



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture  
Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

Ref.: **MAB Circular Letter No 5/2002**

3 June 2002

To: MAB National Committees and MAB Focal Points

Cc: UNESCO Field Offices  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO  
National Commissions for UNESCO

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

**Subject: Guidelines on Biosphere Reserve institutional mechanisms**

Among the recommendations of the Seville + 5 meeting held in Pamplona in October 2000, the Secretariat was requested to undertake a survey and critical analysis of existing biosphere reserve coordination structures, with a view of developing guidelines on the creation, roles and functioning of such structures.

The Secretariat has carried out a very preliminary survey of the institutional mechanisms of 18 biosphere reserves on the basis of the data available to the MAB Secretariat.

This preliminary survey has mainly made it possible to identify the issues that should be examined in more depth, such as:

- zonation and legal competence of various bodies for each zone (core, buffer, transition),
- competent authorities at various levels (national, regional and local) and how they interact,
- specific mechanism put in place for the biosphere reserve as a whole and its powers,
- consultation with local communities (mechanism, periodicity, issues of consultation),
- mediation mechanism,
- representation of the scientific community,
- scope and limits of the management plan/policy.

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The purpose of this circular letter is:

- to invite MAB National Committees to indicate to the Secretariat which biosphere reserves would be willing to participate in the survey,
- to invite MAB National Committees to propose specialists in legal and institutional matters, in order to constitute a roster of experts.

It is then foreseen to send a questionnaire to those biosphere reserves which will have indicated their interest to take part in the survey, and to constitute a task force to study the result of this survey and prepare guidelines on institutional mechanisms.

A nomination form is attached to this circular letter. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving a reply before 31 August 2002.

Peter Bridgewater

Encl.: Nomination form

## NOMINATION FORM

### Biosphere reserve willing to participate in the study

Name:

Country:

Contact:

Address:

### UNESCO-MAB Roster of Experts on legal and institutional issues

First Name:

Family Name:

Function:

Institution:

Address:

Postal Code:

Country:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

Http:

Short description of experiences/special interests in legal and institutional issues (Please, attach C.V.):