

Synthesis EUROMAB



WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES
euromab 2017
building a sustainable future together



Introduction



Trends in subjects and themes:

- Much more focus on the science and development pillars of BRs
- Science broader than conservation: inter- and transdisciplinary (including ILK)
- Partnerships and networking prominent themes, especially in relation to science and development

Introduction



General focus on stakeholder inclusion (5, 12, 15)

Partnerships with:

- Science (4, 7)
- Private sector (3, 5)

Regional partnerships (2, 6, 10)

Governance as an overarching issue (9, 11, 12, but mentioned in many other workshops as well)

Introduction



Other important themes:

- Communication – sometimes focused on education, but also on branding/PR (1, 2, 4)
- Ecosystem services (4, 9, 15)

One panel on climate change (14), though the topic was mentioned in some other panels as well

Migration under-represented as a topic

Introduction



Most of the SDGs were addressed during this

EuroMAB meeting except:

- Hunger, poverty
- Gender
- Innovation and infrastructure

Bias towards the wealthier (parts of) countries?

Are poverty, inequality and gender no issues in EuroMAB network??



RELEVANCE TO SDG



Outcomes of the workshops



We clustered the workshops, focusing on

- Main issued addressed
- Means/outcomes

Partnerships with scientists/universities



– Researchers partnerships

- Identified needs for better awareness of ongoing research and resources for research
- Availability of information on BRs, opportunities for education and research
- Funding: National MAB commissions to contact national funding agencies; in cooperation with UNESCO lobby EU funding agencies
- Management of the research in the WNBR

– Researchers/Citizens partnerships

- Description of existing and needed participatory science programs in BRs

– Researchers/BR managers partnerships

- Matches between needs and skills, a dialogue on experiences needed (co-creation research)
- A number of interesting BR challenges/research themes were explored (e.g. governance, inter/transdisciplinarity, ecosystem services,

Partnerships with scientists/universities

Means/Outputs

- Opportunities for management of data and information relating to individual BRs with MAB secretariat information (opportunities with South West Nova BR GIS, offer from ILTER, access periodic reviews and proposals through MAB website)
- Identified needs and resources for research
- Need for searchable database of courses and programs, as well as instructors' tools (through MAB website?)
- New international BR journal can
- A typology of participatory sciences in BRs
- Match between research themes and BRs challenges between researchers and managers
- Improvement of dialogue skills



- **Main issues discussed:**

- Opportunities to adopt various approaches (branding, OASIIS, eco-players, territorial ecology),
- Knowledge and benchmarks issues,



- **Outputs:**

- Proposed activities and future project partners:
 - Informal network around branding products
 - Creating or developing local chain value around small businesses
 - Presentation of territorial ecology to explore opportunities in BR
 - New cooperation group around eco-player charter
 - www.oasiis-br.org

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – NORDMAB, MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK, TBRs



Main issues discussed:

Fostering exchanges on:

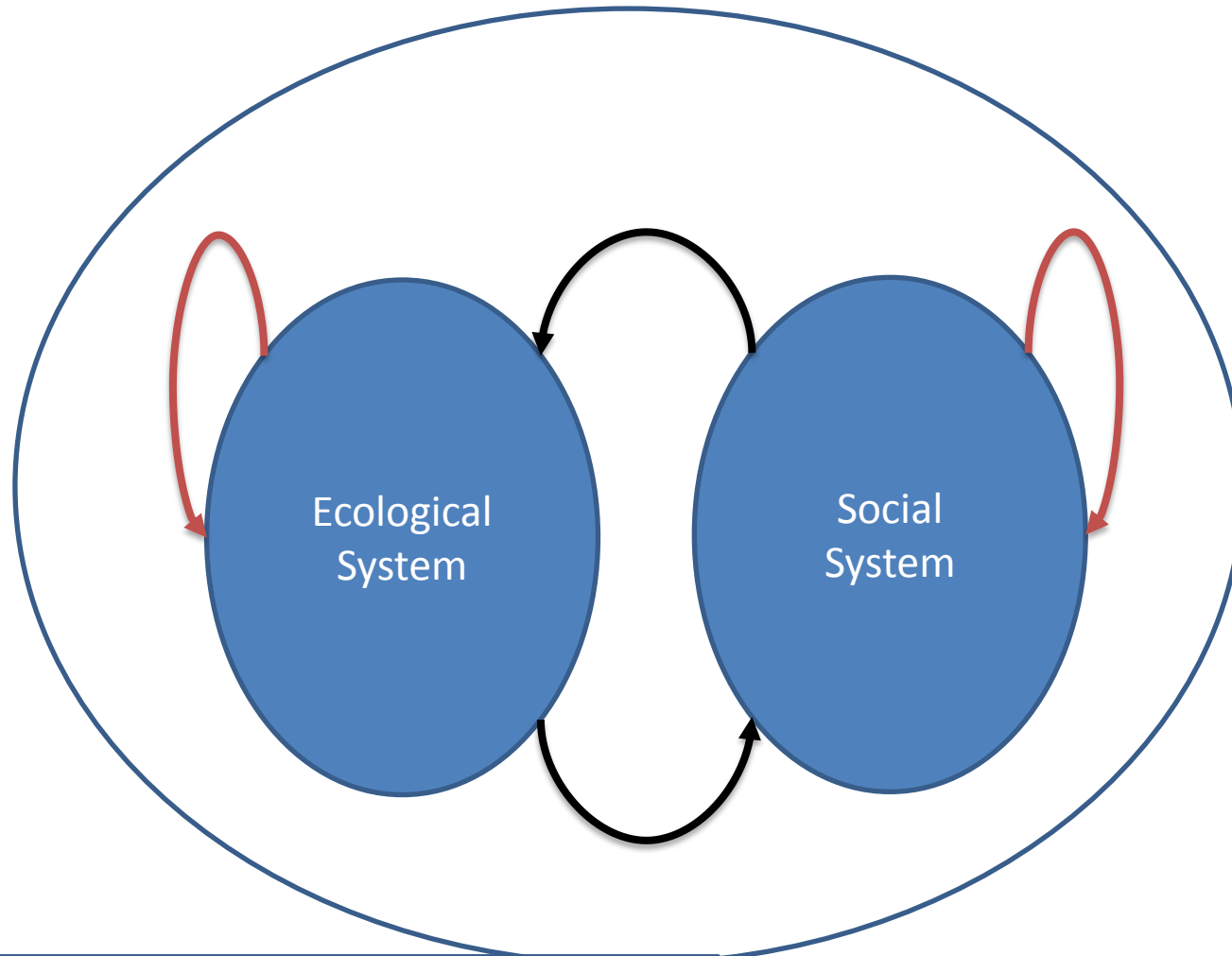
- Governance
- Stakeholder relations
- Communication (sometimes focus on education, but also branding)
- Fundraising strategies
- MAB values: focus on all 3 pillars

Means/output:

- Capacity building within the network
- Virtual connections/ BR Wiki
- BR market: what do you have on offer, what do you require?

- **Main issues discussed:**
 - Key barriers to communication and engagement about BRs and the MAB network.
 - Four themes can be used to guide the development of the global communication strategy: conveying the BR complexity, convincing decision makers, inspiring people with our network's example, enhancing the sense of belonging to something better
 - Channels for communication externally and within the network (BR wiki), financial support
- **Outputs :**
 - The identification of seven core audiences, with appropriate message guidance to be further tested in the development of the global communication strategy – support for ArabMAB, workshop in Asia
 - Training - understanding of values, to use the communication tool kit, commitment to use communication channels (NordMAB)
 - Planning of future work (NordMAB,...)

Social-Ecological System and interdependencies



Increasing awareness of interdependencies,
exploring and valuing interdependencies, thinking
the consequences of interdependencies,
Choosing actions according them

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES & Connection to nature, human well-being and conservation

- Main issues discussed
 - why do we want to use the ES concept?
 - ES can reveal complex connectedness between man and biosphere
 - We should not forget and discuss the potential and limits of ES for BR
 - BR could develop participatory approaches to ES for cooperation among people
 - But it is not the best tool to study people's representations
 - Identifying on-going initiatives regarding experiences of nature, individual and social well-being, and human-nature relationships
- Outputs
 - Identification of common issues and ideas about concrete projects and partnerships for future collaborations
 - Research project on place attachment, and sustainable innovations and problems
 - Citizen science project on cranes
 - Evaluation of the people involvement



- Main issues discussed
 - Problems and issues related to aquatic ecosystem health in Biosphere Reserves;
 - Approaches and solutions to these problems developed by BRs and obstacles;
 - Role and functions of a BR thematic network on Continental Aquatic Ecosystems
- Outputs
 - Memorandum of understanding on Continental Aquatic Ecosystems expressing a common desire to establish a network to exchange information, collaborate on approaches and actions, and develop joint communications.



- **Main issues discussed:**
 - Very wide diversity of governance structures/mechanisms for BRs across Europe.
 - Comprehensive survey using proposed typology should be conducted.
 - Projects proposals: EUROPARC and NPA SHAPE, BRs contribution to implementation of EU policies, compilation of projects funded by the EU.
- **Outputs:**
 - Draft of BRs governance typology

REPORT

LIMA ACTION PLAN



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Mostly stated relevance:

- **A4.2 Establish** partnerships with educational and training institutions, especially UNESCO Chairs, Centres and Associated schools, to undertake education, training and capacity building activities aimed at BR stakeholders, including managers and rights holders, taking into account the SDGs
- **B6.1 Create** and implement twinning arrangements between BRs in different countries

Relevance to:

- **D2.1 Create a** communication strategy and an action plan
- **E1.1 Ensure the** active participation of at least one representative of each ICC Member State at each MAB ICC session



Relevance to activities not addressed:

- **A6.2 Apply adaptive** management processes in BRs
- **B3.1 Develop** a business plan for each network
- **C2 Recognition** of the MAB Programme as a key partner within UNESCO and with other international organizations and relevant conventions
- **C3.1 Support** capacity building in approaches to generate revenue

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- **C3.1 Support** capacity building in approaches to generate revenue
- **C7.1 Undertake** an analysis of a strengthened global BR brand, and establish this, with associated national guidelines

Recommendations

- To start at next EuroMAB from the conclusions of this year, continuity of the work done at workshop
- To take LAP (activity not referred as relevant) as a leading theme/task and to find solution/ identify needs/ training(for all – plenary expert lectures and workshops to have practical work) – start with important/ priority ones

Conclusions (1)

- Situated knowledge
- Threefold deficit
 - knowledge/ Recognition / Dialogue
- Social-ecological and political context
 - No commons without community
 - Relationships to Nature
 - Relationships to State
 - Relationships to Collective actions
 - Relationships to decisions and rights



Conclusions (2)

- Knowledge of the relation between facts – values - actions;
- Looking for the expression of the plurality of values and attachment to ecological solidarity
- Doing a permanent work of reconnection between ecological processes,

