



U.S.
MAB

United States Man and the Biosphere Program

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Guidance for Regional MAB Organizational Efforts

Introduction and Background

The U.S. MAB Program is aware that in several regions, groups -- which are combinations of federal agency personnel and private sector individuals -- are attempting to create regional organizations based upon protected areas which have received biosphere reserve status designation from the U.S. and UNESCO MAB Programs.

The purpose of these organizational efforts can be generally stated to be to solve practical natural resource problems through the implementation of scientific research and through the regional cooperation of federal, state and local, and non-governmental organizations and persons.

The development of these regional organizations is viewed positively by the U.S. MAB Program. Indeed, in the nomination and recognition process to designate a protected area as a biosphere reserve, the concept and potential of an area to serve as a regional hub for cooperative efforts is frequently and explicitly noted and encouraged. In the past, several such groups had received small planning grants through the former U.S. MAB directorate on biosphere reserves.

Within biosphere reserves the core and managed areas can contain land areas managed by one or more government agencies, and/or private organizations. Therefore, cooperation, per se, is crucial in defending the ecological integrity of the protected core area. In a biosphere reserve's buffer and transition/cooperation zones, regional cooperative efforts can be critical in preserving the biological integrity and diversity and also in sustaining the diversity of the regional eco- and economic systems.

Organizational Guidance

U.S. MAB was requested to and has given "official" recognition to one regional organization. This particular organization chose to utilize the word "Man and the Biosphere Program" in its title. If other organizations would like to utilize the name of the "Man and the Biosphere" program or any similar name designation which would infer affiliation with or recognition by the U.S. MAB Program, The U.S. National Committee for the Man and the Biosphere Program has established the following five guidelines for their organizational efforts:

1. **Organizations must have an explicit statement of mission or organizational purpose.** *Coastal E. name, U.S. MAB*

The organization should develop from local or regional needs and be in response to problems that are well understood and shared on a regional level. Viable solutions or attempts to resolve regional resource problems cannot be imposed from the top down upon unwilling populations or managers.

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2. **Organizations should involve the regional and local offices of relevant government agencies and institutions.** *organization*

Central to the "MAB concept" is cooperation in solving problems through the active participation of the relevant governmental agencies. MAB is not an "outside" political lobbying effort to force actions on government agencies. It is primarily a cooperative governmental scientific program wherein a significant role can also be played by the private sector.

3. **An organization should be legally chartered with well defined operational rules.**

yet An organization may grow, change and adapt to new needs; a framework for the organization must be clearly stated which notes how organizational changes are to be accomplished.

4. ***Organizations must be based upon sustainable local financial support and competitive allocation procedures***

Regional organizations must be supported regionally. Voluntary contributions should come from both regional allocations of funds from local and regional offices of the participating government agencies and/or from the private sector.

The allocation of funds by the regional organization should be based upon strict procedures of open competition to identify the best possible programs and processes to resolve agreed upon problems and issues.

In making funds available, organizations should publicly advertise their availability and provide criteria for decision making. Organizations will benefit in their decision making, and consequently in their effectiveness in resolving problems, by having all proposals considered for funding reviewed through a procedure utilizing common guidelines and principles imposed by a system of confidential peer reviews.

5. ***When creating committee structures, organizations should adopt a rotational policy for membership to encourage venting of new views and perspectives and the broadest possible participation of involved members.***

U.S. National Committee for MAB encourages the development of regional programs based upon the above principals. The development of the organization's infrastructure must be supported locally to ensure its pace and scale are sustainable with local/regional interest and commitment. U.S. MAB will receive and competitively review within its annual request for proposals (RFP) process, proposals for feasibility studies to create such regional MAB programs. U.S. MAB will similarly receive and review proposals to support for specific scientific research, education and training program components of regional organizations. Proposals for scientific program components which offers counterpart funds from the regional organization will greatly enhance a proposals chances for funding from U.S. MAB.

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APPROVED: U.S. National Committee for MAB 9/6/90

National Committee Sets Guidelines for Regional MAB Organizations

In the nomination and recognition process used to designate a protected area in the United States as a biosphere reserve, the concept and potential for an area to serve as a regional hub for preservation, management planning and cooperative programs frequently has been favorably noted and encouraged by the U.S. MAB Program. In fact, in the past, several regional organizations have received small grants for their formation and planning through the former U.S. MAB directorate on biosphere reserves.

The U.S. National Committee has established the following guidelines for regional organizations wishing to affiliate themselves with the U.S. MAB Program:

1. Organizations must have an explicit organizational purpose.
2. Organizations should involve the regional and local offices of government agencies and institutions.
3. An organization should be legally chartered with well defined operational rules.
4. Organizations must be based upon sustainable, local financial support; and allocation of funds should be based upon competitive allocation procedures.
5. When creating committee structures, organizations should adopt a rotational policy for membership to encourage the venting of new views and perspectives and the broadest possible participation of involved members.

The U.S. National Committee for MAB encourages the development of regional programs based upon these principles.

The development of the organizational infrastructure of regional organizations must be supported locally, in order to ensure their viability. The U.S. MAB Program will receive and review within its annual Request for Proposals (RFP) process, proposals for feasibility studies to create such regional MAB programs. U.S. MAB will also receive and review proposals in support of specific scientific research, education or training program components of regional organizations within the RFP process.