



Implementing the Madrid Action Plan in Pacific Biosphere Reserves: Pacific Island approaches to integrated coastal conservation and sustainable human development

**East-West Centre, University of Hawai'i
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- Recalling that the Pacific Biosphere Reserve Network – PacMAB – was established in December 2006 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, and that at the founding meeting in Pohnpei, participants agreed that:

“Membership of the network will be open to any Pacific small island state with an identified MAB focal point, all existing Pacific Biosphere Reserves, and any site authorities actively working towards the establishment of a Biosphere Reserve.”

- Recalling the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013) adopted at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves held in Madrid, Spain, during 4-9 February 2008 and in particular objective xxx and action xxx on the establishment of regional networks.

- Recalling the 3rd PacMAB meeting, held in Brisbane, Australia, 2007, in which participants agreed:

1. To prepare for the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in February 2008
2. To share information on the development of Biosphere Reserves in the Pacific
3. To plan for the future of PacMAB and its Biosphere Reserves and prioritize activities
4. To consider thematic areas for the network to focus on: the Pacific contribution to the world network

Participants agreed that:

- The PACMAB network is an important tool for exchange and cooperation among new and emerging Biosphere Reserves and national MAB focal points in the Pacific.
- Membership of the network will be open to any Pacific small island state with an identified MAB focal point, all existing Pacific Biosphere Reserves, and any site authorities actively working towards the establishment of a Biosphere Reserve.
- Other Pacific island countries should actively be invited to identify MAB Focal Points and to seek for the establishment of new potential Biosphere Reserves.
- UNESCO should seek support for the consolidation and development of the network.
- UNESCO should establish a website on MAB activities in the Pacific in order to gain visibility and share information.
- MAB Focal Points, Biosphere Reserve Managers and other related persons should prepare in collaboration with their respective national structures small projects with the aim to strengthen existing biosphere reserves or elaborate new proposals to be submitted to UNESCO for possible funding.
- MAB Focal Points, Biosphere Reserve Managers and other related persons should elaborate proposals for training, capacity building and visits or exchanges to other island biosphere reserves located inside or outside the pacific region.
- Invite to the next PacMAB meeting representatives of existing and planned Biosphere Reserves in Australia and New Zealand to become members of the Network, as well as the representatives of the Hawai'i Volcanoes Biosphere Reserve (USA) and the Commune de Fakarawa Biosphere Reserve (French Polynesia).

Honolulu, 3 December 2009