
mab notes

The U.S. MAB Directorate on Biosphere Reserves met Oct. 19, 1988. News from this meeting included the following items.

Biosphere Reserve Proposals. The Directorate urged early transmittal of the nomination of the Central California Coast BR to UNESCO for review in November. This reserve would consist of coastal/marine portions of Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Point Reyes National Seashore, as well as several state parks and the Marin Municipal Water District. Transmittal of nomination materials to UNESCO was also endorsed to (1) link the Great Smoky Mountains NP, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, and Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park to form the Southern Appalachian BR, and (2) delete the Pinelands National Reserve from the South Atlantic Coastal Plain BR and redesignate the area independently as the New Jersey Pinelands BR. Nomination of a very large biosphere reserve encompassing the Adirondack Mountains and the Lake Champlain basin is being prepared by officials in New York and Vermont and is expected to be forwarded to MAB in early 1989. Other biosphere reserve proposals that are moving ahead include the Ozark Highlands (feasibility study), Tennessee and Cumberland Valleys (development of nomination), and the Mammoth Cave area (development of nomination).

U.S.-Soviet Bilateral Research. *Glasnost* seems to be extending to international scientific cooperation. Stan Krugman (USFS), Bruce Wiersma (EGG-Idaho), and Ray Herrmann (NPS) visited the Soviet Union to develop a preliminary work plan for bilateral research in biosphere reserves, under Section 5 of the 1972 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Environmental Agreement. Their discussions, described as remarkably open and wide-ranging, focused on collaborative research in biosphere reserves and related ecological research sites in the tundra-boreal forest ecosystems of northwest Alaska and northeastern Siberia, the northern hardwood forests of the northern midwest and the region around Moscow, and the temperate deciduous forests of the Southern Appalachians and the Caucasus. Data exchange will begin immediately, and comparative field studies are proposed to begin in the summer of 1989.

U.S.-China Bilateral Research. A U.S.-China bilat-

eral program in ecological research and modelling has been running for one year. U.S. scientists from various institutions are collaborating with colleagues at the Shenyang Institute of Applied Ecology on temperate forest studies and with the South China Institute of Botany on a program involving subtropical and tropical forests. Under the temperate forest program, a U.S. scientist lectured in China and assisted Chinese colleagues with modelling methodologies; two Chinese scholars were scheduled for an extended visit to the University of Virginia in late 1988. The second program focuses on developing the knowledge and skills for managing and rehabilitating subtropical and tropical forests.

Smithsonian/MAB Biodiversity Program. This highly successful program, which provides training in inventory and monitoring methods for workers in developing countries, has held workshops during the past year in Puerto Rico, Peru, and Bolivia. The scope is expanding to include management of biosphere reserves. Students at a workshop at Bolivia's Beni BR worked with local people to develop ideas for a Beni management plan. India and China are among the possibilities for near-term expansion of the program.

FY1989 Research Proposals. Participating agencies have thus far pledged \$750,000 toward the \$1 million goal for research in FY1989. Preproposals are being reviewed by the appropriate directorates and their recommendations forwarded to the MAB Executive Committee. The MAB-8 Directorate will give priority to proposals relating to regional or global influences affecting ecosystem processes and/or biological diversity in biosphere reserves, and those that relate biological diversity to ecosystem management.

Napier Shelton
NPS, WASO