

Workshop on **Governance** of MAB and Biosphere Reserves at National Level



Chair: Clayton Lino, Brazil

Rapporteur: Eduard Muller, Costa Rica

**Secretariat: Jonathan Baker, UNESCO Montevideo
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MAB Governance at international level:

ICC-International Coordination Council

With the support of:

- * The World Network of BR**
- * The MAB Regional Networks**
- * Thematic Networks of BR**

- * Executive Secretary(Paris), Regional offices**
- * International Commissions, Working Groups**
- * Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves**

MAB Governance at national level:

National MAB Committees

Biosphere Reserves

Focal Points

National Networks of Biosphere Reserves

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The importance of governance in biosphere reserves permeates the newly approved MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and the Lima Action Plan.

The strategy's preamble notes that biosphere reserves 'focus on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management, and often have highly innovative and participative governance systems.'



All four of strategic objectives highlight the importance of governance.

Under strategic objective 1, related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, the strategy highlights the importance of 'effective, equitable and participatory planning' taking into account vulnerable populations' needs (1.3) and of the role of state and local governments and the private sector in ensuring ecosystem services (1.4).

Under strategic objective 2, related to contributing to sustainable societies, the strategy notes that biosphere reserves must be 'recognized and supported by all levels of government as models to promote sustainable development' (2.1), thus underscoring the important role of national and local governments in the governance of biosphere reserves.

Under strategic objective 3 related to sustainability science, ESD and capacity building, the strategy highlights the importance that each biosphere reserve has an active research programme that provides the basis of participatory decision-making and management in the biosphere reserve'.

Strategic objective 4 related to climate change calls for member states and other decision makers to 'recognize and promote biosphere reserves as priority sites for climate change mitigation and adaptation.'

Strategic Area A of the MAB strategy is to ensure that ‘the World Network of Biosphere Reserves is comprised of effectively functioning models for sustainable development.’, and ensure that (A.2) ‘States and other entities with territorial and governance competences explicitly integrate biosphere reserves into national and regional development, territorial planning, environment and other sectoral legislation, policies and programmes, and **support effective governance and management structures in each biosphere reserve.**’

Strategic area E calls for ‘Effective governance of and within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves’, and notably (E2) that ‘**Each MAB National Committee has a transdisciplinary membership, including representatives from the public, private, research and education sectors, and a wide range of other stakeholders, including representation from biosphere reserves.**’

The workshop will therefore explore in the second session how different member states are best able to effectively manage and promote their network of biosphere reserves through their national MAB committees.

In the third session of the workshop, presentations will be made by stakeholders involved in the management of biosphere reserves at the local level, including local governments, NGOs and the private sector.

Time	Session	Responsible	Outcome
9.00-9.15	Introduction and Expectations Brief introduction of session	Chair	Shared understanding of session
9:15-10:15	Governance at the national level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National MAB committees - National networks of biosphere reserves - Legal recognition of biosphere reserves at national level Presentations by MAB committees from France, Nigeria, Costa Rica and Brazil	MAB Committees	Examples of best practices/challenge areas of MAB governance at the national level
10.15-11:45	Governance at the local level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of local governments - Role of NGOs and private sector - Role of local communities, including indigenous communities Presentations by BR actors in Ghana, Korea, Indonesia, India, Spain, Argentina, and Paraguay	BR directors and actors	Examples of best practices/challenge areas of governance within biosphere reserves
11.45-12:30	Conclusions and recommendations to plenary	Chair and rapporteur	Recommendations to plenary

