

MAB 'Language' Proposed

The two languages of the biosphere reserve literature – “the language of resource management” and “the language of community” – are explored by Ron Engel, professor of social ethics at Meadville Technological School of Lombard College, in the *Proceedings* of the symposium on biosphere reserves held in September 1987 as part of the 4th World Wilderness Congress.

Engel further contrasts the two languages as “the language of management” vs. “the language of participation,” and proposes that the latter is the more appropriate as “the morally requisite modality for intervention in natural and cultural systems.”

Engel proposes that “to make participation rather than management the fundamental theme of Man and the Biosphere requires the development of new forms of interdisciplinary research and development that are holistic and community-regarding.” A plausible argument can be made, he suggests, “that it is the moral language of community that most authentically expresses the symbolism and ethics of the biosphere reserve concept. Approached through the moral language of community, one of the basic symbols of the biosphere reserve concept – global evolution – becomes a mosaic of co-evolving, self-governing communities consisting of diverse forms of life with intricately balanced, interdependent parts and processes.”

(See page 13 for how to obtain the *Proceedings*.)