

MAB Notes

The **MAB International Coordinating Committee (ICC)** held its 12th session in Paris, Jan. 25-29, 1993. Representatives of 24 council member countries and 28 observer countries attended, including observers Mike Ruggiero, Chief of the NPS Wildlife and Vegetation Division, and Roger Soles, Executive Director of the U.S. MAB Secretariat. The ICC agreed on five priority theme areas for MAB:

- conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- exploring regional approaches to sustainable development
- communicating information on environment and development
- strengthening institutional capabilities to address problems of environment and development
- contributing to the global terrestrial observation system.

Biosphere reserves will play important roles in implementing these themes. The Council also recommended national reviews to strengthen biosphere reserve (BR) performance, integration of BRs into national biodiversity strategies, and emphasis on expanding databases on BRs.

EuroMAB expects to publish a directory in June 1993 that contains contacts and information on research programs and follows a slightly modified NPPFauna format.

In 1992, UNESCO approved **additions to two US biosphere reserves**. Added to the Central California Coast BR are: Audubon Canyon Ranch (National Audubon Society), Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory (U/CA), Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA), and Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (Stanford U). The Central California Coast BR now has the largest number of units (14) of all U.S. BRs. Southern Appalachian

BR additions are: Grandfather Mountain (private) and Mount Mitchell State Park (State of North Carolina).

Internationally, the **biosphere reserve network** now contains 311 units in 81 countries. These units represent 110 out of 193 terrestrial biogeographical provinces. The 47 U.S. units represent 13 out of 14 biomes in the U.S., 21 out of 25 terrestrial biogeographical provinces, and 9 out of 13 coastal/marine biogeographical provinces. Major gaps are the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, Prairie Peninsula, Micronesia, Ozark Highlands, and the coastal/marine provinces Acadian-Boreal and Arctic Boreal.

In September 1992, **Northern Biosphere Reserve managers** from six Arctic countries--U.S., Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Russia, and Canada--met in Anchorage, AK to discuss possibilities for cooperation and communication among reserves. A subsequent preproposal developed by Marv Jensen, Superintendent of Glacier Bay NP, has now been approved by the U.S. MAB National Committee to go to final. The proposal includes developing computer databases on bibliography, research programs, and software/hardware capabilities, and developing an exchange program for northern BR managers.

All U.S. biosphere reserve managers should have received a letter regarding their interest in participating in a **MAB workshop** or series of workshops to finalize an action plan for U.S. biosphere reserves. Managers' interests and concerns will be used to develop a workshop agenda.

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