

MAB YOUTH FORUM

Po Delta Biosphere Reserve / ITALY

17-23 September 2017



Committed to
Sustainable
Development

2017 MAB
YOUTH
FORUM

#MYFORUM2017

Support

Aim of this document is to collect the main issues and results of the MAB Youth Forum 2017, and in particular:

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Timeline _ toward MAB Youth Forum 2017

This initiative, announced for the first time during the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru, was held from Sunday 17th September to Saturday 23rd September 2017 in different places spread over the Po Delta area- Italy, within one of the most recent and active Biosphere Reserve recognized by UNESCO, the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve.

This important occasion was premised on young people being the future of Biosphere Reserves, and therefore, should be given a voice in shaping their territory and defining their engagement and role in the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO.

In this frame, the MAB Secretariat, together with the Regional Bureau in Venice, have worked hard in order to offer an opportunity for all young people who care about the special territories in which they live, to become key actors in the MAB Programme and to ensure the sustainable development of their communities in line with the Lima Action Plan.

Almost 300 people from all over the world, came to Po Delta in order to represent their own Biosphere Reserve and to take an active part in a process which was aimed at finding shared solution, common ways and strategies to involve more effectively young people in Biosphere Reserves'. Here is a synthesis of the main issues and working steps.



Timeline _ MAB Youth Forum 2017



18 September 2017

Arrival and registration of participants;
Plenary conference at the Adria City Theatre;
Plenary work on Sustainable Development Goals
Welcome address from UNESCO, the involved institutions and supporters;
Concert and presentation of video clips of various Biosphere Reserves involved;
Evening ceremony.



20 September 2017

During this day, devoted to visit the territory of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, participants had the opportunity to discover its environmental, historical, socio-cultural and productive peculiarities...and had a change to talk and discuss!
In the meantime the facilitation team worked on the reflections which participants offered in the previous days activities in order to identify the main objectives and priorities which participants identified for each.



Evening

Dinner and closing concert.

22 September 2017

Morning

Some of the participants, chosen because of their active contribution to the different sessions, met to draw up the final declaration, draft the action plan and the conclusions of the Forum.

Afternoon

Plenary at the Adria City Theatre for the presentation of the forum activities' results and final declaration.

Lecture of the Final Declaration by "MAB Youth Ambassadors" who, as representative of MAB Youth Forum Participants, could also deliver these outcomes to the next MAB ICC; Closing Ceremony.

19 September 2017



Day devoted to thematic sessions conducted in various locations in Padua and in the Po Delta, organized according to the issues identified through online consultations. During this first day, participants had been introduced to the workshops' methodology, different working phases and tools.
Goals and expectations had been set in collaborative work among participants and with facilitators.
The 6 main groups were divided into subgroups and asked to express their opinion in order to help define a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threats) analysis on the involvement of young people in the MAB Programme at three levels, referring to the entire MAB Programme, to the Reserves' network and to the single Biosphere Reserve' level.



21 September 2017

After a short resume of the previous days' results, with a focus on main themes derived from it, each group was divided into mixed subgroups, and participants were asked to identify and discuss strategies and actions to tackle problems and to support the goals identified during the first workshop.
In a plenary session, a discussion was carried out in order to facilitate a prioritization of goals and the results were identified.

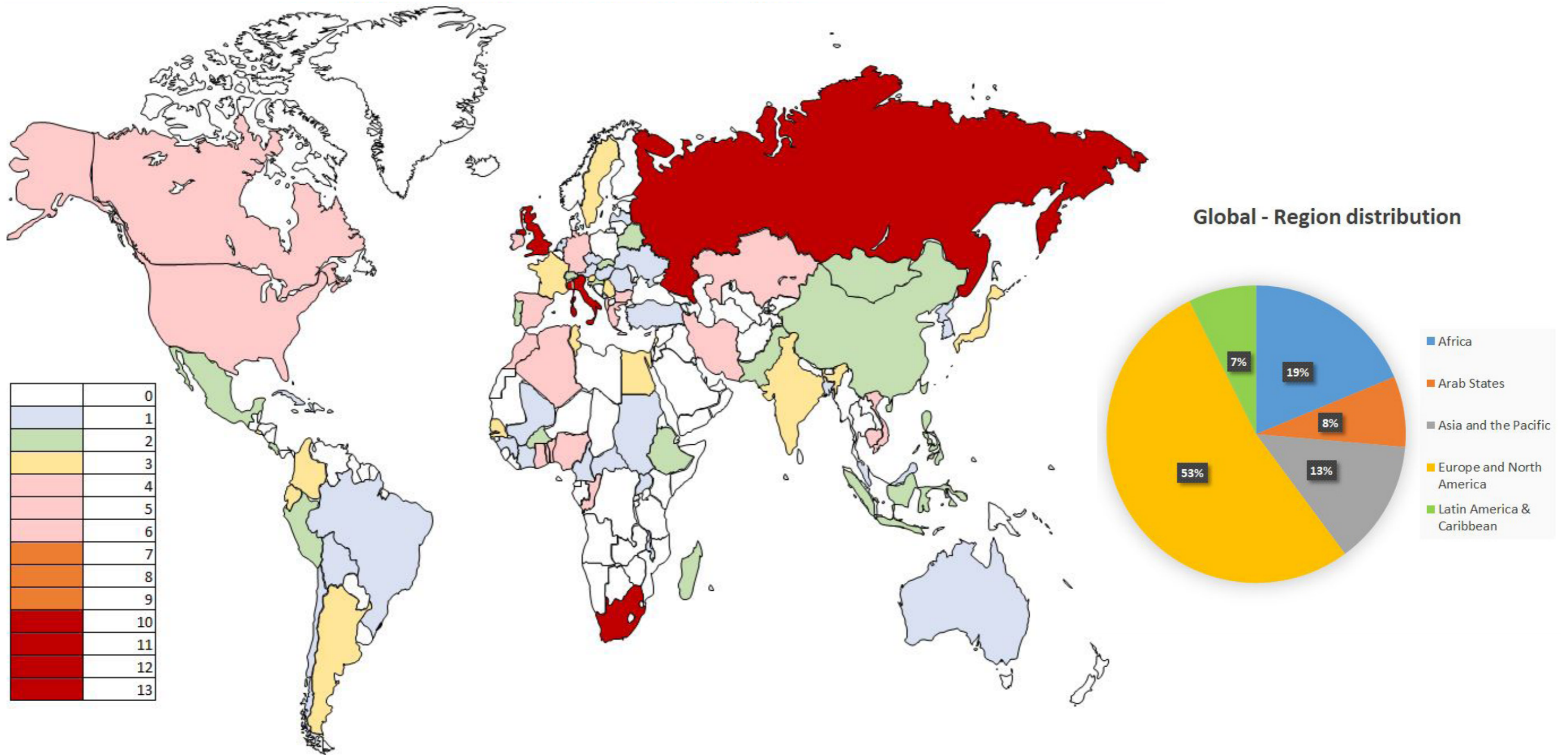
23 September 2017



Closing of the MAB Youth Forum;
Departure of participants.

Overview on MAB Youth Forum participants

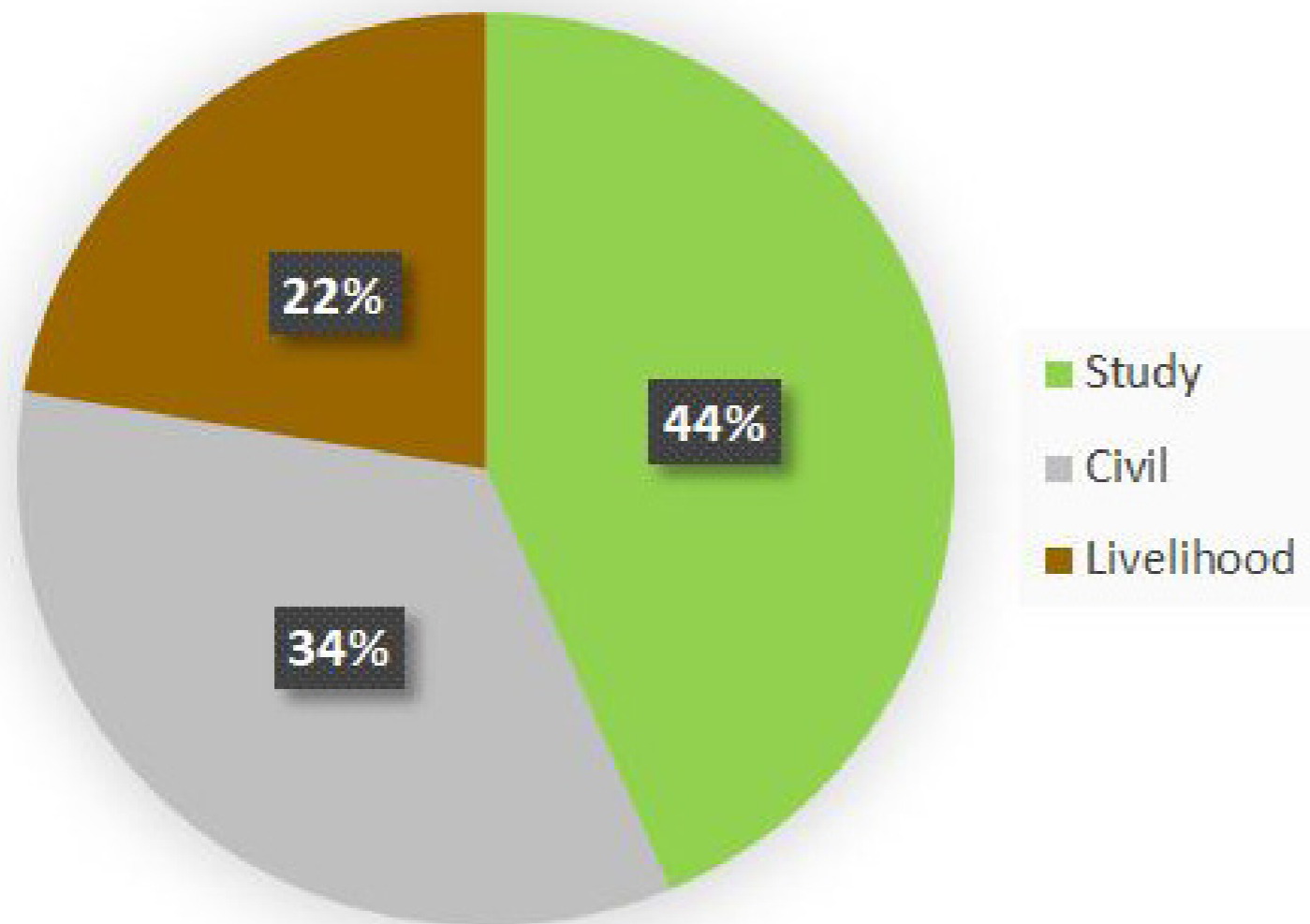
Graphic of the 282 participants' geographic origin:
This map shows the Biosphere Reserves delegates' origin.



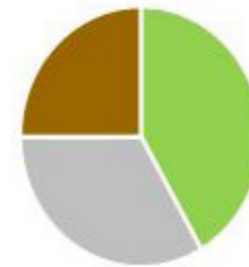
Overview on MAB Youth Forum participants

Graphic of participants' background

This map shows the Biosphere Reserves delegates' background (study/research; civil society, livelihood)



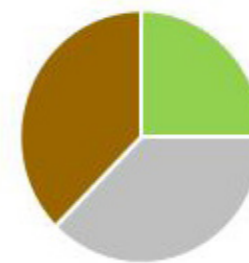
Europe and Nord America



Arab States



Latin America and Caribbean



Asia and Pacific



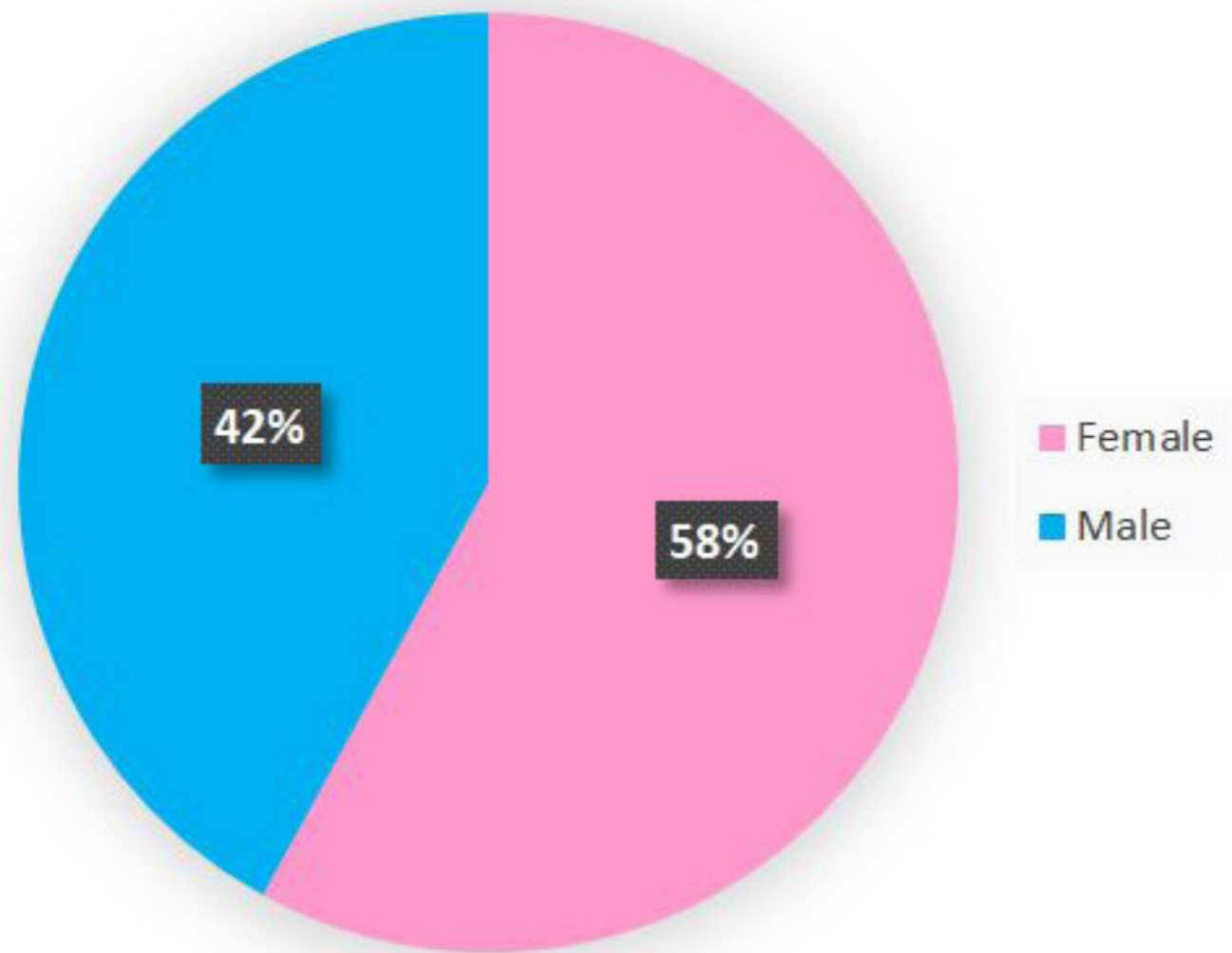
Africa



Overview on MAB Youth Forum participants

Graphic of the 282 participants' geographic origin

This map shows the Biosphere Reserves delegates' representation on a gender basis



Europe and Nord America



Arab States



Latin America and Caribbean



Asia and Pacific



Africa



Participatory process: sites



The participatory process has been built up and was composed of several days of work in Rosolina Mare congress center and of a two-days-workshop (19th and 21st September) held in different locations all around the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve.

Each group was organized in order to ensure participants could work with people coming from different regions and backgrounds. Moreover each group has been formed in order to be representative of the young population at the Forum on the base of: gender, geographical provenience, sector of interest (study/research; civil society, livelihood).

Each group was supported through the process by: 2 members of the facilitation team; 1 staff member of UNESCO Office (Venice Office, MAB Secretariat, Abuja Office).

19 SEP 17 WORKSHOP_SCENARIO 1



21 SEP 17 WORKSHOP_SCENARIO 1



Working together in the forum towards feasible SOLUTIONS

WORKSHOP



Almost 300 participants divided into 6 groups involving representatives of 142 BR's from 84 different countries.

DATE



19th/21st September

LOCATION



50 workshops organized in 8 locations

Participatory process: methodology

The goal of this participatory process was to help the participants answer the main question

How can young people be more effectively involved in the MAB Programme and in the life of Biosphere Reserves?

In this way, the main issue of this MAB Youth Forum was NOT to find a new “Youth Policy”, but, with the direct involvement of young Biosphere Reserve representatives, to discuss the contribution and the role that youth have (and can have with the support of the MAB Programme, the Network of Biosphere Reserves and local Biosphere Reserves) in sustainable development with and within the Biosphere Reserves.

Activities

The proposals which form the results of this process have been identified through participatory activities that involved directly and actively almost 300 delegates of the different Biosphere Reserves, including the sharing of different tools and participation interactive working moments, such as:

- **Survey**: a preliminary contact with the participants asking them to fill up an anonymous questionnaire, aiming to contribute in understanding the participants’ point of view relating to some topics fundamental to the Forum. This information helped in defining thematic sessions and in organizing workshops activities.
- **BRs 4 SDGs**. After Marena Heindrup’s warm up session, participants were asked to stick some dots onto Sustainable Development Goals posters in order to identify “which are the Sustainable Development Goals their BR is already mostly working on” and “which are the Sustainable Development Goals their BRs should work much”.
- **A first series of 6 parallel workshops (19/09)** developed in order to define a complete SWOT Analysis of youth involvement in the MAB Programme from the participants’ point of view and to define objectives recognized as priorities in guaranteeing a greater involvement of youth in the Programme, its thematic networks and the Biosphere Reserves.
- A whole day of **collaborative work** aimed to summarize and integrate different workshops’ outcomes
- **a second series of 6 parallel workshops (21/09)** were developed in order to identify and discuss strategies and actions to support the effective involvement of young people in the MAB Programme and in the life of Biosphere Reserves.
- The **collaborative work** on 20/09 and 22/09 in order to draft the Final Declaration of the MAB Youth Forum

The three levels of reflection

During the activities, participants discussed and underlined different points of view and progressed to define common strategies to improve BR policies and actions in relation to three different levels of reflection:

Single Biosphere Reserve: recognized by UNESCO, it actualizes the objectives of the MAB Programme at a local level. Today there are 672 BRs, in 120 Nations;

Networks of Biosphere Reserves: these networks were established to support the interaction among Biosphere Reserves at a regional level (AfriMAB, IberoMAB, EuroMAB, etc) on ecosystem-specific focuses (Mountains, Drylands, etc), or on thematic specific issues (economic development, urban systems, etc);

MAB Programme: defines the strategies and the objectives which should be pursued within these networks; it is coordinated by the MAB International Coordination Council, supported by its Secretariat in UNESCO HQ’s in Paris and a network of field offices in all regions and, at a national level, cooperates with the MAB National Committees.

These three levels are strictly interconnected and influence each other. They should not be seen as distinct areas.

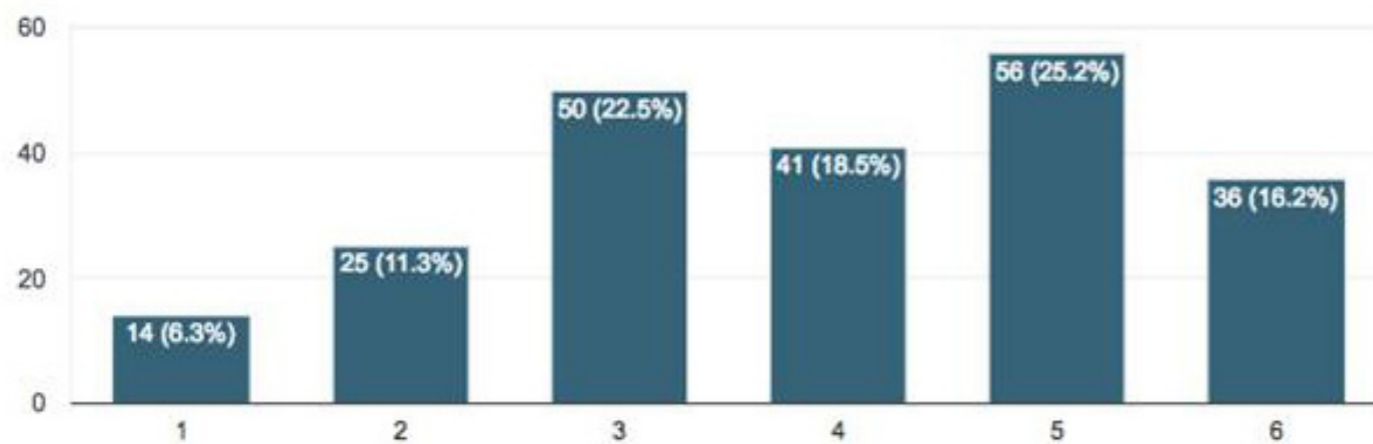
Participatory process: survey

What stands out in the Survey?

A satisfactory involvement of the Youth in the Territories is still to be achieved

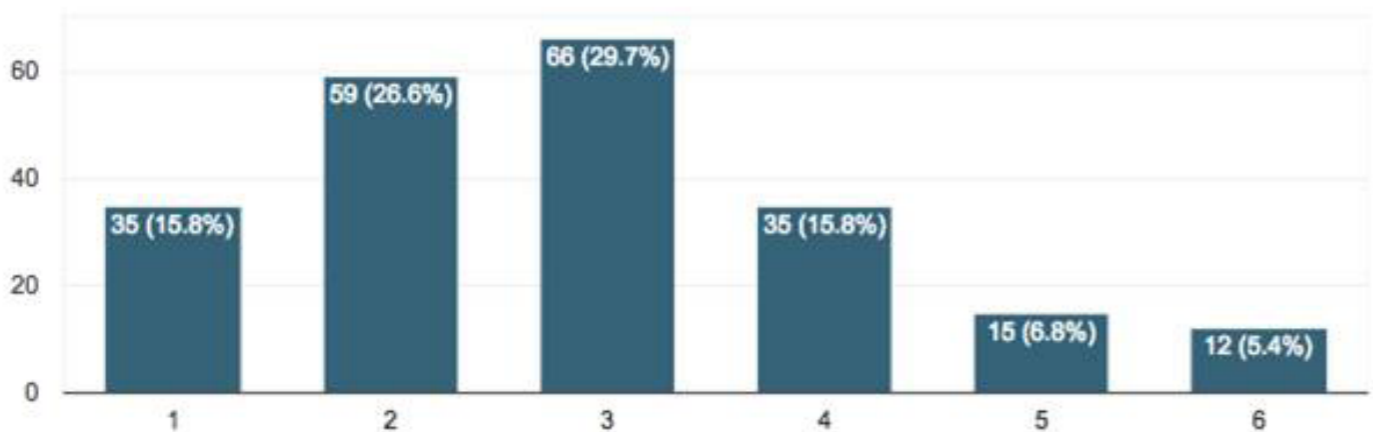
On a scale from 1 to 6, to what extent are you involved in the life of the BR?

222 responses



On a scale from 1 to 6, To what extent are you satisfied with the involvement of the youth in the life of your biosphere ?

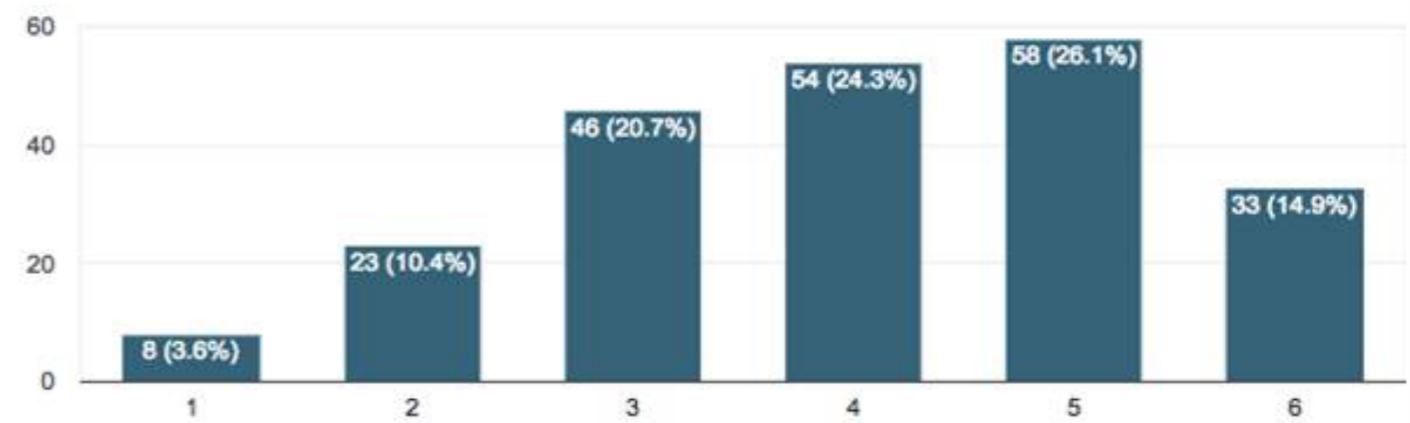
222 responses



We are still far away from strong networks and dialogues

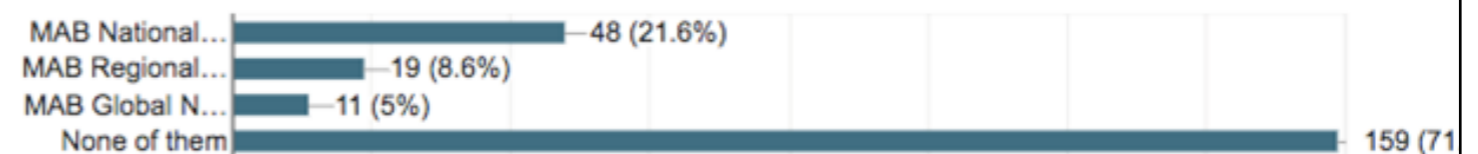
On a scale from 1 to 6, to what extent does the existence of the BR facilitates your connection to the World

222 responses



Indicate to which of these network have you ever participated to:

222 responses



This survey is from preliminary contact with the participants. They were asked to fill in an anonymous questionnaire, aimed to contribute to understanding the participants' point of view on some topics, fundamental for the Forum. The results of this survey helped to gather participants' opinion on:

- Young people's knowledge of BRs, the MAB Programme and official documents (MAB Strategy, Lima Action Plan, etc.)
- The involvement of young people in their BR's life
- Young people's satisfaction in their own involvement
- Their knowledge of relevant networks
- What they think are the main issues Biosphere Reserves are dealing with

This information helped in building up thematic sessions and in organizing workshop activities.

Participatory process: survey

Most recurrent priorities for Youth Engagement

In order of frequency for each respondent

- Education/ awareness
- Funding/Mentorship schemes / Working opportunities
- Leadership and Volunteering Programs/ Involving activities and events
- Involvement in Decision making/ Management
- Partnerships/ Networks with the local and the outside world

Advantages of working with the BR

In order of importance




- Access to privileged/deeper information about BR/SD
- Contact with local people, livelihood and nature
- Learning opportunities/ Experience
- Networking
- Contributing to the greater good/ SDGs
- Ability to change things
- International/Stimulating Environment
- Exposure (National and International)
- Remuneration/Career investment

Obstacles of working with the BR

In order of importance

- Local participation (and support)/ Awareness
- Funding
- Lack of state support and cooperation among different governance level
- Bureaucratic and Administrative issues
- Conserving while bringing (material) growth
- Inertia/Lack of Communication
- Lack of infrastructures
- No vision/Strategy/Competences
- Ageism

Triggering your participation... Insights on the participatory process and the outcome of the online consultations

SURVEY		
Responses	225	✓ —
Answer	9103	✗ —
ONLINE FORUM		
Posts	348	
Posts viewed	6489	

Participatory process: survey

Requirements for cooperation between BR and Civil Society

In order of importance

Communication/Shared Vision and Understanding about BR

Financial cooperation /Mutual projects/Partnerships/Networks

Information Sharing/Platform

Capacity Building

Better and more transparent governance structures

Key requirements for a livelihood project

In order of importance

Financial support/partnerships

Local Interest, Participation and Trust of people

Local sustainable sources/CSR

Capacity building and transfer/ know-how/Infrastructures

Clear action plan and practices/ legislative support and integration

Priorities to ensure BRs future development

Improving Local Participation, their awareness and their education

Creating and supporting sustainable development projects

Promoting Inclusive governance structures and legislative consolidation

Facilitating Information sharing - research and evaluation of existing projects


Improving Communication and cooperation with the network

Communication and social media team

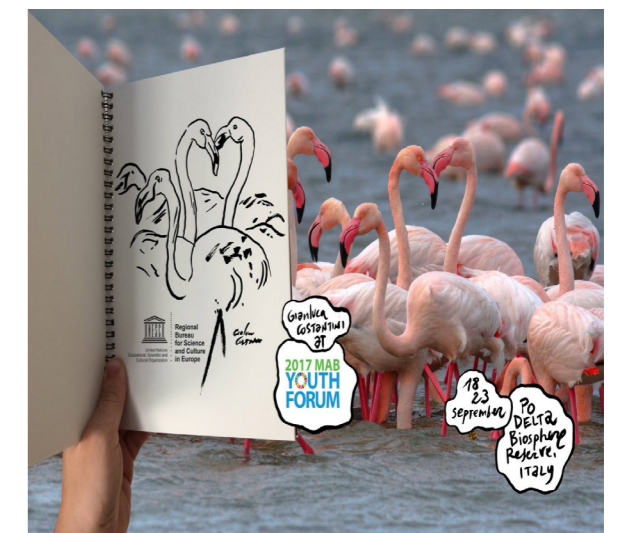
TOOLS

 www.myforum2017.com

 Press

 #myforum2017

 myforum2017



Participatory process: results: BRs 4 SDGs

By a simple stitching activity, participants are asked to answer this question:

“How can Biosphere Reserves help implementing the Sustainable Development Goals?”

The aim of this activity was to understand what the participants think are the “Sustainable Development Goals their BR is already mostly working on” and “which are the Sustainable Development Goals their BR should work much more on”
RESULTS: elaboration of the stitching activity with two spider diagrams:

The red one reports on “what your local BR is already doing for achieving Sustainable Development Goals”;

The green one reports on “what your local BR should do better for achieving Sustainable Development Goals”.

Red spider diagram:

- # 1 - LIFE ON LAND
- # 2 - LIFE BELOW WATER
- # 3 - QUALITY EDUCATION

Red spider diagram

What your local BR is already doing for achieving Sustainable Development Goals?



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STITCHING ACTIVITY

Participants had to stick 5 red and 5 green dots onto the SDGs posters

DATE

Monday 18th September

LOCATION

Conference Center Rosolina (RO)



Participatory process: results: BRs 4 SDGs

This activity aims to give a first answer to this question:
"How can Biosphere Reserves help implement the Sustainable Development Goals?"

By a simple stitching activity, participants were asked to recognize which, in their opinion, are the Sustainable Development Goals their BR is already mostly working on" and "which are the Sustainable Development Goals their BR should work much more on".

The aim of this activity was to understand what the participants think are the "Sustainable Development Goals their BR is already mostly working on" and "which are the Sustainable Development Goals their BR should work much more on".

Green spider diagram:

- # 1 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- # 2 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- # 3 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Green spider diagram

What your local BR should do better for achieving Sustainable Development Goals?



Working together in the forum towards feasible SOLUTIONS

STITCHING ACTIVITY

Participants had to stick 5 red and 5 green dots onto SDGs posters

DATE

Monday 18th September

LOCATION

Conference Center Rosolina (RO)



Participatory process activities: wsp round 1

The aim of the first round of workshops was to build up a common overview on young people current involvement in the MAB Programme and in the life of their Biosphere Reserves. Specific objectives were developed by understanding opportunities through enhancing the strengths and containing the weaknesses/ threats.

By focusing on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (developing SWOT Analysis) participants were able to identify internal and external factors which are helpful or harmful to achieve desired objectives.



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DATE



Tuesday 19th September

METHODOLOGY



These laboratories were shaped as parallel workshops aiming to develop a complete SWOT Analysis on youth involvement in the MAB programme and in their Biosphere Reserve, from the participants' point of view. Then workshop activities were implemented in order to prioritize objectives and report on them at the end of the day in a plenary session.

ACTIVITIES: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS



Participants were initially introduced to the workshop's methodology, phases, and their roles in it. The 6 main groups were divided into subgroups and participants were asked to express their opinion in order to help define a SWOT analysis which referred to young people's involvement in the MAB Programme and in relation to the MAB Programme, with the Biosphere Reserves' network and the single Biosphere Reserve.

After focusing on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, considered in relation to the main topic, participants underlined connections between them. Then, starting from this framework, they discussed the main objectives to be realized in order to achieve more effective youth involvement.

The participants then ranked, in order of priority, the main objectives, which resulted in a sequence of priority objectives for each level of reflection, MAB Programme, BR Networks, and single BRs.

Participatory process: identifying the goals

A whole day of **collaborative work** aimed to summarize different workshops' outcomes and integrate the priorities expressed at the end of the first workshop day. The working group of facilitators recognized a sequence of objectives by the integration of results emerged from the 24 workshops held the previous day, taking into count recurring proposals and priorities indications expressed by participants in the stitching activity.

Biosphere Reserve goals

Create attractive and long term employment opportunities linked to BR's values (in particular conservation of Biodiversity, habitat restoration), involving local enterprises and cooperating with local stakeholders

Spread scientific and traditional knowledge connected to BR's values, to raise awareness, sense of belonging and guarantee its transfer to future generations

Develop relationships between BR and educational institutions (at all levels and inside and outside BRs).

BR's Networks goals

Improve the exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and good practices among BRs, especially through tools that stimulate involvement of young people.

Promote youth exchange through mobility (e.g. manager, researcher, student, entrepreneurs, ...) to cooperate in realizing concrete projects connected with BR and in BR networks.

Facilitate access to regional and inter-regional funding to support young people's long term projects concerning BR.

MAB Programme goals

Improve communication, at all MAB levels, in order to be effective with young people

Spread globally the knowledge and awareness of MAB Programme's vision, mission, values, aims, and activities

Involve youth in MAB governance, at all levels, especially in crucial moments of the decision process and before projects start



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DATE

Wednesday 20th September

COLLABORATIVE WORK

The facilitation team and UNESCO Staff elaborated a summary with a focus on:

- Reporting on the main goals that came out from the first day of workshops;
- Integrating the priority goals to be further developed during the second day of workshops.

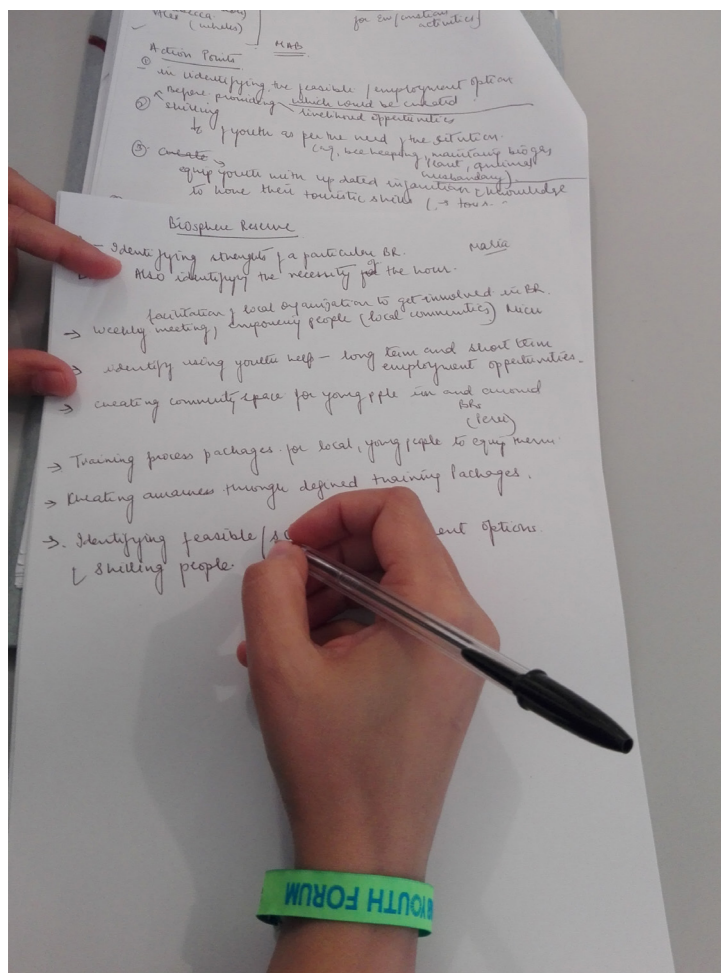
These are the goals the participants worked with during the second round of workshop activities, aiming to better define these priorities and to identify and discuss strategies and actions that could help achieving them.

MAIN QUESTION

How can young people be more effectively involved in the MAB Programme and in the life of their Biosphere Reserves?

Participatory process activities: wsp round 2

The aim of the second round of workshops was to identify strategies and actions to be developed in order to improve and make effective the involvement of young people in the MAB Programme and in the life of their Biosphere Reserves.



Working together in the forum towards feasible SOLUTIONS

DATE

Thursday 21th September

METHODOLOGY

After a short review of the previous days' outcomes and the presentation of the objectives recognized as priorities in the previous workshop, with a focus on the main themes which emerged, each group was divided into mixed subgroups. Participants were asked to identify and discuss strategies and actions to better address these issues and to support the changes and progress needed. Then, in a plenary session, a general discussion was facilitated in order to prioritize the identified goals, actions and expected results.

ACTIVITY: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Firstly, participants discussed the objectives recognized as priorities from the work of the previous round. They then worked together to define actions in order to tackle problems and to support the goals identified during the first round of workshops, in relation to the three thematic areas (BR's; BR's Network and National Committee; MAB Programme). For each level of elaboration, the subgroups outlined 5 actions aimed to guarantee a greater involvement of youth in the MAB Programme. After presenting the proposed presentation, with a stitching actions in a plenary session, the participants ranked these actions' in terms of priorities and possible personal commitment to their achievement.

Participatory process: declaration draft

COLLABORATIVE WORK

The facilitation team, UNESCO Staff and 12 participants worked together in order to identify the priority issues that would compose the Final Declaration of the MAB Youth Forum 2017.



FINAL DECLARATION OF THE MAB YOUTH FORUM 2017 PRESENTED DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY

Selected delegates from the MAB Youth Forum presented the main strategies and actions identified and elaborated during the second round of workshop.



Working together in the forum towards feasible SOLUTIONS

DATE



Friday 22nd September

COLLABORATIVE WORK



Once again participants were directly involved in the development of the documents that summaries the outcomes of the MaB Youth Forum 2017. The draft of the Final Declaration of the Forum itself was developed through the participatory workshops, and with the direct involvement of twelve representatives of the MAB Youth Forum participants, with the support of the UNESCO Staff and the facilitation team.

The draft of the Final Declaration of the Forum was presented by these representatives during the closing ceremony on the afternoon of the 22nd of September.

It summaries what emerged from the workshops, in the form of requests and proposals, highlighting what participants can personally undertake and what the MAB Programme and its networks are asked/expected to undertake.

it also includes some of the topics elaborated by the working groups as well as some of the actions identified as priorities by participants.

In the days following the Forum, this document has been shared via e-mail with all participants, who had no changes to suggest. This text was already translated into 10 different languages.

The inputs and all the outcomes resulting from the workshops have been reviewed, further analyzed and synthetized by the facilitation team in order to present them in this report.

Participatory process: final outputs

The main outputs of this participatory process are the two final documents concluding the present report:

- ***the Final Declaration of the MAB Youth Forum 2017***, that summarize the main requests and proposals the participants intended to address to every single Biosphere Reserve, the various regional and thematic networks and to the MAB International Coordinating Council, but also their commitments to be agent of change;
- An ***Action Plan*** that specifies objectives and actions proposed by the participants in order to guarantee, at all levels, a greater and more effective involvement of youth in the MAB Programme.

Every proposal is then related to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the Lima Action Plan's structure, still considering the 3 levels of pertinence: Biosphere Reserves, Networks and MAB Programme.

Knowledge

Every step of this participatory process achieved some specific results useful to raise knowledge among all participants. Taking part in the MAB Youth Forum activities helped participants to contribute their knowledge of the MAB Programme's tools and issues, and every activity in this participatory process had the specific aim to contribute to define an overview of young people's perception on some important issues, such as:

- Young people's involvement in the MAB Programme and their respective Biosphere Reserve: modalities, tools, effectiveness (survey's result);
- Youth' perception of the most important fields of activity in BRs, in relation to the SDGs (see BRs 4 SDGs activity results);
- - A complete analysis of Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threats of the

current situation dealing with the topic of youth involvement in the MAB Programme and in the Biosphere Reserves (first round workshop's results);

- An action plan developed to better address these issues and to support the changes and progress needed.

Awareness

The participatory process has been built up considering several days of work at the Congress Centre of Rosolina Mare and two rounds of workshops (on 19 and 21 September) held in different locations of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve.

This choice had the specific aim of contributing to build up awareness of what "being part of the MAB Programme" means: participants were led to discover many representative and symbolic locations of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, feeling the places, meeting local people, experiencing local tastes.

By doing so the participants were offered the opportunity to know, from the inside, the specific characteristics of the BR hosting the Forum, observing similarities and differences with their own territory. At the same time, local people could meet the participants of the Forum be involved in their discussions and activities.

Empowerment

Participants were supported by a facilitation team in their work during the whole MAB Youth Forum 2017. Facilitators were professionals who supervised the workshops, guaranteed for the application and respect of a precise working methodology, organized the activities in order to lead the process in an efficient way towards the achievement of the agreed goals. Key to this was also the identification and involvement of young participants who were asked to give an important contribution

in developing an interactive and effective discussion in smaller working groups during the workshops:

- a "working group facilitator" who ensured that everyone in the subgroup could participate in the discussion and give her/his own contribution to the debate;

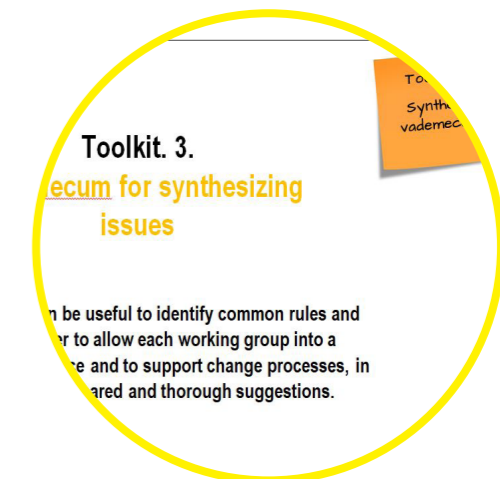
- a "working group assistant" in charge of summarizing emerging issues, presenting the outputs produced during the conclusive plenary session. These assistants had demonstrated their capacity and ability to capture thoughts during discussions and translate them into writing on posters, accurately representing the subgroup's point of view.

A close collaboration among facilitators and these assistants ensured fruitful discussions leading, at the end of the Forum, to shared, sustainable and effective recommendations. This in turn helped participants in developing communication, interaction, moderation and synthesis skills.

In order to get ready to take an active part in an effective and inclusive discussion, a toolkit was developed and shared with participants before the Forum. This toolkit included:

1. Handbook for discussion
2. Handbook for the facilitation
3. Vade mecum for synthesizing issues

These toolkits helped in particular the participants to share a common ground of knowledge and rules to start the debate, and it is our hope that they could continue using and developing them within the framework of their daily activities within their respective Biosphere Reserve.



MAB Youth Forum 2017 - final declaration

Preamble

We, the MAB Youth, 282 representatives from 142 Biosphere Reserves in 85 countries, gathered in Po Delta Biosphere Reserve during 18-23 September 2017 at the first MAB Youth Forum;

Thankful to have had the chance to attend a highly interactive and participatory forum, with over 50 workshops in 8 locations within the Po Delta BR.

We would like to thank the people of the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, organizers, sponsors, participants, hosts, and volunteers for their hospitality and commitment to making us feel at home. This forum has been an amazing opportunity to share and collaborate with our peers to form a collective vision for the future of youth in Biosphere Reserves.

Despite the fact that we come from diverse backgrounds we are united on the objectives and actions for the Biosphere Reserve, World Network of Biosphere Reserves and to the MAB programme.

Declaration

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, **we ask all Biosphere Reserves** to commit to creating attractive and **long-term employment opportunities linked to the values of Biosphere Reserves** (in particular conservation of Biodiversity and habitat restoration), involving local enterprises and cooperating with local stakeholders. In particular we suggest:

- To create hubs and incubators to support sustainable business ideas in each Biosphere Reserve;
- To create an open database to share information concerning employment opportunities connected with Biosphere Reserve values;
- Develop training programmes in order to develop youth skills and employability in Biosphere Reserves.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we ask all Biosphere Reserves to commit **to spreading scientific and traditional knowledge** connected to the values of Biosphere Reserves, **to raise awareness, sense of belonging and guarantee its transfer to future generations.**

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we commit ourselves and also ask BRs to implement these actions:

- To organize periodical events on cultural, ecological, economic topics involving local stakeholders and communities;
- To organize summer camps, workshops and conferences for training young people to be ambassadors of their Biosphere Reserve.
- We ask all Biosphere Reserves **to develop relationships with educational institutions**, at all levels and within and out with Biosphere Reserve borders. In particular:
 - To develop specific curriculum and programmes, in schools and universities dealing with Biosphere Reserve characteristics, values and tools;
 - To develop cooperation between research institutions and local economic organizations in order to improve applied research and internships.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates **We recommend that the Network of BRs** improve the **exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and good practices** among Biosphere Reserves, especially through tools that stimulate the involvement of young people. In particular, we suggest:

- The organization of periodic, regional youth forums;
- To develop and maintain a digital open access Biosphere Reserve platform (e.g. APP webinar meetings and on-line courses).
- To create Thematic Networks: such as, Biosphere Reserve School and youth clubs programmes, working to build a

network among schools and within communities dealing with BR themes.

We ask to promote youth **exchange and cooperation in realizing concrete projects** which are connected with Biosphere Reserves and Biosphere Reserve networks. Such as volunteering programmes in Biosphere Reserves and exchange visits between countries.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we commit ourselves to create **hosting projects for young people in Biosphere Reserves** such as Air bnb and couch surfing.

We call for the facilitation of access to regional and inter-regional funding to support young people's long term projects. Through:

- Establishing a "funding expert" or a "funding advisory board" to find funding and raise resources;
- Promoting the construction of a MAB crowdfunding platform;
- Verifying the possibility to create a Biosphere Reserve carbon certificate to sell to enterprises.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, **we ask the MAB ICC - International Coordinating Council** to improve communication, at all MAB levels, in order to be effective with young people:

- Promote a MAB survey in all BRs in order to get data on youth involvement;
- Incorporate youth perspective in MAB communication guidelines and toolkits by revising existing and future documents;
- Create an annual MAB Youth Award for the best project;
- Create specific summary of official MAB documents in "youth friendly language".

We ask the MAB International Coordinating Council (ICC) **to spread globally the knowledge and awareness of the vision**, mission and activities of the MAB programme. We propose to:

- Engage public figures as ambassadors to represent the MAB programme values;
- Organize a periodic MAB expo.

We, as MAB Youth Forum delegates commit ourselves to develop and **promote interactive tools** for sharing information about the MAB programme at all levels (for examples; social media, story-telling, comics).




We recommend the involvement of youth in MAB governance, by selecting "youth representatives" at all levels, especially in crucial moments of the decision process.

We ask the ICC to include youth as observer members.



We encourage countries to **include mandatory youth in national delegations, national MAB Committees, and in Biosphere Reserve governance.**

Finally **we commit ourselves** to report back to our BR and young people of our territory what the MAB Youth Forum participant 2017 have learned, and we ask UNESCO to establish a platform and a mechanism to monitor the MAB Youth Forum 2017 Action Plan and submit a periodic report.


Action plan _ addressed to every Biosphere Reserve

GOAL	LIMA ACTION PLAN	SDGs	ACTION	PRIORITY	YOUTH COMMITMENT	UNESCO'S TOOLS
BR - obj 1 To create attractive and long-term employment opportunities linked to the values of Biosphere Reserves (in particular conservation of Biodiversity and habitat restoration), involving local enterprises and cooperating with local stakeholders.	A4.2; A5; B1; C3.1; C4.2; C5		a. Create hubs and incubators to support sustainable business ideas in each Biosphere Reserve	+		Science Parks and Technology Business Incubators
			b. Create an open database to share information concerning employment opportunities connected with Biosphere Reserve values	+		OASIIS
			c. Develop training programmes in order to develop youth skills and employability in Biosphere Reserves	+		UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network; Education For All, Skills for work and life, UNEVOC, TVET 2016 - 2021
			d. Support creation and growth of start-ups involved in green economies by giving them all the existing possibilities and opportunities for long term vision possibilities and opportunities for long term vision			
BR - obj 2 To spread scientific and traditional knowledge connected to the values of Biosphere Reserves, to raise awareness; sense of belonging and guarantee its transfer to future generations.	A2.4; D2; C8	 	a. Organize periodical events on cultural, ecological, economic topics involving local stakeholders and communities	+	+	
			b. Organize summer camps, workshops and conferences for training young people to be ambassadors of their Biosphere Reserve.	+	+	
			c. Create and publish periodical newsletter of BR current events including articles from youth		+	Newsletter



Action plan _ addressed to every Biosphere Reserve

GOAL	LIMA ACTION PLAN	SDGs	ACTION	PRIORITY	YOUTH COMMITMENT	UNESCO'S TOOLS		
<p>BR - obj 2 To spread scientific and traditional knowledge connected to the values of Biosphere Reserves, to raise awareness; sense of belonging and guarantee its transfer to future generations.</p>	<p>A2.4; D2; C8</p>	 	<p>d. Report back to our BR what MAB Youth Forum participant 2017 have learnt</p>		+			
			<p>e. Spread to hostes the traditional and scientific knoledge trhough ecotourism and experiential tourism proposals</p>				<p>UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit, UNESCO MAB Brand & Story Toolkit</p>	
			<p>f. Implement the BR day and celebrate it!</p>				+	<p>International Day for Biosphere Reserves</p>
			<p>g. Create an award to the most innovative and effective young project relataded to the BR goals</p>				+	<p>MaB Young Scientists Award</p>
			<p>h. Identify local youth ambassadors who will promote the BR within the BR, in schools, events, etc...</p>				+	<p>Participants at MaB Youth Forum</p>
			<p>i. Create a BR game (on-line or parlour game) for children, teenagers and aduts to learn culture and habitats of the BR</p>					<p>World rescue</p>
			<p>j. Publish research in BR in a more simplified language (e.g. with meetings, social media, newspaper, festival)</p>					+
<p>k. Enhancing collaboration among local stakeholders through unified branding of local products and services</p>						<p>UNESCO MAB Brand & Story Toolkit</p>		



Action plan _ addressed to every Biosphere Reserve

GOAL	LIMA ACTION PLAN	SDGs	ACTION	PRIORITY	YOUTH COMMITMENT	UNESCO'S TOOLS
BR - obj 3 To develop relationships with educational institutions, at all levels and within and out with Biosphere Reserve borders.	A4.2; B7		I. Create an ExpoBR to show all the projects and subjects that support the BR			
			a. Develop cooperation between research institutions and local economic organizations in order to improve applied research and internships.	+		Science Parks and Technology Business Incubators
			b. Develop specific curriculum and programmes, in schools and universities dealing with Biosphere Reserve characteristics, values and tools	+		UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, UNESCO Chairs
			c. Develop partnership with universities to implement e-learning courses			UNESCO Chairs
			d. Organize study-visits, educational tours and open-air workshops for schools			
			e. Do practical workshops for teachers to train them on the importance of the BR and on how they can incorporate this in their teaching and learning programmes			Education For All, Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable future, International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, Teacher Training Workshops and Seminars.
			f. Subsidised internships as a way to promote youth employment			OASIIS
g. Organise and/or facilitating presentations and workshops in educational institutions in and out the BR about value and opportunities connected to the BR and MaB Programme			UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network			

Action plan _ addressed to Biosphere Reserves Network

GOAL	LIMA ACTION PLAN	SDGs	ACTION	PRIORITY	YOUTH COMMITMENT	UNESCO'S TOOLS
BR Network - obj 1 To improve the exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and good practices among Biosphere Reserves, especially through tools that stimulate the involvement of young people.	A4.4; A4.5; B5; B6		a. The organization of periodic, regional youth forums	+		
			b. Develop and maintain a digital open access Biosphere Reserve platform (e.g. APP webinar meetings and on-line courses).	+		Open Training Platform
			c. Create Thematic Networks: such as, Biosphere Reserve School and youth clubs programmes, working to build a network among schools and within communities dealing with BR themes	+		MaB Networks
			d. Create and contribute to a newsletter/circular for local and networks specific for country or topic (Mountain BRs,...)			
			e. Organize different contests between BR (e.g. photography)			If I Were global youth contest, Youth Photo Contest
			f. Host a thematic Youth Forum			
BR Network - obj 2 To promote youth exchange and cooperation in realizing concrete projects which are connected with Biosphere Reserves and Biosphere Reserve networks.	B1; B2; B4; B6; B7; C2; C3		a. Volunteering programmes in Biosphere Reserves and exchange visits between countries	+		UN volunteers
			b. Create hosting projects for young people in Biosphere Reserves such as Airbnb and Couchsurfing.	+	+	




Action plan _ addressed to Biosphere Reserves Network

GOAL	LIMA ACTION PLAN	SDGs	ACTION	PRIORITY	YOUTH COMMITMENT	UNESCO'S TOOLS	
BR Network - obj 3 To facilitate the access to regional and inter-regional funding to support young people's long term projects.	A5; C5; C3.2		c. Unesco has to create a scholarship for the exchange of youth from different BR in the same network	+			
			d. Establish partnerships with already existing international mobility / scholarship programmes (e.g. ERASMUS, nelson mandela, fullbright...) to get young people aware of other BRs.	+	+	Unesco Chairs	
			a. Establishing a "funding expert" or a "funding advisory board" to find funding and raise resources	+			
			b. Promoting the construction of a MAB crowdfunding platform	+		International Fund for Cultural Diversity	
				c. Verifying the possibility to create a Biosphere Reserve carbon certificate to sell to enterprises.	+		Paris Agreement
				d. Create a Youth MAB event for fundraising			
				e. Organise workshop training dedicated to young people concerning how to find information of regional funding and what I have to do to apply			
				f. Create an annual award for the best "Network MaB Youth Project"			

Action plan _ addressed to MAB ICC

GOAL	LIMA ACTION PLAN	SDGs	ACTION	PRIORITY	YOUTH COMMITMENT	UNESCO'S TOOLS	
<p>MAB ICC - obj 1 To improve communication, at all MAB levels, in order to be effective with young people</p>	D2.4; D3		a. Promote a MAB survey in all BRs in order to get data on youth involvement	+		UNESCO Institute for Statistics	
			b. Incorporate youth perspective in MAB communication guidelines and toolkits by revising existing and future documents.	+		UNESCO Youth Programme	
			c. Create an annual MAB Youth Award for the best project	+			
			d. Create specific summary of official MaB documents in "youth friendly language"	+			
			e. Establish Youth Communication Offices (creating information strategies-communication, plan-updated the list of youth)		+		
			f. Create universal glossary in order to have a uniform basis for communication				Glossary of the 2005 Convention
			g. Create a MAB Day with specific themes every year with awareness events				

Action plan _ addressed to MAB ICC

GOAL	LIMA ACTION PLAN	SDGs	ACTION	PRIORITY	YOUTH COMMITMENT	UNESCO'S TOOLS
<p>MAB ICC - obj 2 To spread globally the knowledge and awareness of the vision, mission and activities of the MAB programme</p>	D2		a. Engage public figures as ambassadors to represent the MAB programme values	+		Honorary and Goodwill Ambassadors
			b. Organize a periodic MAB Expo of all BRs	+		World Tourism Event
			c. Develop communication materials available to everybody (including people with disabilities and those with limited access to education)			
			d. Create universal MAB label to recognize good examples of ecotourism which is align to the MaB values			
			e. Develop and promote interactive tools for sharing information about the MAB programme at all levels	+	+	Reform & Innovation interactive tools
<p>MAB ICC- obj 3 To involve youth in MAB governance, by selecting "youth representatives" at all levels, especially in crucial moments of the decision process</p>	E2; E3		a. Include youth as observer members	+		Permanent Delegations
			b. Include mandatory youth in national delegations, national MaB Committees, and in Biosphere Reserve governance.	+		Youth Commission of Italian National Commission for UNESCO
			c. Sponsoring young delegates to participate in regional and international events			
			d. Requirement of MAB Programme for countries to include 2-3 young members in the National Committee			

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The 2017 MAB Youth Forum has been organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and this document summarizes the main outcomes of the Forum in the view of their dissemination among the participants, the Biosphere Reserves and various governance bodies of the MAB Programme. For any additional information please contact: Mr. Philippe Pypaert – E-mail: p.pypaert@unesco.org

The participatory process has been designed and implemented by Punto 3 and ETCV under a contract with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe. Punto 3 and ETCV are specialized in participatory urban planning processes and integrated territorial management, and have a consolidated experience in developing specific contents related to communication, territorial marketing and branding, in particular with regard to the MAB programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, in all their environmental, social and economic dimensions.



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2017 MAB YOUTH FORUM

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