

IV. INFORMAL THEMATIC SIDE MEETINGS

TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVES (TBRs)

RAPPORTEUR: Roland Stein, Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord TBR, Germany & France

PARTICIPANTS:

1. Zbigniew Niewiadomski, Poland (East Carpathians TBR)
2. Natalia Rybianets, Belarus
3. Pavlo Cherinko, Ukraine (Danube Delta TBR)
4. Valery Neronov, Russia
5. Roland Stein, Germany & France (Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord TBR)
6. Hana Petrikova, Czech Republic (Karkonosze – Krkonose TBR)
7. Petra Stastna, Czech Republic (Karkonosze – Krkonose TBR)
8. Marie Prchalova, UNESCO Office Moscow

The participants represented four of the five existing TBRs in Europe and a number of very interesting TBR initiatives.

Various colleagues from France, Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro, Turkey, Slovakia and UNESCO ROSTE Venice unfortunately could not attend the informal meeting because of duties in the parallel running formal meetings. They had declared their great interest in the TBR issue and asked for receiving the minutes of the meeting.

First of all, the participants regretted that none of the eight formal/official workshops was dedicated to the TBR issue and ask the MAB Secretariat to plan for a workshop on TBR issues to be carried out in the course of the next EuroMAB Conference in Turkey in 2007.

Furthermore, the participants exchanged on recent developments in the creation and functioning of

TBRs in Europe and worldwide.

Roland Stein reported on “Following-Up on SEVILLE + 5”, the ‘2004 International Conference & Expert Workshop on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves’, which was carried out in “Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord” TBR.

He presented the participants’ “Message to the UNESCO MAB Programme” which had been sent to the Secretary of the MAB Programme, Mr N. Ishwaran, in June 2005 and which, on behalf of Mr Ishwaran, was replied to by Ms Jane Robertson, telling that “the Bureau (MAB ICC) noted that the recommendations from the Conference have indeed been duly taken into account in the draft UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 for MAB, which will in turn be examined and adopted at the 33rd session of UNESCO General Conference ...”.

The “Message ...” gives recommendations to the MAB Programme on how to assist the TBRs and TBR initiatives in the establishment of networking and capacity-building, as well as on how to offer technical assistance/expertise advice and how to facilitate the process of implementing the officially recognized TBR recommendations, which were elaborated in the course of the ‘SEVILLE + 5 Expert-Meeting’ in Pamplona/Spain in 2000.

Finally the participants expressed their great interest in getting officially informed on how their recommendations and self-commitments were taken into account and adopted at the recent 33rd UNESCO General Conference and what this means in detail in terms of increased technical and financial support for the 2006–2007 period.

QUALITY ECONOMIES

RAPPORTEUR: Engelbert Ruoss, Chair of the Task Force Quality Economies UNESCO MAB, Entlebuch BR, Switzerland

The aim of the group meeting was to get a feedback on the labeling issue and to individual biosphere reserves of the EUROMAB zone willing to join the pilot project starting in 2006.

The discussion showed considerable interest by biosphere reserves to have a common image and labeling scheme for commercial goods and services. The pilot project will show the opportunities to create common visibility of the biosphere reserves.

The following biosphere reserves are already cooperating in the pilot project:

Sinharaja Biosphere Reserve, Sri Lanka
 Oases Biosphere Reserve, Southern Morocco
 Lake Manyara Biosphere Reserve, Tanzania
 Sao Paulo, City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve, Brazil
 Espinhaço Range Biosphere Reserve, Brazil
 Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve, South Korea

The following biosphere reserves from the EUORMAB zone will join the pilot project:

La Palma Biosphere Reserve, Canary Islands, Spain
 Camili, Biyosfer Rezervi, Turkey
 Retezat National Park Biosphere Reserve, Romania
 Lower Moravia Biosphere Reserve, Czech Republic
 Carpathian Biosphere Reserve including Sumava Biosphere Reserve, Czech Republic, Bavia Gora Biosphere Reserve, Poland, Aggtelek Biosphere Reserve, Hungary

The biosphere reserves will be contacted in February 2006 and the logos and guidelines will be available in March 2006. The pilot project will be open to areas from other countries and zones. The results will be published on the website of UNESCO MAB as well on the website www.globalregions.net in March 2006.

THE PROPOSED TRANSBOUNDARY UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE "DANUBE-DRAVA-MURA"

Notes compiled by Gabriele Eschig & Arno Mohl
 During the EUROMAB meeting 2005, which was organised by the Austrian Commission for UNESCO and the Austrian MAB National Committee in Hernstein on 24 and 29 October, a side meeting on the proposed transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve "Danube-Drava-Mura" was organised.

The aim of the meeting was to bring representatives of the region together to inform each other about the status of the proposal and to define next steps for the further development of the proposal.

PARTICIPANTS:

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10. Reinhold Turk (Nature Conservation Department of the Province of Styria, Austria)
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SHORT SITUATION REPORT:

Austria: Mr Turk didn't know the proposal yet. It is a good idea but needs political support.

Croatia: The BR was discussed during the last meeting of the National MAB Committee in 2004 but there was no common agreement for a BR. The new National MAB Committee has still to be constituted. Mr Gugič will ask the new Committee and the UNESCO focal point at the Ministry of Culture to put the BR proposal on the agenda of the next National MAB Committee meeting.

Hungary: The BR proposal was presented by WWF Hungary and discussed during the last National MAB Committee meeting. The MAB Committee has suggested filling in the form. The Danube-Drava National Park Authority and the Ministry of Environment are supporting the idea.

Serbia & Montenegro: The BR nomination is currently in process. Current problem: Unsettled border issues with Croatia.

Slovenia: No participant from Slovenia.

UNESCO: It was stated that a joint nomination would be more successful. UNESCO Roste representatives have offered to facilitate a side meeting with all National MAB Committees/UNESCO Commissions concerned within the next meeting of MAB/UNESCO of the SEE region. It was also said that the proposal would need political/ministry agreement between the countries involved.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The idea of a Transboundary BR was very much appreciated amongst the participants, next steps need to be taken to develop the proposal.
- As a next step, a common meeting between the relevant MAB Committees and UNESCO Commissions was discussed. UNESCO Roste has offered its help.

GLOCHAMORE – GLOBAL CHANGE AND MOUNTAIN REGIONS RESEARCH STRATEGY

INTERNATIONAL OPEN SCIENCE CONFERENCE 'GLOBAL CHANGE IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS'

The participants discussed the results of the international open science conference, especially the "Perth Declaration" (see page 22).

For more information please contact:
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EUROMAB COSTAL MARINE BIOSPHERE RESERVES NETWORK “ECOMAB”

VIENNA EUROMAB BIOSPHERE RESERVES COORDINATORS MEETING OCTOBER 2005

PARTICIPANTS :

Andy Bell, Brauton Burrows BR (UK)
Michael Phillip, Bailey BR Dyfi (Wales)
Andris Urtans, BR North Vidzeme (Latvia)
Mikael Nordström, Archipelago sea (Finland)
Frédéric Bioret, Mer d'Iroise (France)
Jane Robertson (Unesco Secretariat)

FORMER MEMBERS :

Toomas Kokovkin, West Archipelago (Estonia)
Juan Rita, Menorca (Spain)

OTHER POTENTIAL BR COORDINATORS :

Rebecca Pollock (Canada)
Wadden Sea (Nederlands-Germany), Poland,
Germany, Canary islands, Russia Federation:
Kommandeur Islands...

A BIT OF HISTORY

This working group was set up in **1993**.
Archipelago, an informal group dedicated to insular
offshore reserves, Menorca (Spain), Hiiumaa
(Estonia), Mer d'Iroise (France), Bijagos Archipelago
(Guinea Bissau)

1996 EuroMab Coordinators Meeting, Tsara Lesna
(Slovakia)

1998 EuroMab Coordinators Meeting, Finland

2000 Cambridge EuroMab Coordinators Meeting

2002 Roma EuroMab Coordinators Meeting

2003 first Coastal Marine Biosphere Reserves
Meeting, Nagu, Finland

2005 Venice workshop Coastal Marine BR and
Marine research stations networks (MARS, MARBEF)

2005 Vienna EuroMab Coordinators Meeting

NETWORK HEADS

1996 Reed Bohne (Carolian South Atlantic BR, USA)

2003 – 2005 Dr Martin Öhman (West Archipelago
Biosphere Reserve, Finland)

2005 Frédéric Bioret (Mer d'Iroise Biosphere Reserve,
France)

WHAT IS THE NETWORK?

This network gathers EuroMaB coastal and marine
biosphere reserves
(exhaustive list to be done)

OBJECTIVES

1. SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

BR coordinators in association with local population
and administrations...

- landscape management, mainly related to
decline of traditional activities
- new uses of maritime and defense
administration properties (buildings, land...)
- valorisation of local culture and heritage (eco
museums, trails...)
- ecotourism as a new challenge for local develop-
ment: new services, off-season tourism

2. EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES:

BR coordinators in association with schools, univer-
sities....

- at the regional level
summer universities on a set of comparable
sites, i.e. insular biosphere reserves
- at the BR level
 1. twinings between BRs
 2. exchanges of students (training sessions...)
 3. cultural exchanges (music, art...)

3. MONITORING AND RESEARCH PRO- GRAMMES RELATED TO COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

BR coordinators in association with scientists

- marine biology issues
- zonation of the BR territory
- land use dynamic monitoring
- comparative coastal cultural studies
- involvement of local population

4. ORGANISATION OF THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

EuroMab CM BRs network in association with BR
coordinators

- organisation of thematic workshops
proposal: Corsica 2006 (Fango Biosphere Reserve)
- management of the network

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

1. INTERNET EXCHANGES: E-mail contact list forum? first draft list and send it to all potential interested coastal marine BRs coordinators, please complete it

2. COASTAL MARINE BIOSPHERE RESERVES INTERNET NEWSLETTER

Exchange of informations via internet?

3. SUMMER BIOSPHERE EDUCATION WEEKS ON EUROMAB COASTAL MARINE BIOSPHERE RESERVES

The overall aim is to involve students from Euromab countries in CoMa BRs management, by offering them the opportunity to integrate their external assessment and skills for building up environmental assessment and concrete proposals.

These sessions would concern groups of about 10 volunteer students for a two-weeks period of field work on a hosting BR. They would be dedicated to management issues identified by BR coordinators and responding to some of their specific needs. They would consist on field investigations combining both mapping and surveys issues, and contacts with local stakeholders. Organisation would be under the responsibility of the hosting BR coordinators and scientists involved in the BR. Some representatives of other BRs could take part to such sessions.

The themes would have to be studied through a multidisciplinary approach including social and biological sciences.

A first round of summer school could take place in insular BRS: Menorca, Hiiumaa, Archipelago Sea, Mer d'Iroise.....

All other proposals coming from interested BR coordinators would be welcome.

4. EDITION OF A BROCHURE PRESENTING THE EUROMAB COASTAL MARINE BIOSPHERE RESERVES NETWORK AND ITS OBJECTIVES

- list and geographic location of the BRs
- monographies of CM BRs: short presentation of 2 pages, including 1 map and photos
- identification of common management issues

5. IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER REGIONAL NETWORKS

- Microinsular and submarine environment nature reserves group (France)
- Marine protected areas forum (France)
- MedPan (Mediterranean marine protected areas)
- Small Island Ecosystem Group (informal working group, France Italy, Portugal, USA)

TOOLS FOR ACHIEVING PROPOSALS

	1. Sharing knowledge and experience	2. Cultural exchanges	3. Monitoring and research programmes related to coordination and management issues	4. Euromab CM BRs network
ACTORS	BR coordinators, NP, RPA,	BR coordinators, museums, municipalities, local schools, local NGOs	BR coordinators, universities, NP	BR coordinators
	1. Sharing knowledge and experience	2. Cultural exchanges	3. Monitoring and research programmes related to coordination and management issues	4. Euromab CM BRs network
PUBLIC INVOLVED	Administrations (land use planning) Staff, stakeholders...	museums, municipalities, local schools, local NGOs	Scientists, local people	All public
ACTIONS	Visits and exchanges of staff, students... Comparative reviews (thematic, geographic)	Presentations, mobile exhibitions, visiting groups (school children, folk groups), municipalities twinings	LT monitoring programmes, Research programmes, Cooperation in Master and PhD students	Workshops, presentations in meetings, MARS-MARBEF network
FUNDING	Partnership Finistère-SW Finland county NP, RP, Environmental administrations	Partnership Finistère-SW Finland county, EU Leader programme, municipalities, Interreg, special EU programmes Private cultural fundations	Partnership Finistère-SW Finland county, Universities, Interreg, Special EU programmes	Unesco, EU funding, National and regional funding (from the country which organizes)

VI. ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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