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International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
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Item 10.4 of the Provisional Agenda:
World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR):
d. Proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions/modifications
to designated biosphere reserves that are part of the WNBR

1. Proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions to biosphere reserves that are already part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) were considered at the last meeting of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR), which met at UNESCO Headquarters from 27 to 29 January 2010.
2. The Advisory Committee formulated its recommendations regarding specific sites under the following categories:
 - a) *Nominations recommended for approval*: the proposed site is recommended for approval as a biosphere reserve; no additional information is needed.
 - b) *Nominations recommended for approval pending the submission of specific information*: the proposed site is recommended for approval as a biosphere reserve subject to receiving the specific information as requested by the Advisory Committee. If the latter is received by the Secretariat by 15 May 2010, it will be considered by the forthcoming session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to be held from 31 May to 4 June 2010, and the Council may approve the inclusion of the site in the WNBR.
 - c) *Nominations deferred*: the proposed site is deferred as it does not meet the criteria for biosphere reserves as stipulated in the Statutory Framework of Biosphere Reserves and/or major clarifications with regard to the application of the Framework to the proposed area is requested by the Advisory Committee. The relevant national Authorities are therefore invited to revise the nomination form for examination by the Advisory Committee at its next meeting.
 - d) *Nominations not recommended for approval*: the proposed site is not recommended for approval as it does not meet the criteria for biosphere reserves as stipulated in the Statutory Framework of Biosphere Reserves in its current form. The relevant national Authorities are therefore invited to re-consider the nomination and if feasible re-submit it in a form that meets criteria stipulated in the Statutory Framework of the WNBR.
3. The Bureau of the MAB-ICC will consider the attached recommendations of the IACBR as well as the additional information received by the Secretariat particularly with regard to nominations recommended for approval subject to receiving additional information and nominations recommended to be deferred. The Bureau will recommend to the consideration of the MAB-ICC final decisions on all sites included in this document.
4. The MAB-ICC is invited to decide on the new sites for inclusion in the WNBR and extensions of biosphere reserves already included in the WNBR that could be approved.

Recommendations of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves:

Nominations recommended for approval

Kafa, Ethiopia

The Advisory Committee congratulated the Ethiopian authorities on this very well-prepared proposal, one of the first in the country. It recognized the scientific, ecological, economic and cultural assets of the site, especially the Kafa Zone, which contains more than 50% of the remaining Montane Forests in Ethiopia and gives origin to the genetic diversity of *Coffea arabica* which plays a vital role in both cultural and socio-economic life of the area and the country.

The Committee commended the authorities for the extensive stakeholder involvement, including local communities, governmental and non-governmental institutions as well as the private sector. It commended the German government agencies for their support in preparing this nomination proposal and appreciated the commitment of the German development Agency and the Ethiopian Government to fund the coordination of the biosphere reserve until the management entity is in a position to generate its own funds. The Advisory Committee recommended this site to be approved.

The Advisory Committee invited the Ethiopian authorities to provide a new map indicating the 'candidate core areas' as part of the buffer zone, as well as the envisaged management plan and management entity for the biosphere reserve once it is completely developed.

Yayu Coffee Forest, Ethiopia

The Advisory Committee congratulated the Ethiopian authorities on this very well-prepared proposal, one of the first in the country. It commended the participatory nature of the nomination process and the use of the biosphere reserve model for sustainable development of the area. The Committee recognized the importance of the site for conservation and sustainable use of coffee forests which harbour the wild Arabica coffee and other useful plant species critical for the livelihoods of the local population.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the establishment of the management unit and management plan for the proposed site. It commended the German government agencies for their support in preparing the proposal. The Advisory Committee recommended this site to be approved.

Middle Zambezi, Zimbabwe

The Advisory Committee congratulated the Zimbabwean authorities for the resubmission of this nomination, first from the country. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the authorities had provided all the information requested by the MAB-ICC at its twenty-first session in May 2009, enabling the fulfilment of the three functions of the biosphere reserve.

The Committee commended the consultation process involving the local communities which resulted in the better understanding and creation of various socio-economic, ecological and cultural benefits and future opportunities provided by the biosphere reserve model for sustainable development of the entire area. The Advisory Committee recommended this site to be approved.

Dena, Iran

The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed biosphere reserve contained globally significant ecosystems in the Central Zagros Mountains, comprising a great diversity of topographical and climatic conditions and substantial biodiversity, and was home to important rural and nomadic populations practicing traditional livelihood strategies. Sustainable range management and eco-tourism are priorities for development of the area. The Committee

commended the substantial revisions undertaken since deferral of the nomination at the 21st session of the MAB-ICC in May 2009.

The Advisory Committee recommended that this site be approved as a biosphere reserve, and looked forward to learning more about local community participation in the biosphere reserve management.

Gwangneung Forest, Republic of Korea

The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed biosphere reserve contained well-preserved deciduous hardwood forest as well as farmlands and private forests. It was also pleased to note the presence of the World Heritage Site “Royal Tombs of Joseon Dynasty” within the biosphere reserve as well as the Korea National Arboretum. The Committee congratulated the Republic of Korea on a well-prepared nomination including extensive public involvement. The Advisory Committee recommended that this site be approved.

Tuchola Forest, Poland

The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal to establish a biosphere reserve composed of the Tuchola Forest, one of the biggest forest complexes in Poland, located in the north-western part of Poland in the Pomerania region, about 50 km south-west of Gdansk on the Baltic coast. The Committee commended the Polish authorities for the quality of the process leading to the proposal, the level of details, and the remarkable support from local and national stakeholders and endorsements to the process. The Advisory Committee noted that the governance structure had already been put in place. The Advisory Committee recommended the proposal to be approved.

Lake Vänern Archipelago, Sweden

The Advisory Committee commended the Swedish authorities for this very well-prepared nomination. It recognized the importance of the site in terms of its rich biological diversity which is also recognized through other national and regional designations. The Committee particularly commended the relevant authorities for undertaking a long-term consultation process with all the involved stakeholders which has led to the formulation of a clear vision and mission, and a development plan for the site and which recognizes the biosphere reserve as a tool for sustainable development of the entire region.

The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the establishment of the funding mechanism for the biosphere reserve, which included support from both local and national authorities. The Advisory Committee recommended this site to be approved.

Nahá-Metzabok, Mexico

The Advisory Committee welcomed the re-submission of this nomination that includes the Lacandona forest and contributes to preserving the livelihoods and cultures of the indigenous communities living in the area. It noted with satisfaction that the authorities had provided all the information requested by the MAB-ICC at its twenty-first session in May 2009, enabling the fulfilment of the three functions of the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee recommended that this site be approved.

Ometepe Island, Nicaragua

The Advisory Committee welcomed the good quality of this proposal for a biosphere reserve. In particular, the Committee appreciated this site as it is an island biosphere reserve situated in the biggest freshwater reservoir in Central America, the Cocibolca Lake. It has a good local participation and a well-functioning tourism management system.

The Advisory Committee suggested considering the possibility to include part of the aquatic area in the buffer zone so as to ensure preservation of freshwater values. The Advisory Committee recommended this site to be approved.

Oxapampa-Ashaninka-Yanesha, Peru

The Advisory Committee congratulated the Peruvian authorities on the high quality of the proposal. It noted that this area is located in the Amazonian tropical forest encompassing high biodiversity and contributing to the conservation of the mountain ecosystems of the area. The Advisory Committee also commended the participatory process and official support which had led to mutually-agreed delimitation of the three zones of the biosphere reserve. The Advisory Committee recommended that this site be approved.

Nominations recommended for approval subject to receiving specific information

Tang Sayyad, Iran

The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed site was located in the Central Zagros Mountains and consisted primarily of rangeland and semi-arid cold environments. Sustainability programmes are planned in the region, including development of renewable energy, recycling, and sustainable agriculture.

The Advisory Committee noted the substantial revisions undertaken since the deferral of this proposal at the 21st session of the MAB-ICC in May 2009 and recommended that this site be approved pending reception of:

- additional materials clarifying the significance of the fauna and flora for biological diversity conservation;
- further information on the proposed management framework and sustainable development policies; and
- clarification of steps to be taken to ensure environmental monitoring and participation of local populations in biosphere reserve management.

Islas Marías, Mexico

The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal which represents a specific case of biosphere reserve. The Committee noted that part of the site is a federal penitentiary surrounded by islands with a high degree of biodiversity. The rehabilitation system for the prisoners is focused on the reforestation and sustainable development process.

The Advisory committee recommended that this site be approved pending:

- submission of a new map with clear delimitation of the transition area;
- additional information on resource uses in the transition area;
- additional information of the contribution of different actors to biosphere reserve management.

Los Volcanes, Mexico

The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of this well-prepared nomination. It noted the importance of this site as a water catchment area, for the presence of volcanoes and its closeness to Mexico City.

The Advisory Committee recommended that this site be approved pending submission of clarification of the involvement of local communities in the nomination and management processes.

Examination of additional information received on biosphere reserve proposals previously deferred

Kozjansko & Obsotelje, Slovenia

The Advisory Committee welcomed the additional information provided by the Slovenian authorities with regards to land ownership, legal texts and the zonation scheme. However, the Advisory Committee indicated that the legal status of the core area was not addressed adequately in the additional information, and it requested a map showing the boundaries of the

Natura-2000 sites and the boundaries of the national parks in relation to the core area in order to clearly identify its legal status and size.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the proposal be approved pending confirmation that the core areas consist of only legally-constituted areas devoted to long-term protection in line with the criteria of the Statutory Framework and receipt of the corresponding map.

Nominations deferred

Great Nicobar, India

The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed biosphere reserve included the largest contiguous forest areas in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands outside the North Andamans, as well as a great variety of ecosystems and species. The Advisory Committee was encouraged by the work done thus far on the nomination and felt that it held great potential for biosphere reserve designation.

However, the Committee noted that the proposed site did not include the critical coastal and marine areas. Therefore it recommended that this nomination be deferred. The Committee encouraged the Indian authorities to resubmit the nomination revised to include marine/coastal areas and provide clear information on community involvement in the nomination and management processes.

Khan Khentii, Mongolia

The Advisory Committee noted that the proposed biosphere reserve had great value for biodiversity, includes a variety of ecosystems, and has strong legal protections. The Committee also notes that its status as a strictly protected area is commendable from a conservation standpoint, but the absence of any local population in the proposed biosphere reserve means that the site does not, as proposed, satisfy the requirements contained in the Statutory Framework and the Madrid Action Plan. Expansion of the site to create a transition area including local communities would bring the site much closer to the biosphere reserve model.

The Advisory Committee recommended that this nomination be deferred and invited the Mongolian authorities to resubmit the nomination revised to include local communities and demonstrate sustainable development activities in the buffer and transition areas around the strictly protected core.

Mura Drava Danube, Croatia-Hungary

The Advisory Committee welcomed the idea of a transboundary biosphere reserve (TBR) along the border between Hungary and Croatia, and appreciated the joint declaration by the Hungarian and Croatian Ministers on the intent to create this TBR.

However, while acknowledging the receipt of the nomination file from the Hungarian side, the Advisory Committee recommended deferring the decision on the proposed transboundary site until the nomination file from the Croatian authorities is submitted to the Advisory Committee for evaluation.

The Advisory Committee invited both Croatian and Hungarian authorities to include statements on transboundary cooperation and to describe the envisaged mechanisms for coordination of activities between the two countries.

Ramat Menashe, Israel

The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal from Israel, located within the boundaries of the Megiddo Regional Council, in the Northern District of the State of Israel and adjacent to the Mount Carmel Biosphere Reserve.

The Committee noted with appreciation the quality of the consultative process and the inclusion of the thirteen (13) rural communities.

However, the committee indicated that the concepts of the human and heritage cores as part of the core area do not fill the Seville Strategy and Statutory Framework criteria and, that such areas should be integrated into buffer zones and transition areas. It also noted that the legal status of the core areas was not clearly defined. Furthermore, clearer information on the process for designing an integrated management plan for the whole biosphere reserve given the diversity of plans and initiatives needed to be provided. Finally, the Committee also requested information on linkages and cooperation interactions with the contiguous Mount Carmel Biosphere Reserve. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the proposal be deferred.

Berlengas Archipelago, Portugal

The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal as it included a site with high conservation value for migratory birds. However, the Advisory Committee regretted that the local population, which is mainly using this area and installing the Berlengas Gate as a point of entry for the biosphere reserve, was not included in the proposal. The same concern was expressed with regard to the possible inclusion of the city of Peniche, as well as for the corridor between the island and coastal line.

The Advisory Committee invited the Portuguese authorities to re-submit the proposal covering a larger area and including the local population that uses the archipelago and lives along the coast lines. The Advisory Committee recommended this site to be deferred.

Otoch Ma'ax Yetel Kooh, Mexico

The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of this proposal and noted the importance of the site for biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism development in the Yucatan peninsula.

However, the Committee noted that the proposed nomination did not fully meet the criteria for a biosphere reserve. There are no people living in the buffer zone for demonstrating sustainable resources use and management. Furthermore, there is no transition area surrounding the buffer zone.

The Advisory Committee recommended that this proposal be deferred and encouraged the Mexican authorities to re-submit a new proposal in conformity with the Statutory Framework of Biosphere Reserves and following the recommendations of the Madrid Action Plan.

Tehuacán-Cuicatlán, Mexico

The Advisory Committee welcomed the submission of this proposal and noted the importance of the site for conservation of a variety of ecosystems and a number of endemic and endangered species.

However, the Committee noted that the zonation system did not meet the Statutory Framework criteria and that the transition area was not clearly defined. The Advisory Committee also noted lack of information on the involvement of local communities and participatory processes, as well as the number of people living in the three zones.

The Advisory Committee recommended that this proposal be deferred and encouraged the Mexican authorities to re-submit a new proposal with a new zonation and a better description of the community participatory processes in conformity with the Statutory Framework of Biosphere Reserves and following the recommendations of the Madrid Action Plan.

Extension or change in zonation of biosphere reserves

Archipelago Sea Area Biosphere Reserve, Finland – Extension

The Advisory Committee commended this very well-prepared, clear and concise proposal for extension of the Archipelago Sea Area, which to date included larger islands in the archipelago and a higher number of inhabitants and was based on great understating of the opportunities of the biosphere reserve for the sustainable development of the area. The Advisory Committee particularly appreciated that the extension of the site had been undertaken in line with the recommendations formulated by the MAB Bureau following the periodic review of the site submitted in 2007.

The Advisory Committee was pleased to note that the extension of the site would strengthen the implementation of the objectives and the three main functions of the biosphere reserve. Therefore, the Committee recommended this extension to be approved.

Berchtesgadener Land Biosphere Reserve, Germany – Extension and renaming (former Berchtesgaden Alps Biosphere Reserve)

The Advisory Committee welcomed this well-prepared proposal for the extension and renaming of the Berchtesgaden Alps Biosphere Reserve which to date included the entire county of Berchtesgaden Land allowing for better protection of the rich biodiversity and integration of a larger number of inhabitants in the extended transition area.

The Advisory Committee also noted that the extension was made possible through the involvement of a large number of institutions, municipalities and other stakeholders and was based on greater understanding of the opportunities of the biosphere reserve for the sustainable development of the area. This successful extension enables the biosphere reserve to fulfil the three functions of the biosphere reserve more effectively. The Advisory Committee recommended this extension to be approved and the site to be renamed as Berchtesgadener Land Biosphere Reserve.

The Advisory Committee invited the German authorities to provide further information of the impacts of tourism and looked forward to receiving the framework concept, as well as information on sustainable tourism management to be developed within the next three years as stated in the nomination file.

Swiss National Park, Switzerland – Extension and renaming

The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposed extension of the Swiss National Park. It congratulated the Swiss authorities on their efforts to add a buffer zone and a transition area on the eastern side of the main core area and the participatory work that led to the proposed inclusion of local municipalities and villages in the extension proposal, especially from Val Müstair.

However, the Committee noted that the proposed zonation still did not match the criteria for biosphere reserves according to the Statutory Framework, with buffer zones surrounding each core area and a wider transition area.

The Advisory Committee thus recommended this extension to be deferred and invited the Swiss authorities to revise the extension and include additional areas/municipalities surrounding both core areas to form the buffer zones and transition areas of the biosphere reserve. It also encouraged the authorities to develop an integrated management plan for the entire site.

Araucarias Biosphere Reserve, Chile – Extension

The Advisory Committee congratulated the Chilean authorities on the excellent quality of this proposal which included extension of the biosphere reserve to 12 times its original size. The Committee notes that this extension follows the recommendation of the Madrid Action

Plan and ensures the conservation of the Araucarias forest and the rich culture associated with this forest. The Advisory Committee also noted the large number of activities developed in the site.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the extension of this biosphere reserve be approved. It also invites the Chilean authorities to formalize collaboration with Argentina and consider the possibility of creation of a transboundary biosphere reserve.

Cordillera Volcánica Central Biosphere Reserve, Costa Rica – Extension

The Advisory Committee welcomed this proposal which included extension of the biosphere reserve to five times its original size. Located on central highlands, the biosphere reserve includes several volcanic cones and is highly rich in natural resources and cultural heritage. This extension ensures a better application of the Madrid Action Plan by the multiple stakeholders of the area.

The Advisory Committee congratulated the Costa Rican authorities for the participatory nature of the process involving local communities and a large number of institutions, municipalities and other stakeholders. The Advisory Committee recommended that the extension be approved.