



The 2nd Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

Period: 12 - 13 September, 2012 (2 days)

Venue: Jeju World Natural Heritage Centre, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

Theme: Climate Changes and Sustainable Development

STATEMENT

The Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves held its first meeting in Menorca in February 2012 to discuss the common compelling issues regarding island and coastal biosphere reserves, to exchange their experiences and to establish long-term plans in response to the changes in biosphere reserve areas.

The Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves will improve its role by developing the sustainable biodiversity conservation strategies and suitable utilization of biodiversity. Also, the network will endeavour to continue research and training programs on biosphere reserve and other issues that are related to humankind such as adopting and alleviating climate change. These goals are concurrent with the objective of the 'Madrid Action Plan'.

The second meeting of the Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves was hosted by Jeju from 12th to 13th of September 2012. Representatives from Menorca, Jeju, Yakushima, El Hierro, Grand Canaria, West Estonia Archipelago, Palawan, Santana Madeira, Mexican Pacific region, Siberut, Principe, representatives from Aegean Sea in Shinan area, members from Spain MAB and Korea MAB and UNESCO (Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences) gathered and examined their future action plans, and made a few decisions.



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Conclusions:

1. More efforts on attracting donations for the global network of island and coastal biosphere reserves.

Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and Menorca are the joint secretariats and they will provide funds for the network's activities.

However, additional funding is essential to carry out the initiatives for the biosphere reserves. Therefore, the network requires more attention and support, and each member biosphere reserve shall put forth considerable effort to attract more donations from local conglomerates and focus on promoting fund raising activities.

2. More efforts on increasing the number of members in the network.

Menorca and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province will take leading roles in elevating the Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves to become a very successful network in UNESCO. Also the two member nations shall put their utmost efforts to increase the number of members for the network to enhance the cooperative activities in local communities. A useful method will be sending official letters to non-member islands and biosphere reserves and MAB National Committees in other nations to inform the current status of actions carried out by the network and encourage their participation.

3. Promotion of joint research projects

Menorca, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and the UNESCO Secretariat will accept additional opinions of its members and designate joint research projects. These research projects will touch on the most urgent and sensitive issues and the network will announce the appointed researchers, targeted areas and research periods by the end of February 2013.



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4. Hold the network meeting on regular basis

The first meeting of Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves was held in Menorca in Spain last February, and this meeting was the second meeting of the network. The network decided to hold the meetings regularly every year and the venue for meeting will be decide at the prior meeting.

5. Initiative Plan from 2013 to 2014

- Jeju Special Self-Governing Province will promote a joint research project in the climate change field, create a website and operate training programs for management officers in biosphere reserves.
- Menorca will promote a common project to create and compile the indicators to measure the three dimensions of sustainable development: (Economy, Environment and Society) applicable to the Network of Islands and Coastal areas, and thus verify and assess the current situation of each of the Biosphere Reserves in the field of sustainable development, for the implementation of common strategies to assist the implementation of correct policies towards sustainable development of the islands and coastal areas.

6. Consider the possibility of involving international organizations in support of the Network, e.g. the specialized agencies of United Nations, European Union or other international agencies in order to give greater visibility to the Network.
