

# Connecting scientists – and science – in MAB

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# Networks in MAB

An inter-governmental science programme

- 1971-c. 1990
  - Networks of scientists working in 14 ‘project areas’
    - 8 environments (forest, island, mountain, urban, etc.)
    - 6 themes (including ‘conservation of natural areas and of the genetic material they contain’)
- Since c. 1990
  - Main focus of MAB on Biosphere Reserves
    - World Network
    - Regional and Thematic networks
    - National networks



# (Re)creating network(s) of BR scientists

- Many scientists work within individual BRs
- Some scientists conduct comparative research across multiple BRs
- Some scientists work with BR coordinators/managers and/or other stakeholders
- How can scientists be more relevant in and for the MAB Programme?
  - in its BRs
  - for BR coordinators/managers and/or other stakeholders

# Potential benefits of networking

- Collaborative research
  - benefits in and for BRs and stakeholders
  - links to other research initiatives
- Sharing of research findings and good practice across BRs with similar issues
  - benefits for coordinators/managers in daily practice
- Funding for research projects
  - Publications
- Training and exchanges of scientists and students

# MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan

## ➤ Achieving the SDGs

### Mission elements

- Develop/strengthen models for sustainable development
- Communicate experiences/lessons learned
- Support evaluation & high-quality management/strategies/policies + accountable/resilient institutions
- Explore/test policies/technologies/innovations
  - Biodiversity and natural resources
  - Climate change

# MAB Strategy

## MAB Strategy

- Expected result 3.2: ‘The establishment of an international network of scientists working in biosphere reserves and with their managers/coordinators and stakeholders’
- Other expected results on:
  - research and monitoring
  - training and capacity building
  - Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
  - partnerships within and outside UNESCO

# Lima Action Plan

## International network

- Outcome B7: ‘An active and open interdisciplinary network of scientists/knowledge holders sharing MAB vision and mission’
  - Action B7.1: ‘Establish an international network of scientists/knowledge holders, working in and with BRs, that engages with national and other international networks of scientists/knowledge holders’
  - Action B7.2: ‘Develop a joint research and knowledge agenda for the international network’



# Lima Action Plan

## Research and training

- Outcome A4: ‘Research, practical learning and training opportunities that support the management of BRs and sustainable development in BRs’
  - Action 4.1: partnerships for research
  - Action 4.2: partnerships for education, training, capacity building
  - Action 4.3: adequate research infrastructure in BRs
  - Action 4.4: good practices for sustainable development
  - Action 4.5: collaborative projects

# Lima Action Plan

## Collaboration/monitoring/conservation

- Action A1.4: BRs as priority sites/observatories in relation to climate change
- Action A1.6: research/conservation of socio-ecological systems in BRs, including restoration and appropriate management
- Action B4.1: Opportunities for collaborative research, implementation and monitoring
  - in regional and thematic networks

# Lima Action Plan

## Ecosystem services and green economies

- Action A7.1: Identify and facilitate provision of ecosystem services
- Action A7.2: Mechanisms for equitable payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- Action 7.3: Preserve/maintain/promote species/varieties of economic/cultural value that underpin ecosystem services
- Action A1.5: Promote green/sustainable/social economy initiatives inside BRs

# Workshop at EuroMAB 2015

- 18 participants
- Key suggestions
  - Establish a network of MAB scientists
  - Access to all information at MAB Secretariat
  - Re-establish MAB Info/Bulletin
  - Bibliography/review of research in BRs
  - COST Action and/or Interreg project(s)
  - Training: Summer school or workshops

# Proposals at/since Lima

- International Journal of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves
- Global graduate school in biosphere studies
  - University of Brighton (UK) + Brazilian universities
- Global Academy of Biosphere Science
  - Philippines
- IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)
  - Thematic Group on BRs
- International Long Term Ecological Research (ILTER)
  - repository for BR data?
- Future Earth: Invitation to join Knowledge Action Networks
- Possible Horizon 2020 project
- ???

# Objectives of this working group

- Review experiences of scientific collaboration/networking
  - within/across BRs
  - nationally/regionally
- Consider opportunities for networking
  - within MAB
  - within UNESCO
  - with other international networks/structures
- Consider proposals for new MAB initiatives
- Discuss benefits, opportunities, modalities
- Report to plenary
- Future actions