Constitution, which is the key to understanding UNESCO's history. Its pioneering work has helped change the way people everywhere understand each other and the planet we live on. UNESCO led the movement to protect the environment and sounded the alert over the planet's shrinking biodiversity, explicitly linking this to human development through the MAB Programme. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO will, in the foreseeable future, continue to contribute across continents to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, the improvement of health, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, scientific activities, culture, communication and information.

## The MAB Programme

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

In practice, the MAB Programme is implemented in biosphere reserves. They may contain terrestrial, coastal and/or marine ecosystems, which should be representative of their biogeographic region and of significance for biodiversity conservation. Each biosphere reserve promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use, towards sustainable development at the regional scale. While biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located, their global status as biosphere reserves is internationally recognized. Biosphere reserves are models to test and apply interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes in social and ecological systems, and their interaction, including conflict prevention and the conservation of biodiversity.

The MAB Programme's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was launched in 1976. As of 2015, it comprises 651 biosphere reserves in 120 countries, including 14 transboundary biosphere reserves on the territory of two or more countries. As specified in the 1995 Statutory Framework for the WNBR, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale. To do this, each biosphere reserve should combine three interconnected functions – conservation, development and logistical support – through appropriate zoning, comprising: (1) one or more legally constituted core areas, devoted to long-term protection; (2) adjacent buffer zones; and (3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises. Thus, biosphere reserves integrate biological and cultural diversity, particularly recognizing the role of traditional and local knowledge in ecosystem management. They focus on a multi-stakeholder approach with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often have highly innovative and participative governance systems.

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

## MAB and other UNESCO programmes and Conventions

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

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

Given the diverse objectives of biosphere reserves and the stakeholders involved in them, there are clear opportunities for synergies with other UNESCO programmes, particularly the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST). There are also good opportunities for collaboration with the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and UNESCO institutes, centres, Chairs and networks, such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet). A further context for collaboration is with regard to The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In all of these contexts, collaboration with UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector is essential.

## Global context for the MAB Strategy

Sustainability issues are at the centre of the international debate, as human activities continue to fundamentally alter the Earth's systems, with profound impacts on freshwater resources, the ocean, atmosphere and climate, and on ecosystems, habitats and their biodiversity. These trends are underscored in the Rio+20 outcome document, 'The Future We Want', which also recognizes that they will have significant impacts on all societies; that they have economic, cultural and social drivers; and that they are likely to be accentuated in the coming decades. The global community is advancing towards the and implementation of a comprehensive set of

related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets to simultaneously address human needs and environmental change. These explicitly take into account other global imperatives, such as the targets set under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its protocols, and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

## The MAB Strategy within UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy

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

## The Seville Strategy, Statutory Framework and Madrid Action Plan

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

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

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

## **The MAB Strategy 2015-2025**

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

# Vision and Mission of the MAB Programme

***Our vision*** is a world where people are conscious of their common future and interaction with our planet, and act collectively and responsibly to build thriving societies in harmony within the biosphere.

The MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) serve this vision within and outside biosphere reserves.

***Our mission*** for the period 2015-2025 is to:

- ➔ **develop and strengthen models for sustainable development in the WNBR;**
- ➔ **communicate the experiences and lessons learned, facilitating the global diffusion and application of these models;**
- ➔ **support evaluation and high-quality management, strategies and policies for sustainable development and planning, as well as accountable and resilient institutions;**
- ➔ **help Member States and stakeholders to urgently meet the Sustainable Development Goals through experiences from the WNBR, particularly through exploring and testing policies, technologies and innovations for the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.**

# Strategic Objectives

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

- 1. Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources**
- 2. Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere**
- 3. Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development (ESD) and capacity building**
- 4. Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change**

## Strategic Objective 1. Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources

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

### Expected results

- 1.1** Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as models for sustainable development by contributing to the implementation of global conventions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the achievement of relevant SDGs.
- 1.2** Alliances at local, national and regional level are established to support biosphere reserves in carrying out their biodiversity conservation function and provide benefits to local people, thus contributing to the achievement of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



- 1.3** Effective, equitable and participatory planning for sustainable development in biosphere reserves specifically takes into account the rights, needs and capacities of young people, as well as women and indigenous and local communities, and their ownership, and access to and sustainable use of natural resources in and around biosphere reserves.
- 1.4** States, local government, international organizations and the private sector support biosphere reserves through the effective use of the ecosystem approach, to ensure the continued delivery of ecosystem services both within biosphere reserves and to the wider communities that rely on their provision for their health and well-being.
- 1.5** The role of the MAB Programme in research and experimentation towards models and solutions of sustainable development, including their global diffusion, is strengthened.

**Strategic Objective 2.** Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere

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

**Expected results**

- 2.1** Biosphere reserves act as, and are recognized and supported by, all levels of government as models for promoting sustainable development and advancing the implementation of the SDGs relating to equitable and healthy societies and settlements.
- 2.2** Biosphere reserves act as models for exploring, establishing and demonstrating sustainable economic systems that positively affect the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.
- 2.3** Biosphere reserves act as models to explore, establish and demonstrate innovative approaches that foster the resilience of communities and opportunities for youth, through livelihood diversification, green businesses and social enterprise, including responsible tourism and quality economies.

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

### **Strategic Objective 3. Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development (ESD) and capacity building.**

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

#### **Expected results**

- 3.1** MAB and its WNBR are fully engaged with international, regional, national and subnational research initiatives and programmes that contribute to the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.
- 3.2** The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and other stakeholders.
- 3.3** Each biosphere reserve has an active research programme, based on the principles of sustainability science, which provides the basis of participatory decision-making and management in the biosphere reserve.
- 3.4** Traditional knowledge is used as a 'knowledge input' for managing biosphere reserves while recognizing the importance of both empowering indigenous and local communities as guardians of unique knowledge, and of maintaining cultural identity.
- 3.5** Training and capacity-building activities in biosphere reserves and at national, regional and global levels address the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the socio-economic and cultural well-being of human communities.

- 3.6** ESD activities take place in all biosphere reserves including all partners of civil society. Biosphere reserves also serve as ESD hubs from which the models are disseminated.
- 3.7** Increased partnerships between biosphere reserves and UNESCO Education Sector programmes, such as the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD, the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), and the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, and other relevant education and capacity-building bodies of the United Nations.

#### **Strategic Objective 4.** Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change

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

#### **Expected results**

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

# Strategic Action Areas

MAB's Strategic Action Areas for 2015-2025 are:

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

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

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

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

### Strategic lines of action

- A.1** Procedures and processes for selecting, designating, planning and implementing biosphere reserves are open and participatory, taking into account local practices and traditions and cultures, and involving all relevant stakeholders.
- A.2** States and other entities with territorial and governance competences explicitly integrate biosphere reserves into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and programmes, and support effective governance and management structures in each biosphere reserve.
- A.3** Biosphere reserves and national MAB Committees have partnerships with universities and research institutes, to undertake applied research and provide practical learning and training opportunities that support the management and sustainable development of biosphere reserves.
- A.4** Financial sustainability of biosphere reserves is much improved, with a diverse funding base.
- A.5** The periodic review process supports an effectively functioning WNBR, generating a dynamic process of adaptive management of biosphere reserves.

## Strategic Action Area B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented collaboration and networking are essential for MAB and its WNBR, in order to provide effective contributions towards the SDGs and related targets. At the international level, collaboration will focus especially on South-South and North-South-South triangular cooperation, as a catalyst for dialogue and co-production of scientific knowledge, in synergy with local and indigenous knowledge brokers, and for science diplomacy. Collaboration and networking shall target all four Strategic Objectives. The

importance of MAB's regional and thematic networks should be emphasized in this context. The regional networks have variable working methods and statutes, which address regional needs and should be flexible in order to be relevant and efficient in the context of their regions, and the thematic networks typically should be self-organized.

### **Strategic lines of action**

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

### **Strategic Action Area C. Effective partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves**

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

## Strategic lines of action

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

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

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

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

### **Strategic lines of action**

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

### **Strategic Action Area E. Effective governance of and within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves**

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

### **Strategic lines of action**

- E.1** The governments of Member States and National Commissions for UNESCO support the implementation of the MAB Programme, including through well-defined institutional support.
- E.2** Each MAB National Committee has a transdisciplinary membership, including representatives from the public, private, research and education sectors, and a wide range of other stakeholders, including representation from biosphere reserves.
- E.3** Member States regularly update the MAB Secretariat and regional networks regarding implementation of the MAB Strategy and Action Plan within their country.



- E.4** Each regional network has a defined governance mechanism, including annual assessment of performance.
- E.5** New thematic networks, if any, have well-defined objectives and plans, an inbuilt review mechanism and a sunset clause.
- E.6** The International Support Group (ISG) of Permanent Delegations to the MAB Programme continues to contribute to communications and advocacy to the benefit of the Programme.

### **Evaluation Framework**

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

# Glossary<sup>1</sup>

## Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets consist of a set of 20, time-bound, measurable targets agreed in Nagoya, Japan (October 2010) by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to reach several strategic goals by 2020, namely: to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society; to reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use; to improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; to enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and to enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

## Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on 29 December 1993. It has three main objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

## Ecosystem approach

The Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted in November 1995 the ecosystem approach as the primary framework for action under the CBD, as a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.

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<sup>1</sup> Glossary text inserted by the MAB Secretariat

## Ecosystem services

Ecosystems provide a wide range of services without which human life would not be possible, such as the provision of food and water. Ecosystem services also protect and sustain human welfare through flood and disease control and by providing cultural services including recreational, spiritual and cultural benefits.

## Education for sustainable development

Education for sustainable development (ESD) allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. ESD means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning; for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction and sustainable consumption. It also requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development. ESD consequently promotes competencies such as critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative manner.

## Global Action Programme on ESD

The Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD seeks to generate and scale-up ESD action. It is intended to make a substantial contribution to the post-2015 agenda. The overall goal of the GAP is to generate and scale up action in all levels and areas of education and learning to accelerate progress towards sustainable development. The GAP has two objectives: to reorient education and learning so that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that empower them to contribute to sustainable development – and make a difference; and to strengthen education and learning in all agendas, programmes and activities that promote sustainable development. The GAP focuses on five priority action areas: advancing policy, integrating sustainability practices into education and training environments (whole-institution approaches), increasing the capacity of educators and trainers, empowering and mobilizing youth, and encouraging local communities and municipal authorities to develop community-based ESD programmes.

## Global Framework for Climate Services

The international community decided to establish the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) in 2009 to promote operational climate services at national and regional levels. This intergovernmental partnership is supported by the United Nations and other international

organizations with diverse, cross-cutting mandates. It is overseen by the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services, which reports to the World Meteorological Congress. The GFCS has four initial priority sectors: agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction.

## Multilateral environmental agreements

Multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) are agreements between States on specific environmental issues, such as biodiversity and climate change. They typically include obligations involving general principles and more specific actions to be taken in order to achieve an environmental objective. Examples of MEAs include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat).

## Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) is a mechanism that has been included within negotiations by the UNFCCC to promote the mitigation of climate change by enhancing forest management in developing countries, and thereby also reducing the net emission of greenhouse gases.

## Science diplomacy

Science diplomacy implies scientific collaboration among states to find solutions to common problems, and the promotion of international academic, technical or research partnerships and exchanges. Science diplomacy can thus contribute to peace and security through enhanced international relations and understanding.

## Sustainability science

Sustainability science promotes problem-driven, cross-disciplinary approaches that advance understanding of human-environment interactions and systems, and of how those interactions

affect the challenge of sustainability. The field is defined by the problems it addresses rather than the disciplines it employs. It draws from multiple disciplines of the natural, social, medical and engineering sciences, from the professions, and from practical field experience in business, government and civil society. Sustainability science approaches are characterized by: the use of problem-driven methodologies promoting dialogue between science and society, a focus on the interactions between social and natural systems, and the integration of multiple forms of knowledge leading to sound policy and sustainable development.

## Sustainable Development Goals

Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets are intended to stimulate action in areas of critical importance for people, planet and prosperity. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

## UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)

Founded in 1953, the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), commonly referred to as UNESCO Associated Schools, is a global network of 10,000 educational institutions in 181 countries. Member institutions – ranging from pre-schools, primary, secondary and vocational schools to teacher training institutions – work in support of international understanding, peace, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and quality education in practice.

## UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Launched in 1992, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. The Programme supports the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in key priority areas related to UNESCO's fields of competence (i.e. in education, the natural and social sciences, culture and communication).

# Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network

Endorsed by the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves on 17 March 2016, adopted by the 28th MAB ICC on 19 March 2016, Lima, Peru, and approved by the 200th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO on 11 October 2016.



# Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025)

The Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025) contains a comprehensive but succinct set of actions aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025, adopted by the MAB ICC at its 27th session (UNESCO, Paris, 8-12 June 2015) and endorsed by the UNESCO General Conference at its 38th session (UNESCO, Paris, 3-18 November 2015).

Both the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and the Lima Action Plan 2016-2025 are founded on the continuity of the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and based on the findings of the evaluation of the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013).

## MAB Strategy 2015-2025

The MAB Strategy foresees that, in the coming 10 years, the MAB Programme will concentrate its support to Member States and stakeholders in conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; contributing to sustainable, healthy, and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere; facilitating biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development and capacity building; and supporting mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.

The MAB Programme will harness lessons learned through sustainability science and education and use modern, open and transparent ways to communicate and share information. A key goal will be to ensure that its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) consists of effectively functioning models for sustainable development, by improving governance, collaboration and networking within the MAB and WNBR; by developing effective external partnerships to ensure long-term viability, and by implementing an effective periodic review process so that all members of the network adhere to its standards.

# Vision and Mission of the MAB Programme

***Our vision*** is a world where people are conscious of their common future and interaction with our planet, and act collectively and responsibly to build thriving societies in harmony within the biosphere. The MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) serve this vision within and outside biosphere reserves.

***Our mission*** for the period 2015-2025 is to:

- **develop and strengthen models for sustainable development in the WNBR;**
- **communicate the experiences and lessons learned, facilitating the global diffusion and application of these models;**
- **support evaluation and high-quality management, strategies and policies for sustainable development and planning, as well as accountable and resilient institutions;**
- **help Member States and stakeholders to urgently meet the Sustainable Development Goals through experiences from the WNBR, in particularly through exploring and testing policies, technologies and innovations for the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.**



# The Lima Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals

In line with its vision and mission statement, the Lima Action Plan places strong emphasis on thriving societies in harmony with the biosphere for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both within biosphere reserves and beyond, through the global dissemination of the models of sustainability developed in biosphere reserves.

## Structure and implementation of the Lima Action Plan 2016-2025

The Lima Action Plan is presented as a matrix, structured according to the Strategic Action Areas of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025. It includes targeted outcomes, actions and outputs that will contribute to the effective implementation of the Strategic Objectives contained in the MAB Strategy. It also specifies the entities with prime responsibility for implementation, together with time range and performance indicators.

Using the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and Lima Action Plan 2016-2025 as the key points of reference, MAB National Committees and MAB networks are strongly encouraged to prepare their own strategies and action plans. These should be founded in national and regional realities and imperatives and will contribute both to addressing these and to implementing the Lima Action Plan at the global level.

# Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025)

• Partners external to MAB indicated in italics

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

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>A1 Biosphere Reserves (BRs) recognized as models contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)</b>	<b>A1.1</b> Promote BRs as sites that actively contribute to achieving the SDGs	BRs have made measurable contributions in support of the achievement of the SDGs that can be replicated and scaled-up	Member States, National Authorities, BRs	2016-2025	Number of BRs with specific initiatives or activities contributing to SDG targets BR concept used in national development agendas
	<b>A1.2</b> Promote BRs as sites that actively contribute to implementing MEAs, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets	BRs managed and supported with a focus on ensuring their successful contributions to MEA implementation	MAB Secretariat, Member states, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, BRs	2016-2025	Number of BRs with initiatives or activities contributing to MEA implementation, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
	<b>A1.3</b> Establish alliances at local, regional, international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people, taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people	MAB and BRs have established or joined alliances for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local and indigenous people	Member States, National and subnational Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, and BRs	By the end of 2018	Number of BRs with alliances for conservation and development

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
	<b>A1.4</b> Use BRs as priority sites/observatories for climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation, including in support of the UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement	BRs used as priority sites and as observatories for ecosystem-based climate change action	Member States, National Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO and BRs	By the end of 2020	Number of climate change-related projects implemented in BRs, number of national climate change strategies acknowledging the role of BRs
	<b>A1.5</b> Promote green/sustainable/social economy initiatives inside BRs	Sustainable development initiatives established that are inclusive and environmentally integrative.  Labels for products and services developed that reflect the BR objectives	BRs <i>Business sector</i>	2016-2025	Number of BRs promoting green/sustainable/social economy initiatives, number of economic initiatives implemented in the BR
	<b>A1.6</b> Undertake research and ensure the long-term conservation of the socio-ecological systems of BRs including restoration and appropriate management of degraded ecosystems	Socio-ecological systems in BRs are well conserved and maintained	Member States, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, BRs	2016-2025	Number of countries with national legislation to maintain the socio-ecological systems of core areas and buffer zones of BRs. Surface areas of restored ecosystems
<b>A2 Open and participatory selection, planning and implementation of BRs</b>	<b>A2.1</b> Provide guidelines to enable Member States to apply the BR concept and implement the Action Plan effectively	Operational guidelines developed, providing a global framework within which regional and national specificities can be taken into account	MAB Secretariat in consultation with MAB ICC Members	By the end of 2017	Adoption of guidelines by MAB ICC in 2018

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
	<b>A2.2</b> Ensure processes for selecting, designing, planning, and nominating BRs are open and participatory, involving all concerned stakeholders, taking into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures, and based on sound science	BR nomination files and BR management plans produced and implemented through participatory approaches, considering local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures, and based on sound science	Member States, National and Subnational Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, BRs	2016-2025	Number of national guidelines and/or policies for the process leading to nomination of BRs
	<b>A2.3</b> Ensure processes for implementing, managing, monitoring and periodic review of BRs are open and participatory and take into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures	BR management structures, plans and review reports produced and implemented through participatory approaches, considering local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures and participants	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	2016-2025	Number of BRs where the new processes are evident in management structures, plans and periodic review reports
	<b>A2.4</b> Ensure that BRs have clear communication plans and mechanisms to implement these	BR communication plans and mechanisms that ensure communication between BR managers and both stakeholders and MAB networks are developed	Individual BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	2016-2025	Number of BRs with a Communication Plan. Number of BRs with a formal external communication mechanism

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>A3 Integration of BRs into relevant legislation, policies and/or programmes complemented by support for the functioning of BRs</b>	<b>A3.1</b> Recognise BRs in legislation, policies and/or programmes at national and/or subnational levels	BRs integrated into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and/or programmes	Member States, National and Subnational Authorities, MAB National Committees, BRs	2016-2025	Number of Member States whose national legislation refers to BRs. Number of references to BRs in policies and/or programmes
	<b>A3.2</b> Support effective governance and management structures in each BR	Financial and human resources provided to the designated authority or mechanism that implements the BR management policy/plan	National and subnational authorities	2016-2025	Number of BRs with adequate annual budgets and staff
<b>A4 Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs</b>	<b>A4.1</b> Establish partnerships with universities/ research institutions to undertake research, especially UNESCO Chairs and Centres	Partnerships established, maintained, and reinforced. Capacity building events organized	BRs, MAB National Committees, <i>Partner universities, research institutions</i> , etc	By the end of 2020	Number of strategic and functional partnerships. Number of publications. Number of training and capacity building events
	<b>A4.2</b> Establish partnerships with educational and training institutions, especially UNESCO Chairs, Centres and Associated schools, to undertake education, training and capacity building activities aimed at BR stakeholders, including managers and rights holders, taking into account the SDGs	Partnerships established, maintained, and reinforced. Education and training courses and programmes implemented	BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, <i>Educational and training institutions including those involved in the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD</i>	By the end of 2020	Number of partnerships. Number of training events and programmes at national and BR levels

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
	<b>A4.3</b> Provide adequate research infrastructure in each BR	Research activities undertaken and research outputs generated that inform BR management and increase knowledge	BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	By the end of 2020	Number of research outputs generated that are applicable to management and training
	<b>A4.4</b> Identify, and disseminate good practices for sustainable development, and identify and eliminate unsustainable practices in BRs	Good and unsustainable practices identified through research, and lessons learned shared to inform BR management	BRs, MAB Committees, National and subnational authorities, Partner universities, research institutes, private enterprises, etc.	2016-2025	Number of good practices identified Number of unsustainable practices eliminated
	<b>A4.5</b> Encourage managers, local communities and other BR stakeholders to collaborate in designing and implementing projects that inform the management and sustainable development of their BR	Collaborative research projects undertaken. Results of research integrated in management plans	BRs, national and subnational authorities, Research institutions	2016-2025	Number of BRs with collaborative research projects Number of development actions informed by research
<b>A5 Financial sustainability of BRs</b>	<b>A5.1</b> Develop a business plan for each BR including, generation of revenues and effective partnerships with potential funders	BR business plan developed	BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, National and subnational Authorities	By the end of 2018	Number of BRs with business plan
	<b>A5.2</b> Implement the BR business plan to produce revenues	BR business plan implemented	BRs, National authorities, other stakeholders	2019-2025	Proportion of BR budget generated by BR Number of BRs with sustained funding
	<b>A5.3</b> Strengthen national and subnational financial contributions to BRs	National and/or subnational commitment to funding BRs published	MAB National Committees, National and subnational Authorities	2016-2025	Number of BRs with sustained funding

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>A6 The effective functioning of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, with all BRs complying with its Statutory Framework</b>	<b>A6.1</b> Implement an effective periodic review process as defined in the Statutory Framework	Periodic review process implemented in line with the Statutory Framework	National and subnational Authorities, BRs, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	2016-2025	Number of BRs that comply with Statutory Framework on the basis of periodic review reports submitted on time
	<b>A6.2</b> Apply adaptive management processes in BRs	Adaptive management processes applied by BRs	BRs, National and subnational Authorities	2016-2025	Number of BRs that apply adaptive management principles, as evidenced by periodic review reports
<b>A7 BRs recognized as sources and stewards of ecosystem services</b>	<b>A7.1</b> Identify ecosystem services and facilitate their long-term provision, including those contributing to health and wellbeing	Actions to facilitate the provision of ecosystem services from BRs implemented	Member States, National and subnational Authorities, BRs	2016-2025	Quality and quantity of ecosystem services provided by BRs, as indicated in periodic reviews
	<b>A7.2</b> Implement mechanisms for the equitable payment for ecosystem services (PES)	Equitable PES mechanisms in BRs implemented	Member States, National and subnational Authorities, BRs	2016-2025	Number of BRs where PES schemes are implemented
	<b>A7.3</b> Implement programmes to preserve, maintain and promote species and varieties of economic and/or cultural value and that underpin the provision of ecosystem services	Initiatives with these goals or that include these goals among others implemented	BRs, Member States, subnational Authorities, other stakeholders	2016-2025	Number of initiatives per BR targeted to improve the status of species of economic and/or cultural value

**Strategic Action Area B.** Inclusive, dynamic and result-oriented collaboration and networking within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>B1 Effective BR managers/ coordinators and engaged stakeholders of BRs</b>	<b>B1.1</b> Organize global education, capacity building and training programmes	Global education, capacity building and training programmes established and operational	MAB Secretariat, Regional and thematic MAB networks	2016-2025	Number of programmes established. Number of events and participants
	<b>B1.2</b> Organize regional education, capacity building and training programmes	Regional education, capacity building and training programmes established and operational, including University courses	MAB Secretariat, UNESCO Field Offices, Regional and thematic networks, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, <i>Universities</i>	2016-2025	Number of programmes established. Number of events and participants, and BRs represented
<b>B2 Inclusive regional and thematic networks</b>	<b>B2.1</b> Ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders in regional and thematic networks	Regional and thematic network meetings have taken steps to ensure broader participation of stakeholders	Regional and thematic networks	2016-2025	Number and diversity of participants in networks
<b>B3 Regional and thematic networks with adequate resources</b>	<b>B3.1</b> Develop a business plan for each network	Network business plan developed	Regional and thematic networks	By the end of 2018	Number of networks with business plan
<b>B4 Effective regional and thematic level collaboration</b>	<b>B4.1</b> Create opportunities for collaborative research, implementation and monitoring	Working Groups established to develop collaborative research projects and activities	Regional and thematic networks	2016-2025	Number of Working Groups established, number of collaborative activities
<b>B5 Visibility of regional and thematic networks and their activities</b>	<b>B5.1</b> Disseminate results of network activities internally, and externally, including cases of good practice in BRs	Network reports produced, web and social media information generated	Regional and thematic networks	2016-2025	Frequency and nature of communication activity for each network



Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>B.6 Trans-national and transboundary cooperation between BRs</b>	<b>B6.1</b> Create and implement twinning arrangements between BRs in different countries	Operational twinning arrangements established	Member States, National Authorities, BRs, National MAB Committees	By the end of 2018	Number of twinning arrangements
	<b>B6.2</b> Designate and implement transboundary BRs (TBRs)	TBRs designated and implemented	Member States, National Authorities, National MAB Committees	By the end of 2020	Number of TBRs
<b>B.7 An active and open interdisciplinary network of scientists/knowledge holders sharing MAB vision and mission</b>	<b>B7.1</b> Establish an international network of scientists/knowledge holders working in and with BRs, that engages with national and other international networks of scientists/knowledge holders	International network of scientists/knowledge holders active in and with BRs established	Scientists/knowledge holders in National MAB Committees, regional and thematic networks, <i>other scientists/knowledge holders working in/with BRs</i>	By the end of 2017	Number and profile of members of the network. Formal links between the network and other national and international networks of scientists/knowledge holders
	<b>B7.2</b> Develop a joint research and knowledge exchange agenda for the international network	Joint research and knowledge exchange agenda developed	Scientists in National MAB Committees, BRs, regional and thematic networks	By the end of 2019	Quality and content of the joint research agenda. Number of activities undertaken by the network

**Strategic Action Area C.** Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>C1 Adequate resources for the MAB programme and the WNBR</b>	<b>C1.1</b> Prepare a business and a marketing plan to be endorsed by the ICC	Draft business and marketing plan presented to the ICC for adoption	MAB Secretariat	Before MAB ICC in 2018	Plan endorsed by ICC
	<b>C1.2</b> Implement the business and marketing plan	Business and marketing plan implemented	All MAB stakeholders	Starting in 2018	Financial resources mobilized

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>C2 Recognition of the MAB Programme as a key partner within UNESCO and with other international organizations and relevant conventions</b>	<b>C2.1</b> Create and realise opportunities for collaboration and partnerships within UNESCO	Partnerships between MAB and other UNESCO programmes and entities established, maintained, and/or reinforced. MAB Programme and BRs referred to in UNESCO C/4 and C/5 documents	MAB Secretariat, networks and MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	2016-2025	Number of collaborations and partnerships within UNESCO
	<b>C2.2</b> Create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with international programmes and relevant conventions	Proposals developed and discussed with international programmes and relevant conventions concerning collaboration and partnerships	MAB Secretariat, networks and MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	By the end of 2017	Number of collaborations and partnerships with international programmes
<b>C3 BRs and regional networks generating their own revenues</b>	<b>C3.1</b> Support capacity building in approaches to generate revenue	Capacity building events on approaches to generate revenue organized	MAB Secretariat, regional networks, National agencies	2016-2025	Number of events organized. Number of participants
	<b>C3.2</b> Promote partnerships to raise funds from external entities with objectives that are compatible with those of the MAB Programme	Partnerships established and funds mobilized for projects that target the application of policies or programmes external to BRs	BRs, groups of BRs, MAB National Committees, regional networks	2016-2025	Number of BRs and regional networks with activities funded through partnerships
<b>C4 Recognition of the MAB Programme as a key partner by private sector</b>	<b>C4.1</b> Develop guidelines on private sector partnerships for national committees and BRs	Operational guidelines developed	MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees	Before MAB ICC in 2018	Adoption of guidelines by ICC in 2018
	<b>C4.2</b> Create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with private sector which are open, accountable and sustainable	Partnerships with private sector established, maintained and/or reinforced	All MAB stakeholders	2018-2025	Number of collaborations and partnerships with private sector

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>C5 Recognition that the MAB Programme contributes to the delivery of the objectives of national, regional funding programmes</b>	<b>C5.1</b> Create opportunities for projects and activities funded by national and regional funding agencies	Project proposals prepared targeting national and regional funding agencies in line with shared objectives	Member States, National MAB Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO BRs	2016-2025	Number of projects funded by national and regional funding mechanisms
<b>C6 Entrepreneurs and social enterprises contribute to BR activities</b>	<b>C6.1</b> Provide guidance and training to entrepreneurs and social enterprises on involvement in BRs	Guidance and training provided to entrepreneurs and social enterprises	National MAB Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, MAB Secretariat, national agencies, <i>Business sector, Universities, research institutions</i>	2016-2025	Number of countries that provide guidance. Number of entrepreneurs reached
	<b>C6.2</b> Create opportunities for entrepreneurs and social enterprises in BRs, including training, incentives and public procurement	Entrepreneurs and social enterprises provided with ideas, partnerships and mechanisms to engage with BRs	BRs, <i>Social enterprises, entrepreneurs, academics</i>	2016-2025	Number of businesses and enterprises involved with BRs. Number of mechanisms established that connect entrepreneurs to BRs Reduced proportion of public funding in BR budgets
<b>C7 Recognition of BRs nationally and internationally</b>	<b>C7.1</b> Undertake an analysis of a strengthened global BR brand, and establish this, with associated national guidelines	Global BR brand established with associated national guidelines	MAB Secretariat, National MAB Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	By the end of 2018	Official launch of the brand and guidelines
	<b>C7.2</b> Use the brand in products and services in line with national guidelines	BR brand used in marketing of goods and services in line with national guidelines	BRs, MAB Secretariat, National Authorities, National MAB Committees, <i>Business sector, Social enterprises</i>	2019-2025	Number of products and services that carry the BR brand

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>C8 Enhanced synergies between BRs</b>	<b>C8.1</b> Encourage joint promotion and marketing of BR products and services among BRs and beyond	Information exchanged on the availability of goods and services in BRs and joint schemes implemented	National Authorities, BRs, <i>Business sector</i>	2016-2025	Number of joint marketing schemes established. Number of products and services available in the framework of these schemes

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

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>D1 Full availability of MAB documents, data, information and other material</b>	<b>D1.1</b> Implement the open access policy adopted by the ICC in 2014	Open access established to MAB documents, data, information and other materials	MAB Secretariat, Networks, Member States, National Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO, BRs	By the end of 2016	Online availability of documents data and other materials. Number of countries implementing the open access policy
<b>D2 Increased awareness of all aspects of the MAB Programme</b>	<b>D2.1</b> Create a communication strategy and an action plan	Communication strategy and action plan created	MAB Secretariat, National and subnational Authorities, and MAB National Committees	By the end of 2018	Communication strategy and action plan endorsed by ICC
	<b>D2.2</b> Implement the communication action plan	Communication and action plan implemented	MAB Secretariat, National Authorities, MAB National Committees, BRs, regional networks	2019-2025	Visibility of MAB as measured by: Number of visitors to MAB and BR web sites. Number of downloads of MAB-related documents. Number of MAB-related references in international media

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
	<b>D2.3</b> Implement a coordinated publications programme to facilitate data and knowledge sharing	Coordinated publications programme implemented	MAB Secretariat	2016-2025	Number of publications produced
	<b>D2.4</b> Effectively implement the MAB web site (MABNet).	MABNet established and operational as the key communication, data and information hub for MAB, with a clear data policy	MAB Secretariat	2016-2025	Content on MABNet is continually updated. Number of visitors of MABNet. Number of downloads of MAB-related documents.
<b>D3 Broader Engagement and outreach</b>	<b>D3.1</b> Use social media and other novel information and communication technologies	Social media and other novel information and communication technologies in place and operational	National Authorities, all MAB stakeholders	2016-2025	Number of MAB stakeholders who use social media and other technologies Average number of posts, blogs, documents and other activities

### Strategic Action Area E. Effective governance of and within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>E1 Strong support for the implementation of the MAB programme from the governments of Member States</b>	<b>E1.1</b> Ensure the active participation of at least one representative of each ICC Member State at each MAB ICC session	Effective and democratic ICC sessions	Member States, National Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO	2016-2025	Number of Member States represented at each ICC

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
	<b>E1.2</b> Provide institutional support and resources to ensure that each MAB Committee and National BR network can carry out its mission	National MAB Committees and national BR networks provided with resources ensuring their functioning	Member States, National Authorities, National Commissions for UNESCO	2016-2025	Number of MAB Committees and national BR networks with adequate funding
<b>E2 MAB National Committees have a trans-disciplinary membership</b>	<b>E2.1</b> Ensure that each MAB national committee has a transdisciplinary and representative composition	National MAB Committees composed of a well-balanced membership reflecting the transdisciplinary nature of MAB and ensuring the participation of BRs	MAB National Committees, Member States, National Authorities, National Commissions for UNESCO	2016-2025	Numbers of sectors, agencies and disciplines within each MAB Committee
<b>E3 Regular progress updates by Member States and monitoring of the Action Plan</b>	<b>E3.1</b> Submit a biennial report to the ICC covering progress made in each Member State, using a template provided by the MAB Secretariat	Biennial reports submitted to the ICC using a template based on performance indicators provided by the MAB Secretariat. Monitoring report generated by the MAB Secretariat on the basis of national reports	Member States, National Authorities, MAB National Committees, National Commissions for UNESCO MAB Secretariat	2016-2025	Number of Member States that submit national reports. Biennial reports and monitoring report available on MABnet
	<b>E3.2</b> Evaluate mid-term implementation of the action plan	Mid-term evaluation conducted and discussed among MAB stakeholders, providing the basis for implementation of the second half of the action plan	MAB Secretariat in consultation with UNESCO IOS	2020	Mid-term evaluation report is available. Evaluation report is presented and discussed at the ICC.

Outcome	Action	Outputs	Responsibility*	Time range	Performance indicator
<b>E4 Effective functioning of regional and thematic networks</b>	<b>E4.1</b> Develop plan with objectives, performance assessment mechanism and timeframe for each regional and thematic network	Plans with objectives and performance assessment mechanisms developed by regional and thematic networks	Regional and thematic networks	By the end of 2017	Number of networks with adequate plans
	<b>E4.2</b> Submit an annual report to the ICC on performance of the regional and thematic network	Annual performance reports submitted to the ICC by regional and thematic networks	Regional and thematic networks	2017-2025	Proportion of networks that submit performance report. Proportion of annual regional and thematic network reports available on MABnet

# Lima Declaration on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

Adopted on 17 March 2016 at the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru





## Lima Declaration on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

1. We, the representatives of UNESCO Member States, biosphere reserves, and co-operating public and private sector institutions and civil society organizations gathered at the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (4WCBR) of UNESCO during 14-17 March 2016 in Lima, Peru;
2. *Expressing* our sincere gratitude first of all to the Government of Peru and its Ministry of Environment, with the National Service for Protected Areas (SERNANP), the Municipality of Lima and through them to Peruvian people, for their extraordinary support to UNESCO and its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme by hosting the 4WCBR in Lima, Peru, to endorse the new Lima Action Plan for MAB and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2016-2025. We are very grateful for the hospitality our hosts have extended to all the Congress participants;
3. *Expressing further* our satisfaction that this is the first time in the history of the MAB Programme that the World Congress for Biosphere Reserves has been hosted in the Latin American region: a strong indication of the universality of the MAB and its WNBR and the new dynamics in pursuing the vision and mission of the MAB Programme. In this regard, Peru should be praised in particular, for its extraordinary efforts in promoting international cooperation and consensus in multilateral agreements for sustainable development, demonstrated not only by this Congress, but also through the successful organization of the 20th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima in 2014.
4. *Emphasizing* that the 4WCBR has been held at an important and optimal time, after the successful organization of the 20th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima in 2014, which paved the way to the Paris Agreement on climate change that was successfully concluded at the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris, in December 2015, shortly after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 and, within UNESCO, the endorsement of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025, as adopted by the MAB ICC at its 27th session in June 2015, by the 38th session of UNESCO General Conference in November 2015. Together, these new global agreements provide a comprehensive and updated framework for promoting international cooperation for sustainable development, cooperation with targets for MAB and WNBR actions in the next 10 years;
5. *Expressing* satisfaction with the organization of the 4WCBR that enabled the smooth finalization of the Lima Action Plan and facilitated exchange through more than twenty regional, thematic and cross-cutting workshops and thirteen side events, that contributed an enormous resource of new thoughts, experiences, initiatives, best practices and the identification of needs and opportunities for future cooperation, formulated in clear recommendations to the wider constituency of the MAB Programme and its WNBR;
6. *Recalling* the core mission of the MAB Programme – to balance human responsibility to maintain nature and conserve biodiversity with the human need to use natural resources for enhancing social and economic well-being of peoples – established at the 16th session of the General

Conference of UNESCO in 1970 which launched MAB as a long-term intergovernmental and interdisciplinary programme of research, training, monitoring, education and pilot projects.

7. *Recalling* further that the development of biosphere reserves in MAB, started in 1976, has gone through four decades of evolution, empowered by the Member States of UNESCO through the implementation of the Action Plan of Minsk Conference (1983), the Seville Strategy and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (1995), the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013), the international MAB Conference, “For life, for the future: Biosphere reserves and climate change,” with the Dresden Declaration (2011), and national, local and regional cooperation projects in the majority of UNESCO’s Member States, thus gaining a significant momentum for sustainable development at all levels and contributing to global agenda, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as well as the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; and will now be further strengthened by the MAB Strategy 2015-2025, and the Lima Action Plan;
8. *Recalling* the Resolution “MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2025” (Ref. 38 C/Resolution 15, No. 19 under Programme and Budget) adopted by the 38th UNESCO General Conference guiding the programme and biosphere reserve development for the coming decade;
9. *Noting* the efforts of the MAB Community to ensure the quality and functionality of its WNBR by the implementation of its Exit Strategy since 2013, seeking for a significant quality improvement of the WNBR and renewed commitment from Member States of UNESCO towards the MAB Programme and its WNBR;
10. *Convinced* of the need to further strengthen support for contributions of MAB and its WNBR, following the MAB Strategy 2015-2025, to support sustainable development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by means of mobilizing the potential of biosphere reserves to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs including the SDG 13 to ‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact’ and the SDG 15 to ‘Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss’, and recognizing the interlinkages of the Strategy and the Lima Action Plan with the targets of other goals;
11. *Noting* with pride the fact that the WNBR today includes more than 600 sites of global importance for biological diversity and cultural diversity, representing almost all major ecosystem types of our planet;
12. *Recalling* that MAB’s vision is a world where people are conscious of their common future and interaction with our planet, and act collectively and responsibly to build thriving societies in harmony within the biosphere;
13. *Recalling* further that MAB’s mission for the period 2015-2025 is to: develop and strengthen models of sustainable development in the WNBR; to communicate the experiences and lessons learned, facilitating the global diffusion and application of these models; to support evaluation and high-quality management, strategies and policies for sustainable development and planning,

as well as account able and resilient institutions; and to help Member States and stakeholders to urgently meet the SDGs through experiences from the WNBR, particularly through exploring, advocating and testing policies, technologies, education and new lifestyles and innovations for the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources and mitigation and adaptation to climate change;

14. *Emphasizing* that the overall spirit of the Congress is its call for all to take action, in accordance with the Lima Action Plan, to explore vigorously innovative solutions to the persisting problems and new challenges encountered on all fronts, and to capitalize the achievements and lessons learnt and to develop new practices by means of new ideas, concepts, innovation its, instruments, methodologies, tools, indicators, best practice models in MAB and its WNBR, and by enabling a UNESCO MAB led global sustainability movement;
15. *Underscoring* in this context that MAB and its WNBR must continue to constitute a leading global resource base for sustainable development solutions, including measures to protect and promote indigenous and local knowledge systems;
16. *Underlining* that such a global movement will be characterized by a wider and more active role of local communities in developing and deciding actions on the ground in biosphere reserves, and also by new partnerships between science and policy, between scientists and decision makers, between national and local governance, between public and private sector actors, and among decision-making bodies, citizen groups and organizations, and in particular indigenous, as well as youth communities;
17. *Take note* of the Declaration arising from the Inter-Ministerial Conference on “Biosphere Reserves in the Caribbean Small Island States – Tools for sustainable development and growth”, in St. Kitts & Nevis, 27 March 2013, and reiterate the desire, inter alia, to identify and designate one biosphere reserve in each State that had not established one yet, on the basis of a consensus-driven agreement between all parties: local communities, government, industry, NGOs, nature preservation societies, heritage conservation groups, etc. and to explore all possible partnerships towards the establishment of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States MAB network and the integration with other thematic and regional Biosphere networks, such as the IberoMAB and the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves;

Therefore join efforts to

18. *Encourage* UNESCO Member States to establish and to ensure functional MAB National Committees or MAB Focal Points in countries where they do not yet exist, and to establish biosphere reserves in countries that have not established them yet, including transboundary biosphere reserves, and particularly in Small Island Developing States;
19. *Encourage* UNESCO Member States to use biosphere reserves as models for national /regional demonstration of sustainable development within national Agenda 21 programmes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
20. *Invite* UNESCO Member States to use biosphere reserves (respecting each member national sustainable development policy) as priority sites or observatories for biodiversity conservation as well as ecosystems and climate change research, monitoring, education, mitigation and adaptation;

21. *Encourage* the UNESCO MAB Secretariat to review the implementation of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 by fully applying the Lima Action Plan (2016-2025) in line with the biosphere reserves for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in support of the UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement;
22. *Encourage* cooperation between the MAB Programme and the other Intergovernmental/International Scientific Programmes of UNESCO, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) as well the World Heritage Convention and the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD);
23. *Call upon* UNESCO to continue to improve the effectiveness of collaboration with relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the UN system, in particular UNDP, FAO, UNU and UNEP, and with active NGOs, with the aim of enabling Member States to use biosphere reserves as priority places to demonstrate and promote the achievement of the SDGs and related targets, as well as relevant goals, targets and objectives specified under the CBD, the UNFCCC and the UNCCD;
24. *Build* new partnerships between the MAB programme and scientific institutions, such as universities, research centers and UNESCO Category 2 Centers, and UNESCO Chairs to launch capacity building and training activities aimed at all biosphere reserve stakeholders, including managers, taking into account the SDGs;
25. *Recognizing* the increasing importance of involving the private sector in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services, further encourage UNESCO to cooperate with a wide variety of Private Sector partners such as business enterprises, including small and medium-size firms, national, international and multinational corporations, philanthropic and corporate foundations, financial institutions and private individuals;
26. *Call upon* stakeholders in biosphere reserves to communicate their experience, thus contributing to economic and political decision processes and to assist in implementing the innovations and lessons learnt to national decision makers.
27. *Call upon* UNESCO, all international and national partnerships and the coordinators/managers of biosphere reserves themselves to establish new mechanisms for sustainable, robust and sufficient funding of biosphere reserves, for the Secretariat of the MAB Programme, as well as for all the regional and thematic networks in order to ensure the implementation of the MAB Strategy and the Lima Action Plan in order to identify and secure extra-budgetary funds to facilitate and enable the countries that have not yet established biosphere reserves, notably the SIDS, to prepare, initiate and develop a local Biosphere site;
28. *Urge* UNESCO and its Member States, through its National Commissions, to strengthen the WNBR for the implementation of the SDGs and to promote in particular regional, subregional, national and thematic networks as fora for exchange of experience and good practices and to promote the global diffusion and implementation of such practices within and outside biosphere reserves;
29. *Call upon* all UNESCO Member States to strongly support the MAB Programme and its WNBR and to implement the Lima Action Plan for the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves 2016-2025.

# Acronyms

<b>ASPnet</b>	Associated Schools Project Network
<b>BR</b>	Biosphere Reserve
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Biodiversity
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>ESD</b>	Education for Sustainable Development
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>GAP</b>	Global Action Programme (on ESD)
<b>GFCS</b>	Global Framework for Climate Services
<b>ICC</b>	International Co-ordinating Council
<b>IGGP</b>	International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme
<b>IHP</b>	Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
<b>IOC</b>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
<b>IOS</b>	Internal Oversight Service
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>ISG</b>	International Support Group
<b>MAB</b>	Man and the Biosphere
<b>MAP</b>	Madrid Action Plan
<b>MEA</b>	Multilateral Environment Agreements
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SERNANP</b>	Servicio Nacional de Áreas Protegidas por el Estado (Perú)
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Islands Developing States
<b>TBR</b>	Transboundary Biosphere Reserve
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNITWIN</b>	University Twinning and Networking
<b>UNU</b>	United Nations University
<b>WCBR</b>	World Congress of Biosphere Reserves
<b>WNBR</b>	World Network of Biosphere Reserves

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