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To: MAB National Committees and MAB Focal Points

Cc: UNESCO Field Offices

From: Peter Bridgewater, Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
Director, Division of Ecological Sciences

Subject: **New biosphere reserve nominations in 2002**

In accordance with the Statutory Framework for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves considers biosphere reserve nominations for recommendation to the MAB Council/Bureau. This year, the Advisory Committee will meet at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on **8-10 July**. This means that the deadline for the submission of new biosphere reserve nominations to the MAB Secretariat is **31 May 2002**.

I recall that the biosphere reserve nomination form can be downloaded from the MABnet under "Biosphere Reserves" and then "Publications" in English, French and Spanish. Forms can also be obtained from the UNESCO Field Offices in Apia, Beijing, Cairo, Dakar, Jakarta, Montevideo, Moscow, Nairobi and Venice.

In addition, according to Article 9 of the Statutory Framework, the Advisory Committee will consider periodic review reports concerning biosphere reserves designated more than 10 years ago, which will have been received by the Secretariat since the last Advisory Committee meeting.

Depending on the results of the 17th session of the MAB International Coordinating Council on 18-22 March 2002, we plan to hold a meeting of the newly elected MAB Bureau later in the year, probably in October 2002. Hence the MAB Bureau will be able to decide upon new biosphere reserve nominations in the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendations at that time.

Please do not hesitate to contact the MAB Secretariat in Headquarters or in the Field Offices if you require further information.

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