



## **Workshop on Economics of Biosphere Reserves in Arab Countries**

**Cairo, 20-22 December 2005-12-24**

**In collaboration with UNESCO Cairo Office**

### **Recommendations**

The participants thank the Institute of African Research and Studies, Cairo University, the UNESCO Cairo Office, and the Egyptian National Commission, for the effort of holding the Workshop on Economics of Biosphere Reserves in Arab Countries”, 20-22 Dec. 2005 at the Institute, and approve the following recommendations.

### **General Recommendations**

1. Emphasis is placed on the role of Biosphere Reserves in support of sustainable development in Arab countries at both local and national levels.
2. The necessity of informing all parties concerned about the expertise gained in some foreign and Arab countries for the economic utilization of possibilities offered by Biosphere Reserves in the production and export of environment friendly agricultural products and handicrafts, as well as in ecotourism, in these Reserves.
3. The active participation of Arab countries in the activities of the MAB International Coordinating Council, and making use of its work in the field of quality economics of Biosphere Reserves.
4. Exchange of expertise among Arab countries in in the field of quality economics of Biosphere Reserves and in other nature reserves, and making use of their networking.

5. Emphasis on the necessity of Biosphere Reserves and other nature reserves to be independent economic units for the production of environment friendly goods that promote their developmental role, from economic, social, and environmental aspects.
6. Encourage establishment of new Biosphere Reserves in all Arab countries, commensurate with their rich natural and cultural diversity, and the emphasis on the desire to establish trans-boundary Biosphere Reserves as conditions permit.
7. Follow-up of the social and environmental impacts of economic activities in Biosphere Reserves, through continued social and environmental monitoring, to avoid any harm that may occur and to control the course, in order to obtain maximum benefit from such activities.
8. Encourage connections and exchange of visits between local communities and managers in Arab Biosphere Reserves.
9. Use of the Arabic language in brochures and publications related to the MAB Programme.

### **Education, Training, and Research**

10. Continue capacity building efforts for workers of Arab Biosphere Reserves, especially as concerns their economics, through training courses, including on the management of trans-boundary Biosphere Reserves.
11. Support the establishment of specialized professional diplomas in Arab universities about the management of Biosphere Reserves and the natural heritage of the Arab World.
12. Request the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), to establish a system of Arab Young Scientists Awards at the level of Arab countries, that would allow young Arab scientists to conduct research and studies in the field of Arab nature reserves, especially what concerns their economics.

### **Implementation Aspects**

13. Establishing registered trade marks to distinguish products and services offered by Arab Biosphere Reserves, in conformity with international regulations and laws.
14. Preparation of an Arab common pilot project in the field of Biosphere Reserve economics, in order to obtain maximum benefit from them,

- requesting its funding from the UNESCO Participation Programme, and establishment of a Consultative Committee and/or a Task Force, for the preparation and implementation of the project.
15. That UNESCO increase the information on Biosphere Reserves in its website, and contribute to the marketing of their products on that site and the sites of Arab National UNESCO Committees, and put up exhibitions for their promotion.
  16. Request the Council of Arab Environment Ministers, ALECSO, UNESCO, UNESCO Regional Offices, Arab National UNESCO Commissions, and the ArabMAB Network, to adopt the implementation of these recommendations.