

Partnerships between BRs and Universities

Chairs

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Objectives

The Lima Action Plan outlines practical learning and training opportunities as a Strategic area to implement the MAB Programme (A4, A4.1 A4.2). It proposes that partnerships with educational and training institutions as universities should be developed, coordinated, be visible and promoted.

A workshop held in Lima identified a range of courses and learning opportunities that take place in Biosphere Reserves around the world. Their common attributes included:

- Immersive learning on-site, learning by doing, learning by listening
- Blended learning including theoretical/experiential, on-line/on-site
- Co-production of knowledge that has mutual benefits for community, university and student participants
- Creating culturally-safe learning spaces for nurturing empathy and healing (using indigenous ways of knowing and western science, using different glasses for viewing and understanding ecosystem services)
- Co-constructing place-based research that is on-going, including practising facilitation skills with local people to engage in the biosphere dialogue
- Developing new technologies to allow us to perceive the environment differently. Bringing soundscapes to people help them appreciate the environment in a new way that integrates scientists and artists
- Soundscape residencies in the biosphere create learning labs for using new web-based technologies and platforms for broader knowledge mobilization, including augmented realities
- Mechanisms for collaborative learning such as partnership agreements, codes of conduct, Memoranda of Understanding can expand opportunities for networked learning and mutual benefits between universities, biosphere reserve communities and other interested stakeholders.

Expected outcomes

As several training courses exist in Euromab network, some priority actions should be explored during the workshop:

- Create a biosphere reserve curriculum / learning network to link universities and biosphere reserves across the international network. See how to implement as a Unesco chair
- Develop a database of course initiatives and learning products visible on the UNESCO website to the Universities and Biosphere Reserves offering University-level courses and programs
- Explore the possibilities to develop partnerships and exchanges between teachers and students
- Create a working group to develop blended learning platforms across universities and biosphere reserves.

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Lima AP A4, A4.1 A4.2