

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

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

Item 7.1 of the Provisional Agenda:
Reports on activities since the 21st MAB-ICC with special references to the Madrid Action Plan: Member States of UNESCO

1. This item gives Member States the opportunity to report on actions taken to implement the Madrid Action Plan (MAP) since the last MAB-ICC (May, 2009). It is noted that for a majority of the 67 actions agreed upon in the MAP, the principal responsibility for action rests at the national level. This level of responsibility is shown in the following table; since many actions were assigned to several 'responsible' parties, the number of actions adds up to more than 67, and the total percentage of actions assigned to each category of responsible parties adds up to more than 100%.

Responsible party		Number and percentage of MAP actions in which the party is cited in the "responsibility for action" column	
Member States	Member States	3	5%
	National Commission for UNESCO	13	20%
	MAB National Committee	35	54%
MAB-ICC		1	2%
MAB Bureau		1	2%
MAB Secretariat		25	38%
Networks		30	46%
Individual Biosphere Reserves		37	57%

2. A Draft Resolution was proposed during the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference by Germany and approximately 30 other Member States, and adopted. According to this resolution quoted below, the General Conference

Invites Member States:

- (a) to make full use of existing and planned biosphere reserves as model regions and learning places for sustainable development;
- (b) to promote increased international and national partnerships among biosphere reserves and with academic institutions, private partners and all other relevant stakeholders;
- (c) to assist each other in that respect, among other things, through exchange of information, knowledge and good practices;
- (d) to promote close cooperation and synergies with the other scientific programmes and international conventions, in particular the World Heritage Convention;

Calls upon the Director-General to take all necessary measures within existing resources, including UNESCO's Programme and Budget, and to seek extra-budgetary funds as appropriate:

- (a) to further ensure the MAB Programme's strategic leadership in the quest for sustainable development and the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan;
- (b) to contribute to increasing the visibility of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves through concerted public awareness and advocacy measures;
- (c) to improve UNESCO's function as a clearing house for best practices in the management and operation of biosphere reserves as learning places for sustainable development;

Requests the Director-General to present to the General Conference at its 36th session a progress report on the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan and a review of prospects for its successful implementation."

3. The Chair of the ICC shall provide the representatives of the Member States and networks an opportunity to present brief oral reports on their contribution to implementing the MAP under agenda items 7.1 and 7.2 of the 22nd session of the ICC.
4. The Secretariat shall arrange to place all written reports submitted on a dedicated web-space on the MABNet for consultation. The report of the 22nd session of the ICC shall include a synthesis of the main issues and problems raised as well as the Council recommendations and conclusions in addressing them.
5. The Council may wish to request that, in the future, Member States submit national reports which relate their activities to the MAP targets and actions, and for which they are responsible, using the same or similar format as that used by the Secretariat in the table annexed to the Information document SC-10/CONF.201/INF.3 for the Report of the Secretary of the MAB Programme to the 22nd session of the Council under item 6 of the provisional agenda
6. The Council may also wish to request that these reports be submitted to the Secretariat at least three months in advance of the Council to allow the time to prepare a working document containing a synthesis of the information provided by the Members.
7. In Member States where no MAB National Committee exists, the Council may like to invite the National Commission for UNESCO to take the lead in preparing such a report and in setting up, in accordance with the Madrid Action Plan target n° 7, a functional MAB National Committee with appropriate representation of biosphere reserve co-ordinators and other stakeholders.