



WORKSHOP

WORLD NETWORK OF ISLAND AND COASTAL BIOSPHERE RESERVES

STATEMENT

Islands and Coastal Biosphere Reserves are sensitive sites due to their high level of biodiversity endemism, rare, small and fragile ecosystems and vulnerability to natural and human induced hazards and impacts of climate change.

Forests, mountains, coastal, marine and estuarine ecosystems, alien and invasive species are priority topics for Island and Coastal BR that should be addressed in close connection with socioeconomic activities such as tourism, farming, and natural resources management (ex: water, soil, landscape).

Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves are, in most of the cases, strong and directly linked with local governments which also brings them very close to the communities thus benefiting from a common understanding of the main challenges and problems of sustainable development and conservation at local scale.

Ocean affairs, estuaries, integrated coastal zone management, landscape management, heritage, culture and history, nature conservation and biodiversity, on islands and coastal zone managements are at the core of their sustainability and not just sectoral or complementary activities. Tourism, agriculture, fisheries are clear examples of this feature.

Vulnerability analysis, risk assessment and specific adaptation strategies and action plans are vital tools for sustainable management on Islands and coastal zones. Due to their specificities and in particular high vulnerability, isolation and lack of critical mass, Islands should have special attention and be majored by the the existing and future international technical supporting and financing mechanisms.

Considering the above, Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves fully support the new MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the Lima Action Plan (2016-2025).

The World Network of Island and Coastal BR, in line with the Vision and Mission of the MAB Programme, aims to work and act as models for

sustainable development and conservation, and thus contributing to their localities, countries and regions to meet with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi targets and other international and multilateral agreements.

The World Network of Island and Coastal BR will continue to work in order to gather more members and to promote communication, share experiences and develop common research and training and capacity building activities, including education for the sustainable development and conservation.

A special attention will also be given to local based problems. Training and capacitation programmes should consider local specificities and help to solve long time identified local problems.

As for the financial sustainability, the WNICBR will work on the establishment of a business and marketing plan supported by adequate governance mechanisms and administration capacity.

Thematic and functional working groups will be used to develop pilot initiatives and transfer knowledge within the WCNIBR in close cooperation and benefiting from the technical and capacity building facilities of the MAB secretariat. Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Estuaries and coastal zone, tourism, and renewable energy, are examples of thematic priorities while geographically based sub-networks will also operate and promote joint initiatives.

The WNICBR will explore all potential ways of increasing cooperation with local and national governments as well as with private entities and NGOs.

The WNICBR wishes to express his gratitude to UNESCO and the MAB Secretariat for the support and facilitation during the last years as well as to the Governments of Jeju Island (Republic of Korea) and Menorca (Spain) for the financial, secretariat support and leadership.