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Position Paper

Lima Action Plan

for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Implementation in Germany

Sixteen German sites are currently designated as UNESCO biosphere reserves within the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. They cover a total of 3.7 per cent of Germany's territory and are representative of its landscape diversity; they also include marine and coastal areas, covering an additional area of almost 8,000 square kilometres. At present, 669 UNESCO biosphere reserves exist in 120 countries worldwide. All are natural and cultural landscapes and, at the same time, economic areas with high biodiversity. Recognition by UNESCO is accompanied by the expectation that these sites will evolve into model regions in accordance with the international and national sustainability goals defined by the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In pursuit of this ambitious objective, UNESCO periodically adopts action plans setting targets and proposing measures to be taken by the competent authorities in the UNESCO member states in subsequent years.

The **Lima Action Plan**, agreed at the global level, provides a framework for coordination of actions in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) over the next 10 years (2016-2025). The Action Plan (http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/Lima_Action_Plan_en_final.pdf) is aimed at the practical implementation of the MAB Strategy 2015-2025, adopted by the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme (MAB ICC) in 2015 and endorsed by the UNESCO General Conference the same year. The Lima Action Plan itself is a **binding document** to which UNESCO member states made an explicit commitment in a decision by the UNESCO Executive Board in October 2016. Its implementation in the individual biosphere reserves will be monitored inter alia as part of the periodic reviews.

The Lima Action Plan, its targets and related actions are addressed to various **entities with relevant responsibilities at diverse levels of governance**. In Germany, these are primarily the federal states (*Bundesländer*) and the biosphere reserve management teams established

and maintained by them, the local authorities, businesses and universities in the biosphere reserves, the Permanent Working Group of the German Biosphere Reserves (*Ständige Arbeitsgruppe der Biosphärenreservate in Deutschland – AGBR*) as their framework for cooperation, Europarc Germany in its capacity as the federation of German large-scale protected areas, the MAB National Committee, various federal ministries and the German Commission for UNESCO.

Both documents – the Lima Action Plan and the MAB Strategy 2015-2025 – **build on the previous strategies adopted within the framework of the MAB Programme** and are thus a targeted response to today's global, national and local challenges. In particular, they follow up on the Seville Strategy (1995), the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (1995) and the Madrid Action Plan (2008) and reaffirm their respective provisions.

The Lima Action Plan is a decisive contribution to the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** set forth in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. Its mission is to create “thriving societies in harmony with the biosphere” (see “Vision” of the Lima Action Plan) both within biosphere reserves and beyond, through the global dissemination of the models of sustainability developed and tested in biosphere reserves.

As model regions for sustainable development, UNESCO biosphere reserves face the challenge of addressing **all 17 Sustainable Development Goals** and 169 targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda. Germany's updated 2016 National Sustainable Development Strategy is also aligned with the 17 SDGs. It should be emphasised that the Lima Action Plan requires all entities to pursue a whole-of-government approach with a view to strengthening **UNESCO biosphere reserves as models for the inclusive achievement of the 2030 Agenda**.

At the same time, Germany's UNESCO biosphere reserves appear to be particularly well-positioned to make contributions to a number of selected goals and targets defined in the 2030 Agenda.

UNESCO biosphere reserves are ideally positioned to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve its 17 Sustainable Development Goals through practical actions in a specific geographical context and to identify, moderate, mitigate and, if possible, resolve the resulting conflicts of interest at the same time. In this way, the UNESCO biosphere reserves can genuinely evolve into **models for the inclusive achievement of the 2030 Agenda**.

The biosphere reserves thus have the potential to become models for other regions, both in Germany and worldwide, to an even greater extent than before. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development not only offers outstanding opportunities for internal and external communication about sustainability; it also opens the way for the acquisition of new funding. Rigorous implementation of the Lima Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also expected to make major contributions to the attainment of positive results in the 10-year periodic reviews.

The Lima Action Plan specifies the mission and responsibilities of all MAB Programme stakeholders at national and international level. It is therefore presented as a matrix.

The **following summary describes the tasks arising from the Lima Action Plan** in Germany, structured according to the spheres of competence of the entities involved in the German states (*Bundesländer*), in the individual biosphere reserves and at the national level. It mainly focuses on stakeholders which the Federal Government and the MAB National Committee can address directly. It is the responsibility of the management teams of the

UNESCO biosphere reserves themselves to involve the local authorities, businesses or universities in implementation and, accordingly, to define them as stakeholders in the context of the Action Plan.

The lists of individual tasks, shown in relation to sphere of competence, include references to the relevant sections of the Action Plan. In most cases, several points and sub-points of the Action Plan are of relevance to a specific task in the German context, so the pertinent provisions are summarised and adapted accordingly. Most of the references are not exhaustive but merely serve as examples. For easier reading, the term “biosphere reserves” is used throughout the text, meaning UNESCO biosphere reserves in all cases.

This overview of tasks of relevance to Germany was drawn up by a joint working group set up by the MAB National Committee and the Permanent Working Group of the German Biosphere Reserves (*Ständige Arbeitsgruppe der Biosphärenreservate in Deutschland – AGBR*) and was adopted by the MAB National Committee in September 2017.

1. The federal states’ mission arising from the Lima Action Plan

The prime responsibility for implementing the Lima Action Plan lies with the state (*Land*) governments and highest nature conservation authorities at *Land* level, i.e. the relevant line ministry. All the German UNESCO biosphere reserves are incorporated into the states’ nature conservation legislation, in accordance with Germany’s constitutional provisions on jurisdiction pertaining to the protection of nature.

The line ministries’ prime responsibility in this context is to perform a **coordinating role**. According to the Lima Action Plan (and all previous strategies relating to the MAB Programme), UNESCO biosphere reserves are models for sustainable development – and are thus well-positioned to implement the entire 2030 Agenda. As such, UNESCO biosphere reserves are also included in Germany’s National Sustainable Development Strategy, updated in 2016. They thus have a **broad remit which extends far beyond nature conservation**. This means that at *Land* level, all the ministries, not only the relevant line ministry, have responsibility for the Lima Action Plan.

The primary tasks of the state (*Land*) governments are as follows:

Basic resources for the biosphere reserves:

- provide biosphere reserves with appropriate competences and financial, human and structural resources to enable them to make significant and measurable contributions in support of the achievement of the SDGs defined in the 2030 Agenda (A1.1, A5.3)
- review the biosphere reserves’ governance structures, human resources, budgetary capacities, legal status and competences periodically to ensure their suitability and effectiveness against a backdrop of changing circumstances, and to make appropriate adaptations as necessary (A3.2, A5.1, A6.2)
- recognise biosphere reserves in all state (*Land*) legislation, regulations, policies and programmes of relevance to sustainable development (A3.1)
- strengthen the biosphere reserves’ role as models for new forms of public participation and build the capacities of the biosphere reserves’ management teams to cooperate with all local stakeholders within the scope of their mission (A1.3, A2.3, A4.5)

- enable biosphere reserves to implement effective communication strategies, including the use of social media, and to provide appropriate financial resources for this purpose (A2.4, D2.1, D2.2, D3.1)
- make all key documents relating to the biosphere reserves available to the public online (D1.1)

Promoting biosphere reserves in the fields of education and research:

- continuously strengthen the biosphere reserves' role as places of education for sustainable development, primarily through their own education strategies and measures but also through partnerships with research institutions and universities (A4.1 and A4.2)
- increase the biosphere reserves' attractiveness as places of research, with a particular focus on problem-solving, inter alia through partnerships with universities and non-university research institutions (A4.3)
- establish and maintain an appropriate and integrated monitoring infrastructure (A4.3)
- systematically identify and disseminate good practices for sustainable development in biosphere reserves and eliminate unsustainable forms of use (A4.4, A4.5)
- identify ecosystem services in biosphere reserves and explore systems for their potential valorisation (A7.1, A7.2)
- utilise biosphere reserves as priority pilot regions for ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation and related research and monitoring (A1.4)
- utilise biosphere reserves as priority areas for measures, including research, aimed at the long-term conservation of human-environment systems (A1.6)

Promoting sustainable economies in biosphere reserves:

- reach out to the business sector, including municipal and social/non-profit enterprises, in order to support their development as model enterprises based on corporate social responsibility in a sustainable economy; this outreach may be undertaken by the biosphere reserve administrations or take some other form, e.g. cooperation with the chambers of industry and commerce (A1.5)
- strengthen the role of the biosphere reserves' management teams as partners for the business sector, cooperatives and social/non-profit enterprises (particularly start-ups) through the provision of advisory services and training and through public procurement (C6.1, C6.2)
- enable the biosphere reserve administrations to conclude contracts and raise funds from third-party donors (e.g. the EU) (C3.2, C4.2, C5.1)

Promoting nature conservation in biosphere reserves:

- provide biosphere reserves with appropriate competences and financial, human and structural resources to enable them to make significant and measurable contributions in support of the fulfilment of Germany's international nature conservation commitments (A1.2)
- implement programmes to maintain the diversity of species, breeds and varieties in biosphere reserves (A7.3)

Promoting the biosphere reserves' active membership of the World Network:

- seek partnerships with biosphere reserves in other countries, and in particular to facilitate and provide financial support for partnerships with countries of the Global South (B6.1)
- to ensure the participation of the management teams in international meetings of biosphere reserves and to establish dedicated budget lines for related travel expenses (B2.1)

2. The biosphere reserves' mission arising from the Lima Action Plan

The Lima Action Plan is mainly addressed to the management teams of the UNESCO biosphere reserves, of which there are more than 600 worldwide; their mission arising from the Lima Action Plan is therefore particularly broad in scope.

The Lima Action Plan requires the biosphere reserves to identify and position themselves as **models for the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals defined in the 2030 Agenda**. While it is the mission of the federal states (*Länder*) to empower the biosphere reserves to make this contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by providing them with appropriate resources, this requirement for “whole of government” support will have little effect if the biosphere reserves do not respond accordingly. In terms of their structures and working methods, the biosphere reserve management teams must position themselves in such a way that they are genuinely able to initiate, monitor and support a diverse range of sustainable development processes in their areas in the context of a broad sustainability portfolio. To that extent, the mission described below mirrors that of the state (*Land*) governments and underlines the urgent need for interdepartmental networking structures at the level of the *Land* ministries.

By utilising their structures for cooperation with municipalities and businesses, the biosphere reserve management teams ensure that the relevant tasks arising from the Lima Action Plan are understood, accepted and implemented as effectively as possible. The biosphere reserve management teams reach out in an appropriate and targeted manner to municipalities and businesses in their locality for this purpose.

Based on their current situation and the challenges facing them, the primary tasks of the biosphere reserve management teams are as follows:

Basic resources:

- to utilise their scope, competences and resources in a way which enables them to make significant and measurable contributions in support of the achievement of the SDGs defined in the 2030 Agenda (A1.1)
- to periodically review, or to arrange impartial external reviews, as appropriate, of their governance structures, administrative and budgetary capacities, legal status and responsibilities in order to ensure their suitability and effectiveness against a backdrop of changing circumstances and to make appropriate adaptations as necessary; where this exceeds their own capacities, to request appropriate support from the federal states (*Länder*) (A3.2, A5.1, A6.2)
- to strengthen their understanding of their role as models for new and effective forms of public participation and to cooperate with all local stakeholders in fulfilling their sustainable development mission (A1.3, A2.2, A2.3, A4.5)
- to implement effective communication strategies, including the use of social media (A2.4, D2.1, D2.2, D3.1)

Education and research:

- strengthen the biosphere reserves' understanding of their role as places for education for sustainable development, moving far beyond an environmental education remit to include new partnerships with research institutions and universities, for example (A4.1, A4.2)
- strengthen research, with a particular focus on problem-solving, including through partnerships with universities and non-university research institutions, and actively support implementation of research-based solutions (e.g. in an advisory capacity) (A4.3)
- establish and maintain an appropriate and integrated monitoring infrastructure (A4.3)
- identify and disseminate good practices for sustainable development and, where possible, eliminate unsustainable forms of use (A4.4, A4.5)
- identify ecosystem services in biosphere reserves and explore systems for their potential valorisation (A7.1, A7.2)
- strengthen biosphere reserves' understanding of their role as models for ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation and related research and monitoring (A1.4)
- strengthen biosphere reserves' understanding of their role as models for actions, including research, aimed at the long-term conservation of socio-ecological systems (A1.6)

Promoting sustainable economies:

- provide targeted support to businesses, including municipal and social/non-profit enterprises, in aligning themselves towards corporate social responsibility in a sustainable economy (A1.5)
- position themselves as partners for business start-ups, cooperatives and social/non-profit enterprises, including through the provision of advisory services and training and through public procurement (C6.1, C6.2),
- work towards a situation in which they can conclude contracts and raise funds from third-party donors (e.g. the EU) on an independent basis, if this is not already taking place, and develop and implement a business plan (A5.1, A5.2, C3.2, C4.2, C5.1)

Promoting nature conservation:

- utilise their scope, competences and resources in a way which enables them to make significant and measurable contributions in support of the fulfilment of Germany's international nature conservation commitments (A1.2)
- support the conservation of the diversity of species, breeds and varieties (A7.3)

Promoting active membership of the World Network:

- seek and maintain partnerships with biosphere reserves in other countries (B6.1)
- participate in international meetings of the biosphere reserves (B2.1)

3. The local authorities' mission arising from the Lima Action Plan

Municipalities have a particularly important role to play in the implementation of the Lima Action Plan; their role as stakeholders is subsumed under subnational authorities. The local

authorities (rural and urban districts, associations of communes, and municipalities) in UNESCO biosphere reserves make their own contributions to sustainable development in all their spheres of activity (devolved tasks and self-government), from land use planning to the siting of industry and public procurement. The local authorities are required to recognise the objectives of biosphere reserves in legislation and, in applying adaptive management principles with a focus on sustainable development, to work closely with the biosphere reserve administrations (A3.1, A6.2). Wherever possible, the local authorities should be integrated effectively into the management of the biosphere reserves (A3.2, A5.1) and should participate in funding them (A5.3).

Furthermore, the local authorities help to build *political legitimacy and public confidence* for the practical implementation of plans, programmes, other policies and related measures adopted at state (*Land*) and, if appropriate, district level which are of relevance to the work of the biosphere reserves (A1.3). They also *mediate* in conflicts of interest, for example in relation to area development and spatial planning matters (not least in their capacity as public agencies whose opinion must be sought) or zoning issues (A2.2, A3.1).

The primary tasks of the municipalities are as follows:

Basic resources for the biosphere reserves; promoting sustainable economies in the biosphere reserves:

- take into account the zonation and objectives of the biosphere reserve in regional and land use planning, other strategies (e.g. integrated rural development), policy measures (e.g. conversion schemes) and funding programmes (e.g. EU regional development and environment funding schemes such as LEADER and LIFE, or national funding programmes such as KULAP). Action taken in the context of regional and area development planning and other strategies (e.g. integrated rural development) should ensure that the conservation and development functions are fulfilled to an equal extent; for example, environmental legislation and other sector-specific regulations should be given appropriate and balanced consideration in relation to infrastructure and development measures aimed at meeting local needs (A3.1)
- strengthen the biosphere reserves as models for new forms of public participation and build the capacities of the biosphere reserve management teams to cooperate with all local stakeholders on project development and implementation, including within the framework of joint working groups with business federations (e.g. chambers of industry and commerce, chambers of trades), chambers of agriculture, tourism associations and in citizens' workshops (A1.3, A4.5.)
- via the biosphere reserve management teams, reach out to the business sector, including municipal and social/non-profit enterprises, in order to support their development as model enterprises based on corporate social responsibility in a sustainable economy (A1.5, C4.2.)
- assist the biosphere reserve management teams in marketing and further expanding networks of partner enterprises (A7.3, C4.2.)
- provide the biosphere reserve management teams with premises appropriate for their purposes, including for information centres (A3.2.)

Promoting biosphere reserves in the fields of education, research and nature conservation:

- continuously strengthen the biosphere reserve's role as places for education for sustainable development, for example by encouraging local education providers such

as children's nurseries and schools to evolve into holistic places for education for sustainable development, and facilitating networking among these institutions and with providers of non-formal education (A4.1 and A4.2)

- disseminate good practices for sustainable development in biosphere reserves and eliminate unsustainable forms of use (A4.4, A4.5)

4. The business sector's mission arising from the Lima Action Plan

The business sector in the area of UNESCO biosphere reserves (and beyond) is included as a separate stakeholder group in the Lima Action Plan and includes private, public-sector and social/non-profit enterprises and cooperatives. Businesses can make particularly important contributions to sustainable development in all their areas of activity (goods and services, production, workforce, investors, supply).

In Germany, the small and medium business sector has a tradition of local corporate social responsibility, often over many decades; in recent years, a credible focus on sustainable development goals has become a key success factor for multinationals as well. Increasingly, the ability to attract staff, finance business and achieve market success depends on credible long-term engagement at company locations and worldwide, including supply chains.

Businesses in biosphere reserves are particularly encouraged to become frontrunners on green/sustainable/social economy initiatives, both within their own structures and in society at large (A1.5) and to eliminate their own unsustainable practices (A4.4). In their communication with customers and staff, they also have a particular responsibility to promote sustainable development goals and the biosphere reserves' objectives to a wider public. They can, in addition, provide project-based or structural support through partnerships with the biosphere reserve management teams, thus facilitating the latter's work.

Businesses should make use of appropriate initiatives by the biosphere reserve management teams (C6.1, C6.2). In particular, networks of partner enterprises offer scope for companies' long-term and visible engagement (A7.3, C4.2.).

5. The mission for universities/research institutions arising from the Lima Action Plan

Universities and research institutions are included as a separate stakeholder group in the Lima Action Plan. This not only means universities and research institutions in the area or environs of UNESCO biosphere reserves; it also particularly includes all institutions which opt to cooperate with biosphere reserves on a permanent or structural basis, either as places of research/learning or as research/training/education partners for the biosphere reserve management teams (A4.1, B1.2). These permanent and structural partnerships lend themselves particularly to "transdisciplinary" integration of social stakeholders in the planning and delivery of research and education in a way which not only generates knowledge but also brings benefits for society. International cooperation with scientists working in and with biosphere reserves is particularly beneficial in this context (B7.1, B7.2). Examples of topics addressed by universities and research institutions are identification, elucidation and dissemination of good practices for sustainable development from a theoretical and methodological perspective (A4.4), ecosystem services (A7.1, A7.2), ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation (A1.4), long-term conservation of socio-ecological

systems (A1.6), the role of enterprises (C6.1) and biosphere reserves as places for education for sustainable development (A4.1, A4.2). Targeted use should be made of federal and state (*Land*) funding schemes, such as the German Research for Sustainable Development national framework programme (FONA), in this context.

6. The mission for AGBR and Europarc Germany arising from the Lima Action Plan

The regular exchange of experience in the Permanent Working Group of the German Biosphere Reserves (AGBR) has gained an international reputation as a model of good practice. In recent years, this exchange of experience has increasingly inspired similar initiatives around the world; the same applies to Europarc Germany, a federation which represents the interests of Germany's large-scale protected areas and implements joint initiatives. As the number of similar projects is not yet sufficiently large, national biosphere reserve working groups or federations are not addressed as a separate stakeholder group in the Lima Action Plan.

Nonetheless, in accordance with established practice in Germany, the AGBR is consulted by the MAB National Committee on all issues relating to the introduction of new policy standards at national level (please refer also to the section on the MAB National Committee below).

As the entity responsible for the National Natural Landscapes (*Nationale Naturlandschaften*) brand, Europarc Germany plays a role *inter alia* in the marketing of the biosphere reserves (C7.1, C7.2, C8.1).

7. The German MAB National Committee's mission arising from the Lima Action Plan

In Germany, as in more than 100 other countries, an independent MAB National Committee has been established to support the implementation and development of the MAB Programme. The German MAB National Committee is chaired by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and managed by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The BMUB, as the relevant line ministry, will review the biosphere reserve management teams' specific requests concerning staff and financial support for implementation of the Lima Action Plan.

The MAB National Committee's support to the German UNESCO biosphere reserves mainly relates to quality management and is delivered in the form of periodic reviews, further development and application of national criteria, including through policy papers and technical advice, and formulation of sustainability policies.

The German MAB National Committee is thus responsible for **quality assurance**, i.e. for ensuring that all stakeholders in Germany genuinely fulfil the mission assigned to them by the Lima Action Plan. The MAB National Committee is also responsible for reporting on related matters to the international bodies of UNESCO. To that end, the MAB National Committee approaches the federal states (*Länder*) and biosphere reserve administrations and draws their attention to the mission assigned to them in the Lima Action Plan (this is the purpose of the present document) and reviews progress and remaining challenges. It may also be contacted for technical advice on the implementation of the Action Plan. It

periodically reminds the federal states (*Länder*) and biosphere reserves about the most important challenges yet to be addressed. The MAB National Committee's quality assurance role is relevant to almost all the measures defined in the Lima Action Plan.

In this context, the MAB National Committee provides **conceptual input and, as far as possible, additional incentives for the biosphere reserves** and the sustainable development strategies and processes formulated at this level, particularly as regards

- the biosphere reserves' alignment to the 2030 Agenda and Germany's international commitments (A1.1, A1.2)
- minimum requirements as regards the biosphere reserves' governance structures, human resources, adaptive management, budgetary capacities, legal status and competences (examples of good practice) (A3.2, A5.3, A6.2)
- support for the dissemination of good practices for a sustainable economy and the elimination of unsustainable forms of use (A4.4)
- standards for communication plans, including the use of social media (A2.4, D2.1, D2.2, D3.1)
- standards for business plans for the biosphere reserves (A5.1, A5.2)
- recognition of biosphere reserves in national strategies and measures (A3.1)
- open online access to all key documents relating to the biosphere reserves (D1.1)

Furthermore, the MAB National Committee identifies **needs to additionally underpin the national criteria** with further position papers, for example, as a result of the Lima Action Plan. This mainly concerns the following:

- promotion of sustainable economic activities in biosphere reserves by businesses, cooperatives and non-profit enterprises (A1.5, C6.1, C6.2)
- forms of social involvement or participation in the biosphere reserves from the designation stage onwards and in the periodic reviews (A1.3, A2.2, A2.3, A4.5)
- identification of ecosystem services in biosphere reserves and establishment of systems for payment for these services (A7.1, A7.2)

The MAB National Committee also provides input to the Federal Government on ways of providing **targeted support for biosphere reserves** in the context of the Lima Action Plan. This mainly concerns the following:

- promotion of research, with a particular focus on problem-solving, in biosphere reserves
- promotion of monitoring, including integrated monitoring of all German biosphere reserves and, where possible, site-specific gathering of data relating to the indicators defined in Germany's National Sustainable Development Strategy (A1.4, A1.6, A4.3, A4.5)
- international training and education programmes for managers of biosphere reserves (B1.1, B1.2)
- development and expansion of opportunities for German biosphere reserves to take an active role in the World Network, including through partnerships (B6.1)

In addition, the MAB National Committee, in consultation with the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) and the German Commission for UNESCO, coordinates **Germany's contributions to strategic processes relating to the MAB Programme at the international level**, particularly as regards:

- development of operational guidelines for the MAB Programme (A2.1)
- strengthening of the MAB Programme within UNESCO and beyond, including through synergies with other (e.g. EU) programmes (C2.1, C2.2, C5.1)
- development of guidelines on private sector partnerships for biosphere reserves (C4.1, C3.2)
- analysis of the BR brand, with the development of associated guidelines (C7.1, C7.2, C8.1)
- greater effectiveness of international MAB networks (B2.1)
- participation in ICC sessions and submission of biennial reports (E1.1, E3.1)

8. The Federal Foreign Office's mission arising from the Lima Action Plan

Overall responsibility for German policy towards UNESCO lies with the Federal Foreign Office (AA), which inter alia has established Germany's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO for this purpose. The Federal Foreign Office works closely with the MAB National Committee in positioning Germany's contributions to international strategic processes in the MAB context (see above).

9. The mission of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development arising from the Lima Action Plan

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) makes intensive use of biosphere reserves as part of its toolkit for cooperation with emerging economies and developing countries. It provides support for projects to establish and strengthen biosphere reserves around the world, as well as for related education, capacity building and training programmes (B1.1), and promotes international partnerships between biosphere reserves (B6.1).

10. The mission of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research arising from the Lima Action Plan

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), through its provision of funding for German and international projects, can make the following contributions, potentially via new funding programmes:

- intensify international cooperation among scientists working in and with biosphere reserves (B7.1, B7.2),
- identify ecosystem services and exploration of possible mechanisms for payment for these services (PES) (A7.1, A7.2)
- strengthen biosphere reserves' role as models for ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation and related research and monitoring (A1.4)
- strengthen the role of biosphere reserves as models for research on the long-term conservation of socio-ecological systems (A1.6)

strengthen the biosphere reserves' role as places for education for sustainable development, including through new partnerships with research institutions and universities (A4.1, A4.2)

11. The mission of the German Commission for UNESCO arising from the Lima Action Plan

The Lima Action Plan assigns responsibility for a wide range of tasks to the National Commissions for UNESCO, thereby recognising that in many countries, the division of responsibilities between the MAB National Committees and the Commissions for UNESCO is either unclear or the former are subordinate to the latter. In Germany, the technical and political responsibilities of the independent MAB National Committee are clearly regulated: the German Commission for UNESCO merely has a small number of general responsibilities and, in all other respects, works closely with the MAB National Committee on the basis of mutual trust.

The German Commission for UNESCO supports the MAB National Committee, particularly on developing and positioning Germany's contributions to international strategic processes in the MAB context (see above). By providing support to the Federal Foreign Office (AA) in implementing a coordinated German policy on UNESCO, the German Commission for UNESCO plays an important role in strengthening the MAB Programme within UNESCO itself (C2.1, C2.2) and in identifying synergies with UNESCO's other designation schemes (World Heritage and Geoparks).

Having been assigned responsibility by the Federal Foreign Office for ensuring that the UNESCO name and logo and all other related logos and brands are used in conformity with the law, it has a particular role in all aspects of biosphere reserve marketing and partnerships with the private sector (C1.1, C1.2, C3.2, C4.1, C4.2, C7.1, C7.2, C8.1).

Due to its long-term engagement to strengthen education for sustainable development, the German Commission for UNESCO also supports further exchange on education for sustainable development in biosphere reserves, particularly at international level, linking in with the UNESCO Associated Schools and its *kulturweit* intercultural volunteers programme (A4.2, B7.1).

As before, the German Commission for UNESCO sees itself as having an ongoing responsibility, now and in future, to initiate international partnerships between biosphere reserves (B6.1) and to advocate for biosphere reserves as part of Germany's international cooperation toolkit (B1.1).