

Networking river and watershed biosphere reserves building a “continental freshwater ecosystem” MAB network

Chair

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To date, the worldwide Biosphere reserve network does not have a thematic network on “continental aquatic ecosystems”, even though many Biosphere reserves are involved.

In 2015, the Biosphere reserve of the Dordogne basin began to work on the identification of the Biosphere reserves concerned with fluvial ecosystems (rivers, deltas, estuaries...), and involved in their management. This first non-exhaustive inventory resulted in the inventory of 208 Biosphere reserves with continental aquatic ecosystems involved in their management. A questionnaire was sent to them, and 54 communicated usable feedback, representing 52 Biosphere reserves including 27 EuroMAB members.

Objectives

The workshop will aim to establish the basis of a fluvial ecosystems network so that the Biosphere reserves can:

- Share scientific knowledge and positive experiences
- Organize and undertake study tours to provide training
- Establish linking to favour intercultural exchanges
- Respond to project proposals on shared themes or issues (Research domain, European and international calls for projects)
- Initiate joint actions for the improved recognition of the MAB and RB programmes and the different decision-making authorities (States, European Commission, ...)

The network will aim to organize a work group during the biannual EuroMAB meetings. These workshops will provide the opportunity to exchange feedback on the latest actions, the state of knowledge on current topics, the diffusion of the latest international calls for tender,...).

Outcomes

1- Draft and approve a Declaration/Motion on major problems linked to water and aquatic environments to share between the Reserves (challenges, risks, principles of action). This declaration will be drafted before the EuroMAB 2017 workshop.

2- Work on the preparation of a Programme of Action based on 3 main themes:

Resources: compilation of positive experiences, directory of competencies, inventory of existing knowledge in the BR and the studies carried out in the BR

Exchanges: Study tours, twinning, links with the other networks (e.g. RIOB, OIE, ECRR, Worldwide ...)

Actions: Joint international projects, Lobbying, Events (cf. water messengers...),

The workshop will aim to:

- Amend/approve the Declaration/Motion project
- Structure/support the network action programme
- Identify the actions to carry out until 2019, a work method, usable means

Sustainable development goals: 6, 17

Lima action plan: B2, B3, B4, B5 and E4.