

the area so far. This transitional period did not allow specific requirements of the Seville Strategy to be totally implemented and practiced, turning old biosphere reserve management to new.

However, certain requirements of biosphere reserves were fulfilled to an extent:

CONSERVATION was practiced by the park authorities (ecosystem, species, etc.)

DEVELOPMENT of the locals was encouraged by offering adjacent communities 30% of the Park's annual income, building different works (environmental information centres, water reservoirs, etc.)

LOGISTIC SUPPORT was also practiced by participating to various projects (national and international, i.e. LIFE project on *Gypaetus barbatus*, or a LIFE project on microreserves, etc.).

Samaria, an old Biosphere Reserve, deserves remaining in the international Excellency network. The main reasons are its valuable ecological and cultural significance. Many landscapes have changed, as a result of human action; Samaria remains intact, as it always used to be. The only forces that change it are natural, (water, sun, air); they create a unique environment in which unique organisms survive. People who survived in the mountains surrounding it also have distinctive qualities. A fighter has always been a leader in revolutions for freedom.

Hoping that the Samaria management body will eventually overcome its teething problems and will come in action soon, practicing not only the protected area regulations but also Seville Strategy implementation. Management based on the twinning of nature conservation and human development can give a good example here, an area significant for long time research. The help of the MAB Secretariat in the implementation of the Seville Strategy will be greatly appreciated.

7 PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES (ESTABLISHING OFFICIAL WORKING GROUPS DEDICATED TO COORDINATING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN GERMAN AND INTERNATIONAL BIOSPHERE RESERVES)

RESULTS OF WORKSHOP 7, BY SIGRID HOCKAMP-MACK, GERMANY

The workshop was hosted by MAB Germany and aimed at the identification of biosphere reserves that are interested in a co-operation with German biosphere reserves. The workshop was attended by representatives of the MAB Secretariat, UNESCO HQ, and of the following biosphere reserves: Wienerwald (Austria), Sumava and Krkonose (both Czech Republic), Vosges du Nord (France), Volszko-Kamsky (Russia), Camili (Turkey) and representatives of the German biosphere reserves Elbe Flusslandschaft, Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft, Pfälzerwald, Rhoen, Schaalsee und Schorfheide-Chorin. The participants presented their biosphere reserves as well as their ideas for a future cooperation. The representatives of Elbe Flusslandschaft, Schaalsee, Camili und Volszko-Kamsky presented their Biosphere Reserve and their work in detail.

The Biosphere Reserve representatives agreed to exchange experience and information in the framework of a permanent working group. As main fields of cooperation were identified:

- Communication and public relations
- Participation
- Education
- Regional development
- Tourism management
- Agriculture
- Regional products and labelling

The following procedure was agreed:

Within one month after the workshop the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) will contact all participants requesting them to present a detailed descrip-

tion of their ideas and needs. The German Biosphere reserves, in collaboration with BMU, will work out cooperation initiatives.

Furthermore, the participants stressed the need for an internet-based “market-place” where biosphere reserves may announce offers and needs in the context of networking with other biosphere reserves. The representative of the MAB Secretariat offered to realize such an instrument within the existing UNESCO/MAB homepage.

8. IPAM: TOOLS FOR INTEGRATIVE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

PLENARY PRESENTATION, BY MICHAEL JUNGMEIER, E.C.O. INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY, AUSTRIA

SUMMARY

“Experience grows through being shared”. This booklet presents a newly developed expert system that is intended to support planners, managers and consultants of Protected Areas through a system of self-assessment, focused recommendations and a comprehensive knowledge base. The interactive Toolbox provides substantial information on the integrative management of Protected Areas by means of new information technologies. The interactive system is free of charge and is open to everybody on the homepage www.ipam.info. Developed in cooperation with international partners and organisations, this expert system aims to be an important backbone for the future development of Protected Areas in Central and Eastern Europe.

The expert system consists of three components, a self-assessment, a set of standardised recommendations and a knowledge base. The three components aim to provide any information that is necessary to develop a particular Protected Area. The self-assessment is an interactive checklist of questions. They help to identify and focus the problem and the most recent state of development of the Protected Area. The structure of the self-assessment follows the “life cycle” of the Protected Area (pre-phase, planning, ongoing management) and cross checks 25 fields of activity. However, the self-assessment finally results in a Progress Report that points out the deficits in planning and managing the Protected Area and in standardised recommendations. The knowledge base, as an ongoing tool, provides additional materials: reports, projects, organisations, people, best practice, etc. are compiled in an extensive database. Materials may also be added and uploaded by the visitor. Additionally, a Glossary of the most important tech-