

4 May 2015

## **MAB Strategy Group (MSG)**

### **Announcement**

#### **Draft MAB Strategy 2015-2025 Finalized**

After several months of hard deliberations – beginning with inputs before the 26<sup>th</sup> MAB ICC in 2014 followed by a meeting of almost all MSG members in Paris in November 2014, a good number of inputs received from Member States, MAB National Committees, MAB and biosphere reserve Focal Points and networks, and the Roster of Experts – the MSG is pleased to report that it has successfully concluded its work to prepare the attached Draft MAB Strategy 2015-2025. We believe that it is suitable for presentation to the 27<sup>th</sup> MAB ICC, from 8 to 12 June 2015 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The MSG has thereby concluded an important step in the implementation of its Terms of Reference, and we are most grateful to all ICC Members and MAB stakeholders around the world who have shown such a strong interest, and in many cases passion, for MAB and the strategic directions our Programme should take over the next decade.

While not all stakeholders may agree on certain elements contained in the text, we do believe that it represents the majority of inputs received. Many more detailed points proposed by stakeholders, but not included in the strategy, will be included in the Action Plan that the MSG will initiate after the ICC meeting, to be presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 28<sup>th</sup> MAB ICC next year. We are convinced that expressions of different opinions and in-depth discussion reflects the global nature of MAB, and are ultimately key to making the MAB Strategy and its future implementation as strong as possible.

The MSG now stand ready to work with the MAB ICC, the Roster of Experts and the broader MAB community on the development of the MAB Action Plan, in cooperation with the MAB Secretariat and the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service.

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