



Maltese National
Commission for UNESCO



The 5th Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

Date: 24-26 March 2015

Venue: Attard, Malta

Participants: 18 Biosphere Reserves and 15 countries

Subject: The Impact of Climate Change and Sustainable Development on Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

STATEMENT

The World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserve was established in 2012, in order to fulfil certain recommendations of the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserve 2008-2013, and to find solutions for common issues related to climate change and sustainable development in island and coastal regions.

The 5th Meeting was held in Attard, Malta, on 24-26 March 2015 and was attended by 18 biosphere reserves (BRs) from 13 countries. Participants came from Australia (Noosa BR), Canada (Fundy BR), Chile (Campana Peñuelas BR), Estonia (West Estonian Archipelago BR), France (Iles et Mer d'Iroise BR), Germany (three German Wattenmeer BRs), Japan (Yakushima BR), the Philippines (Palawan BR), Portugal (possible future Sao Jorge BR in the Azores), the Republic of Korea (Jeju Island and Gochang BRs), Sao Tome & Principe (Principe BR), Spain (Menorca, La Palma and Urdaibai BRs), Tunisia (Zembra and Zembretta BR), and the MAB National Committees of the Republic of Korea and Spain, the UNESCO National Commissions of Iceland, Malta and the Republic of Korea, and the UNESCO/MAB Secretariat.

The main subject of the meeting was 'The Impact of Climate Change and Sustainable Development on Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves.' The participants introduced their biosphere reserves, examined future action plans and took the following decisions.



Conclusions:

1. Establishing management regulations for the members of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

As the number of Biosphere Reserve members has increased and the management criteria are vague, it is necessary to establish regulations for systematically ensuring and managing network activities on a continuous basis. Therefore, the status will be set up by application and approval for the BR membership.

2. Dates and venue of the next meeting

The 6th meeting of the World Network will take place in Lima, Peru, during the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, 14-19 March 2016.

3. The Network's newsletter

Jeju and Menorca Secretariat will continue to prepare and publish the Network's newsletter every six months, with notification on the Jeju/Menorca and UNESCO websites. Biosphere Reserve members are invited to share useful information on their sites through this newsletter.

4. Publication of a casebook study

The wide range of information and experiences presented at this meeting will be published in book form by the Jeju Secretariat with the support of Menorca. Presenters are invited to submit appropriate content at the earliest opportunity.

5. Sharing information on BR activities

BR members should work to share their activities with others, including their use of the BR brand as a contribution to conservation and sustainable development, and for profit creation. BR members could present successful activities at the upcoming network meeting or through the newsletter. In addition, with mutual consultation, the BR members could undertake field studies to benchmark each other.

6. Suggestions on research projects and training workshops

The Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve implements joint research projects on climate change and the Menorca Biosphere Reserve is implementing a project on sustainable development.



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Suggestions from all participants regarding these research projects would be appreciated with a view to producing effective results. In addition, a training course for biosphere reserve managers was initiated in Jeju Island in 2013, with the next programme scheduled for October 2015. Participation and support would be appreciated to ensure the success of this training course.

7. Participants strongly support the application of the new Fajas de S. Jorge, Azores, Portugal, Biosphere Reserve.

8. Special thanks go to the Maltese National Commission for UNESCO for their excellent organization of this important event.