

mab notes

To the Editor: The Gatlinburg Man and the Biosphere Conference on Management of Biosphere Reserves appears to have achieved its goal of improving understanding of the biosphere reserve concept and generating some ideas on how to put management into practice on the ground.

A good deal has happened and much more is planned on the MAB front. I'm especially excited about the Conservation Data Base being developed by NPS, the Geological Survey, and Florida State University under the aegis of MAB, because eventually it will pull together a wealth of regional and national ecological information into an integrated system for generating maps and analyses on demand. The immediate application is in selecting biosphere reserves, but this is only the beginning. This year, I am hoping to get funds for completing a comprehensive inventory of macroreserves in the United States, which will be entered into the data base – a powerful tool for planning and keeping track of the status of protected area systems.

I am sending you information on several MAB-related matters, in the hope that they will appear in the MAB Corner. Your Winter issue continues the tradition of excellence I have come to expect from *Park Science*. I especially welcomed Jerry Franklin's remarks – Amen!

As luck would have it, my only reservation is on page 9. Why on earth would you publish a photo of the Sheraton-Gatlinburg (now Parkview) Hotel – that indecent intrusion upon the Smokies wilderness? Juxtaposed as it is with coverage of Hal Eidsvik's remarks on the integration of conservation and development, some might get the impression that such eyesores are somehow more acceptable if they're on the flanks of biosphere reserves. We're working hard to develop the correct identity for biosphere reserves, and the hotel is definitely not part of the image.

Editor's Note: *The juxtaposition of huge hotel and tiny Great Smoky Mountains in the Winter 1985 issue was done deliberately with irreverent tongue in cheek.*

I am enclosing a report on the meeting of MAB's International Coordinating Council in Paris, which occurred immediately following the Smokies conference. The mood was upbeat. MAB internationally has never been stronger. Of special interest to me was the adoption of an **Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves**, a set of priorities to guide support by international organizations during the next two years, the establishment of an Advisory Panel on Biosphere Reserves to provide needed oversight of the project, and the designation of new biosphere reserves, including the Mojave and Colorado Deserts Reserve in California (which contains our Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monument among other units.)

The enclosed item (see following) on development of coordinated floristic data bases for biosphere reserves in Mexico, the People's Republic of China, and the United States, was prepared and endorsed at Gatlinburg. An automated data base developed at Great Smoky Mountains NP for the MAB ethnobotany study serves as the model for the format.

William P. Gregg, Jr.
NPS Coordinator for MAB