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THE "20 IN 2000 CAMPAIGN"

**A Proposal for the Functional Development
of U.S. Biosphere Reserves**

U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program

Biosphere Reserve Directorate

February 1996

Summary:

The mission of the biosphere reserve program is to "establish and support a U.S. network of biosphere reserves that represent the biogeographical areas of the U.S. In the U.S., there are currently 47 biosphere reserves consisting of 99 UNESCO - designated sites. Using biosphere reserves as demonstration areas the biosphere reserve program "promotes a sustainable balance among the conservation of biological diversity, compatible economic use, and cultural values through interdisciplinary research, education and training.

The Biosphere Reserve Directorate proposes a national campaign to support regional and local partnerships that have the capability and interest in implementing and integrating the functions of a biosphere reserve -- conservation, sustainable development, and networking. The objective is to catalyze the efforts of 20 partnerships so that each one is making substantial progress towards the successful integration of conservation and human use in each of their regions. There are currently at least 27 UNESCO designated biosphere reserves reporting relevant cooperative programs; but only 14 of these explicitly identify with biosphere reserve goals. Within the entire U.S. network, there are now 8 regional biosphere reserve related organizations, of which only 2 have requested formal affiliation with USMAB (see Table 1).

The U.S. Biosphere Reserve Directorate intends for this program to present tangible, observable, and measurable outcomes in at least 20 U.S. Biosphere Reserves by the end of the year 2000. The Directorate requests \$360K for the first year to initiate the "20 in 2000 Campaign". Funds requested in subsequent years will depend on the program's progress -- based on indicators developed by the Directorate (preliminary list in Table 2) and accepted by the National Committee.

Background:

In 1994, the U.S. National Committee for MAB approved the Strategic Plan for the U. S. Biosphere Reserve Program. The mission of the program is to "establish and support a U.S. network of biosphere reserves that represent the biogeographical areas of the United States." Using the biosphere reserves as demonstration areas, the program "promotes a sustainable balance among the conservation of biological diversity, compatible economic use, and cultural values, through public and private partnerships, interdisciplinary research, education, and communication."

The geographic framework for the program presently consists of the 47 UNESCO-designated U.S. biosphere reserves (USBR). These include 99 UNESCO-designated sites under Federal, state, local, and private ownership which are managed for a variety of conservation, research, educational and multiple-use objectives. The geographic framework also includes open-ended undesignated areas of cooperation surrounding these sites where site managers are working with other ecosystem stakeholders to demonstrate practical solutions for regional conservation and sustainable development problems. The institutional framework for the U.S. biosphere reserve program includes the agencies and organizations that manage the designated sites, and the many government agencies, private entities, and local citizens that are participating in partnerships and cooperative activities involving these sites.

The particular importance of biosphere reserves to society lies in their value as models for integrating conservation and sustainable human uses in geographic areas defined on the basis of the interactions of their biological, physical, and human components. The development of these models is a long-term process involving the gradual harmonization of many functions, including environmental monitoring, research, education, demonstration, training, information management, communication, and -- of greatest importance -- local participation through the establishment of cooperative organizations and mechanisms that identify explicitly with biosphere reserve concepts. The intentional association of these models in a global network creates significant opportunities for sharing data, information, technologies, and experience to understand and respond creatively to multi-regional and global problems, such as atmospheric pollution, habitat fragmentation, climatic change, cultural change, and community development.

Each U.S. biosphere reserve is unique with respect to its capabilities and interests in implementing biosphere reserve functions. Many consist of a single site that is carrying out one or a few biosphere reserve functions but lacks the legal authority, capability, or the interest to implement others. These BRs are mostly national parks and experimental research areas designated between 1976 and 1980 for their conservation or research functions. Most have limited capability to demonstrate the sustainable development role of biosphere reserves. In these cases, the biosphere reserve is named after the administrative site and has the same boundary. More recently designated USBRs include clusters of sites, usually under different ownership, that carry out complementary functions. Each site is part of a larger biosphere reserve named after the region. These BRs were designated between 1981 and 1991 when the role of biosphere reserves in demonstrating the marriage of conservation, culture, and

sustainable economic development was becoming widely recognized and pursued. The managers of many of these BRs participate in relevant cooperative regional partnerships working to implement biosphere reserve concepts (see Table 1). Since 1990, several sites have been added to regional biosphere reserves. However, U.S. MAB de-emphasized nominations of new biosphere reserves during the 4-year planning effort that led, in 1994, to the National Committee's approval of the Strategic Plan and the establishment of the Biosphere Reserve Directorate to coordinate its implementation.

Moreover, recent international developments complement U.S. MAB's efforts to increase the contributions of biosphere reserves. Last November, UNESCO's General Conference approved a statutory framework establishing the definition, functions, criteria, and designation procedure for biosphere reserves. As many BRs are not fulfilling current requirements, the framework provides for the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves to review the status of each biosphere reserve every 10 years based on national reports and to recommend measures to improve performance. UNESCO has also approved an implementation strategy embodying the recommendations of the March 1995 international conference on biosphere reserves in Seville, at which 114 nations were represented. The Strategy, which has a similar format and structure to the U.S. Strategic Plan, sets forth goals and objectives for developing effective BRs and a functioning World Wide Network. Both documents offer useful and flexible guidance for serious initiatives to implement the biosphere reserve concept.

Increased U.S. MAB support for local BR partnerships would be timely and productive. In a 1995 Biosphere Reserve Directorate survey¹, nearly all reporting BR managers indicated participation in cooperative programs related to biosphere reserve concepts and goals. *Managers reported facilitation of ecosystem management as the most significant benefit of BR status. About half reported participation in cooperative programs identified explicitly with biosphere reserve concepts. These managers reported greater management benefits, more partners, and more interaction with private organizations and community organizations than those participating in programs that are merely consistent, but not explicitly identified, with biosphere reserve concepts and goals.* In the workshop, one of the manager's strongest recommendations was that U.S. MAB play a stronger role in facilitating and encouraging regional and local cooperation in biosphere reserve planning and implementation.

A few U.S. biosphere reserves are in the forefront of efforts to demonstrate the benefits of ecosystem management and bioregional cooperation. However, many local groups are carrying out innovative programs without reference to ecosystem management or the biosphere reserve concept. At its January meeting, the Biosphere Reserve Directorate recommended that U.S. MAB position itself to take a leadership role in ecosystem management, compatible economic development, and stakeholder led initiatives. This positioning would facilitate communication with regional and local groups, recognize their experience and contributions, and encourage their involvement as partners in the U.S. Biosphere

¹Conducted by the Directorate to gain insight and input for the Biosphere Reserve Managers workshop (October 31 through November 1, 1995).

Reserve Program. Some of these partnerships may eventually lead to nominations of new biosphere reserves or help existing biosphere reserves more fully implement biosphere reserve concepts. (Reference: Discussion on "Policy on Designating U.S. Biosphere Reserves" which is later on the agenda.)

The "20 in 2000 Campaign":

The Directorate proposes a national campaign to support regional and local partnerships that have the capability and interests in implementing and integrating the functions of a biosphere reserve. The goal of the campaign is to catalyze the efforts of 20 partnerships so that, by the end of the year 2000, each is making substantial progress toward a successful marriage of conservation and sustainable use of resources in the region. A complementary goal is that each partnership become an integral part of the U.S. MAB program, actively pursuing the goals of the Strategic Plan.

In conjunction with its ongoing review of the biogeographic coverage of USBRs and in preparation for the initiative, the Directorate will assess the status of already designated USBRs and areas under study for nomination with respect to the indicators of functional BRs (Table 2). The assessment will include a review of available information on the activities of outside bioregional groups in order to identify groups that might help fill biogeographic or functional gaps.

The Directorate will immediately prepare a detailed prospectus describing the Campaign, including a strategy for promotion through public announcements, electronic publications, and media development. Once the proposal is approved for funding, the Directorate, with the assistance of the U.S. MAB Chairman and National Committee members, will initiate discussions to determine the interest of professional societies, non-governmental organizations, service groups, and other entities in publicizing the initiative, developing public support, and serving as cosponsors. Moreover, contacts will be made with foundations, corporations, and other potential private funding sources with the objective of achieving their support. The proposed establishment of a MAB foundation or other mechanism for enlisting private sector participation in the U.S. MAB program, as recommended by the Constable Commission, would greatly facilitate this support.

The Directorate will invite BR managers and local partnerships interested in participating in the initiative to prepare a brief statement describing their capabilities and specific interests in the Strategic Plan and building a cooperative program to implement biosphere reserve functions in their region. The Capability and Interest Statement would identify issues of local concern, describe existing capabilities and needs to address these issues, recommend how U.S. MAB support could help facilitate and support local cooperation, including local financial and in-kind support, and designate the point of contact. Although any BR manager or local partnership may submit a statement, the Directorate will actively encourage submission of statements from regional biosphere reserve organizations, the managers of USBR sites that meet a majority of the criteria for a functioning biosphere reserve (see Table 2), and outside groups working in biogeographic regions or functional areas that could help fill identified gaps in the U.S.

network -- including groups actively working on BR nominations (see Table 1).

The Directorate will utilize the Capability and Interest Statements to select regions for participation in the "20 in 2000 Campaign".² The BR managers and local partnerships for the selected regions will be eligible to receive various types of support from U.S. MAB, on a competitive basis during the 4 year period, 1996-2000. This support will include some combination of:

1. SMALL GRANTS, providing catalytic support for:

- biosphere reserve promotion and public education
- workshops and forums on regional issues
- applications of MAB Research Directorate methodologies to meet local needs
- domestic and international exchanges of personnel among BRs,
- feasibility studies
- BR planning and program coordination

2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE from USBR program specialists, e.g., for briefing local interests, and developing nominations for new BRs or additions to designated sites.

3. TRAINING

- biosphere reserve concepts
- developing regional partnerships
- developing electronic communication capability
- networking, e.g. -- U.S. MAB's ACCESS Information System, SI/MAB Biodiversity Program (BioMon), etc.

In late 1996, the Directorate will hold a workshop with the designated contacts from the selected local partnerships to provide an overview of the U.S. MAB Program and the "20-in-2000 Campaign", review relevant experience in each selected area, and match local interests and needs with opportunities for support from U.S. MAB.

Following the workshop, each local partnership will prepare a multi-year proposal for U.S. MAB support. The Directorate will establish criteria for competitive review of proposals for each category of assistance. **Priority will be given to local initiatives** that use U.S. MAB assistance to obtain endorsements and to leverage funding and in-kind support from local agencies, organizations, and citizen groups.

The Directorate will provide general guidance as needed to support the development of regional

²More than 20 areas may initially be selected. The goal is to have 20 fully functional areas at the end of the year 2000.

partnerships. For example, at the recent USBR managers workshop, managers recommended that U.S. MAB coordinate a review of legal authorities and mechanisms available to BR managers for participation in regional partnerships to achieve BR goals.

Program assessment will be a cooperative activity involving the Directorate, each local partnership, and the managers of participating and nearby biosphere reserves. The Directorate will periodically review each partnership's accomplishments in terms of indicators of a fully functional biosphere reserve (preliminary list in Table 2), and provide suggestions for the partnership's consideration in filling gaps. Each partnership will periodically assess how well its activities are helping the partners formulate and achieve their goals for sustaining ecosystem processes and biodiversity and for enhancing the economic, social, cultural and spiritual well-being of local communities. This interactive assessment process will enable U.S. MAB's assistance to be continuously tailored to meet local needs.

The U.S. Biosphere Reserve Program Coordinator in the U.S. MAB Secretariat will have principal day to day responsibility for coordinating the Campaign, including preparation of an annual report to the National Committee.

The Directorate is requesting that U.S. MAB provide \$360K for the first year budget and approximately that amount for each of the subsequent three years to support the initiative (first year budget attached). About two thirds of the first year's budget will be used to expand the small grants program, and the remainder for program planning, technical assistance, and training.

It is expected that U.S. MAB funds will be increasingly leveraged at both the national and local levels so that, by the year 2000, self-sustaining cooperative regional biosphere reserve programs will be in operation in all 20 areas. We believe these programs will make important contributions to cooperative, adaptive management of regional ecosystems, as envisioned by the Interagency Ecosystem Management Task Force; and toward achieving the goals of the Biodiversity Convention and Agenda 21. These programs will also facilitate MAB's efforts to develop an integrated program, in which local biosphere reserve organizations become key beneficiaries and supporters of MAB activities. With this role in mind, we recommend that the National Committee encourage use of the "20-in-2000 Campaign" for Directorate research and other U.S. MAB projects wherever possible.

Table 1. Status of Cooperative Efforts to Implement Biosphere Reserve Concepts**Cooperative Programs Reported By Biosphere Reserves***

Big Bend National Park
California Coast Ranges Biosphere Reserve (various sites)
Carolinian - South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve (various sites)
Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve (various sites)
Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Reserve
Coram Experimental Forest
Denali National Park
Desert Experimental Range
Everglades National Park
Fraser Experimental Forest
Glacier National Park
Glacier Bay - Admiralty Island Biosphere Reserve
Hawaiian Islands Biosphere Reserve
Isle Royale National Park
Land Between the Lakes
Luquillo Experimental Forest
Mammoth Cave Area Biosphere Reserve
Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Reserve (various sites)
New Jersey Pinelands
Niwot Ridge
Noatak Biosphere Reserve
Olympic National Park
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Rocky Mountain National Park
San Dimas Experimental Forest
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
South Atlantic Coastal Plain Biosphere Reserve (various sites)
Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve (various sites)

* source: October 1995 survey of USBR managers; includes several biosphere reserves participating in above cooperatives. Programs explicitly identified with BR goals are in **boldface**.

Cooperative Regional Organizations Explicitly Identified with Biosphere Reserve Goals

Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve 1/ - nonprofit org.
Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Reserve - steering committee
Land Between the Lakes Biosphere Reserve - steering committee
Mammoth Cave Area Biosphere Reserve Cooperative
Sonoran Desert Alliance
Virgin Islands Research and Resource Management Cooperative

1/ proposed for redesignation as Golden Gate BR

U.S. MAB-Affiliated Regional Biosphere Reserve Cooperatives

Colorado Rockies Regional Cooperative (affiliation proposed)
Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Cooperative

Partnerships for Biosphere Reserve Nominations

Catskills Biosphere Reserve - organizing committee
Lake Superior Binational Program - special designations committee
Ozark Highlands Biosphere Reserve - steering committee
Tijuana Watershed International MAB Project

Table 2. Indicators for Functioning Biosphere Reserves

- Biogeocultural region for cooperation is widely recognized and supported
- Partnership focuses explicitly on implementing goals of U.S. Biosphere Reserve Program
- Partnership is sponsoring forums on local and regional issues
- There is broad ownership of the regional program by local communities, natural resource users and managers, educators and local schools, the research community, socioeconomic development agencies, and organizations associated with motivating action (e.g., service and religious organizations)
- Each designated site has a plan that sets forth its role in the regional BR program
- A descriptive zonation has been completed to show the relationships among participating biosphere reserve sites, and associated areas of cooperation
- Education (including extension) and outreach activities are being implemented and expanded
- Electronic communication capability operational at BR sites (E-Mail, data communication, local BR home page)
- MAB interdisciplinary research underway, or methodologies developed through MAB research being applied
- Long-term research on natural and human systems is underway
- Environmental monitoring in designated sites is coordinated among sites and with surrounding region
- BR participating in BioMon or similar biodiversity monitoring program
- All BR sites participating in MAB Information System (including ACCESS and MABFlora/MABFauna)
- Regional GIS developed and being expanded
- International cooperation is being incorporated

ATTACHMENT**FIRST YEAR BUDGET REQUEST TO U.S. MAB**

SMALL GRANTS	\$300,000¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catalytic support for existing BRs (15)• Feasibility studies for new BRs (5)• Cooperative planning ventures (5)• Applications of MAB methodologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">\$200,000\$ 25,000\$ 25,000\$ 50,000
NETWORK ASSESSMENT	funded
PLANNING WORKSHOP (late 1996)	\$10,000²
PROMOTION	\$15,000
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (20 trips @1K)	\$20,000³
TRAINING	\$15,000⁴
<i>TOTAL REQUEST</i>	<i>\$360,000</i>

¹matching funds to be solicited from private sources; additional 45K available from unobligated funds in FY 1995

²additional 10K available from unobligated funds for managers workshop

³primarily for travel of Biosphere Reserve Program coordinator at the MAB Secretariat and other specialists identified by the Directorate

⁴support for training may be also available through coordination with ACCESS Information System, MABNetAmericas, MABFauna/MABFlora, Research Directorate programs, and SI/MAB Biodiversity Program (prop.)

TIME LINE FOR "20 IN 2000 CAMPAIGN"

	1996		1997
	F M A M J J A S O N D		J F M A
HIRE COORDINATOR	X		
NETWORK REVIEW	XXXXX		
PREPARE PROSPECTUS	XXXXX		
INFORM CANDIDATES		XXXXX	
CAPABILITY & INTEREST CALL/DUE		X	X
SELECT PARTNERSHIPS			X
HOLD WORKSHOP			X
PROPOSALS DUE			X
AWARD GRANTS			X
CONDUCT OUTREACH		XXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
ARRANGE MATCHING FUNDS		XXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
	F M A M J J A S O N D		J F M A
	1996		1997