

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
Twenty-second session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room XII (Fontenoy Building)
31 May – 4 June 2010

http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=6793&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

**Item 15 of the Provisional Agenda:
Date and venue of the 23rd session of the MAB-ICC
and events linked to the 40th anniversary (1971-2011) of the MAB Programme**

1. At its last (21st) session held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 25 to 29 May 2010, the ICC decided to meet in annual sessions so that it is fully involved in all decisions concerning the inclusion of new biosphere reserves in the World Network and other important decisions of the MAB Programme.
2. While deciding to meet in annual sessions, the ICC considered costs and benefits of hosting its sessions both at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and away from UNESCO in response to an invitation from a Member State. The 20th and 21st session of the ICC held in Madrid, Spain and Jeju Island, Republic of Korea in 2008 and 2009, respectively, had contributed considerably towards increasing awareness and visibility of the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). However, the ICC recognized that sessions at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris significantly benefit from the experience of the Delegates of ICC and Observer Member States who are resident in Paris particularly with regard to discussions on revisions to the statutory documents of the MAB Programme and WNBR (see document SC-10/CONF.201/6). Hence, the ICC recommended that its annual sessions in the future should preferably alternate between UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and a venue in a Member State who is willing to host the ICC.
3. Accordingly, the ICC decided that its 22nd session be held at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) and as instructed by the ICC the Secretariat consulted with the ICC Members in early December 2009 to propose the dates of 31 May - 4 June 2010 for the 22nd session of the ICC, which was accepted by all Members.
4. At its 21st session (May 2009) the ICC also recognized that the 40th anniversary of the MAB Programme will be commemorated in 2011; hence the Council recommended that the Secretariat consult with ICC and Observer Member States, including their Delegations at UNESCO Headquarters, to explore interest among Member States to host the 23rd session of the MAB-ICC and associated events to commemorate the 40th anniversary of MAB.
5. The Secretariat has been in contact with two Members of the ICC regarding the potential for their hosting the 23rd session of the ICC and a special global event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the MAB Programme in 2011. The Secretariat will report on an update of consultations with these two Member States at the time of the ICC 22nd session from 31 May to 4 June 2010 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

6. The MAB Programme when it was launched with its first ICC session in 1971 was a pioneer in calling for interdisciplinary scientific co-operation among natural and social scientists; stressing that projects addressing natural resources use and management must follow an integrated approach linking research and knowledge gathering to improving livelihoods of people and to education, capacity building and monitoring; and launching the concept of biosphere reserves via MAB Project 8 – conservation of natural areas and their genetic resources – promoting the integration of conservation and development, initially focusing on protected areas and their surroundings but since the adoption of the Seville Strategy by UNESCO in 1995 expanding that focus to conservation-development relationships at land/seascapes and regional level sustainability issues. Forty years after the launch of the MAB Programme many of these ideas have become mainstreamed in international affairs in environment and development. The 40th anniversary commemorative events may take stock of MAB's contributions to current state-of-the-art of international environmental relations and define MAB's mission for the second decade of the new millennium, i.e. 2011-2020, taking into consideration that the first five years of the decade will generate lessons from the implementation of MAP (2008-2013), UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (2015).

7. The ICC after having inputs from ICC Member and Observer representatives during its 22nd session at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) may decide on the venue of its 23rd session. With regard to the commemorative events for the 40th anniversary of the MAB Programme which may be the focus of regional and thematic networks as well as other collaboration with partners the ICC may also discuss the feasibility of organizing a global event at the same time as its 23rd session and recommend specific steps for implementation by the Secretariat towards realizing that potential.