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**To:** MAB National Committees and MAB Focal Points  
UNESCO Field Offices

**From:** Peter Bridgewater, Director, Division of Ecological Sciences and  
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

**Subject:** **Survey on the implementation of the Seville Strategy**

During its 15<sup>th</sup> session, which took place on 7-11 December 1998, the International Co-ordination Council of the Man and Biosphere Programme decided that given the multitude of activities following the adoption of the Seville Strategy, it would be useful to review its implementation. It also decided to prepare a special session in the year 2000, five years after the initial conference in Seville, in relation with the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Council.

The next months will therefore be devoted to the evaluation of the implementation of the Seville Strategy with reference to the implementation indicators that have been developed for the international and national levels as well as for the individual Biosphere Reserves.

The present survey has taken up the main indicators and should allow for an overview of the implementation of the Seville Strategy on the national and individual BR levels. At the same time, an analysis will be made of the successes and failures at the international level. To that end, a number of case studies, identified during recent or forthcoming regional meetings, will be analysed to illustrate some crucial aspects of the Strategy in greater detail.

The results from the survey and the analysis at the international level will be submitted to an expert meeting that will be organized in Spain towards the end of October, thanks to the generous invitation of the Spanish MAB Committee. The conclusions of that meeting will then be submitted to the International Co-ordination Council meeting, which has been scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> till the 10<sup>th</sup> of November at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

It will be greatly appreciated if you could assist us in collecting the responses to the attached survey by:

- collecting the responses from the Biosphere Reserves in your country and thereafter
- responding directly to the questions concerning the national level, in particular the synthesis of responses and conclusions that appear on the last pages of the survey (pages 9 and 10).

As you will see, the attached survey has taken up a number of the questions that previously have been addressed to you in relation to the EUROMAB meeting in Cambridge. The attached survey, however, is more complete since it addresses the whole of the Strategy and will be sent out to all regions in order to allow for a global view. We apologise for asking you to respond again to some of the questions which you have already answered, but it seems to be the only method to permit a valid comparison between all regions concerned.

It is expected that this review will not only provide an overview of the state of implementation of the Seville Strategy, but also some general orientations for the future. I count on your support and valuable input for the evaluation and would appreciate it if you could send your contribution before 30 August 2000.

**Survey Individual Biosphere Reserves:**

**Goal I: Use Biosphere Reserves to conserve natural and cultural diversity**

Objective I.2: Integrate Biosphere Reserves into conservation planning

- 1) Since the Seville strategy was launched, has your Biosphere Reserve paid added attention to using the site for in situ conservation of genetic resources, including wild relatives of cultivated and domestic species?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

using the site for the rehabilitation /re-introduction of a species?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

[ I.2.5.]

Please describe briefly \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) If your Biosphere Reserve is situated next to an international frontier, is it a transboundary Biosphere Reserve? [ I.2.1.; IV.2.6.; IV2.16 ]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If no, are there possibilities for transboundary co-operation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, with which sites co-operation would be possible \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal II: Utilise Biosphere Reserves as models of land management and of approaches to sustainable development**

Objective II.1.: Secure the support and involvement of local people.

- 3) Has there been an analysis within your Biosphere Reserve of factors leading to unsustainable development?

[II 1.6]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Before 1995: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

After 1995: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe briefly.

- 4) Has there been a survey of stakeholders' interests, needs, roles, etc. in your Biosphere Reserve? [II.1.5.]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Before 1995: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

After 1995: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Is the local community involved in planning and managing your Biosphere Reserve? [II.2.4.; IV.1.14]]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes:

- a) Are there permanent administrative structures or mechanisms (e.g. village committees or membership of local representatives in decision-making bodies)?[II.2.4.]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- b) Is there a mediation mechanism available in case of conflict of interests amongst stakeholders?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- c) Have representatives (spokespersons) of the different interest groups been identified?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

- d) What are the main means of consultation?

• Inquiries Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• Hearings Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• Informal meetings Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• Formal meetings Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• Other Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

- 6) Have you made a study of the products and services of your Biosphere Reserve? [II 1.7.]

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Is your Biosphere Reserve involved in promoting environmentally sound and economically sustainable income opportunities for local people?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe briefly how

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- 7) Does your Biosphere Reserve have a label of quality for local products? [II 1.7.]

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe briefly

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- 8) Would you be interested in pursuing such a label?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

- 9) Are there any incentives for local people to use resources sustainably? [II.1.8]

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, describe briefly

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- 10) Has your Biosphere Reserve provided job opportunities? (E.g. new jobs as staff for the Biosphere Reserve itself, employment for research and monitoring, through tourism, etc.) [II.1.7.]

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, describe briefly

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- 11) Do local people gain direct benefits from your Biosphere Reserve? (e.g. entrance fees, sale of handicrafts, use of local construction techniques and labour, sharing benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, basic material for biotechnology and patents by the BR) [II.1.9.]

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe briefly

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- 12) Does your Biosphere Reserve (help) promote the development or introduction of environmental friendly policies and practices (e.g. the promotion of cleaner technologies, sustainable agriculture, recycling of used water, etc.)?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe briefly

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### **Objective II.3: Integrate Biosphere Reserves into regional planning**

- 13) Do you feel that the example of designating buffer and transition zones in your Biosphere Reserve has influenced regional land-use planning and development policies (E.g. watershed management, regional planning, etc.)? [II.3.2.]

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please give examples

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14) Is your Biosphere Reserve included in any national or regional land-use plan or project? [II.3.1.]

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please state name of plans/project(s)

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15) Does the management of your Biosphere Reserve have any means to influence planning or development decisions in your country or region? [II.3.1.; II.3.2.]

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe

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16) Has your Biosphere Reserve been affected (in any positive or adverse way) by national and/or regional planning and development decisions?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe

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17) Has your Biosphere Reserve taken specific account of any global trends, e.g. developing corridors to cope with possible climatic change or. measures to meet international environmental agreements?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe

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**Goal III: Use Biosphere Reserves for research, monitoring, education and training**

**Objective III.1: Improve knowledge of the interactions between humans and the biosphere**

18) Are there any research and/or monitoring activities taking place in your Biosphere Reserve? [III.1.1 III.1.8., III.2.4.]

Yes \_\_\_\_ - No \_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe briefly

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19) Does research in your BR include mapping of the different Biosphere Reserve zones? [IV.1.10]

Yes \_\_\_\_ - No \_\_\_\_

20) Are the research and/or monitoring activities in your Biosphere Reserve part of international research/monitoring endeavours? [III.1.2, .3, .6 and III.2.1]

Yes \_\_\_\_ - No \_\_\_\_

21) How would you like the global BRIM system to help in the monitoring and management of your Biosphere Reserve?

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**Objective III.2.: Improve monitoring activities.**

22) Have you developed or contributed to the development of methodologies to conduct the above-mentioned research and/or monitoring (including methodologies for data/information exchange)? [III.2.2, IV.2.10; III.2.5]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ - No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe and also specify whether or not those methodologies are available (e.g. in the form of manuals and guides)

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23) Have you set up any mechanism for data and/or information management and exchange (e.g. clearing house, databases, Internet page)? [III.1.5, III.3.1; III.1.9, III.2.7]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ - No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe

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24) Have you identified any indicators of sustainability relevant to productive activities ? [III.2.6; III.2.5]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ - No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which ones?

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**Objective III.3.: Improve education, public awareness and involvement**

**Objective III.4: Improve training for specialists and managers**

25) Has an ecology educational field centre been developed at the BR? [BR level III.3.7]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

26) Are there any training, education or public awareness programmes/activities organised in your Biosphere Reserve? [III.3.5.; III.4.4.; III.4.5.; III.4.6.]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please specify:

|  |           |          |
|--|-----------|----------|
| For visitors                               | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For local schools                          | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For schools in general                     | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For local adult population                 | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For local/national administrators          | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For managers of protected areas            | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For local staff                            | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For scientists                             | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For university graduates and postgraduates | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For others (please specify)                | Yes _____ | No _____ |

27) Has your Biosphere Reserve established a training centre? [III.3.7.; III.4.4.]

28) Has/is your Biosphere Reserve been used as a demonstration site? [III.4.4.]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

29) Have any information and promotional materials been developed for your Biosphere Reserve? [III.3.6.; IV.2.21.]

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please specify:

|                            |           |          |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| For visitors               | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For local adult population | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For local schools          | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| For schools in general     | Yes _____ | No _____ |

For local staff Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
For others (please specify) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

- 30) Does your Biosphere Reserve have a web site? [ III.3.1.; III.3.2., IV.2.6.]  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If yes, please provide the web address \_\_\_\_\_
- 31) Do you have e-mail facilities?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If yes, please provide e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal IV: Implement the Biosphere Reserve concept**

- 32) Is your Biosphere Reserve twinned with any other site? [I.2.4.; IV.2.16.]  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If yes, which site(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Has this made any difference to the funding and/or management of your Biosphere Reserve?  
Yes \_\_\_ - No \_\_\_  
If yes, please describe briefly?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 33) Have any changes in the different zones been made since the designation of your Biosphere Reserve?  
[IV.1.12]  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Before 1995: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
After 1995: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 34) Have there been any major changes in the protection regimes of the different zones since the Biosphere Reserve was designated? [IV.1.10; IV.1.13]  
a) Core area(s) Indicate the type (e.g. under national legislation) and date since when the new regime came into being:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Buffer zone(s) Indicate the type and date since when the regime came into being. If the buffer zone does not have legal protection, indicate the new regulations that apply for its management:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 35) What new land use regulations or agreements are applicable to the transition area (if appropriate)? [IV.1.10; IV.1.13]  
Describe briefly:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 36) Has there been any change in the land tenure of each zone since the Biosphere Reserve was designated?:  
[IV.1.10; IV.1.13]  
[Describe and give the relative percentage of ownership in terms of public and private ownership for each zone.]  
a) Core area(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Buffer zone(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

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c) Transition area(s):

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37) Are there any changes foreseen in land tenure? (E.g. Is there a land acquisition programme, e.g. to purchase private lands, or plans for privatisation of state-owned lands?)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe briefly

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38) Management plan or policy and mechanisms for implementation [IV.1.11]

a) Year of start of implementation of management plan or land use policy: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Main features of management plan or land use policy and means of application

[For example through contractual agreements with landowners or resource users, financial incentives, is it an integrated management plan or sectoral, etc.]:

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39) Personnel: [IV.1.13.]

a) Total number of staff of Biosphere Reserve: \_\_\_\_\_

permanent: \_\_\_\_\_

part-time: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Number of staff for administrative and resource management:

permanent: \_\_\_\_\_

part-time: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Number of national staff for research:

permanent: \_\_\_\_\_

part-time: \_\_\_\_\_

d) Number of technical support staff:

permanent: \_\_\_\_\_

part-time: \_\_\_\_\_

40) Financial source(s) and yearly budget [IV.2.12]:

Indicate the source and the relative percentage of the funding (e.g. from national, regional, local administrations, private funding, international sources etc.) and the estimated yearly budget in the national currency

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41) Have strategies been developed for mobilising funds for your Biosphere Reserve from:

• NGOs? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• Foundations? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• Bilateral sources? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• Regional Economic organisations like the EU, NAFTA, ASEAN etc. or Regional Development Banks?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• GEF, other international sources? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

• Private sector Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

[IV.2.18.; IV.2.22.]

- 42) Authority in charge of administration [IV.1.6.]
- a) What authority or co-ordination mechanism is responsible for the Biosphere Reserve as a whole? National (or State or Provincial) administration of mechanism to which this authority reports: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The core area(s):  
Indicate the name of the authority or authorities in charge of administering: \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The buffer zone(s)  
Indicate the name of the authority or authorities in charge of administering: \_\_\_\_\_
- 43) Have there been any changes in the mechanisms of consultation and co-ordination among these different authorities since the Biosphere Reserve was designated?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, describe briefly:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 44) Do you have any links with other Biosphere Reserves in your country? [IV.1.9.; IV.2.13.]  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please describe briefly:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 45) What do you consider would be useful means of communication?
- |                                     |           |          |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| • Newsletter                        | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • National network meetings         | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • joint projects                    | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • exchange of people                | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • exchange of information           | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • Government co-ordinated mechanism | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • Private BR association            | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • other _____                       |           |          |
- 46) Have you or your Biosphere Reserve gained any advantages from your membership of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves or a regional network?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, have these been:
- |   |           |          |
|---|-----------|----------|
| • personal contacts   | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • joint projects  | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • exchange of people (specialists, scientists, school groups) | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • exchange of information                                     | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • new ideas   | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| • other (please explain)                                      | Yes _____ | No _____ |
- 47) Has your Biosphere Reserves been subjected to periodic review?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, would you say that it had positive consequences on the organisation and functioning of the Biosphere Reserve?  
When preparing the periodic review report  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
When implementing the Advisory Committee recommendations  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



**To be completed by National MAB Committees and Focal Points**

- 1) Have you studied or are you studying the need for new or extended biosphere reserves? [I.1.4., II.1.3.]  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Have the Biosphere Reserves in your country been included in national strategies relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity or other conventions? [I.2.2. I.1.3.]  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Are the Biosphere Reserves integrated in any regional development projects/programmes?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, describe briefly:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Are the Biosphere Reserves subject to national research and/or monitoring programmes?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Is there a national co-ordination network for Biosphere Reserves in your country?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, could you briefly describe its activities? (regular meetings, up-dating of methodologies or common programmes, information exchange, production of promotion materials, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Do you think that the Seville Strategy has helped you in formulating objectives concerning conservation and development?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Please explain briefly  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Could you please describe briefly the main successes obtained in implementing the Seville Strategy?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Could you please briefly the main obstacles encountered in implementing the Seville Strategy?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Have some of the Biosphere Reserves in your country been subjected to periodic review?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, would you say that it had positive consequences on the organisation and functioning of the Biosphere Reserve?  
When preparing the periodic review report  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
When implementing the Advisory Committee recommendations  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Could you please describe what you think should be the priorities for the coming years?  
At the level of each individual Biosphere Reserve  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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At the national level

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At the international level

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11) What would you like to see the MAB Secretariat do over the next 5 years?

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