

PERIODIC REVIEW FOR TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

[January 2013]

INTRODUCTION

The UNESCO General Conference, at its 28th session, adopted Resolution 28 C/2.4 on the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. This text defines in particular the criteria for an area to be qualified for designation as a biosphere reserve (Article 4). In addition, Article 9 foresees a periodic review every ten years, based on a report prepared by the concerned authority, on the basis of the criteria of Article 4 and forwarded to the secretariat by the State concerned. This applies to national biosphere reserves. In the case of transboundary biosphere reserve, periodic review should be seen as a way to assess how the transboundary biosphere reserve fulfilled the Pamplona recommendations in addition to the national periodic review forms to be fulfilled by each country as foreseen in article 9.

The periodic review of Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR), refers to the recommendations of the ad-hoc task force which met during the International Expert Meeting on the Implementation of the Seville Strategy of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (Seville+5), in Pamplona, Spain, October 2000. Transboundary Biosphere Reserve is an official recognition of a political will to co-operate on key issues for the conservation and sustainable use through coordinated management of a shared ecosystem. It also represents a commitment of two or more countries to apply together the Seville Strategy for biosphere reserves and its objectives. However, it should be kept in mind that, although the biosphere reserve provides a general framework for action in a transboundary location, the real-world situations will vary very much from a place to another, and flexibility is needed even more than in a national context. Therefore, this form is complementary but does not replace the individual periodic review form to be fulfilled by each designated biosphere reserve.

The report should focus on progress achieved in the cooperation foreseen since designation and changes within the review period and explicitly with regard to common, transboundary aspects/activities/views/figures.

The information presented on this periodic review will be used in a number of ways by UNESCO:

- (a) for examination by the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves and by the Bureau of the MAB International Coordinating Council;
- (b) for use in a world-wide accessible information system, notably for the UNESCO-MABnet and publications, facilitating communication and interaction amongst persons interested in biosphere reserves throughout the world.

Kindly indicate if any part of this report should remain confidential.

The form consists of three parts:

- Part one is a summary highlighting the main changes in the transboundary biosphere reserve during the reporting period;
- Part two is more descriptive and detailed, referring to the implementation of the Pamplona recommendations;
- Part three consists of 3 annexes. The first will be used to update the directory of biosphere reserves on the MABnet, the second annex will be used to provide promotion and communication materials of the biosphere reserve and the third annex comprises the Pamplona recommendations.

Please provide as many quantitative data as possible as well as supporting documentation to complete the information provided, especially:

- Map(s) clearly showing the zonation of the TBR ;
- The cooperation agreement(s) for the TBR, if appropriate ;
- The update of the official agreement between the governmental authorities, if appropriate;
- An update of the common workplan or successive workplans between the countries.

The form should be completed in English, French or Spanish. Two copies should be sent to the Secretariat, as follows:

1. The original hard copy, with the original signatures, zonation map and supporting documents. This should be sent to the Secretariat through the Official UNESCO channels, i.e. via the National Commission for UNESCO and/or the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.
2. An electronic version (on diskette, CD, etc.) of the periodic review form and of maps (especially the zonation map). This can be sent directly to the MAB Secretariat:

UNESCO
Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
1, rue Miollis
F-75732 Paris Cedex 15, France
Tel: +33 (0)1 45 68 40 67
Fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 58 04
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www.unesco.org/mab

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PART I: SUMMARY

- a) Name of the transboundary biosphere reserve:
- b) Countries and individual biosphere reserves:
- c) Year of designation:
- d) Year(s) of previous transboundary periodic review(s) if appropriate:
- e) Previous recommendation(s) made by the International Co-ordinating Council (MAB-ICC), if applicable:
- f) What follow-up actions are completed and if not completed/initiated, please explain.
- g) Brief summary of the implementation of measures to achieve the objectives of the transboundary biosphere reserve.
- h) Briefly describe the process by which the current periodic review has been conducted:
- i) Updated coordinates of transboundary biosphere reserve (if applicable). If any changes in the standard geographical coordinates please provide them here (all projected under WGS 84):

Cardinal points:	Latitude	Longitude
Most central point:		
Northernmost point:		
Southernmost point:		
Westernmost point:		
Easternmost point:		

j) Human population of the transboundary biosphere reserve (based on national figures):

	Previous report (nomination form or periodic review) and date	At present (please state date of census or other source)
Core Area(s) (permanent and seasonally)		
Buffer Zone(s) (permanent and seasonally)		
Transition Area(s) (permanent and seasonally)		

k) Estimated Budget for transboundary activities and initiatives (main sources of funds, special capital funds) and international, regional or national relevant projects/initiatives completed or carried out.

Estimated budget for the coordinating structure

Budget in the previous report (nomination form or periodic review) and date	Current budget

PART II: PERIODIC REVIEW

1. TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE:

1.1 Year designated:

1.2 Countries and individual biosphere reserves:

1.3 Year of first transboundary periodic review and of any following periodic review(s) (when appropriate):

1.4 Follow-up actions taken in response to each recommendation from the previous periodic review (if applicable), and if not completed/initiated, please explain

1.5 Other observations or comments on the above.

1.6 Describe in detail the process by which the current periodic review for the TBR has been conducted and how it was articulated with the review process in each country:

1.6.1 Which stakeholders were involved?

1.6.2 What methodology was used to involve stakeholders in the process (e.g., workshops, meetings, consultation with experts).

1.6.3 How many meetings, workshops, etc. occurred throughout the process of conducting this review?

1.6.4 Were they well attended, with full and balanced representation?
(Describe participation and stakeholders).

2. ZONATION:

2.1 Please provide an (updated) zonation map on a topographic layer of the precise location and delimitation of the three zones of the transboundary biosphere reserve. (Map(s) must be provided in both paper and electronic copies). Shapefiles (also in WGS 84 projection system) used to produce the map must be attached to the electronic copy of the form.

If possible, also provide a link to access this map on the internet (e.g. Google map, website...).

2.2 Area and spatial configuration of the transboundary biosphere reserve

	Previous report (nomination form or periodic review) and date	Proposed changes (if any)
Area of terrestrial Core Area(s)		
Area of terrestrial Buffer Zone(s)		
Area of terrestrial Transition Area(s)		
Area of marine Core Area(s)		
Area of marine Buffer Zone(s)		
Size of marine Transition Area(s)		

2.3 Have there been any changes with regard to the zonation of the transboundary biosphere reserve since last report? If so please explain

2.4 Brief justification of the zonation and interaction between the three zones .

3. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND CHANGES IN THE TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS:

Main common objectives and measures of the TBR as described in the common workplan(s) including timetable. Update on the workplan(s) between the countries and on the modalities of application, including vision statement, goals and objectives and its duration (Please add a copy).

4. GOAL I: USE BIOSPHERE RESERVES TO CONSERVE NATURAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY, PAMPLONA (2000)

[This refers to progress and achievements on cooperative programs that seek to protect biodiversity at landscape and site levels and/or ecological functions that provide ecosystem goods and services in the transboundary biosphere reserve. Ecosystem dynamics occur across a range of spatial and temporal scales throughout the transboundary biosphere reserve and beyond. (Note how these cross-scale phenomena are being addressed).]

4.1 Significant progress achieved within the cooperative programmes in the main habitat types, ecosystems, species or varieties of importance identified for the transboundary biosphere reserve, (since the last report).

4.2 Are there coordinated management plans, conservation programmes policies or measures in place in order to protect biodiversity (incl. landscapes/ecosystems)? If so, please name them and indicate major changes with regard to the main goals of the management plans/conservation programmes/measures since last report.

4.3 How do you assess the effectiveness of actions or strategies applied?
(Describe the methods, indicators used).

4.4 Describe, if possible, the main stakes for future management and cooperation, including what are the main factors that influenced the successes for future management and cooperation with regard to the transboundary biosphere reserve? Given the experiences and lessons learned in the past ten years, what new specific transboundary measures will be considered to improve conservation?

4.5 Other comments/observations on conservation from a transboundary biosphere reserve perspective, if appropriate.

5. GOAL II: UTILIZE BIOSPHERE RESERVES AS MODELS OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND OF APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PAMPLONA (2000)

[This refers to progress and achievements of the collaborative programs that address sustainability issues at the individual livelihood and community levels, including economic trends in different sectors that drive the need to innovate and/or adapt, the main adaptive strategies being implemented within the transboundary biosphere reserve, and initiatives to develop new sectors to compensate for losses in others, employment, and community well-being over the past ten years or so.]

5.1 Briefly describe the prevailing trends on social and cultural aspects in the transboundary biosphere over the review period, if specific to the transboundary aspects.

5.2 Describe the common social or cultural activities with regard to the transboundary biosphere reserve and its goals.

(Programmes, events, round tables within the transboundary biosphere reserve. Please indicate whether the respective measures taken were successful or not (e.g. number of people reached) and explain why).

5.3 Briefly describe the prevailing trends over the past decade in each main sector of the economic base of the transboundary biosphere reserve (e.g.; agriculture and forest activities, renewable resources, non-renewable resources, manufacturing and construction, tourism and other service industries) if specific to the transboundary aspects.

5.4 Describe the community economic development initiatives within the transboundary biosphere reserve. What shared programmes exist to promote comprehensive strategies for economic innovation, change, and adaptation, and the extent to which they are being implemented within the transboundary biosphere reserve?

5.5 Local business or other economic development initiatives within the transboundary biosphere reserve. Are there any shared specific “green” alternatives being undertaken to address sustainability issues? Relationships (if any) among these different activities.

5.6 What indicators are in place to assess the effectiveness of activities aiming to foster sustainable development? What have these indicators shown?

5.7 Describe the main stakes for future cooperation, including what are the main factors that influenced the success for future cooperation with regard to sustainable development efforts in the transboundary biosphere reserve? Given the experiences and lessons learned in the past ten years, what new strategies or approaches are considered?

5.8 Other comments/observations on development from a transboundary biosphere reserve perspective.

6. GOAL III: USE BIOSPHERE RESERVES FOR RESEARCH, MONITORING, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, PAMPLONA (2000)

[This refers to programs that enhance the capacity of people and organizations in the biosphere reserve to address both conservation and development issues for sustainable development as well as research, monitoring, demonstration projects and education needed to deal with the specific context and conditions of the biosphere reserve.]

6.1 Research and Monitoring:

6.1.1 Brief description and list of publications of past common research and/or monitoring activities/programs or partially initiated research and/or monitoring activities/programs with regard to the transboundary biosphere reserve. Have there been any major changes since last report?

6.1.2 Brief description of on-going common research and/or monitoring activities or partially initiated research and/or monitoring activities with regard to the transboundary biosphere reserve respectively (please refer to variables in Annex I).

6.1.3 Indicate if and how the results of research programs are taken into account in the management of the transboundary biosphere reserve.

6.1.4 Has there been any supporting scientific exchange (e.g.: equipment, geographical mapping, staff)

6.1.5 Indicate the main stakes for future scientific cooperation and monitoring, including what are the main factors that influenced the success for future cooperation with regard to scientific cooperation and monitoring in the transboundary biosphere reserve? Given the experiences and lessons learned in the past ten years, what new strategies or approaches will be considered?

6.2 Common education, training and public awareness programmes:

6.2.1 Describe the types of common activities related to education and public awareness over the past decade and indicate major changes.

6.2.2 Indicate whether there are common facilities for education and training activities, exchange by schools or academic institutions, as well as common visitors' centres for the public within the review period and indicate major changes.

6.3 Internal and external communication channels and media used by the transboundary biosphere reserve:

6.3.1 Is there a website for the transboundary biosphere reserve? If yes, what is its URL?

6.3.2 Is there a common electronic newsletter? If yes, how often will it be published?

6.3.3 Does the transboundary biosphere reserve belong to a social network (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)?

6.3.4 Are there any other (shared) internal communications systems? If so, describe them.

6.3.5 Communications strategy for the transboundary biosphere reserve including different approaches and tools geared towards the community and/or towards soliciting outside support.

7. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

7.1 Update on the validity of the official agreement between the governmental authorities, regarding the transboundary biosphere reserve and if appropriate provide a copy of a renewed agreement.

7.2. Coordinating structure of the transboundary biosphere reserve:

7.2.1 Name the structure, give the memberships and describe the functioning (incl. financing and staff). Who are the authorities in charge of the coordination/management of the transboundary biosphere reserve, does it have a permanent secretariat and who are the focal points for coordination in each individual biosphere reserve.

7.2.2 If appropriate, note important changes in governance and/or institutional arrangements for the transboundary biosphere reserve, and changes (if any) in the coordinating arrangements (including the national biosphere reserve organization).

7.2.3 Other mechanisms of consultation and co-ordination among the different stakeholders in the transboundary biosphere reserve, including mechanism for involvement of local communities into common activities and programmes of the transboundary biosphere reserve (Indicate how and to what extent local people living within or near the biosphere reserve participate to the decision process and management resource).

7.2.4 Indicate whether you consider the participation of local communities to be satisfactory and, if not, what measures are envisaged to improve this situation.

7.2.5 Challenges encountered in the management/coordination of the transboundary biosphere reserve to its effective functioning.

7.3 Financial source(s) and yearly budget of the coordinating structure of the transboundary biosphere reserve and of workplan and common programmes, shared staff respectively: Budget and staff support, including approximate average annual amounts (or range from year-to-year); main sources of funds (including financial partnerships established (private/public), innovative financial schemes); special capital funds (if applicable); number of full and/or part-time staff; in-kind contribution of staff ; volunteer contributions of time or other support.

7.3.1 for the coordinating structure

7.3.2 for the workplan and common programmes

7.4 Does the transboundary biosphere reserve have cooperative activities with other transboundary biosphere reserves (exchanges of information and personnel, joint programmes, etc.)?

8. CONCLUSION : PROGRESS MADE:

[Conclude by highlighting the major changes, achievements, and progress made in the transboundary biosphere reserve since nomination or the last periodic review.]

8.1 Main lessons learnt:

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8.2 Main achievements (success stories/best practices to be shared):

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8.3 Obstacles encountered, measures to be taken and, if appropriate, assistance expected from the Secretariat:

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8.4 Main cooperation activities planned in the future and monitoring plan:

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9. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[List of the annexes submitted with periodic review report.]

(1) Updated location and zonation map with coordinates

[Provide the transboundary biosphere reserve's standard geographical coordinates (all projected under WGS 84). Provide a map on a topographic layer of the precise location and delimitation of the three zones of the transboundary biosphere reserve (Map(s) shall be provided in both paper and electronic copies). Shapefiles (also in WGS 84 projection system) used to produce the map must also be attached to the electronic copy of the form. If applicable, also provide a link to access this map on the internet (e.g. Google map, website...)]

(2) Updated cooperation plans and common workplan(s)

[List existing land use and management/cooperation plans (with dates and reference numbers) for the administrative area(s) included within the transboundary biosphere reserve. Provide a copy of these documents. It is recommended to produce an English, French or Spanish synthesis of its contents and a translation of its most relevant provisions.]

(3) Updated official agreement between the governmental authorities, if appropriate

(4) Updated list of main bibliographic references (to be annexed)

[Provide a list of the main joint publications and articles of relevance to transboundary biosphere reserve.]

(5) Further supporting documents.

10. ADDRESSES

[Contact address of the transboundary biosphere reserve for all official correspondence.]

10.1 Contact address of the transboundary biosphere reserve:

Name: _____

Street or P.O. Box: _____

City with postal code: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Web site: _____

Annex I to the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Periodic Review
January 2013
MABnet Directory of Biosphere Reserves

Administrative details

Countries:

Name of TBR:

Year designated:

Administrative authorities: (7.)

Name Contact: (10.1)

Contact address: *(Including phone number, postal and email addresses)* (10.1)

Related links: *(web sites)*

Social networks: (6.3.3)

Description

General description:

Approximately 25 lines

Major ecosystem type:

Major habitats & land cover types:

Bioclimatic region:

Location (latitude & longitude):

Total Area (ha):

Core area(s):

Buffer zone(s):

Transition area(s) :

Different existing zonation:

Altitudinal range (metres above sea level):

Zonation map(s) (refer to section 2.1):

Main objectives of the transboundary biosphere reserve**Brief description**

Approximately 5 lines

Research**Brief description**

Approximately 5 lines

Monitoring**Brief description**

Approximately 5 lines

Specific variables (fill in the table below and tick the relevant parameters)

Abiotic		Biodiversity	
Abiotic factors		Afforestation/Reforestation	
Acidic deposition/Atmospheric factors		Algae	
Air quality		Alien and/or invasive species	
Air temperature		Amphibians	
Climate, climatology		Arid and semi-arid systems	
Contaminants		Autoecology	
Drought		Beach/soft bottom systems	
Erosion		Benthos	
Geology		Biodiversity aspects	
Geomorphology		Biogeography	
Geophysics		Biology	
Glaciology		Biotechnology	
Global change		Birds	
Groundwater		Boreal forest systems	
Habitat issues		Breeding	
Heavy metals		Coastal/marine systems	
Hydrology		Community studies	
Indicators		Conservation	
Meteorology		Coral reefs	
Modeling		Degraded areas	
Monitoring/methodologies		Desertification	
Nutrients		Dune systems	
Physical oceanography		Ecology	
Pollution, pollutants		Ecosystem assessment	
Siltation/sedimentation		Ecosystem functioning/structure	
Soil		Ecosystem services	
Speleology		Ecotones	
Topography		Endemic species	
Toxicology		Ethology	
UV radiation		Evapotranspiration	
		Evolutionary studies/Palaeoecology	
		Fauna	
		Fires/fire ecology	
		Fishes	
		Flora	
		Forest systems	
		Freshwater systems	
		Fungi	
		Genetic resources	
		Genetically modified organisms	
		Home gardens	
		Indicators	
		Invertebrates	
		Island systems/studies	
		Lagoon systems	
		Lichens	
		Mammals	
		Mangrove systems	
		Mediterranean type systems	
		Microorganisms	

	Migrating populations	
	Modeling	
	Monitoring/methodologies	
	Mountain and highland systems	
	Natural and other resources	
	Natural medicinal products	
	Perturbations and resilience	
	Pests/Diseases	
	Phenology	
	Phytosociology/Succession	
	Plankton	
	Plants	
	Polar systems	
	Pollination	
	Population genetics/dynamics	
	Productivity	
	Rare/Endangered species	
	Reptiles	
	Restoration/Rehabilitation	
	Species (re) introduction	
	Species inventorying	
	Sub-tropical and temperate rainforest	
	Taxonomy	
	Temperate forest systems	
	Temperate grassland systems	
	Tropical dry forest systems	
	Tropical grassland and savannah systems	
	Tropical humid forest systems	
	Tundra systems	
	Vegetation studies	
	Volcanic/Geothermal systems	
	Wetland systems	
	Wildlife	

Socio-economic		Integrated monitoring	
Agriculture/Other production systems		Biogeochemical studies	
Agroforestry		Carrying capacity	
Anthropological studies		Climate change	
Aquaculture		Conflict analysis/resolution	
Archaeology		Ecosystem approach	
Bioprospecting		Education and public awareness	
Capacity building		Environmental changes	
Cottage (home-based) industry		Geographic Information System (GIS)	
Cultural aspects		Impact and risk studies	
Demography		Indicators	
Economic studies		Indicators of environmental quality	
Economically important species		Infrastructure development	
Energy production systems		Institutional and legal aspects	
Ethnology/traditional practices/knowledge		Integrated studies	
Firewood cutting		Interdisciplinary studies	
Fishery		Land tenure	
Forestry		Land use/Land cover	
Human health		Landscape inventorying/monitoring	
Human migration		Management issues	
Hunting		Mapping	
Indicators		Modeling	
Indicators of sustainability		Monitoring/methodologies	
Indigenous people's issues		Planning and zoning measures	
Industry		Policy issues	
Livelihood measures		Remote sensing	
Livestock and related impacts		Rural systems	
Local participation		Sustainable development/use	
Micro-credits		Transboundary issues/measures	
Mining		Urban systems	
Modeling		Watershed studies/monitoring	
Monitoring/methodologies			
Natural hazards			
Non-timber forest products			
Pastoralism			
People-Nature relations			
Poverty			
Quality economies/marketing			
Recreation			
Resource use			
Role of women			
Sacred sites			
Small business initiatives			
Social/Socio-economic aspects			
Stakeholders' interests			
Tourism			
Transports			

**Annex II to the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Periodic Review
January 2013**

**Promotion and Communication Materials
for transboundary biosphere reserve**

Provide some promotional material regarding the site, notably high quality photos, and/or short videos on the site so as to allow the Secretariat to prepare appropriate files for press events. To this end, a selection of photographs in high resolution (300 dpi), with photo credits and captions and video footage (rushes), without any comments or sub-titles, of professional quality – DV CAM or BETA only, will be needed.

In addition, return a signed copy of the following Agreements on Non-Exclusive Rights for photo(s) and video(s).



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединённых Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترقية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

UNESCO Photo Library

Bureau of Public Information

AGREEMENT GRANTING NON-EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

Reference:

1. a) I, the undersigned, copyright-holder of the above mentioned photo(s).....hereby grant to UNESCO free of charge the non-exclusive right to exploit, publish, reproduce, diffuse, communicate to the public in any form and on any support, including digital, all or part of the photograph(s) and to licence these rights to third parties on the basis of the rights herein vested in UNESCO
2. b) These rights are granted to UNESCO for the legal term of copyright throughout the world.
3. c) The name of the photographer will be cited alongside UNESCO's whenever his/her work is used in any form.
4. I certify that:
 - a) I am the sole copyright holder of the photo(s) and am the owner of the rights granted by virtue of this agreement and other rights conferred to me by national legislation and pertinent international conventions on copyright and that I have full rights to enter into this agreement.
 - b) The photo(s) is/are in no way whatever a violation or an infringement of any existing copyright or licence, and contain(s) nothing obscene, libellous or defamatory.

Name and Address:

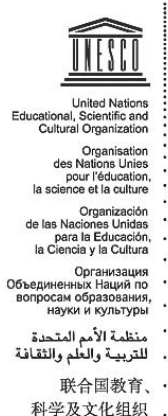
Signature :

Date :

(Sign, return to UNESCO two copies of the Agreement and retain the original for yourself)

Mailing address: 7 Place Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, Direct Telephone: 00331 – 45681687

Direct Fax: 00331 – 45685655; e-mail: photobank@unesco.org; mab@unesco.org



UNESCO video library

Bureau of Public Information

AGREEMENT GRANTING NON-EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

Reference:

1. a) I....., the undersigned, copyright-holder of the above mentioned video(s)hereby grant to UNESCO free of charge the non-exclusive right to exploit, publish, reproduce, diffuse, communicate to the public in any form and on any support, including digital, all or part of the photograph(s) and to licence these rights to third parties on the basis of the rights herein vested in UNESCO
2. b) These rights are granted to UNESCO for the legal term of copyright throughout the world.
3. c) The name of the author/copyright holder will be cited alongside UNESCO's whenever his/her work is used in any form.
4. I certify that:
 - a) I am the sole copyright holder of the video(s) and am the owner of the rights granted by virtue of this agreement and other rights conferred to me by national legislation and pertinent international conventions on copyright and that I have full rights to enter into this agreement.
 - b) The video(s) is/are in no way whatever a violation or an infringement of any existing copyright or licence, and contain(s) nothing obscene, libellous or defamatory.

Name and Address:

Signature :

Date :

(Sign, return to UNESCO two copies of the Agreement and retain the original for yourself)

Mailing address: 7 Place Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, Direct Telephone: 00331 – 45681687

Direct Fax: 00331 – 45685655; e-mail: photobank@unesco.org; mab@unesco.org

**Annex III to the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Periodic Review,
January 2013
Pamplona Recommendations (Spain, 2000)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
For the Establishment and Functioning of
Transboundary Biosphere Reserves**

As borders between states are political and not ecological, ecosystems often occur across national boundaries, and may be subject to different, or even conflicting, management and land use practices. Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR) provide a tool for common management. A TBR is an official recognition at an international level and by a UN institution of a political will to co-operate in the conservation and sustainable use through common management of a shared ecosystem. It also represents a commitment of two or more countries to apply together the Seville Strategy for biosphere reserves and its objectives. It corresponds to the increasing recognition of the appropriateness of the ecosystem approach, for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The recommendations presented below deal with the establishment of TBR, the measures which can be taken to respond to the MAB principles and in particular the goals of the Seville Strategy and the way of ensuring that a TBR is truly operational. However, it should be kept in mind that, although the biosphere reserve provides a general framework for action in a transboundary location, the real-world situations will vary very much from a place to another, and flexibility is needed even more than in a national context.

The process leading towards the official designation of a TBR can include many forms of cooperation and co-ordination among the existing areas on either side of a border. These serve as a basis for formalising the TBR proposal and should be encouraged.

Procedure for the establishment of a TBR

Up until now, all existing TBR were established as separate biosphere reserves in individual countries before being designated as TBR. However, it could be envisaged in the future that a TBR be established jointly by the countries concerned in one step. In both cases, the ultimate aim should be to have one *functional biosphere reserve*.

In these two different scenarios, the following respective procedures are recommended:

- Establishment of a biosphere reserve on each side of the border;
- or, when the TBR is established in one step, definition of the zoning of the area according to the general criteria for designation of biosphere reserves.
- Identification of local and national partners and establishment of a working group to define the basis and identify key issues for co-operation.
- Signing of an official agreement between governmental authorities regarding the TBR.
- Nomination of the various parts by the respective State authorities;
- or, when the TBR is established in one step, joint nomination for the whole area by the concerned State authorities.

- In both scenarios, indication of the main components of a plan for co-operation in the future.
- Official designation by ICC MAB of UNESCO.

Functioning of the TBR

Among the measures recommended to make the TBR function effectively, priority should be given to:

- Preparation and adoption of a zonation plan for the whole area and implementation of the zonation by strict protection of core areas, delimitation of the buffer zones and coordinated objectives for the transition areas; this implies that the countries concerned have a common understanding of the characteristics of each of the zones, and that similar management measures are in place for each zone.
- When the zonation plan is defined, publication on a joint map of the zonation.
- Definition of common objectives and measures, work plan, time table, and required budget; this should be a demand driven process, based on perceived needs or management requirements. This work plan should take into account the elements listed under the goals of the Seville Strategy as suggested below.
- Identification of potential funding sources for the work plan and joint or simultaneous application for these funds.
- Establishment of a means of communication between the co-ordinators/managers of the different parts of the TBR, including electronic mail when feasible.
- Efforts towards harmonised management structures on each side.

Institutional Mechanism

The TBR will not function without a joint structure devoted to its co-ordination. Although this structure can vary greatly from one TBR to another, the following points can be recommended:

- The co-ordinating structure is representative of various administrations and the scientific boards, as well as the authorities in charge of the protected areas, the representatives of local communities, interested and affected groups, including youth, and of the private sector.
- The NGO sector in the area is also represented in the structure.
- This structure has a permanent secretariat, and a budget is devoted to its functioning.
- A person is designated on each side to act as a focal point for co-operation.
- General and regular meetings of the co-ordinating structure are complemented by thematic groups, on an *ad hoc* basis, in order to create a platform for discussion among stakeholders from the countries concerned, with a view to promote all opportunities for exchanging views and knowledge.
- Joint staff teams are operational for specific tasks.
- An association is set up with the specific aim of promoting the TBR.

RESPONDING TO THE GOALS OF THE SEVILLE STRATEGY

Goal I: Use Biosphere Reserves to Conserve Natural and Cultural Diversity

In order to develop a concerted strategy for conservation, the following measures can be recommended:

- Co-ordination of regulatory measures on protection and, in case of incompatibility, their harmonisation.
- Common or co-ordinated policies for threatened and protected species and ecosystems, migratory species, as well as control of invasive alien species.
- Common or co-ordinated policies for rehabilitation and restoration of degraded areas.
- Co-ordinated action against illegal activities such as wildlife poaching and unauthorised logging.

Goal II: Utilize Biosphere Reserves as Models of Land Management and of Approaches to Sustainable Development

The human component of biosphere reserves and their role in promoting approaches to sustainable development can lead to a variety of forms of co-operation, ranging from the use of natural resources to the protection of cultural heritage. Among the measures that can be recommended in TBR are the following:

- Co-ordination of management practices, for example in forestry, logging, forest regeneration, or in the field of pollution control.
- Identification of possible perverse incentive and promotion of viable sustainable alternatives.
- Elaboration and supporting of the implementation of a joint tourism policy.
- Promotion of partnership among various groups of stakeholders having the same interests, in order to make the TBR a common project.
- Promotion of participation of local communities in the TBR, including local NGOs.
- Promotion of joint cultural events and fostering of co-operation on cultural and historical heritage preservation.
- Developing of common strategies for planning based on research and monitoring.

Goal III: Use Biosphere Reserves for Research, Monitoring, Education and Training

Joint activities on research and monitoring should be led by scientific boards and planned in joint sessions; these activities could be carried out along the following lines:

- Define and implement joint research programmes.
- Develop common data collection formats, indicators, monitoring and evaluation methods.
- Exchange existing data, including maps and geographical information, and facilitate access to results of research.
- Share scientific information, including through the organisation of workshops, conferences, etc.
- Share equipment when feasible.
- Jointly publish results of common research.
- Develop joint mapping and GIS.

Many joint activities in the field of education and training can be recommended, such as:

- Organisation of joint training courses and technical meetings for managers and field staff.
- Promotion of staff exchanges.
- Promotion of understanding of neighbouring country's culture.
- Organisation of linguistic training when needed.
- Exchanges of scientists between universities and academic and research institutions of each country.
- School exchanges.
- Launching of participatory training programmes for various groups of stakeholders.

Information and public awareness are crucially important to develop a common understanding and build support for and appropriation of the objectives of the TBR by the different stakeholders. Therefore, the rationale and objectives of the TBR should be explained by varied means to different target groups (decision makers, local populations, visitors, schools, scientists, managers, etc). Among other activities, the following can be recommended:

- Develop a common public relations' strategy with the aim of raising awareness and promoting the TBR.
- Produce information material, brochures, books, etc.
- Organise exhibits and events around the TBR.
- Develop a common logo for the TBR, as well as a common design for published material.
- Implement joint demonstration projects.
- Set up a common internet site.