

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

**Item 10.2 of the Provisional Agenda:
World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR):**

b. Biosphere reserves and relevant legislative frameworks at the national level

1. The Madrid Action Plan, adopted in February 2008, recommends that biosphere reserves benefit from “an enhanced legal recognition where appropriate” and that “States be encouraged to include biosphere reserves in their own legislation” (Target 11, action 11.1).
2. During the 21st session of the MAB Council, held in the Republic of Korea on 25-29 May 2009, a presentation was made on the study which consisted of a survey with the help of MAB National Committees or focal points, in order to identify existing legislations that include specific provisions for biosphere reserves or to elucidate reasons why countries have not enacted such legislation. A model law was drafted as an example for all countries, to be adapted nationally. Thirty (30) countries replied to the survey.
3. In addition to the survey, several countries expressed their interest in the results of the study and indicated that they were ready to use these results. As requested by the MAB-ICC at its 21st session, the MAB Secretariat has placed the survey as well as the model law on line at the following address: [http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-
URL_ID=8447&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=8447&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)
4. The MAB International Co-ordinating Council is invited to consider instructing the Secretariat to prepare a document intended for the policy community illustrating the options for the translation of the concept of biosphere reserves at the national level into legislation dealing with nature protection, spatial planning, sustainable development or other sectors; the document must also provide examples where the legal basis for the application of the biosphere reserve concept arises from the Statutory Framework provided for the MAB National Committee and/or the biosphere reserves within the national or sub-national level.