

Ecological Sciences

Man and Biosphere Programme

Biosphere Reserves

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UNESCO MAB Category II Centres

4th World Congress

# Designation of Biosphere Reserves

Article 5 of the 1995 **Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves**, states the designation procedure for biosphere reserves. It reads as follows:

## Article 5- Designation procedure

1. Biosphere reserves are designated for inclusion in the Network by the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB programme in accordance with the following procedure:

a) States, through National MAB Committees where appropriate, forward nominations with supporting documentation to the secretariat after having reviewed potential sites, taking into account the criteria as defined in Article 4;

b) the secretariat verifies the content and supporting documentation: in the case of incomplete nomination, the secretariat requests the missing information from the nominating State;

c) nominations will be considered by the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves for recommendation to ICC;

d) ICC of the MAB programme takes a decision on nominations for designation.

The Director-General of UNESCO notifies the State concerned of the decision of ICC .

2. States are encouraged to examine and improve the adequacy of any existing biosphere reserve, and to propose extension as appropriate, to enable it to function fully within the Network. Proposals for extension follow the same procedure as described above for new designations.

3. Biosphere reserves which have been designated before the adoption of the present Statutory Framework are considered to be already part of the Network. The provisions of the Statutory Framework therefore apply to them.

## Biosphere Reserves Nomination Forms

- English (pdf/word)
- French (pdf/word)
- Spanish (pdf/word)

## Transboundary Biosphere Reserves Nomination Forms

- French (pdf/word)
- English (pdf/word)
- Spanish (pdf/word)

## RELATED INFORMATION

### World Network of Biosphere Reserves

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- Multilingual Map of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves
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- 2015 designations
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