



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 of
Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

STATEMENT

The World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserve was established in 2012, in order to fulfill some recommendations of the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserve 2008-2013, and to find some solutions for common issues to deal with Climate Change and Sustainable Development in island and coastal regions.

The 5th Meeting was held in Attard, Malta, on 24-26 March 2015 and 18 BRs from 13 countries joined the meeting. Participants came from Republic of Korea (Jeju Island and Gochang BRs), Spain (Menorca, La Palma and Urdaibai BRs), Estonia (West Estonian Archipelago BR), Australia (Noosa BR), Sao Tome & Principe (Principe BR), Tunisia (Zembra and Zembretta BR), Japan (Yakushima BR), the Philippines (Palawan BR), Chile (Campana Peñuelas BR), Canada (Fundy BR), France (Iles et Mer d'Iroise BR), Portugal (possible future Sao Jorge BR in the Azores), Germany (three German Wattenmeer BRs), and the MAB National Committees of the Republic of Korea and Spain, the UNESCO National Commissions of Malta, Iceland 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 the Biosphere Reserves.' The participants introduced their related Biosphere Reserve and examined future action plans and made a few decisions as follows.

Conclusions:

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

As the number of Biosphere Reserve members increased and as the management criteria is vague, it is necessary to establish management regulations for systematically managing



and inducing continuous network activities. 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 will be held in Lima, Peru, during the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, 14-19 March, 2016.

3. The Network's Newsletter

Jeju and Menorca Secretariat continue preparing the Network's newsletter every six months. It will be notified on the Jeju / Menorca and UNESCO web sites. BR members are invited to share useful information on their BR sites through this newsletter.

4. Publication of a casebook study

A wide range of 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 are invited to provide appropriate content and submit it as soon as possible.

5. Sharing information on BR activities

BR members should share their various activities with others such as utilizing the BR Brand, for profit creation and contribution to conservation and sustainable development. BR members could present their successful activities at the upcoming network meeting, and share them on the newsletter. Moreover, under the mutual consultation, the BR members could benchmark each other by field study.

6. Suggestions on research projects and training workshop

Joint research projects on climate change are implemented by Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve, and a project on sustainable development is implemented by Menorca Biosphere Reserve. Suggestions from all the participants for these research projects would be appreciated to draw effective results. Also a training course for biosphere reserve managers has been implemented in Jeju Island since 2013, and the next program is scheduled for October, 2015. Participation and support would be appreciated for the successful achievement 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 organizing in an excellent way this important event.