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Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda:
Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme: A preliminary progress report on the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan

1. The Madrid Action Plan (MAP) for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) adopted by the 20th session of the ICC in February 2008 will have been under implementation for a period of 27 months when the 22nd session of the ICC convenes at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) from 31 May to 4 June 2010.
2. An interim evaluation of the implementation of MAP is due at the end of 2010 (please also refer to document SC-10/CONF.201/14) for review by the 23rd session of the ICC in 2011. The 35th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (October 2009) in adopting a resolution submitted by Germany and supported by more than 30 other Member States on the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) requested that a report on the implementation of the MAP be submitted to the 36th session of the General Conference of UNESCO to be held at UNESCO Headquarters, in the autumn of 2011.
3. Given the central importance of the implementation of MAP and an assessment of its strengths and weaknesses during this current UNESCO biennium (2010-2011), the Secretariat has compiled a preliminary progress report, based on its own activities as well as on information available to it on activities implemented by Member States, regional and ecosystem networks and that of partner organizations, on the commitment to meet the 31 targets of the MAP. This report is included as an annex to this document. The Secretariat has not attempted at this point of time to report on each and every one of the 67 actions that were identified by the 20th session of the ICC to contribute towards attaining the 31 targets.

Annex

Madrid Action Plan (MAP) Target	Progress achieved	Other remarks
1. Effective implementation of the Seville Strategy	At the global level, the Seville Strategy implementation appears to have made a difference; e.g. more than 90% of post-Seville proposals for biosphere reserves (BRs) included the three zones compared to less than 50% during pre-Seville times. Post-Seville BR proposals also included resident communities in buffer zones and transition areas. Well over 200 BRs have undertaken periodic reviews as required by the Statutory Framework of the World Network adopted together with the Seville Strategy by UNESCO in 1995. Responses to a questionnaire sent out to assess site and country-level implementation however is very low, i.e. 10-20%. The setting up of an electronic task force to revise the nomination and periodic review forms as recommended by the 21 st session of the ICC (May 2009) is currently underway.	MAP Action 1.2 – compile and synthesize first-hand information on the functioning of BRs, which should then be shared inter-regionally and globally – remains difficult to implement due to low return rates on the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat to Member States. The National Commissions for UNESCO and MAB National Committees may be requested to take the lead in contacting BRs for responses and transmit the information to the Secretariat for synthesis and sharing of findings through the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).
2. Increased co-operation and co-ordination of biosphere reserves with existing international programmes (ISPs)	The IGCP thematic group on natural resources will work with the MAB Secretariat to address mineral and oil and gas exploration and exploitation issues in BRs. Following the successful elaboration of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) framework during 2008-2009, MAB and IOC will continue to work together to develop an Ocean Biodiversity and Biosphere Network during 2010-2011. A Biodiversity Science Policy Conference was organized (25-29 January 2010) in co-operation with the CBD Secretariat in connection with the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB); and the International Conference on Biological and Cultural Diversity is co-organized by UNESCO's Culture and Natural Sciences Sectors, including MAB, other ISPs and other partners in the context of both 2010 IYB and 2010 International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures. Experiences of biosphere reserves will be presented at the conference and considered in the preparation of the Joint Programme between UNESCO and the CBD on the links between biological and cultural diversity to be adopted at the CBD-COP 10 in Japan in October 2010. The MAB Secretariat contributed to an expert group on World Heritage (WH) and sustainable development (Paraty, Brazil; 29-31 March 2010); proposals for using pilot sites with twin, i.e. BR and WH,	It is hoped that the number of biosphere reserves used by ISPs, WH Convention and others will increase during 2010-2011. Member States who are part of decision making in ISP statutory bodies and the WH Committee may wish to consider urging for greater use of BRs for sustainable development initiatives.

	designations to demonstrate sustainable development options will be made by the WH Centre to the WH Committee session in Brasilia in July 2010.	
3. Integrated information and communication strategy	Budget reduction from the 2008-2009 to the current (2010-2011) biennium and the lack of a dedicated staff are slowing progress in implementing activities to attain this target. web-based information and communication platform that is being pilot-tested within the EuroMAB network, and the lessons learned will be used to extend the platform scope and activities to all regions.	The MAB Secretariat is seeking extra-budgetary funds and/or staff support through appropriate UNESCO modalities so that a full-time staff could be dedicated for this target whose timely attainment would have several additional benefits.
4. Participatory regional networks that are managed in a manner assuring adequate representation of managers and coordinators from BRs	Reports from several regional and thematic networks are due to be presented at the 22 nd session of the ICC.	The imbalance in levels of financial support to regional as well as thematic networks continues to persist with only IberoMAB and EABRN (East Asian Biosphere Reserves Network) reaching sustainable levels of financing. The AfriMAB meeting in mid-May 2010 will consider this and other matters, and a report is expected at the time of the Council session
5. Enhanced co-operation between experts and practitioners in relevant key issues	Ecosystem networks provide important forums for experts and practitioners to share their experience and knowledge. The MAB arid land network has been strengthened by the Flemish Trust Fund of UNESCO support for phase II of the SUMAMAD project. In 2009, the Republic of Korea and Spain pledged support for a global network on coastal zone- and small island-biosphere reserves to address climate change and sustainable development. A symposium on urban futures and human and ecosystem well-being will be organized in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment) in Shanghai, China (27-30 October 2010) in order to re-orient MAB urban ecosystem work to address MAP target 23 (see below).	
6. Communication strategies for each biosphere reserve, integrated with national and higher levels	Biosphere reserves such as Sierra Gorda of Mexico appear to have effective communication strategies for international and national publics. Some new biosphere reserves, e.g. Noosa Biosphere Reserve of Australia, have developed web-based communication platforms for stakeholders. The German National Year of Biosphere Reserves (2009) raised awareness of the work carried out by biosphere reserves at local, state, national and European levels and served as an effective communication platform. Biosphere reserves in Finland and Australia (Noosa) are planning art and film festivals to build awareness of biosphere reserves.	National Commissions for UNESCO and MAB National Committees may wish to study the German experience and consider the desirability of launching national biosphere reserve years in their own countries.

<p>7. Functional MAB National Committees in each country, managed in a manner assuring adequate representation of biosphere reserve coordinators and other key stakeholders</p>	<p>Good examples of functional MAB National Committees have been created (Ethiopia, Rwanda) and others (Ecuador) have initiated restructuring. Central Asian Member States of UNESCO are undertaking steps to establish or restructure MAB National Committees.</p>	<p>2008, the same year of the adoption of the MAP, being defined as the “time” for completing action 7.1. – create or restructure MAB National Committees – is rather optimistic! The implementation of this action is likely to have progressed to an appreciable level at the time of the mid-term evaluation of MAP foreseen for review by the 23rd session of the ICC in 2011. A document that will replace the current “Guidelines for the Establishment of MAB National Committees” will describe ‘functionality’ in the context of the implementation of MAP and will be submitted to the consideration of the Council at the time of its 22nd session.</p>
<p>8. Increased linkages between biosphere reserve activities and sustainable development initiatives at multiple scales</p>	<p>Biosphere reserves benefited from One UN framework plan and financing in Rwanda and Tanzania; in Cape Verde an expert mission was undertaken to support the National Commission for UNESCO to prepare the island nation’s first biosphere reserve financed as part of the One UN work plan of the country. At the country level, Vietnam MAB and the local Agenda 21 office of the Vietnamese Government signed an MOU for collaborating in sustainable development initiatives in BRs at the level of provincial and local governments.</p>	<p>The use of biosphere reserves as priority test sites for sustainable development could be considered in the context of One UN and UNDAF discussions at the national level. This would require that National Commissions for UNESCO and MAB national Committees are provided support and mandates to participate in One UN and UNDAF discussions at the country level.</p>
<p>9. All biosphere reserves undertake periodic review and related actions to update zonation, management and other changes to meet Seville & MAP requirements and recommendations</p>	<p>In accordance with the decisions of the 21st session of the Council (May 2009) related to this target several steps have been taken to request concerned MAB National Committees and National Commissions for UNESCO to pursue active measures to attain this target.</p>	<p>More detailed information on progress with respect to meeting this target is provided in working document SC-10/CONF.201/8.</p>
<p>10. Open and participatory procedures and processes in the designation, planning and implementation of biosphere reserves</p>	<p>Some methodologies for dialogue and stakeholder participation tested out in biosphere reserves from selected countries, e.g. ARDI (actors, resources, dynamics and interactions) in France, have been published (see reference quoted in the remarks to target 31 below). The approach of the bio-cultural community protocols to ensure access to and sharing of benefits derived from biological resources has been successfully tested in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve, South Africa</p>	
<p>11. Enhanced legal recognition of biosphere reserves where appropriate</p>	<p>A review of legislation applied to biosphere reserves in several countries was submitted to the 21st session of the Council in May 2009. As requested by the ICC at that session, the Secretariat is undertaking measures to make available information on the legislation from selected countries to the benefit of other countries.</p>	<p>Please refer to working document SC-10/CONF.201/9 and http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=8447&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html for more information.</p>

12. Analysis of zonation of all biosphere reserves	Insights into possible approaches and methodologies have been gained through some of the periodic review reports as well as specific cases from France, Germany and Chile where pre-Seville (i.e. pre-1995) sites have been effectively transformed into the post-Seville BR model. It is hoped that work in this regard could be accelerated in the latter half of 2010 and beyond..	Information gathering, based on a methodology that will allow regional and global comparative analyses, must be done primarily at the level of biosphere reserves. The active involvement of MAB National Committees and National Commissions for UNESCO is critical for gathering necessary information and data for analysis. The Secretariat will make efforts to design and develop the methodology that will allow comparisons across regions and ecosystems.
13. Functional zonation in all biosphere reserves established, particularly with regard to the transition area and the development function	There are several BRs with effective zonation, which are experimenting with interesting ways of using the transition area. Systematic data gathering and analyses are needed in order to make such positive experience available to all members of the WNBR and to enable them to learn and improve the situation of their own biosphere reserves.	The remark made for target 12 above is relevant here too.
14. Co-operative conservation and development strategies for biosphere reserves	For this target too, experience from known biosphere reserves need to be documented, diagnosed and lessons drawn shared across the WNBR.	Again, the remark made for target 12 applies here as well.
15. Communication of biosphere reserve experiences on management and stakeholder participation of ecosystem services to relevant policy constituencies within UN bodies, regional development banks, national governments and others	Ecosystem services as a convening concept for stakeholder dialogue is relatively recent. The findings and recommendations of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) though it has near-universal admiration among scientists have not received similar levels of buy-in within the policy community, particularly in developing countries. Biosphere reserves could be places for demonstrating the usefulness of MA methodologies and approaches and to promote science-policy dialogues on integrating ecosystem services into regional sustainable development. The extent to which such experiences are already available within BRs seems limited; but an increasing number of biosphere reserves are positive about capitalizing on emerging opportunities.	Please see also document SC-10/CONF.201/10 dealing with BRs as learning places for sustainable development. The MAB Secretariat participated in the TEEB process where several biosphere reserve case studies were used.
16. Site-based policy-relevant research programmes	Some of the collaborative processes initiated with other ISPs and World Heritage in relation to progress in targets 2 and 3 above will contribute to meeting this target. The Secretariat regularly searches the web for information on publications on policy-relevant research conducted in biosphere reserves, including those addressing ecosystem services, climate change and sustainability; findings of the searches are made available via the electronic newsletter on biosphere reserves produced on a quarterly basis.	Ideas and suggestions to further improve the content and presentation of the electronic newsletter are welcome.
17. Trained biosphere reserve managers and other relevant stakeholders	Information on training available for MAB-related courses from the past (e.g. Masters course on environment and development at the University of Dresden, Germany) are	In the post-Seville model of biosphere reserves which considers core, buffer and transition zone stakeholders, it is difficult to identify a single or centralized "biosphere

	made accessible through the MABNet to enable interested candidates to apply. Similar links were produced for training activities in a university in Italy for a course on mountain ecosystems and another offered by an NGO. In Tanzania, Chinese and UK experts working with the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences trained BR personnel and others on remote applications with the help of One UN financing. The series of training for implementing MAP in the Ibero-MAB network countries will significantly impact outcomes of MAP implementation in that region. Replicating the experience of such training in IberoMAB countries in other regions is worth considering.	reserve manager". Increasingly the success of biosphere reserves depends on trained and skilled planners and decision makers at the appropriate sub-national levels of government and on the commitment of civil society and private sector leaders. Ways and means of addressing these target groups must be found in collaboration with National Commissions for UNESCO and MAB National Committees and other appropriate national level authorities.
18. Use of biosphere reserves by UNESCO Member States for their work with other ISPs including IOC and MOST	Information on Secretariat-originated events and initiatives in this regard are provided under targets 2 and 3. The German National Commission initiative to strengthen the capacity of five African National Commissions for implementing MAB and IHP is an important contribution to highlighting synergies between these two UNESCO ISPs.	The recognition of biosphere reserves as an interdisciplinary platform for addressing sustainable development and climate change was recognized by the UNESCO General Conference (2009) in adopting the Resolution on MAB and WNBR submitted by Germany and supported by more than 30 UNESCO Member States, and was again re-emphasized by the 184 th session of the Executive Board held at UNESCO Headquarters in April 2010. Operational modalities for translating such recognition into actions in support of collaboration between ISPs and MAB need to be put in place both within the UNESCO Secretariat as well as at regional, national and sub-national levels. The National Commissions for UNESCO and ISP National Committees can be the drivers for creating joint initiatives at the national level.
19. Biosphere reserves to have research programmes on analyses of ecosystem services and their management through stakeholder participation.	The Secretariat in discussions with ICSU and UNEP on the development of the PECS (People, Ecosystem Change and Society) initiative as a follow-up to the MA is advocating the use of biosphere reserves as places for launching research programmes that meet this target. The Israel MAB National Committee has developed a research programme on ecosystem-service analysis for its biosphere reserve which may be of interest to other dryland biosphere reserves.	The MAB Secretariat is contributing to discussions concerning the role of UNESCO in the establishment and functioning of an Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on which the UN is expected to decide in the latter half of 2010. If established IPBES commissioned assessments and studies may use biosphere reserves as field sites.
20. Biosphere reserves have research programmes linked to the development of the management plan and zoning	The PECS initiative referred to above, as well as other such initiatives that could be developed in co-operation with a variety of UNESCO's international, regional and local partners, could integrate this target in the development of site-specific research programmes.	
21. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)	The MAB Secretariat organized side events to highlight the role of biosphere reserves as learning places for	Currently discussions are underway to identify countries for launching pilot projects in schools in BRs using the

programmes with educational and research institutions	sustainable development at the mid-Decade ESD Conferences in Tokyo, Japan (December 2008) and Bonn, Germany (March 2009), respectively. The Resolution, adopted by the 35 th session of the UNESCO General Conference (October 2009) on the interdisciplinary relevance of MAB and WNBR for UNESCO activities on sustainable development could help further collaboration with the ESD Secretariat of UNESCO to attain this target. The Protected Area Agency of Spain (OAPN) has donated the US\$ 30,000 it received as the winner of the Sultan Qaboos Prize for 2009 for developing projects in schools located within biosphere reserves.	initial US\$ 30,000 made available by OAPN, Spain; based on lessons learned from such pilot projects a programme for 'biosphere schools' will be elaborated in co-operation with appropriate partners within and outside UNESCO.
22. Exchange of educational resources for widespread adaptation and application	The Hai Phong Provincial Administration (Viet Nam) and the School of Integrated Systems (SIS) of the University of Queensland (UQ) (Australia) collaborated to develop a 'learning laboratory'-approach to the management of the Cat Ba BR of Viet Nam. The six-step process based on systems thinking identified capacity building for integrated planning at the level of the Provincial Government as a critical need to enable Cat Ba BR realize its multi-functional potential. The experience of SIS/UQ and Viet Nam is being sought by neighbouring Cambodia. The Education Commission of International Systems Sciences Society (ISSS) is studying the possibility of using BRs as learning places for demonstrating systems sciences applications for integrated planning.	The Secretariat will review the increasing number of case studies on BRs that are available via MAB Young Scientists Awards studies, Michel Batisse Award for BR management case studies as well as the examples mentioned herein to develop educational and learning materials that could contribute to UNESCO-DESD activities.
23. A mechanism for biosphere reserves to address urban issues in a regional context	Misunderstandings on establishing 'urban biosphere reserves' arising from advocacy prior to the adoption of MAP in 2008 have created delays in launching concerted actions to meet this target. ICC turned down a biosphere reserve nomination from an academic city in Russia at its last session (May 2009) and cautioned the MAB Secretariat against creating unattainable expectations among Member States regarding the feasibility of urban areas becoming 'stand-alone' BRs. The MAB Secretariat continues to stress the need to focus on this target and is discouraging the use of 'urban biosphere reserve' terminology. The symposium on urban futures and human and ecosystem well being in late October 2010 in Shanghai, China (see target 5 for details) will be a step in re-orienting MAB urban work towards attaining this target.	The issue of whether or not a MAB urban working group whose mandate ended at the time of the 19 th session of the ICC in Paris (2006) would have to be revived as part of the MAB urban network will be discussed at the Shanghai event.
24. Use biosphere reserves as learning sites for research, adaptation and mitigation in relation	The follow-up to the GLOCHAMORE Research Strategy is the subject of a conference on the mountain biosphere reserve network to be held in Scotland, UK in mid-2010.	The new DG of UNESCO has emphasized the importance of using UNESCO BRs and WH sites in developing pilot and demonstration projects for UN-REDD and UN-REDD+

to climate change	ERAIFT (DRC), University of Belém, Brazil and MAB-Indonesia have established an MOU to promote South-South Co-operation in tropical forests to address climate change and sustainable development. An African Biocarbon Forum is being convened (20-24 April 2010) under the auspices of the Chair of the MAB-ICC, Mr Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy, Environment and Sustainable Development in Brazzaville where training for Congo Basin BR managers to prepare climate change mitigation and adaptation projects will be provided.	financing coordinated by UNDP, UNEP and FAO as well as for other climate change related activities. The MAB Secretariat is collaborating with the WH Centre in order to respond to an interest of the DG of UNESCO to develop REDD and REDD+ projects, and this matter will be further explored during the African Biocarbon Forum on 20-24 April 2010 in Brazzaville, Congo.
25. Improved financial mechanisms for biosphere reserves and regional networks	IberoMAB and EABRN with regular and substantial financial contributions from Spain and the Republic of Korea, respectively, have taken specific actions to implement MAP; for example under IberoMAB many training activities on the implementation of MAP have been held throughout the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. The AfriMAB meeting scheduled to be convened in mid-May 2010 in Madagascar will address questions of sustainable financing. Exploratory dialogue with regard to potential PES projects and partnership agreement with carbon funds have been undertaken; the prospects for launching such projects have become difficult given the global financial downturn of 2009-2010. Nevertheless, efforts in this regard will be continued.	
26. Improved generation of profits and livelihood benefits in biosphere reserves through sustainable production, harvesting, processing and marketing of biosphere reserve products	The future of the Task Force on Quality Economies will be addressed in the document dealing with biosphere reserves as learning places for sustainable development. Regional networks are being encouraged to choose BRs to carry out assessments on the economic contribution of biosphere reserves. Markets for local products are well developed in BRs in Western Europe but less so in other parts of the world. Several countries are developing a Charter for sustainable development (France, Canada and Benin) and have established an informal working group to develop this concept and associated tools.	The MAB Programme, which is associated with a research programme called Biodivalloc, held a scientific symposium in June 2009 at UNESCO on valorizing local products and biodiversity, using several BRs as demonstration sites. A second phase of this research programme is being prepared jointly with the Secretariat. At the same time as the 22 nd session of the ICC, a meeting of the UNESCO inter-sectoral initiative on “ <i>Planète et Terroirs</i> ” will be convened in Morocco where many African, Arab and European BR representatives will present information on local products. Local products were a highlight in many of the exhibitions and events organized in the context of the German National Year of Biosphere Reserves.
27. Increased involvement, support and buy-in of private sector	The partnership established during 2007-2009 between UNESCO-MAB and the STAR Alliance group of airlines (together with IUCN and the Ramsar Convention) under the title “Biosphere Connections” is expected to continue for another three years. At the country level, some partnerships such as that between the German National Commission for UNESCO and Danone Group in Germany	The MAB Secretariat is expecting a representative of the UN WTO (UN World Tourism Organization) to participate in the 22 nd session of the ICC, and the tourism sector allows for many opportunities for co-operation with the private sector.

	are yielding useful lessons. The German National Commission has facilitated Merck's Laboratory Business to invest in the South African Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve as a follow-up to the development of the biocultural protocol by traditional healers of the BR. Private sector partnerships with BRs in Africa and less developed countries need to be given special emphasis in 2010-2011.	
28. Exchanges between biosphere reserves	The twinning project between Malindi-Watamu (Kenya) and Branton Burrows (UK) focusing on climate change and resulting in the production of a short video entitled "rising tides" was shown to the last session of the Council in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea in May 2009. The MOU between University of Belém (Brazil), ERAIFT (Kinshasa, DRC) and MAB-Indonesia provides several opportunities for South-South as well as South-North-South co-operation focusing on BRs as learning sites, and these opportunities will be pursued during 2010-2011. The GEF regional project in West Africa is now concluded but it has provided a solid framework for exchanges in the region.	
29. Promote partnerships	Activities that are aimed to meet this target overlap with those described with regard to other targets, in particular, targets 25, 26 and 27. On developing partnerships with regional financial and economic institutions, the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, Indonesia has developed a concept to use biosphere reserves for economic and ecological security and is negotiating with such institutions to develop projects in Asia Pacific biosphere reserves.	The Deputy Secretary-General of MAB-China has been seconded to work with the MAB Secretariat and this co-operative arrangement is expected to begin in May 2010. This will allow possibilities to explore exchanges and partnerships between China and other parts of the world.
30. Transboundary biosphere reserves	The first-ever periodic review of a transboundary biosphere reserve (TBR) was undertaken by France and Germany for the Vosges du Nord/Pfäzerwald Biosphere Reserve. Poland, Belarus and Ukraine agreed to create a TBR in the Polesie Region, and a meeting to commemorate this TBR is foreseen for the autumn of 2010. Other transboundary initiatives to create new BRs are underway in the Congo basin of Africa.	
31. Promote biosphere reserves for peace, security and conflict management	The emphasis of BRs as places for dialogue between scientists, policy makers, civil society and private sector representatives and local communities could be relevant to the sustainable development pillar of the International Year for the rapprochement of Cultures (2010). This potential role of BRs as places for promoting a 'culture of dialogue' in the joint construction of problems and solutions to conservation-development conflicts will be explored during 2010-2011.	In this context see for example, Bouamrane, M. (ed). 2007, <i>Dialogue in biosphere reserves: references, practices and experiences. Biosphere Reserves – Technical Notes 2</i> , UNESCO, Paris; http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001591/159164E.pdf