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Man and the Biosphere
Programme



5th WCBR
2025 HANGZHOU

The Fifth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR)

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Hangzhou, China, 22 – 26 September 2025



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Day1

Monday
22 September



Morning session Opening Ceremony

10:00 – 11:00

Opening remarks by

- People's Republic of China
- UNESCO

Welcome statement by the hosts

- Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China
- Chair of the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme (MAB-ICC)

UNESCO conferred honorary recognition on the host city

Screening of the Congress Thematic Video

11:00 – 13:00

Ministerial Session

Plenary Remarks by ministerial speakers from

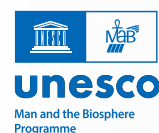
- Department of Environment, the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition, Senegal
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Republic of Guinea
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar
- Ministry of Environment, São Tomé and Príncipe
- Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania
- Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia
- Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia
- Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Belgium
- National Forestry and Grassland Administration, People's Republic of China
- Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain
- Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People's Republic of China (tbc)

Lunch break

Side-events

Day1

Monday
22 September



Afternoon session **Session 1 – Consideration of draft MAB Strategy and Action Plan**

Objective: Review the progress achieved under the MAB Strategy (2015–2025) and the Lima Action Plan (2016–2025) within the current global context, and present the new MAB Strategy and Action Plan

15:00 – 15:50

Review and evaluation of the past decade (2016–2025)

- MAB Secretariat Report on the decade of Lima Action Plan: achievement and outlook
- Report on the joint research on MAB's contribution to SDG

15:50 – 16:20

Presentation of the Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan (2026–2035)

Drafting process, and the draft Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan

16:20 – 17:00

Panel discussion on Synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions and international organizations

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

17:00 – 17:55

Question and Comments

17:55 – 18:00

Wrap-up by the moderator

18:30 – 20:00

Welcoming Reception

08:00 – 9:50 **Working Meetings of thematic networks**

Morning session **Session 2 – Biodiversity, Science and Education**

Objective: This session will highlight the essential role of UNESCO's Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs, and research institutions in advancing knowledge exchange and education to promote science-based solutions for biodiversity conservation. It will explore how these entities contribute to Objective C of the new Strategic Action Plan as well as to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda, while driving transformative change beyond 2030.

10:00 – 10:10 **Session Introduction**

10:10 – 10:15 **Video message from UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education**

10:15 – 11:15 **Panel discussion with the representatives of UNESCO Category 2 Centres, Chairs, research institutions**

- International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST), China
- Regional Postgraduate School of Integrated Management and Planning of Tropical Forests and Territories (ERAIFT), Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas (GCIDA), Jeju Island, Republic of Korea
- International Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Societal Change (GRÓ), Agricultural University of Iceland
- Centre of Excellence on Biodiversity and Management of Natural Resource (CoEB), University of Rwanda in Huye, Rwanda

11:15–11:30 **Question and Comments**

11:30–11:40 Break and change of panel

11:40–12:30 **Panel discussion: Insights from UNESCO Chairs and Leading Experts**

- UNESCO Chair on Intergenerational Learning for Sustainable Development, Kanazawa University, Japan
- UNESCO Chair in Biodiversity and Conservation for Sustainable Development, University of Coimbra, Portugal
- UNESCO Chair on Biosphere Reserves and Natural World Heritage Sites, University for International Cooperation, Costa Rica
- BGI Group, State Key Laboratory of Genome and Multiomics Technologies, China

12:30–12:50 **Question and Comments**

12:50–13:00 Wrap-up by the moderator

Lunch break **Side-events**

Afternoon session **Session 3 – Optimizing partnership and finance for biosphere reserves**

Objective: aims to foster innovative funding solutions, enhance collaboration across sectors, and mobilize resources to ensure the long-term sustainability, effective management, and resilience of biosphere reserves

15:00 – 15:05 Session Introduction

15:05 – 15:35 **Panel discussion 1**

Nature Finance Led by Multilateral and International Financing Institutions

- World Bank Group
- Asian Development Bank
- Kunming Biodiversity Fund
- UNESCO Field Office

15:35 – 15:55 **Question and Comments**

15:55 – 16:00 Break and change of panel

16:00 – 16:40 **Panel discussion 2**

Resource Mobilization through Bilateral and Government Cooperation

- French Development Agency (AFD)
- Government of Belgium
- Government of Flanders
- Government of Spain
- Representative of Biosphere Reserve

16:40 – 17:00 **Question and Comments**

17:00 – 17:05 Break and change of panel

17:05 – 17:30 **Panel discussion 3**

Innovative Contributions from the Private Sector and Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

- Abertis Foundation, Spain
- Ant Group, China
- Chinese National Geography, China
- Belantara Foundation, Indonesia

17:55 – 18:00 **Wrap-up by the moderator**

Evening **Side-events**

08:00 – 9:50 **Working Meetings of regional networks**

Morning session **Session 4 – Enhancing global, Regional and thematic networks**

Objective: This session aims to highlight the role of regional and thematic networks in fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building among biosphere reserves. It will explore how these networks can align their efforts with shared priorities and act as platforms to collectively address complex biodiversity and sustainability challenges across different scales—local, national, regional, and global.

10:00 – 10:10 **Session Introduction**

10:10 – 10:50 **Panel discussion with the representatives of Regional Networks**

Speakers:

- Representative of AfriMAB
- Representative of ArabMAB
- Representative of Asia-Pacific MAB
- Representative of EuroMAB
- Representative of IberoMAB

10:50 – 11:20 **Question and Comments**

Intervention from the floor (2–3 min interventions)

11:20 – 11:40 **Break and change of panel**

11:40 – 12:20 **Panel discussion with the representatives of Thematic Networks**

Speakers:

- Representative of World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves
- Representative of Mediterranean Network of Biosphere Reserves:
- Representative of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves
- Representative of CPLP Network

12:20 – 12:50 **Question and Comments**

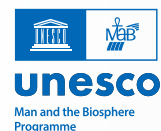
Intervention from the floor (2–3 min interventions)

12:50 – 13:00 **Wrap-up by the moderator**

Lunch break **Side-events**

Day3

Wednesday
24 September



Afternoon session Session 5 – Biosphere Reserve Dialogue

Objective: With the aim of stimulating action at all levels of the MAB programme, this session highlights people, particularly those who have been historically marginalized in biosphere reserve governance, and their fundamental role as stewards, champions and leaders of conservation and sustainable development in their biosphere reserves and across the world.

15:00 – 15:55 Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Panel Discussion

(40 minute panel discussion, 15 minute plenary intervention)

16:00 – 16:55 MAB Youth Presentation and Panel Discussion

(40 minute panel discussion and presentation, 15 minute plenary intervention)

17:00 – 17:55 Women in Biosphere Reserves

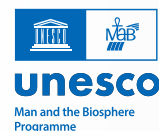
(40 minute panel discussion and presentation, 15 minute plenary intervention)

17:55 – 18:00 Wrap-up

Evening Side-events

Day4

Thursday 25 September



08:00 – 9:50 Working Meetings of regional networks:

Morning session Plenary Closing Session

10:00 – 10:30 Summary of the Ministerial segment, Session discussions and side-events

10:30 – 11:00 Endorsement of the new Strategy and Action Plan and the Hangzhou Declaration

11:00 – 12:00 Final remarks from the networks and priority groups

12:00 – 13:00 Closing session

Closing remarks by:

- Representative of the host country
- Representative of UNESCO General Conference
- Representative of UNESCO
- Secretariat of the MAB Programme

25 September –26 September:

Two optional field visits (participants may choose one) for Congress attendees not participating in the MAB-ICC.