

HELP DESK WORKSHOP

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WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

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building a sustainable future together



- **Objective:**

To provide useful information about necessary conditions for nomination of the new BR, practical experience with preparation of nomination files and periodic reviews through discussion with members of the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves.

- **Expected outcomes**

1. Improvement in nomination and review processes
2. Input to possible revision of current nomination/review forms
3. Contribution to proposal of new Operational Guidelines

- **Workshop format:**

Round table



- **Main issues discussed**

1. Workshop discussion started with case study on Biosphere reserve development in Eastern Georgia by Sophie Hirschelmann of Soccow Foundation, presenting some technical and managerial problems related to new BR proposals

2. Excessive complexity of format of BR nomination and review documents with repetition of the same inquiries

3. Some and technical questions have been discussed and answered in relation to zonation as the Statutory Framework seem not to provide sufficient guidelines

4. Need for mentorship and field technical support by relevant BRs and/or individuals (all participants would welcome such opportunity)

5. Other specific issues related to individual sites



Outputs :

Technical requests:

1. Request for clearer zonation requirements and finalization of the Operational guidelines as soon as possible
2. Request for simplification of new BR nomination and review forms and documents

Partnerships proposals :

1. Proposal for creation of the list of mentoring BRs and individuals and /or establishment of technical support unit within MAB

Communication proposals:

1. Continuation of the „Help Desk Project“ using IT, social media and other means
2. Proposal for creation of Biosphere Wiki
3. Frequently Asked Questions platform related to technical issues
4. Creation of specific MAB (interactive) website outside official UNESCO web channels for better flexibility
5. Interactive mapping tool that would improve BR project partner search and twinning

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Relevance to LAP
Relevance to SDG

