



## WORKSHOP: 12- Indigenous leadership and engagement in Biosphere Reserves

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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 26

FORMAT OF THE WORKSHOP: Presentations from 5 Biosphere Reserves, as well as the International Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities followed by questions.

### Introduction

Larry: In terms of indigenous engagement, we talk about diversity, and the UNESCO family bracing diversity. Hopefully we will achieve more than just sharing knowledge systems, we will appreciate cultural diversity. We need to make changes in the way we did things. Recently I experienced embracement of cultural diversity. In Canada right now, there is a commitment towards reconciliation with indigenous people.

### Expected outcomes

- Revisit past recommendations and/or establish new principles for understanding and engaging Indigenous peoples in UNESCO biosphere reserves worldwide
- Provide biosphere reserves within the EuroMAB network with tools to facilitate greater Indigenous engagement consistent with the Brockville EuroMAB 2013 recommendations, Lima Action Plan 2016-2025, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and multilateral environmental agreements
- Identify what is needed in order to implement a full and effective Indigenous engagement program within UNESCO MAB.

### Restitution

Meriem: What I heard today is very useful, they are leading BRs in this room that could really make a change in the network and that could be inspiring beyond our BRs. We should really propose something very concrete about what we're going to do with all this wealth and potential. They are very interesting issues about languages, which is at the heart of UNESCO, to preserve languages. It's also the role of BR, preserving those values for the future, including the languages.

There are places in Europe where we don't have indigenous people, but UNESCO has made commitments to create a policy, that's been worked on for 4 years and that's going to the board. It will be reviewed and eventually approved. It builds from the commitment to make the connection with the sustainable development goals. That commitment that UNESCO has made to indigenous people is something that no matters where you are, you share that commitment. It means there needs to be education about that link.

### Proposition:

Pre-EuroMAB day, an all-day indigenous gathering (to get more time to get to know each other and organized, and go deeper in what makes sense during the 3 or 4 next days).