

The 7th Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

Date: September 12 – 14, 2017

Venue: Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

Participants: 14 Biosphere Reserves (12 countries)

Theme: Desirable Action Plan of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

Final Statement

Islands and coastal areas have shared characteristics and faced common challenges. They are sensitive sites due to their high level of biodiversity and fragile and rare ecosystems. The World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves aims to study, implement and disseminate island and coastal strategies to preserve biodiversity and heritage, promote sustainable development, and adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The 7th meeting was held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, on September 12 – 14, 2017 and 14 BRs from 12 countries attended the meeting. Participants came from Estonia (West Estonian Archipelago BR), France (Iles et Mer d'Iroise BR), South Africa (Gouritz Cluster, Garden Route BRs), Maldives (Baa Atoll BR), Germany (Wadden Sea BR), Philippines (Palawan BR), Portugal (Madeira BR), Vietnam (Cat Ba BR), Spain (Menorca BR), Republic of Korea (Gochang and Shinan Dadohaes BRs), the MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea, the Autonomous Organism of National Parks of Spain, Korean National Commission for UNESCO and Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO.

The theme of the meeting was 'Desirable Action Plan of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves.' The participants introduced their respective BR and explained the various activities that they perform. To further examine desirable action plans, they have made a few decisions as follows.

Conclusions:

1) Needs for the systematic management has been identified as membership in the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves gradually increases. Menorca Secretariat has drafted the first regulation and the two Secretariats will discuss and establish Management Regulations.

2) Jeju Island and Menorca signed MOU related to the achievement of sustainable development goals for the next five years (2018-2022). The memorandum includes the joint

research on the impact of climate change, response strategies and the project on habitat conservation and sustainable development facing global changes.

3) Jeju and Menorca Secretariat will issue a newsletter every six months, which will be posted on the websites of the Joint Secretariats and UNESCO MAB.

4) Highly useful and informative sources presented in the meeting will be presented in a casebook published by Jeju Secretariat with Menorca's support.

5) The 8th Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves will take place in Menorca island (Spain) from May 22 to 25 2018. The planned schedule for the event is to hold the meeting sessions from the 22nd to the 24th, including field trips, and to hold a training workshop for biosphere reserve managers on the 25th.

6) The 6th Training Course for Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserve Managers is scheduled for October, 2017. The purpose of this training course is to share experiences and build the capacities needed to adapt to climate change and achieve sustainable development. BR managers of island and coastal biosphere reserves, especially the areas recently designated or have yet to participate in the training course, are encouraged to participate.

7) As a joint secretariat of the UNESCO World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves, Jeju will continue to cooperate with UNESCO and Menorca to systematically operate the network and to carry out the activities that are core to the international community.