

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 7.2 of the Provisional Agenda:
Report on activities since the 21st MAB-ICC
with special references to the Madrid Action Plan
b. Regional, sub-regional, MAB/Biosphere reserve, ecosystem and other
thematic networks**

1. Since the last Council meeting, several MAB Networks have held meetings and convened workshops and seminars, the summary outcomes of which will be made available on the MABNet. Some thematic networks published booklets and are planning other important events; the first meeting of the Network of Coastal and Small Island biosphere reserves launched at the last session of the ICC in May 2009 under the auspices of Republic of Korea and Spain on climate change and sustainable development will be convened from 1 to 3 September 2010 in Jeju island, Republic of Korea. Mountain and urban ecosystem events are also planned (please see document SC-10/CONF.201/INF.3 for details). The Secretariat expects that several regional, sub-regional and thematic networks will submit their reports in writing before and orally at the time of the 22nd session of the ICC at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) from 31 May to 4 June 2010.
2. Of particular interest, are reports referring to the regional or sub-regional implementation of the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (MAP) (2008-2013), its mid-term evaluation and the updating of the existing biosphere reserves to meet criteria and requirements of the Seville Strategy and MAP.
3. MAB Chile has already volunteered to establish a regional survey on the evaluation of the MAP, which will be integrated into the overall mid-term evaluation of MAP to be presented at the next ICC in 2011 (see document SC-10/CONF.201/14). The Mexican MAB National Committee will organize in November 2010 in Puerto Morelos, Mexico the 1st IberoAmerican Conference on Biosphere Reserves in IberoAmerica, in co-operation with UNESCO and the Spanish Ministry for Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs as well as with the Spanish Foundation for Biodiversity. The next meeting of IberoMAB will be convened as part of this Conference.
4. The 6th ArabMAB Council meeting was held 11-13 May 2010, in the El-shouf Cedar Biosphere Reserve, Lebanon, together with a training workshop on the implementation of Madrid Action Plan in the Arab region. Among other things, the ArabMAB Council agreed to expand the ArabMAB Bureau members from five (5) to eight (8) members.

5. The EuroMAB group comprising nearly 50% of the World Biosphere Reserves met in Slovakia in October 2009. The next meeting of the EuroMAB will be hosted by Sweden in 2011 and in the meantime sub-regional meetings such as the one hosted by Turkey in Antalya in February 2010 for Southeast Europe continue to pursue the work along the various EuroMAB priorities. EuroMAB meeting in October 2009 reviewed progress in thematic issues and undertook a detailed analysis of the periodic review process as applied to the EuroMAB sites. The EuroMAB representatives are also collaborating with the Secretariat a web-based platform to promote exchange of information, experience and knowledge among communities of practice.
6. The East-Asian Biosphere Reserve Network published in September 2009 a brochure on its history, functioning and membership. The last meeting of this network took place in 2007 in Mongolia.
7. The Amazonian Biosphere Reserve Network met in April 2010 in Belem, Brazil to start a project on Conservation and Development in the Amazonian Biosphere Reserves, which is funded by Spain.
8. The next South and Central Asia Network meeting (SACCAM) is scheduled for November 2010 in the Island of Qeshm, Islamic Republic of Iran.
9. The REDBIOS Network (Network of Biosphere reserves of the East-Atlantic and Macaronesia) published a booklet in 2009 in Spanish, French and Portuguese on the participating biosphere reserves. The next meeting of the network is foreseen for late 2010 in Fuerteventura, Spanish Canary Islands.
10. The information provided herein shall be supplemented by the representatives of the regional, sub-regional and thematic networks who may attend the 22nd session of the ICC at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) from 31 May to 4 June 2010. At the time of the session there could also be other reports and information not included herein that may be provided. ICC may wish to take note of these reports and make observations and recommendations that can facilitate the implementation of MAP. In particular the ICC may wish to welcome and thank efforts of Member States like Chile to voluntarily help an evaluation of the mid-term implementation of MAP in the IberoMAB region and encourage other countries to consider providing similar assistance to the Secretariat for other regional and thematic networks of MAB and WNBR around the world to enhance the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan. It may be envisaged that in the regions other than Latin America, some countries may take the lead and coordinate the regional survey on the implementation of the MAP.