

JULY NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

THE UNITED STATES Man and the Biosphere Committee met at Camp Hoover in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, on July 25-26. Approximately a dozen member agencies attended, including, for the first time, the Bureau of Land Management. The principal agenda items focused on the United States Man and the Biosphere Program (USMAB) response to the final report of a blue ribbon commission, convened by Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) Chairman Dean Bibles earlier this year to review MAB and recommend future directions, and to allocate remaining fiscal year 1995 funds.

The commission report made numerous recommendations aimed at increasing MAB visibility, financial and institutional support from government and the private sector, and contributions to ecosystem sustainability. In accepting the commission's report, the committee...

1. adopted the proposed mission and goal statement for USMAB.
2. requested the chairman to immediately convene special task forces to assess and rec-

ommend ways to better integrate components of MAB (i.e., interdisciplinary ecosystem-based research, regional partnerships, biosphere reserves, and international networks) and substantially increase MAB financial and institutional support from government and the private sector.

3. increased its support of the USMAB secretariat by hiring a new clerical position and placing a fellowship recipient to coordinate the EcoNet America Program. The chair will continue efforts to arrange a detail from a member agency to coordinate the U.S. biosphere reserve program (possibly in lieu of direct annual contributions).
4. asked each federal agency to recommend ways for USMAB to strengthen its support for MAB, for example, through briefings of

The 1995 MAB budget of \$1.1 million includes contributions from 11 federal agencies and bureaus. The committee allocated the remaining \$506,000 of unobligated funds based on proposals from MAB directorates and several nonsolicited proposals (from the secretariat and Human Biology Association).

The committee increased its support of the Biosphere Reserve Directorate for developing the U.S. Biosphere Reserve Program in accord with the strategic plan approved last year. The committee funded the following projects:

1. Network review, including preliminary gap analysis and functional evaluation.
2. Second U.S. Biosphere Reserve Managers' Workshop (October 30-November 1).

4. Brochure and slide presentation media development.
5. Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring Program support for U.S. biosphere reserve electronic directory, MABFlora and MABFauna databases, and network connectivity strengthening.
6. United States-Russia cooperative watershed and ecosystem research.
7. International "targets of opportunity."

The High Latitude Ecosystems Directorate received support for a series of workshops to present the results of comparative interdisciplinary research on caribou comanagement systems in the United States and Canada. To be held in Alaska, the presentations will be directed to federal

The mission of the U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program is to and encourage harmonious relationships between people and on the network of biosphere reserves and conducting interco

senior management on MAB accomplishments and new directions.

3. Catalytic small grants to support development of U.S. biosphere reserve partnerships and activities.

agencies, advisory councils, and native wildlife management organizations.

The Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Directorate received continued support for

the second year of a three-year interdisciplinary study of access management strategies and marine biodiversity.

The Temperate Ecosystems Directorate received support for cooperation with MAB Germany on techniques for integrating social and biological information in assessing ecosystem change in biosphere reserves.

The committee also approved several new directorate members: a BLM representative will serve on the Biosphere Reserve Directorate; six new members, including Gary Davis from the NBS Channel Islands Field Station, will serve on the Coastal-Marine Directorate. The committee also agreed to continue supporting the national committee, the six MAB directorates, and U.S. participation in biosphere reserve networks (EcoNet America and EuroMAB) and the Northern Science Network.

New MAB publications, available from the MAB Secretariat, OES/ETC/MAB, SA-44C, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20522-4401; (202) 776-8318; FAX (202) 776-8367, include:

- Biosphere Reserves in Action (12 U.S. case studies)
- La Selva Maya

Unpublished reports include, a status report on Human Dominated Ecosystems Research on Ecological Sustainability of South Florida, MAB Fauna—a Handbook for Users of the MAB Biological Inventory System (includes software), University of California, Davis, and the Constable Commission—Final Report.

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*to explore, demonstrate, promote,
and their environments by building
disciplinary research.*

- Biosphere Reserve Strategic Plan
- Brochures on USMAB and the Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring Program