

UNESCO MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and experiences from the Estonian biosphere reserve

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UBC SCC meeting Jyväskylä 18 May 2017



1. About UNESCO's programme Man and Biosphere
2. About MAB Strategy 2015-2025
3. About Estonian experience



UNESCO is the organisation for Science, Culture and Education

Hence, UNESCO MAB is not a nature conservation programme. It is a scientific+educationa+cultural programme.

One may say: Humanistic approach to solve environmental issues



After 45 years, the MAB programme gradually became the "programme of biosphere reserves"

There has been a big shift from **scientific ecoregional** biosphere reserves to the concept of **sustainable development sites**.

There should be no BR without local population.



Concept of Brs is very flexible. Among more than 600 you hardly find two similar solutions.

(My personal emphasis):

BR-s are sites to study and demonstrate the **ecosystems as a cultural phenomenon** of local populations, their knowledge, and economical solutions. BR-s are a key to resilient (adaptive) nature use.



MAB strategy 2015-2025

Strategic objectives

1. Conserve **biodiversity**, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources
2. Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable **societies, economies** and thriving **human settlements** in harmony with the biosphere.
3. Facilitate biodiversity and **sustainability science, education** for sustainable development (ESD) and capacity building.
4. Support **mitigation and adaptation** to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.



MAB Strategy 2015-2025

Strategic actions areas:

- A. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised of effectively functioning **models for sustainable development**
- B. Inclusive, dynamic and results-oriented **collaboration and networking** within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves



MAB Strategy 2015-2025

Strategic actions areas (continued):

C. Effective external partnerships and sufficient and sustainable funding for the MAB Programme and the **World Network of Biosphere Reserves**

D. Comprehensive, modern, open and transparent communication, **information and data sharing**

E. Effective **governance** of and within the MAB Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves



Links

MAB Strategy

http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/MAB_Strategy_2015-2025_final_text.pdf

Lima Action Plan

http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/Lima_Action_Plan_en_final.pdf





Ühinenud Rahvaste
Hariduse, Teaduse ja
Kultuuri Organisatsioon



- Lääne-Eesti saarte biosfääri
- programmiala aastast 1990
- Programm "Inimene ja biosfäär"
-

Saared ja meri • hoitud elukeskkond
The islands and the sea • safeguarded environment





The West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve

Established 1990.

15600 sq. km, of which 4000 sq.km is land (10% of Estonia).

population around 40000 inhabitants



Important experiences from Estonia:

- Institutional organisation (governance) is a key issue
- Informing the public is never sufficient enough
- Importance of local partnerships (NGOs, societies, municipalities)
- Scientists (universities) need a clear scientific problem to deal with

Finally, what are the major benefits?

- UNESCO recognition
- Participation in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves