



The 3rd Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

Period: 4 - 6 June, 2013 (3 days)

Venue: Islands of Saaremaa and Hiiumaa, West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve, Estonia

STATEMENT

The World Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves are suitable for research on climate change that the whole world faces, through which sustainable development can be achieved through continuous and active dialog among scientists, researchers and local residents.

The World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserve was established to fulfill the Madrid Action Plan, together with Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve, Menorca Biosphere Reserve, MAB-Committee of the Republic of Korea, MAB-Committee of Spain, and UNESCO. The first meeting was held in Menorca in February 2012. It was agreed that Secretariats will be in Jeju and Menorca, and the Network will make efforts focusing on climate change and sustainable development. Menorca published a casebook based on collected information and experiences.

The 2nd meeting was held by Jeju in September 2012. In this meeting the Network decided that it would try to attract funds for the activities of the Network and to expand its membership. It also decided to promote joint research projects and hold meetings on a regular basis. UNESCO, Jeju and Menorca decided to select joint projects and promote them.

For the activities of the Network, Jeju signed an agreement with UNESCO to provide 500,000 USD and has so far given 100,000 USD in the first annual installment of support, while Menorca is planning to provide 40,000 Euros for the project. Already 30,000 Euros has been secured for the technical secretariat in Menorca.



The 3rd Meeting of the Global Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves was held at Saaremaa and Hiiumaa, Estonia 4-6 June 2013. Participants came from Estonia (West-Estonian Archipelago BR), Republic of Korea (Jeju Island and Shinan Dadohae BRs), Spain (Menorca, Gran Canaria, La Palma, Lanzarote and El Hierro BRs), São Tomé and Príncipe (Príncipe BR), Philippines (Palawan BR), Japan (Yakushima Island BR), China (Nanji Islands BR), DPR Korea (Mount Kuwol BR), Vietnam (Cat Ba BR), Chile (Juan Fernandez Islands BR), Brazil (Mata Atlantica BR), Mexico (Islands of the Gulf of California), St. Kitts and Nevis (St. Mary's BR), Jamaica (future Portland Bight BR), Haiti (La Selle BR), Finland (Archipelago Sea Area BR), Portugal (Santana Madeira BR), the MAB National Committees of the Republic of Korea and Spain, and UNESCO/MAB. Together they examined future action plans and made a few decisions as follows.

Conclusions:

1. Dates and venue of the next meeting

The 4th meeting will be held in Palawan, Philippines in 2014. UNESCO and the Secretariats of Jeju and Menorca will actively promote the participation of the island and coastal biosphere reserves.

2. Publication of a casebook study

Varied information and experiences presented in this meeting will be presented in a book to be published by the Jeju Secretariat with Menorca's support, and presenters need to provide appropriate content and submit it within a set period.

3. Sharing information on the web.

Menorca and UNESCO have already established respective websites for the network.. The website of the Jeju Secretariat is under development and will be launched at the end of August 2013.

4. Establishment and sharing of detailed implementation plans

Detailed implementation plans, schedules, expenses and public relations will be decided based on the conclusion of the meeting through separate Secretariat meetings. The agenda will be decided and shared among all the members.



5. Suggestions on research projects and training workshop

Joint research projects on climate change will be elaborated and implemented by Jeju Island and Menorca Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO, and suggestions on this research project would be appreciated. Also a training workshop on climate change is planned in Jeju Island, and active support from members will be needed for that. Moreover, it is envisaged to launch initiatives in the Pacific, the Mediterranean and the Baltic regions. It is also envisaged to work on indicators of island sustainable development.