

## Working Group 2: Sustainable Development

After a review of the different experiences of the participants, the working group 2 highlighted several issues on sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves and proposed innovative measures and further actions:

Issue	Challenges	Innovative measures & further action
1. Poverty of local communities	The working group underlined that poverty is a leading factor to be dealt with if we want to achieve sustainable management of natural resources in African Biosphere Reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage the creation of economic interest groups (such as associations, cooperatives) and support these groups by facilitating the access to credit;</li> <li>- Create income generating activities such as beekeeping, ecotourism and livestock breeding.</li> </ul> Further actions may include the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources, the labelling of local products and the creation of small enterprises.
2. Inaccessibility of the sites	It is commonly assumed that the road precedes development; this is why the working group insisted that the Biosphere Reserves in Africa should be accessible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The construction of access roads to the sites and also within the sites;</li> <li>- The creation of a web site for the BRs.</li> </ul> Further actions comprise sub regional collaboration.
3. Absence and/or non-implementation of Management Plan	Many Biosphere Reserves in Africa lack a Management Plan or in some cases the existing plan is not implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involvement of all stakeholders in the different steps of the development and implementation of such plans.</li> </ul>
4. Lack of human and financial resources	The level of school education is often low in communities around Biosphere Reserves in Africa.	In order to ensure progress and success for the benefit of the communities, it is necessary to build up their capacities.

The working group noted that the study trip to the Rhön Biosphere Reserve had been a stimulus for all participants on the necessity to involve the private sector in order to achieve sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves in Africa.

The workshop was organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with support of AfriMAB, the German Commission for UNESCO (DUK), the UNESCO MAB Secretariat, and the Rhön Biosphere Reserve Administration with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).