

Terms of Reference

The 10th Southeast Asia Biosphere Reserves Network (SeaBRnet) Meeting:

“Interaction among UNESCO Programmes toward the Sustainable Development of Biosphere Reserves”

16-17 May 2017

Jakarta, Indonesia

1. Background

The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, launched in 1971, is an intergovernmental scientific programme aiming to set a scientific basis for the improvement of the relationships between people and their environment globally. The programme is based in its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), Biosphere Reserves (BR) being the living laboratories for sustainable development, which promote an integrated approach towards sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. The WNBR currently counts 669 sites in 120 countries all over the world.

The 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, held in March 2016 in Lima, Peru, focused on “A New Vision for the Decade 2016-2025. UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development” and aimed to assess lessons learned and new challenges to be faced by the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), as well as develop and launch the Lima Action Plan (LAP) for Biosphere Reserves for 2016-2025 following the MAB Strategy 2015-2025. Experts discussed progress and obstacles related to BRs issues and worked together to settle the new vision of MAB which will contribute to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs. The Congress ended with the adoption of the Lima Declaration and the new ten-year Action Plan for UNESCO’s MAB Programme and its WNBR.

Locally, MAB National Committees and MAB networks are strongly encouraged to prepare their own strategies and national action plans using the MAB Strategy and LAP as the key points of reference. These should be founded in national and regional realities and imperatives and will contribute both to addressing these and to implementing the LAP at the global level. The UNESCO Regional Sciences Bureau for Asia and the Pacific swiftly followed up the encouragement and organized an international event in Wakatobi BR, Indonesia, in June 2016, to discuss on the role of local governments in the management of BRs and the implementation of LAP. The Wakatobi Recommendations to strengthen the role of local governments were produced.

In July 2016, the 3rd Asia Pacific Biosphere Reserves Network (APBRN) Strategic Meeting took place in Bali, Indonesia, within the regional sciences event “Fostering Collaboration between UNESCO in the Field and Networks towards the Agenda 2030”. The need for collaboration and establishment of strong synergies between UNESCO Natural Science programmes were highly underlined as a major recommendation from participants representing the MAB Programme, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) and the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP).

The next step in the implementation of the LAP in the region will be the 10th Southeast Asia Biosphere Reserves Network (SeaBRnet) meeting, which will be organized by UNESCO Jakarta Office in May 2017 in Jakarta, with generous support from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust. The 10th SeaBRnet meeting aims to gather together around 30 representatives from MAB stakeholders in Southeast Asia, including National Committees and BR managers, but also IHP and UNESCO Global Geopark (UGG) representatives, under the theme of “Interaction among UNESCO Programmes toward the Sustainable Development of Biosphere Reserves”.

The objective is to discuss how to jointly promote BRs to serve as models for sustainable development, through sharing the experiences from other UNESCO programmes such as the IHP, the IGGP and the World Heritage Convention, as well as how to effectively develop MAB national action plans as a follow up to the LAP implementation in South East Asia. In the discussion, specific focus will also be put on Sustainability Science, an integrated, problem-solving approach that requires collaboration between all the different stakeholders, including scientists, policy-makers, members of local communities and the private sector. The programme of the event will include country reports from the members of the SeaBRnet, and discussion sessions to on interaction among UNESCO programmes, national action plans for the implementation of LAP in Southeast Asia.

2. Objectives

The 10th SeaBRnet meeting objectives are to:

- Gather together representatives from MAB National Committees, Biosphere Reserves managers and key actors, MAB experts and other MAB related stakeholders from Southeast Asia.
- Gather the above mentioned MAB Family with other UNESCO relevant stakeholders such as scientists or key actors from the networks of International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the UNESCO Global Geoparks, and the World Heritages.
- Share local and regional experiences in Biosphere Reserves from Southeast Asia.
- Discuss key issues related to a joint contribution for promoting BRs to serve as models for sustainable development, through sharing the experiences from other UNESCO programmes.
- Agree on a regional strategy for developing MAB national action plans to facilitate the implementation of the Lima Action Plan in Southeast Asia region.

3. Participants

Around 30 participants from Southeast Asia are expected to attend the workshop, including international and local participants. Invitees include representatives from:

- MAB National Committees
- BR managers
- MAB related key stakeholders
- IHP representatives
- UGG representatives
- WH representatives

4. Venue

The workshop will take place in:

Hotel Fairmont (TBC)

Jalan Asia Afrika No. 8, Gelora Bung Karno,
Central Jakarta City, Jakarta 10270
Indonesia

Tel: +62 21 2970 3333

<http://www.fairmont.com/jakarta/>

Participants will be hosted in the same hotel. Breakfast and lunch are included in the meeting package.

5. Tentative Programme

Day 1 – Tuesday 16 May

Session 1: Opening

Session 2: Keynote addresses

Session 3: SeaBRnet Country Reports

Session 4: Interactions among UNESCO Sciences Programmes

Session 5: Discussion

Day 2 – Wednesday 17 May

Session 6: Lima Action Plan in Southeast Asia – breakout discussions

Session 7: Final conclusions and recommendations

Session 8: Closing

6. Contact Information

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