

# Youth Programme – EuroMAB-Conference 2022

## Minutes

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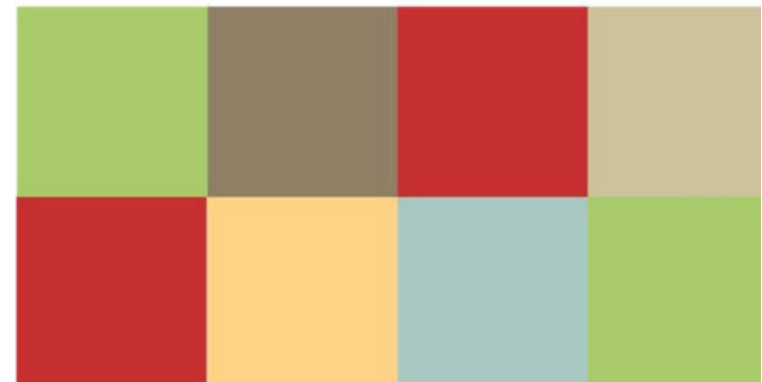
**Client:**

Verein „Entwicklung Biosphärenpark Nockberge“

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Date: 20 September 2022



<b>Title:</b>	Youth Programme – EuroMAB-Conference 2022
<b>Client:</b>	Verein „Entwicklung Biosphärenpark Nockberge “
<b>Participants (<i>alphabetic order</i>):</b>	AIGNER Irmgard BOUKELMOUN Séréna, Saadia, Baya CHRISTOFFERS Celine KLOCK Melanie MAY DONNELLAN BARRACLOUGH Alicia NYSTRÖM Hanna PROSSER Hana REMON Alfred YUKI Issei
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*Klagenfurt, 20 September 202*

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## 1 SUMMARY

During the EuroMAB Conference, a special Youth Program was organized to give young adults the opportunity to participate in an international conference and to contribute with their creative ideas regarding BRs. The workshops were held in an interactive and participatory way, following the goal to develop ideas, visions, and possibilities together with the young adults on how they can be meaningfully involved and engaged in the development of BRs.

During the first workshop, on the basis of concrete questions, the role of the participants as well as the challenges in their BRs were identified. For the conference day and the workshop day, the participants were given additional questions and to-dos with the aim of obtaining additional input and ideas.

During the second workshop, concrete actions were developed, which the participants would like to implement in "their" BRs. The actions reflect and are related to the challenges of the BRs. There was also room for discussion to reflect on the experiences of the participants during the conference and to exchange ideas.

The last day of the conference gave the participants the possibility to present their concrete ideas and results of the Youth Program to the plenary and to present a developed CALL 4 ACTION to UNESCO, which calls for an active and meaningful involvement of teenagers and young adults and in the decision-making processes of BRs.



Figure 1: Participants of the EuroMAB Youth program 2022, held in the BR Salzburger Lungau and Kärntner Nockberge

## 2 BACKGROUND AND AGENDA

UNESCO's MAB program was established in 1971 with the vision of fostering, protecting, and shaping sustainable coexistence between man and nature. As model regions for sustainable development and research, biosphere reserves pursue the goal of promoting nature-based solutions for global challenges. However, this can only work if the local population is actively involved in this development. Especially youth and young adults play a key role in this process, as they represent the future of the biosphere reserves. The Lima Action Plan and other documents of the 'Man and the Biosphere-Program' explicitly point out to actively involve the young generations in the development processes of the biosphere reserves.

The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Salzburger Lungau and Kärntner Nockberge has already held a youth forum twice in order to offer teenagers and young adults (between 15 and 30 years old) a platform to bring in their visions, ideas, opinions and goals in and to actively participate in the development and shaping of the biosphere reserve. In the long term, the establishment of a permanent youth forum is planned, which will take place several times a year and has set itself different focal points in order the biosphere reserve attractive also for younger generations and to maintain it as a place to live and work. The work from the youth forums is already showing results and the first events have already been organized and conceived by the young people and more are in the planning stage.

This year the UNESCO MAB program celebrates its 50th anniversary. This special occasion is concern of the Biosphere Reserves to give young people a voice. Eight young people (between the ages of (between 18 and 27 years old) from all over Europe and Japan had the unique opportunity to participate in this international networking meeting, to exchange ideas and to participate in the development of the biosphere reserves. The program was filled with a broad program of workshops, discussions, lectures, and insights into the region and culinary of the region.

### 2\_1 Workshop day 1 (12.09.2022)

#### 09:00 Welcome and Introduction

- Welcome of the participants from beside of Heinz Meyer (BR Salzburger Lungau und Kärnten), Günter Köck (MAB National Committee) and Alicia
- Introduction round

#### 09:15 Presentation Program of the day + EuroMAB

- Presentation of the EuroMAB network (Günter Köck)
- Presentation BR Salzburger Lungau and Kärntner Nockberge (Heinz Mayer)

#### 10:00 Representatives and coordinators of MAB-Youth

- Meriem Bouamrane (MAB Secretariat UNESCO Head Quarters Paris)
- Presentation EuroMAB Youth Network (Jannis Splieth, Mario Benkoč and Alicia Donnellan)

#### 14:00 “Me and the biosphere “

- Elaboration of the position/connection/role of the participants in the BR in form of a flipchart (meaning, own experiences, strengths, weaknesses/challenges, own interest in connection with the BRs)
- presentation of the results

**15:00 end and outlook for the next days**

- Outlook on the next days
- Explanation and presentation of the to-dos during the next days (conference day + workshop day)

- Concluding feedback round about the workshop and closing of the day
- Open questions

**2\_2 Workshop day 2 (15.09.2022)****09:00 Warm-up and timetable for the day**

- Short check-in and presentation of the program of the day

**09:15 discussion and retrospective**

- Feedback and discussion round and summary of the experiences from the last two days (Conference-Day + Workshop Day)

**11:00 Brainstorming: ideas and approaches for the challenges in the BR**

- Brainstorming in groups of four for concrete possibilities to master the big challenges in the BRs
- Presentation of the results

**14:00 Development of concrete ideas/actions for the single**

- Every participant develops a concrete idea/action (including description) to be implemented in his/her BR

**15:30 Preparation of the presentation for Friday****16:15 Check-out and end**



### 3 YOUTH PROGRAMME WORKSHOP DAY 1:

#### 3\_1 Welcome and introduction round

The workshop started with a warm welcome of the participants from beside of Heinz Mayer (UNESCO BR Salzburger Lungau und Kärntner Nockberge), Günter Köck (MAB National Committee) and Alicia May Donnellan Barraclough (Youth Focal Point Norway). Afterwards a short introduction-round of all the participants followed. With the help a world map, the single participants introduced themselves, from where they are coming and where they would like to travel.



Figure 2: Introduction round and check-in. The red buttons represent the country of origin of the participants, the blue ones a travel wish

#### Participants:

- AIGNER Irmgard: Austria
- BOUKELMOUN Séréna, Saadia, Baya: Luxemburg
- CHRISTOFFERS Celine: Germany
- KLOCK Melanie: Germany
- MAY DONNELLAN BARRACLOUGH Alicia: Norway
- NYSTRÖM Hanna: Finland
- PROSSER Hana: Luxemburg
- REMON Alfred: France
- YUKI Issei: Japan

#### 3\_2 Presentation and introduction to the EuroMAB and Youth Programme

**Günter Köck** – Austrian MAB National Committee, Representative of Austria to the MAB-ICC and Member of the EuroMAB Steering Committee – opened the workshop with some explanations and an introduction to the EuroMAB. The EuroMAB Network includes all European and North American member states which participate in the UNESCO's MAB Programme and its World Network of BRs. The network is dedicated to bringing BR managers, coordinators, scientists and representatives of UNESCO's MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees and partner institutions/associations together. As a big platform it aims on promoting, sharing knowledge, expertise and experience of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development around the world. Till now the EuroMAB was already held several times and in different countries of the world. Austria is the first country, which holds the conference now for a second time. Furthermore, the BRs of Austria and the 5-country Biosphere Reserve was presented to the participants. More info on the program and details can be found on this webpage:

<http://www.biosphaerenparks.at/index.php/de/>

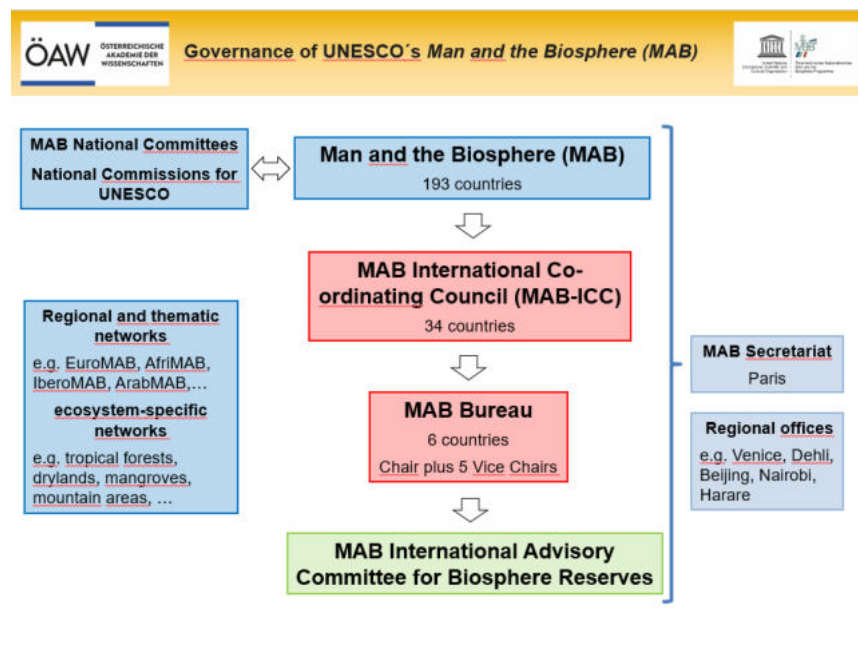


Figure 3: structure of the UNESCO MAB (G. Köck, 2022)

Alicia May Donnellan Barraclough and her colleagues Jannis Splieth and Mario Benkoč as representatives of the EuroMAB Youth Program, introduced the participants to the topic and provided them a short overview of the important events during the last years. Beside them, especially during the years 2020-2021 monthly zoom meetings were held to stay connected, chat, exchange and support each other.

Among the events, the following were of particular importance:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> MAB Youth Forum 2019 held in Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve (China)
- Gathering in Cévennes Biosphere Reserve (France)

During the gatherings in Germany, France and more the young adults had the opportunity to discuss important topics in panel discussions, workshops, and excursions, where they identified a lack of youth participation in BR all over the globe and made clear that some has to be changed.

- Youth 4 Biodiversity (Brussels)
- Youth Leadership Dialogue- For a shared future in harmony with nature, UNESCO (Paris)
- IUCN Congress – UNESCO MAB and Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) joint event
- UNESCO MAB Webinar Series. Youth Advocacy

In the online workshop „Advocating for youth in policy processes Youth in the post2020 process” they talked about integrational pathways for reconciliation with nature and proposed the advocating for seats at National MAB Committees.

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Man and the Biosphere Programme 2021



Figure 4: Dr. Jane Goodall with the five young spokespersons from each region of the world during the 50th celebration of the "Man and the Biosphere" Program in 2021

The next Youth Forum is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iberomab Youth Forum, which will be

held from 1-3 November 2022 in Costa Rica.

The most important outreach of this events, where the development of the MAB Youth Declaration Youth Forum Declaration "Committed to Biodiversity" 2019 and the MAB Youth Action Plan 2019. Furthermore, a newsletter was developed to keep all the youth participants up-to date on what is happening in other countries BRs, what happened, what is planned for the future and how can you get involved. Also, some articles were published. For all single country youth focal points were elected.

A major concern of the EuroMAB Youth was to set goals for further development and involvement of Youth/young adults:

- Continuing to grow a **network of young people in EuroMAB**
- Get new members – each country at least 1 EuroMAB Youth
- EuroMAB Youth training / conference (1 week, 2023 - capacity building, planning new actions)
- Advocating for youth seats in National MAB committees
- Continuation with monthly meetings; newsletter
- Elect new Focal points for the new generation
- **Participation in the post2020:** Spaces for some to go there, but we need to get funding for it (it is in December in Montreal)
- The **open working group** for youth Become involved!

Meriem Bouamrane from the MAB Secretariat UNESCO Headquarters in Paris attended the workshop via Zoom and introduced the participants to the possibilities for Youth within the Euro MAB Youth program and the importance of youth integration and involvement in the BRs in general.

### 3\_3 "Me and the biosphere "

The afternoon started with an interactive session, where the participants were asked to think about their own experiences in the BR. In groups of two people, they elaborated the most important aspects for themselves in the BR, the main challenges and contact points or experiences.

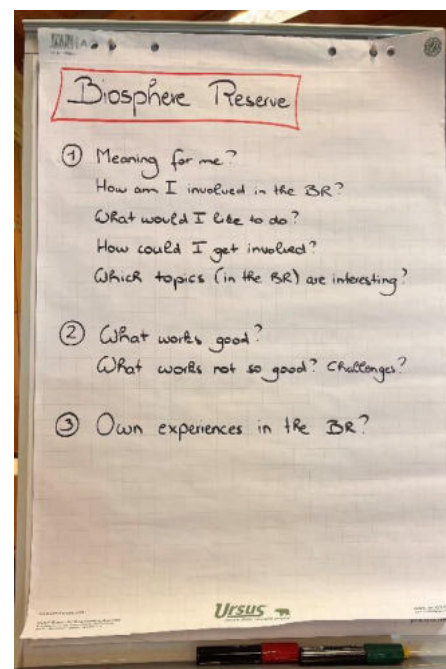


Figure 5: Questions for the first exercise

The questions they had to answer where the following:

- 1) Meaning for me?  
How am I involved in the BR?  
What would I like to do?  
How could I get involved?



- Which topics (in the BR) are interesting?
- 2) What works good?  
What works not so good (challenges)?
  - 3) Own experiences in the BR?

In groups of two they designed poster to the regarding topics and presented them afterwards in the plenum.

### 3\_3\_1 Group 1: Séréna and Alicia:



Figure 6: Séréna presenting the results of their group work

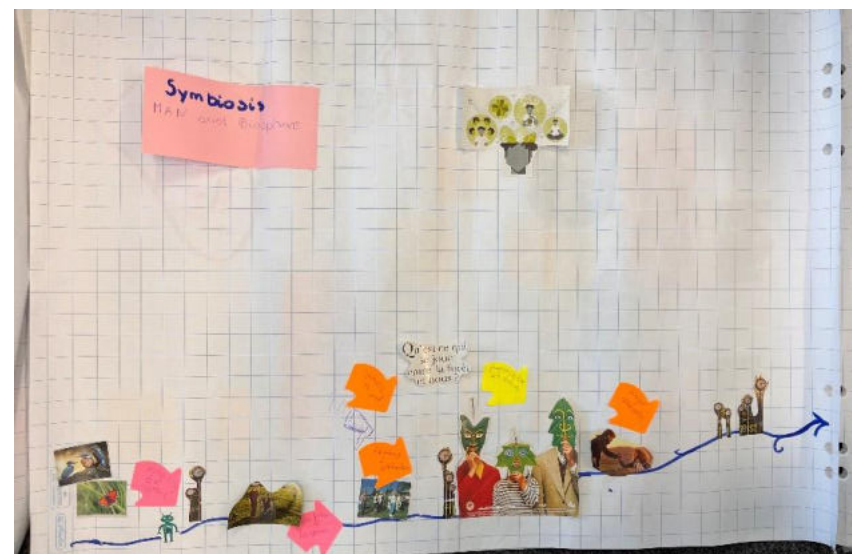


Figure 7: Poster group 1, Séréna & Alicia

The BRs plays a key role for both of them, as they work in the BR: Séréna does here stage in a BR in Luxemburg, meanwhile Alicia is a youth focal point for the MABYouth in Norway.

They see the development of the of BR as a process with room for improvement and innovation. The BRs need to adapt new ideas and ways to master the challenges of the future. The overall topic of the BR is a symbiosis of man and Biosphere, not only a sustainable coexistence. In their opinion the BR approach needs to be modernized and adapted to the challenges we face now adays. This innovation includes good cooperations between young farmers and entrepreneurs to create a sustainable working and living place. Another important aspect in the BR is "giving young people a voice," let them spread new ideas, innovations and especially foster a meaningful advocacy and collaboration between all the different generations. The ensure viable BRs, it is indispensable to respect, protect and live in harmony with nature. Last but not least, a strong collaboration between generations makes the difference, gives the possibility to learn from each other and to create a sustainable Biosphere Reserve on all levels.

### 3\_3\_2 Group 2: Alfred and Hanna



Figure 8: Hana and Alfred presenting their approaches

Hana and Alfred both live in a BR and have a strong connection to their region, as the link on their poster “home sweet home” suggests. They have a lot of beautiful nature but are quite different one from each other. Alfred lives in a biosphere reserve close to Paris, where a lot of tourists from the city are coming, meanwhile Hanna lives in the only BR in Finland, characterized from the seaside. Hanna is connected to the BRs through educational projects, as she is becoming a teacher, Alfred did an internship in the BR. Local involvement and sustainability are key factors in their BRs and important concepts for the future. Challenges in the BRs are over tourism as well as visibility and communication of the BR concept,

to raise awareness among local communities and tourists coming to the regions.

### 3\_3\_3 Group 3: Melanie and Celine



Figure 9: Celine and Melanie presenting their work

Melanie and Celine, both coming from German do not really live in a BR, but are still closely connected to them: Celine is starting here master's degree in “Management of BRs” and Melanie did an internship in the Wadden Sea BR. The BR means for them: home, working, research and volunteering. Still missing and important would be the development of a strong youth network and the enhancing of youth involvement. During their group work, the identified several challenges and key factors, which need to be mastered in the BR:

- Environmental education for awareness raising
- Protecting cultural landscapes and recognizing their importance for the local communities
- The BR as a place to live AND place to work
- Foster youth participation



- Development towards a circular economy
- Promote regional products
- Promote a sustainable development
- Strengthening the community within the BRs
- Promote and foster nature conservation (sticking to nature conservation rules)
- Develop progressive concepts/approaches
- Develop/strengthen the regional identity and the awareness among the local communities



Figure 10: Fruitful group works from Melanie and Celine

### 3\_3\_4 Group 4: Issei and Irmgard



Figure 11: Irmgard and Issei presenting the results of their work

Issei and Irmgard focused on three big topics: Locals, tourism and about us. Especially in the BR Salzburger Lungau and Kärntner Nockberge several problems and challenges can be identified between the locals and tourist: e.g., the locals cannot hunt, because tourist do not stay on the trails and/or move in the mountains during the “hunting hours,” there are too many hotels, but too few homes for local people. In both BRs a big generation gap is present, as young generations tend to move away for their studies, but do not come back. Issei and Irmgard underline the importance of valuing and respecting the BR on all his levels, as well as protection of nature. The wish to have a stronger involvement of local people in the management and within the BR, especially younger generations.

### **3\_4 End and outlook for the next days**

At the end of the day, a short outlook on the next two days was given and the participant got some questions and to-dos to be answered during the conference day (13.09.) and the workshop they would attend (14.09.).

To to-do during the conference day was to answer the following questions:

- 1) What was the best/most interesting thing of the Conference?  
Why?
- 2) What do I take with me? What will I remember?
- 3) Things I didn't like? Why?
- 4) Points of contact with youth work in the BR?

Additionally, the participants were asked to take pictures, video, and document the conference on social media.

The task for the workshop was to participate actively and ask questions. Afterwards they should be able to make a brief summary about the workshop, the outputs and the most important contents of it.

## 4 EUROMAB CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

### 4\_1 Conference Day

On Tuesday the participants of the Youth Programme attended the official conference together with the rest of the EuroMAB participants. In addition, the youth received a work assignment that included various questions about the conference and their perspective on it. During the whole time of the conference the responsible persons of the Youth Program were available and disposed to answer questions and help with organizational needs as well as other possible concerns. A Whatsapp group was set up for an optimal communication also beside the Conference. In addition, a Google Drive File was created to share photos, documents, impressions etc.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1x5ityl6oclJ3sjGaFvCO\\_96MW4a4gvBr?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1x5ityl6oclJ3sjGaFvCO_96MW4a4gvBr?usp=sharing)

The participants were also invited to take pictures and share impression on social media under the official hashtag #euromab2022.

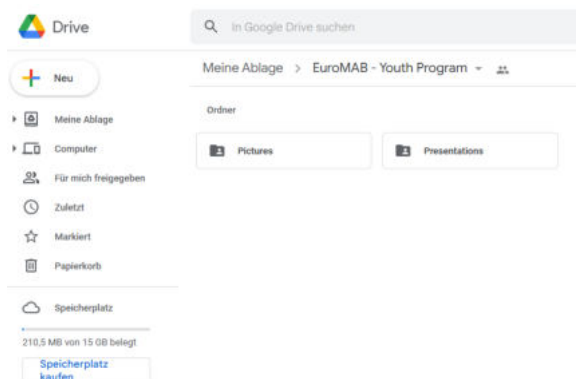


Figure 12: Drive file for the EuroMAB YOUTH programme

### 4\_2 EuroMAB Workshop Day

On Wednesday the official workshops of the EuroMAB were held. The participants chose the following workshops:

On the one hand it was about getting to know the BSP Nockberge and on the other hand to exchange experiences, to discuss and to take away new things for themselves.

Also for this day, the participants were given a work assignment that would allow them to summarize their experiences and share them with the others the next day.

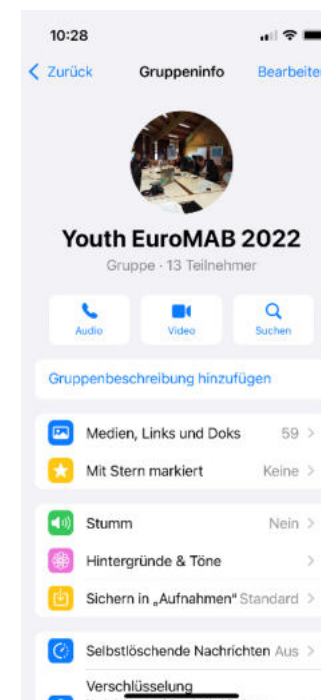


Figure 13: Whatsapp group for communicating with the participants and sharing impressions, presentations, links and pictures



## 5 YOUTH PROGRAMME WORKSHOP DAY 2

### 5\_1 Warm-up and timetable for the day

The day started with a short check-in to wake up and active the brains for the coming activities.

### 5\_2 Discussion and retrospective

During the morning, the participants had the opportunity to report from the workshops and the conference.

The participants attended the following workshops:

1. Celine + Melanie: **Large carnivores in BRs - challenges and conflicts. Challenges; How to deal with it? Methods for herd protection**
2. Hana+ Issei: **Status of Mountain BRs. Challenges; Partnerships; Research strategy**
3. Hanna, Irmgard + Alfred, Sérena: **Mobility in Biosphere Reserves. Challenges, solutions (good practice examples) and the role of Biosphere Management**

4. Alicia: **Promoting research in BRs. Partnerships between BRs and Universities; How to promote the benefit of research for both BRs and Universities?**

After the summaries of the workshops there was room in a save setting, to talk about the experiences, feelings and impression gained during the previous days.

### 5\_3 Brainstorming: ideas and approaches for the challenges in the BR

Following the discussion, the participants worked again in groups. The challenges of the BRs that they had identified on Monday formed the basis for an interactive brainstorming session. The goal of the exercise was to start developing concrete ideas, to master and counter the challenges.

The main topics/challenges and topics identified are: Valuing, Mobility, Youth involvement, Modernizing BR approach, living/working place, and tourism. Other topics, such as visibility, room for discussion, mobility, getting information out/visual resources/useful information, accessible funding and sharing and reuse/repurpose, emerged during the previous days.

#### 5\_3\_1 Results group 1:

Celine, Alfred, and Irmgard formed the first group. They selected "Room for discussion" as their working topic and developed various ideas/approaches within the following subtopics.

1. **Social physical meeting space:**
  - Idea 1: self-organized club/café/bar to held regular/frequent meetings and/or discussion regarding the Br topics
  - Idea 2: organized tea party

## 2. Direct BR interaction:

- Ideas 1: stand on events to promote BR idea
- Ideas 2: Educational/cultural activities to interact with people, raise awareness and promote the BR idea

## 3. BR players:

- *Idea 1:* develop a standard for partner criteria of the BR, e.g., compulsory meetings four times per year
- *Idea 2:* themed round tables, which are planned in advance to discuss important topics and find solutions for problems

## 4. Youth and forgotten people:

- *Idea 1:* round tables with youth for consultation for important topics
- *Idea 2:* organize a job fair to promote the BR as a working space for younger generations
- *Idea 3:* create a BR pass for an easier participation of locals within the BR
- *Idea 4:* integration of “forgotten people” (young generations, disabled people, unemployed, refugees, retired people...) through tandem partners or capacity specific programs for better integration within the BR/communities

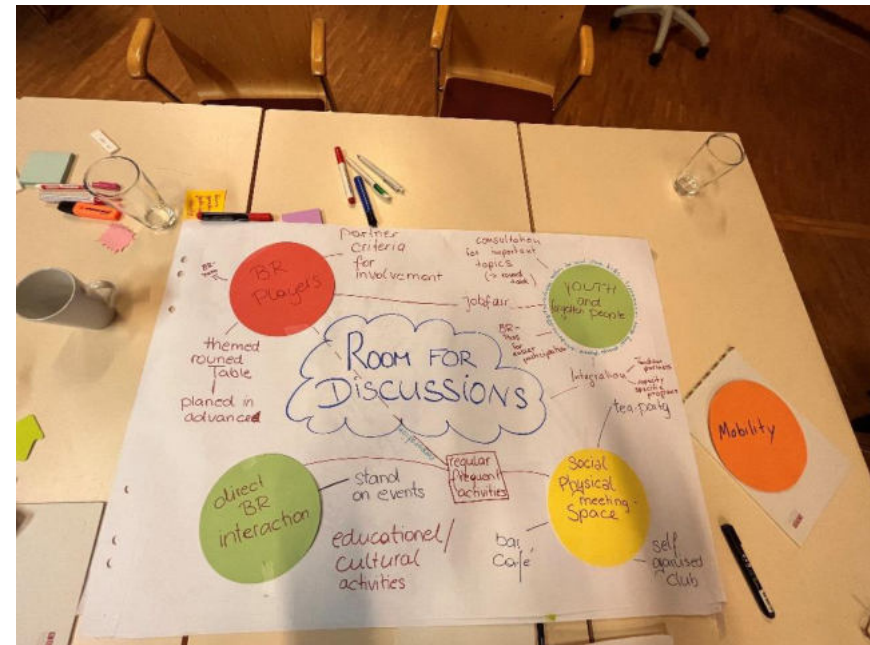


Figure 14: creative project ideas from Celine, Alfred, and Irmgard



#### 5\_4 Development of concrete ideas/actions for the single

The afternoon was aimed to build on the ideas of the brainstorming session in the morning, develop a concrete idea for the own biosphere reserve and to implement it at a later moment.

The participants created the following ideas:

##### **Hanna Nyström: Youth return program (BR Archipelago Sea, Norway)**

Hana's idea called "returning youth" has the aim to inspire young people to move back to the BR after finishing their studies. The collaboration between local entrepreneurs, universities, and organizations within and around the BR make it possible to connect the different stakeholders, showing job possibilities and advantages of living in a BR. The focus lies especially on the opportunities and the benefits a BR can provide all generations, but especially for younger generations.

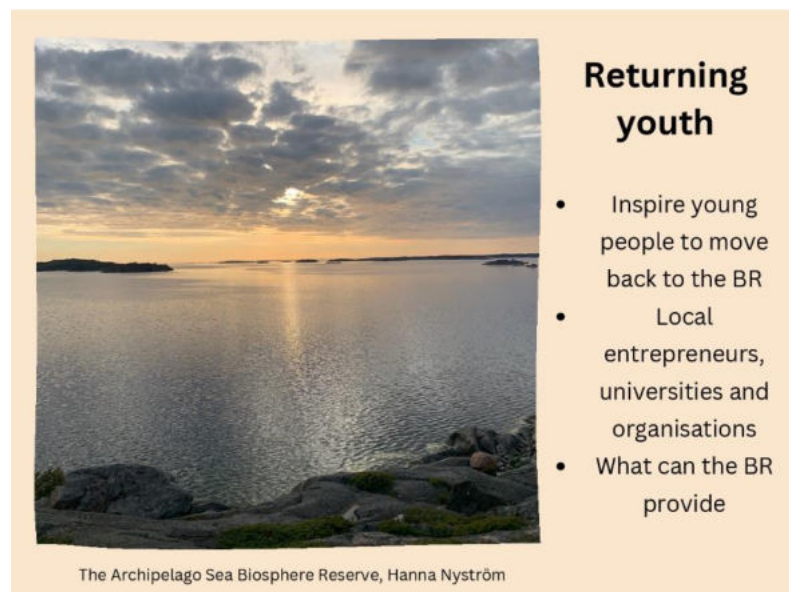


Figure 16: Hanna Nyström developed an idea for mastering the challenge of youth migration

##### **Hana Prosser: Aspiring Youth Project Managers (BR Minett, Luxemburg)**

Hana evolved a program idea that creates attractive job opportunities in the BR. She proposed implement a permanent full-time position for a Youth Project Manager and offer continuous youth interns for future professional BR development opportunities.



Figure 17: Creating permanent youth positions in the BR



### Alfred Rémon: BR Pass (BR Fontainebleau-Gâtinais, France)

Alfred developed the idea of a BR Pass for connecting people within the BR community. The BR Pass would include several services, such as outdoor activities, local products, food or drinks or reduced prices. This would give the local community the possibility to create better awareness of the services in the BR and getting to know them. The Pass could also include additional services/discounts, when providing services for the BR, such as educational school tours or clean-up efforts.

The aim of the project are...

- better involvement of all generations
- to promote local business
- giving access

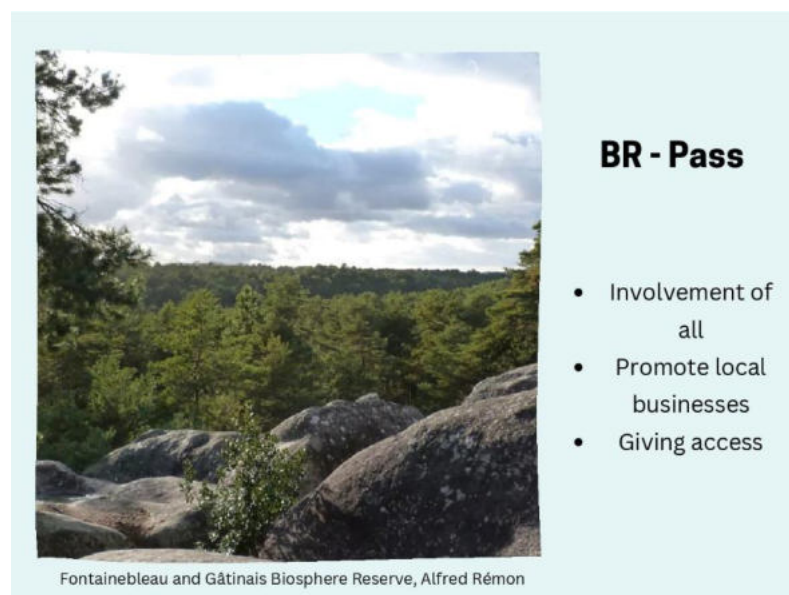


Figure 18: Idea of the BR-Pass

### Irmgard Aigner: BR-exchange (BR Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner)

### Nockberge, Austria)

Building on the example of Erasmus and other exchange programs. Irmgard proposed a work exchange for employees in BR. Employees of the BR would get the possibility to swap their position with an employee in another BR around the world. This would give them the possibility to make a working experience abroad, learn a new language or improve language skills, exchange experiences, see different perspectives and grove personally.



Figure 19: Work exchange opportunities for young employees in the BRs

**Celine Christoffers: BIOM- Round table for challenges and new ideas (BR Schorfheide Chorin, Germany)**

Within her master program, Celine and her colleagues need to develop a project. She proposed to implement and develop this project together and according to the needs of the BRs themselves. A round table at university with students and BR stakeholders could be organized to find projects ideas and connect them with each other. In a second moment the BR could also provide input for research needs and ideas the students could work in their master thesis.

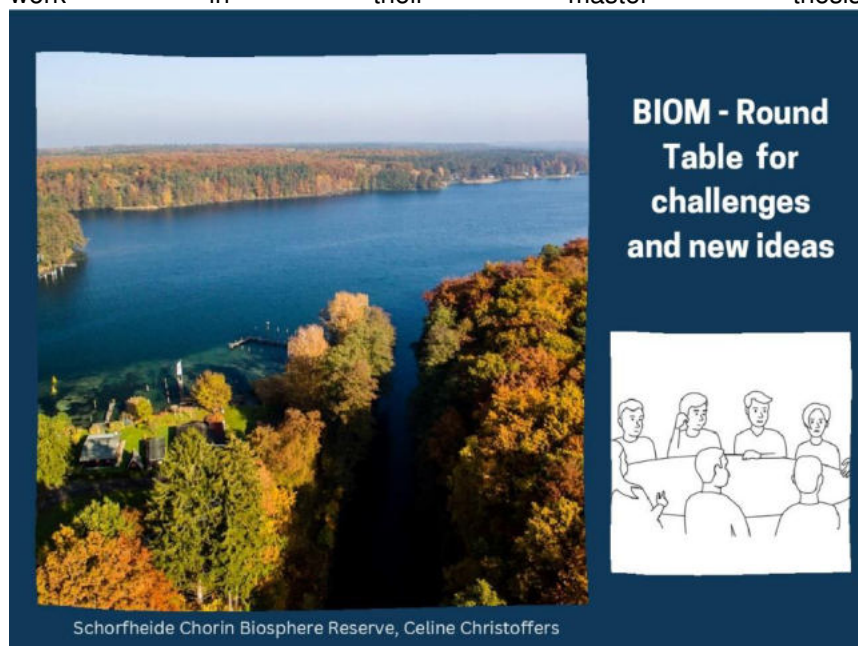


Figure 20: Establishing connections and collaborations with students and the BR Schorfheide Chorin in BR

**Melanie Klock: Watt°N Picnic & MAB Youth Germany (BR Wadden Sea of Lower Saxony, Germany)**

Melanie proposed to organize a picknick with former participants of stage programs in the BRs, to strengthen the youth network. Her second idea was to organize an excursion to one of the BRs with an overnight stay in tents.



Figure 21: Picnic and excursion as a project idea for youth

### 5\_5 Check-out and end

The day and the workshop were closed with a short check-out round with the possibility to give feedback.

## 6 RESULTS AND PRESENTATION

The participants of the youth programs had the possibility to share their ideas with the plenum of the conference and UNESCO on Friday. Alicia opened the last conference day with a short update on the MAB Youth program, showing what already happened during the last few years. In her speech she underlined again the importance of a meaningful involvement of young people in decision making processes of Biosphere Reserves around the global, giving young people a voice. But as important as the involvement of young generation is also the collaboration of the generations to be able to learn from each other.

The presentation of the project ideas of the Youth program 2022, presented by Celine, Melanie and Irmgard followed.

After the presentation of the ideas, the participant presented their demands to UNESCO with the following text and invited all of the participants to sign the Call for Action:

*We call on the attendants of EuroMAB Conference, delegations from Biosphere Reserves, National Committees and UNESCO representatives to:*

*Ensure the genuine and meaningful participation of young people in the governance and management of Biosphere Reserves and MAB program, through the appointment of young representatives who can take part in decision-making processes at a local, national, and international level; by electing young members in BR coordinating bodies and councils, MAB National Committees and Regional Network Steering Committees.*

*Moreover, we call on:*

*The EuroMAB Steering Committee to create a seat for a youth representative, who will represent the EuroMAB Youth Network in discussions, coordination, and preparation of the next EuroMAB Conference. We recommend this be an extra seat given to the next hosting country. This will ensure true and meaningful participation of young members of the MAB Programme and in the activities of the Regional Network and beyond.*



Figure 22: Call for action for better youth involvement within the BRs



## 7 ANNEX

### 7\_1 Presentation Alicia



## The EuroMAB Youth Network

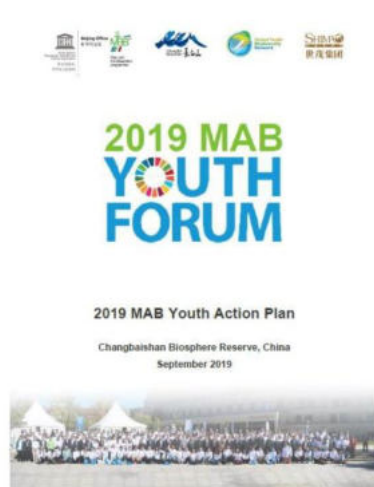
*EuroMAB Youth Network*

*EuroMAB Conference 2021/2*

*Speakers: Jannis Splieth, Mario Benkoč and Alicia  
Donnellan*







## *Build up internal communications and coordination of European and North American Youth*

Monthly Zoom meetings to chat, exchange, plan actions...

Was really supportive during covid <3



Some things we accomplished...

Some things are in progress...

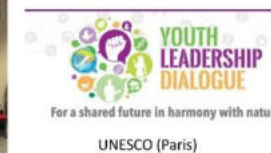
Some things still to do...

*A little tour of what we have done...  
what will you do?*

## *Outreach Give talks and workshops*



Youth 4 Biodiversity (Brussels)



UNESCO MAB Webinar  
Series: Youth Advocacy



IUCN Congress – UNESCO  
MAB and GYBN joint event

## Outreach

### The spotlight on youth: Young people as key stakeholders in Biosphere Reserves and the Man and the Biosphere Programme

Alicia Donnellan Barracough<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Inger Elisabeth Mären<sup>1,2,3</sup> and MAB Youth Consortia<sup>4</sup>.  
<sup>1</sup> Department of Biological Sciences, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway  
<sup>2</sup> UNESCO Chair on Sustainable development and Environmental Management, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway  
<sup>3</sup> Department of Environmental Management, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway  
<sup>4</sup> Participants of the MAB Youth Consortium, China.

**ABSTRACT:** Sustainable development has at heart the mission to make our planet a life-sustaining place for future generations. Young stal



Is



Publish a newsletter



EuroMAB Youth for Biodiversity day

### MAB Youth gatherings in Germany, France...

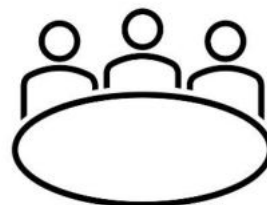
- Identified lack of youth participation in biosphere reserves
- 35 participants from Germany, Austria and Luxembourg
- Panel discussions, workshops, excursions, creation of a parti\*fest, video shooting



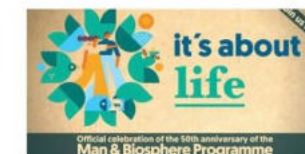
Pictures: Cornelia and Marc-Philip Schwenk

## Advocacy

**Advocating for youth in policy processes**  
Youth in the post2020 process



**Advocating for seats at National MAB Committees**



## Advocacy

### MAB YOUTH SPOKESPEOPLE

Representing MAB youth during the 50th anniversary celebrations



Call for application - MAB 50th Anniversary Youth Spokesperson  
Deadline: January 20th 2023

The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme will celebrate its 50th anniversary throughout 2023. This will be an event of much pride for the entire MAB community, that since 1973 promotes the reconciliation of humans and nature within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The 50th anniversary will be an opportunity to increase the visibility of the MAB programme, with that aim, the programme seeks five youth spokespersons, one from each of UNESCO's geographical regions, to represent the interests and act on behalf of MAB Youth throughout the celebration.

The youth spokespersons will become guardians of MAB Youth and vital components in the future of the programme. A successful leader will raise the spirit, increase the visibility and get more members on board of the programme.

What will be the role of the youth spokesperson?

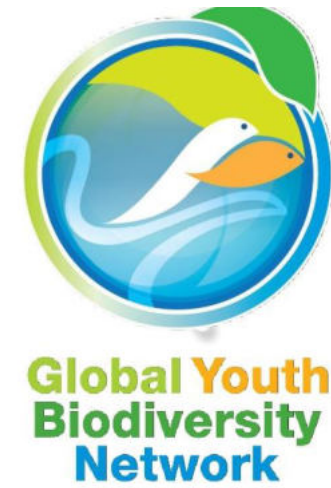
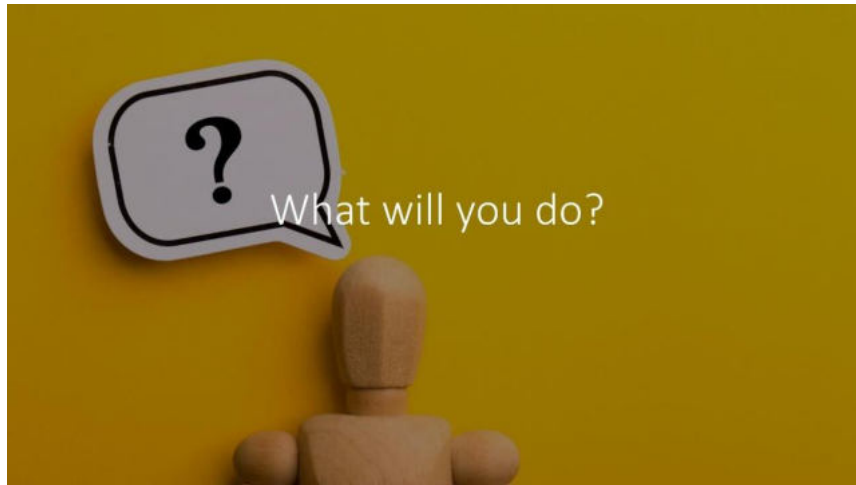


- Continuing to grow a network of Young people in EuroMAB
- Get new members – each country at least 1 EuroMAB Youth
- EuroMAB Youth training / conference (1 week, 2023 - capacity building, planning new actions)
- Advocating for youth seats in National MAB committees
- Continuation with monthly meetings; newsletter
- Elect new Focal points for the new generation

- Participation in the post2020 Spaces for some to go there, but we need to get funding for it (its in December in Montreal)

- The open working group for youth Become involved!





THANK YOU!

## 7\_2 Presentation Günter Köck

ÖAW  
ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
AKADEMIE DER  
WISSENSCHAFTEN

**EuroMAB Conference Youth Meeting**  
Sept. 12, 2022, Bad Kleinkirchheim

**What the hell is EuroMAB?**

**GÜNTER KÖCK**  
Austrian MAB National Committee  
Representative of Austria to the MAB-ICC  
Member of the EuroMAB Steering Committee

Fotos:  
L. Lammerhuber  
BPWW Management  
BPGW Management  
F. Kovacs  
H. Schliess  
M. Rossmann  
H. Mayer  
C. & G. Köck

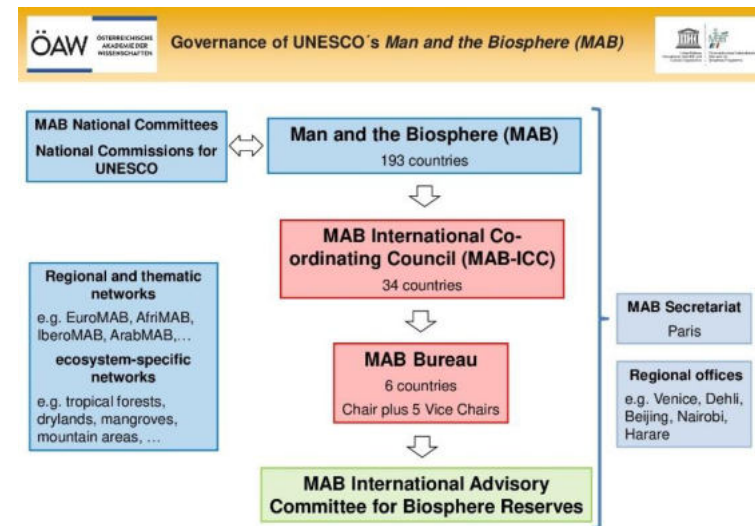
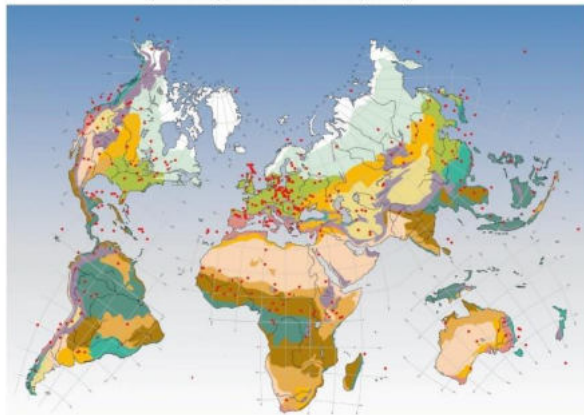


ÖAW  
ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
AKADEMIE DER  
WISSENSCHAFTEN

**KEY ELEMENT**  
**UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)**




738 BRs in 134 countries  
(including 22 transboundary sites)



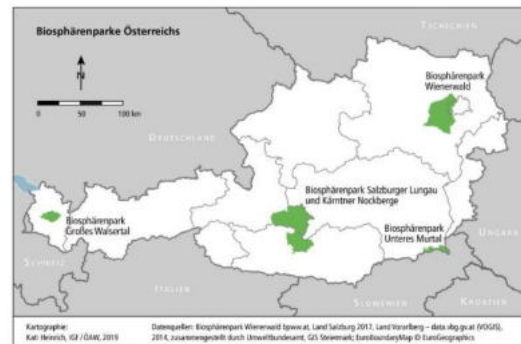
ÖAW  
ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
AKADEMIE DER  
WISSENSCHAFTEN

**What is the EuroMAB Network?**



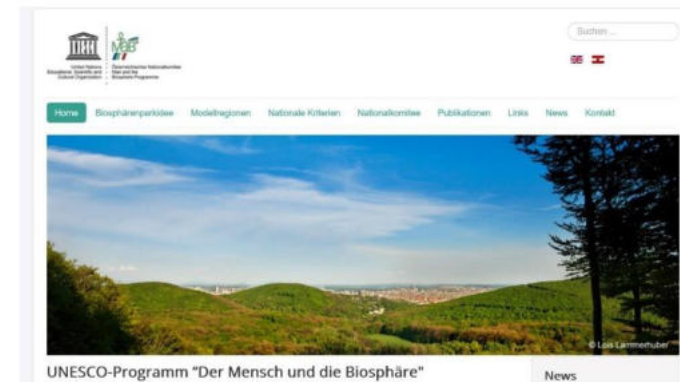
- includes all European and North-American member states which participate in UNESCO's MAB Programme and its WNBR.
- with 308 BRs in 41 countries it is the largest and oldest of the nine regional and inter-regional MAB Networks.
- dedicated to bringing together BR managers, coordinators, scientists and representatives of UNESCO's MAB Secretariat, MAB National Committees and partner institutions/associations.
- is a platform for promoting, sharing knowledge, know-how and experience of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development around the world.
- EuroMAB conferences have been held in České Budějovice, Czech Republic (1986), Minsk, Belarus (1997), Cambridge, UK (2000), Rome, Italy (2002), Hernstein, Austria (2005), Antalya, Turkey (2007), Stará Lesná, Slovakia (2009), Lundsbrunn, Sweden (2011), Brockville, Canada (2013), Haapsalu, Estonia (2015), Sarlat-la-Canéda, France (2017) and Dublin, Ireland (2019).

## ÖAW ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Austria



Biosphere reserve	Province	established	Size (ha)
Großes Walsertal	Vorarlberg	2000	19.200 ha
Wienerwald	Wien/NÖ	2005	105.004 ha
Salzburger Lungau und Kärntner Nockberge	Salzburg/Kärnten	2012	148.421 ha
Unteres Murtal	Steiermark	2019	13.177 ha

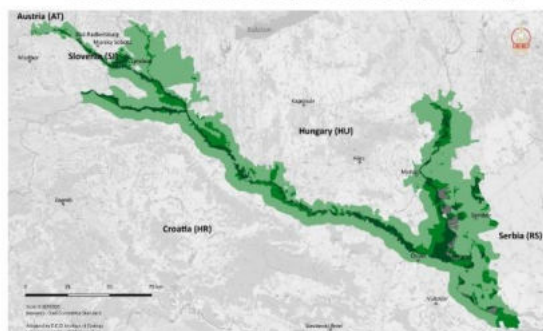
## ÖAW ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN MAB in Österreich



<http://www.biosphaerenparks.at/>

## ÖAW ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Austria

### •Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve (TBR MDD)



- the world's first 5-Country Biosphere Reserve (2021)
- Europe's largest river protected area
- More than 700 km long, 930.000 hectares

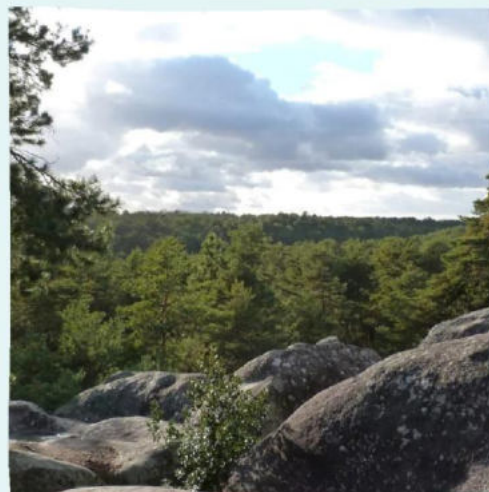


### 7\_3 Presentation project ideas



Biosphere Reserve Wadden Sea of Lower Saxony, Melanie Klock

#### **Watt°N Picnic & MAB Youth Germany**



Fontainebleau and Gâtinais Biosphere Reserve, Alfred Rémon

#### **BR - Pass**

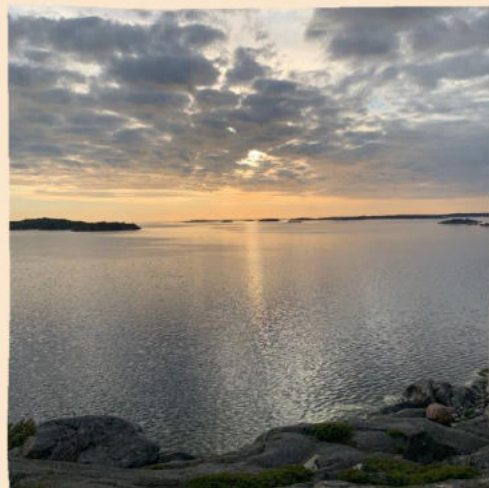
- Involvement of all
- Promote local businesses
- Giving access



Biosphere Reserve Nockberge, Irmgard Aigner

#### **BR - Exchange**





The Archipelago Sea Biosphere Reserve, Hanna Nyström

## Returning youth

- Inspire young people to move back to the BR
- Local entrepreneurs, universities and organisations
- What can the BR provide



Minett UNESCO Biosphere Luxembourg, Hana Prosser

## Aspiring Youth Project Managers

- Permanent Full time YPM
- Continuous youth interns with future professional BR development opportunities



Schorfheide Chorin Biosphere Reserve, Celine Christoffers

## BIOM - Round Table for challenges and new ideas



## CALL FOR ACTION

We call on the attendants of EuroMAB Conference, delegations from Biosphere Reserves, National Committees and UNESCO representatives to:

Ensure the genuine and meaningful participation of young people in the governance and management of Biosphere Reserves and MAB program, through the appointment of young representatives who can take part in decision-making processes at a local, national and international level; by electing young members in BR coordinating bodies and councils, MAB National Committees and Regional Network Steering Committees.

Moreover, we call on:

The EuroMAB Steering Committee to create a seat for a youth representative, who will represent the EuroMAB Youth Network in discussions, coordination and preparation of the next EuroMAB Conference. We recommend this be an extra seat given to the next hosting country. This will ensure true and meaningful participation of young members of the MAB Programme and in the activities of the Regional Network and beyond.



## 7\_4 Youth Declaration



# 2019 MAB YOUTH FORUM

## 2019 MAB Youth Forum Declaration "Committed to Biodiversity"

Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve, China  
September 2019

### Preamble

We, the MAB Youth, 176 representatives from 82 countries, gathered in Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve, Jilin Province, China, during 14-18 September 2019 at the 2nd MAB Youth Forum, are thankful to have had the chance to attend a highly interactive and participatory forum, co-organized by the UNESCO Beijing Office and the Changbaishan Mountain Protection and Development District Management Committee, in partnership, for the first time with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) and with the support of the MAB China National Committee.

Changbaishan was the first Chinese Biosphere Reserve included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 1979 which, by hosting this forum, offered us an opportunity to appreciate its dynamism and strengths in contributing to the construction of the ecological civilization and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in China and globally.

We would like to thank the people of the Changbaishan 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 on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post 2020 framework, as well as the future of youth in Biosphere Reserves. Despite the fact that we come from diverse backgrounds we are united on the objectives and actions on biodiversity, Biosphere Reserves, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and to the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

### A. As an integral part of the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves:

We welcome the 2017 MAB Youth Forum Declaration and the IberoMAB Youth Forum declaration, and are aware of the progress that has been done in the inclusion of young people's voice in the MAB Programme and in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, following the organization of the 1st MAB Youth Forum (Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy, September 2017), but are conscious that we must continue our hard work to ensure that the requests reflected in the previous declarations can come to reality. For this reason, we express once again the importance to:

- a) Ensure the participation of young people in the governance and management of biosphere reserves and MAB national committees, through the appointment of young representatives who can take part in decision-making processes at a local, national and international level (International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme, Regional Networks, etc.);
- b) Provide training and capacity building activities to improving management abilities of Biosphere Reserves as tools for sustainable socio-economic development of the local population, and request 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;
- c) Improve cooperation among youth, Biosphere Reserves, NGOs, private sector, and scientists at the local, national and international levels;
- d) Create a platform for exchange among young people and Biosphere Reserves and exploring more possibilities of international networking of biosphere reserves to share best practices and build cooperation;
- e) Increase the communication and visibility of the MAB Programme and develop accessible and comprehensible Biosphere Reserve materials.

As MAB Youth gathered at this forum, we would like to express:

- The importance of facilitating the access to financial support for the youth community;
- To have a fluent communication with the MAB Programme, to get support, technical advice, and most up-to-date information.

We the MAB Youth community, commit to a zero tolerance policy on all forms of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), gender/gender identity, nationality, age or disability.

### B. Committed to being actors of change in the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework:

We recognize that:

- Biosphere reserves play a key role in conserving biodiversity around the world and in achieving the objectives of the CBD;
- For the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be truly transformative, a fundamental shift of values in society is of critical importance, including addressing our unsustainable consumption and production habits and existing power inequalities;
- Nature conservation is not efficient without ensuring intergenerational equity, gender equality, respect for human rights and the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Children and youth are among the most vulnerable groups to the effects of environmental degradation and our voice needs to be heard in decision-making processes on the environment;
- Support for youth participation is still very limited, and that more substantial support is needed to ensure meaningful participation;
- In order to achieve the objectives of the CBD, which are closely linked to the objectives and vision of the MAB Programme, there is a need to acknowledge the linkages between nature and culture and conserve biodiversity and cultural diversity together;
- The theme of COP15 - "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth" is very closely aligned with the core values of the MAB Programme.

We call for a Post-2020 framework that:

- Is binding, realistic, science-based, and puts a strong emphasis on implementation, ensuring efficient implementation from the time of adoption;
- Promotes enabling conditions including:
  - Biodiversity and heritage education, such as through the integration of biodiversity into school curricula at all levels, including informal education; including through the promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration and exchange.
  - Resource mobilization, knowledge-sharing, and technology transfer especially from developed countries to developing countries, many of which contain genetic resources;
  - Good and equitable governance and legal frameworks in place to implement at all levels;
  - Capacity-building and support for revising and updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) at all scales;
  - Ensures fair and equitable benefit-sharing.
- Is inclusive and participatory and in particular:
  - Empowers and engages indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in all phases of the planning and decision making process;
  - Raises local community awareness and capacity to participate;

- Appropriately recognizes and secures ICCAs (Indigenous and Community Conserved Area's) - territories of life, as they are existing opportunities for CBD implementation;
- Acknowledges and protects the key role of indigenous and local knowledge in achieving the objectives of the convention;
- Recognizes the common but differentiated responsibilities of state and non-state actors, taking into account the different levels of impact and capacities of countries;
- Scales up communication efforts and prioritizes inclusive and timely communication through both traditional and new media channels, recognizing the role of new media for young people;
- Places a particular focus on gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women and girls;
- Takes effective measures to ensure mainstreaming across all departments of government, economy, and civil society.

We as MAB Youth in the Post-2020 Framework:

- Will have a crucial role in the implementation of the Post-2020 Framework at the local levels;
- As young people, we have the tools and means to raise awareness on the targets of the Post-2020 Framework and to support with implementation, capacity building, and non-formal education;
- We want to be included in the consultation processes towards the COP15 and beyond at our local and national levels;
- We welcome the partnership between the MAB Youth and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, and request UNESCO to facilitate the continuous collaboration, specifically with regard to enhance the role of MAB Youth in the CBD process.

We, the MAB Youth Community commit:

- To mobilize our networks to actively engage in the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- To raise awareness about the importance of the Post-2020 Framework and COP15;
- To take concrete actions and to lead by example in support of COP15's goals and working constructively to ensure that COP15 will be a success.

### C. Well aware of the strong links between Biodiversity and Climate Change:

The MAB Youth Community gathered here is concerned about the following issues related to biodiversity loss and climate change:

- We recognize the absolute urgency to address both biodiversity loss and climate change issues of ultimate global importance, both within and outside of BRs;
- We are concerned about the lack of political will and corruption, particularly from decision makers within the BRs to implement concrete actions that address climate change;
- The lack of climate action, communication and networks among BRs and all stakeholders are of particular concern;
- The lack of understanding of the value of BRs to humans and other living organisms with whom we share the planet;
- We recognize that accessible funding for climate action and biodiversity protection is a major challenge for youth in the MAB community to address these issues;
- We are worried about potential false solutions in impact mitigation measures such as carbon offsetting, biodiversity offsetting and geo-engineering, which present as a threat to climate action;
- We are concerned by the lack of multiple strategies such as concrete legislation, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Nature-based Solutions (NBS), use of technology and the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) in response to the Climate Crisis.

As MAB Youth Community, we demand:

- Scientists, the private sector, governments, NGOs and the communities to address climate change and its impacts on Biosphere Reserves;
- UNESCO to take the MAB Youth into consideration in all the MAB Program activities related to climate change and beyond;
- MAB Programme to increase efforts to effectively engage marginalized communities especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including women, indigenous people, youth and elderly;
- MAB Programme to promote incentives for MAB Youth developing good practices in response to the Climate Crisis.

And we further commit to:

- Create a MAB Youth networking platform to foster collaborations and dialogue on biodiversity conservation and climate change related issues;
- Participate in the decision making processes at the local, national and international levels;
- Promote the potential of biosphere reserves playing a key role in climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience.

## 7\_5 Youth Action Plan

### D. Furthermore:

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we ask the MAB International Coordinating Council (ICC) to:

- Refine certain terminologies of the MAB Programme to the 21st century. The name 'Man' and the Biosphere Programme and the term Biosphere 'Reserve' should be adapted to avoid negativity and gender discrimination.

As MAB Youth Forum delegates, we commit ourselves to:

- Diversify communication methods and promote BRs through the use of creative, artistic and cultural means to engage all audiences;
- Advocate within the MAB and UNESCO communities for an effective implementation and assessment of all existing and applicable non-harassment guidelines and policies.



## 2019 MAB Youth Action Plan



### Regional Action Plan: IberoMAB Youth Network

#### IberoMAB Youth Declaration

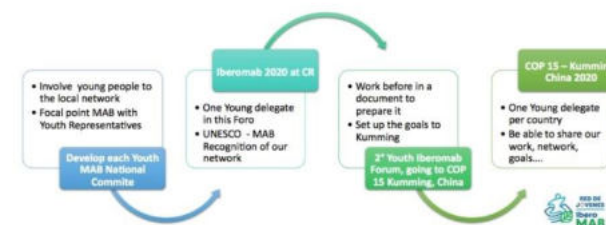
1. Create the Ibero-American and Caribbean Biosphere Reserves Youth Network.
2. Establish multidisciplinary work teams under the three functions of the biosphere reserves (conservation, development and logistic support) that are balanced in terms of interculturality and gender.
3. Support the creation of proposals and action plans at the national level that strengthen the development of an effective agenda in the biosphere reserves.
4. Select in a democratic way and with parity criteria a youth representative from each biosphere reserve and one representative by country, to participate directly in the governance bodies of the biosphere reserves and the IberoMaB Network.
5. Request the official presentation of our network in UNESCO mechanisms.
6. Create a virtual platform for IberoMAB youth to include information on projects, financing, education opportunities, exchanges and research to address the challenges facing youth.
7. Follow up and support through joint participation the work of the IberoMAB youth network by UNESCO.
8. Generate communication material to disseminate the importance and work of the IberoMAB Biosphere Reserves.
9. Promote the use of virtual platforms and social media as empowerment mechanisms to transmit information about biosphere reserves and the contributions of youth.
10. Promote the exchange of knowledge among young people through biennial participatory meetings and virtual seminars at all levels.
11. Contribute and promote traditional ecological knowledge and good practices in biosphere reserves.
12. Be part of initiatives that promote the development of the Biosphere Reserve brand in the different countries that make up IberoMAB.
13. Influence institutions in the generation of employment opportunities and entrepreneurship for the youth of the IberoMAB biosphere reserves, which are in accordance with the values of the MAB Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals.
14. Support actions and initiatives that condemn crimes against the environment and the integrity of those who defend it; so as to ensure the protection of natural resources

#### Communication issues

- **Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Gmail**  
3 community managers (Chile, El Salvador y San Cristobal)
- **Share Information**  
Application to network – Zapiens- 3 months try 7 countries  
Google Drive – Web Library – Format Uruguay
- **News and Activities**  
WhatsApp group, already created
- **Conferences and group calls**

Zoom application

#### Timeline Action Plan



#### Regional Coordinators

South America: Diego Aguirre Gonzalez (Ecuador)  
 Central America and the Caribbean: Cassandra Saint Jean (Haiti)  
 Iberian peninsula: Rodrigo Lopez Piquin (Spain)  
 MAB – GYBN Facilitator: Cecilia Laporte (Uruguay)

**EuroMAB Youth Action Plan**

**Platform of coordination:** Whatsapp

**Sharing:** Slack

**Meetings:** via skype, 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in one month (doodle)

**Coordination:**

- Alicia May (Norway)
- Mario Benkoč (Slovenia)
- Ana Victoria Magalhaes (Portugal)

**Actions:**

Timeline	Actions
September 2019	<i>Build up internal communications and coordination of EuroMAB Youth</i>
October – November 2019	<i>Presentation of the 2019 MAB Youth Forum declaration and EuroMAB Action Plan + youth advocacy on MAB declaration</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biosphere reserves;</li> <li>• MAB National Committees;</li> <li>• CBD National Focal Point;</li> <li>• Local Youth Groups.</li> </ul>
Spring 2020	<i>Advocacy campaign for Youth seat at MAB National Committees</i>
Autumn 2019 early 2020 before COP15	<i>Scientific and Academic outreach</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving talks + events in higher education institutions (advocacy for BR higher education)</li> <li>• Sharing existing resources (database – smart biosphere, etc.)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing article/paper about the MAB Youth results and the declaration</li> </ul>
2021 2020 - 2021	<i>Youth events at EuroMAB 2021</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EuroMAB event in Austria</li> <li>• Subregional Youth meetings / conferences / workshops</li> </ul>
Oct.-Nov. 2019 -> Oct.-Nov. 2019 Spring 2020	<i>Public outreach &amp; external communication</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter (sharing stories about our work, BRs etc.)</li> <li>• EuroMAB Facebook page</li> <li>• EuroMAB website</li> </ul>
Early winter 2019	<i>Capacity building</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional webinars &amp; networking (sharing ideas, knowledge and experience)</li> <li>• Working groups creation</li> </ul>
November – winter 2019/20	<i>Strengthening relationships for international policy &amp; action</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating GYBN chapter</li> </ul>

**Regional Action Plan: AfriMAB**

AfriMAB Youth “Creating a momentum for BRs in Africa For Youth By Youth”

**Priority Actions to implement MAB Youth Forum 2019 Declaration in AfriMAB**

- 1- Dialogue with the MAB Committee (National and Regional) to share the declaration and the action plan.
- 2- Dialogue with CBD and Climate focal point to share our declaration and identify space for collaboration
- 3- Raise-awareness on BR and role of youth community by engaging AfriMAB Youth in different international processes (Biodiversity: OEWG2, OEWG3, COP15, COP25 (Climate Change) and others, e.g IUCN congress, ...) using different platform such as social media
- 4- Build our capacities to get deeper understanding on the different international policy (such as CBD and UNFCCC,...) by collaborating with other constituencies within these conventions (GYBN, Youngo,...) to spread our BR concept

Timeline	What
Back from Forum	-Reach out AfriMAB Committee and Our respective National MAB Committee to have dialogue (declaration and action plan) through online or in person meeting
30 Sept AfriMAB Forum in Cote d'Ivoire	- Present the MAB Youth Forum 2019 at AfriMAB Forum (delegate from Cote d'Ivoire) - Online advocacy using the AfriMAB Forum # “Story telling on BRs and Youth in AfriMAB” (lead by the delegate here and their community back their country”
UNFCCC December COP25	- Before UNFCCC, Build our capacities on policy processes (Climate, Biodiversity,...) by working closer with the existing youth constituencies in these processes through Webinars or workshop/Training - Before UNFCCC, Dialogue with Climate Focal point to present declaration and seek a joint meeting with MAB National committee - Seek possibilities to have delegates in UNFCCC to bring our key messages from our declaration to the process through side event, plenary or any open space for youth to engage
OEWG 2 Feb	- Before meeting, Build our capacities on policy processes (Climate, Biodiversity,...) by working closer with the existing youth constituencies in these processes through Webinar or workshop/Training - Before meeting, Dialogue with CBD Focal point to present declaration and see a joint meeting with MAB National committee - Seek possibilities to have delegates in meeting to bring our key messages from our declaration to the process through side event, plenary or any open space for youth to engage - Have an online campaign how BR and young have played a role to achieve the Aichi Targets
GYBN Summit	- seek a space for AfriMAB Youth Community to show case on how BR and young people activities to achieve “Living in harmony with Nature” (for side event, plenary,...)
IUCN	- seek a space for AfriMAB Youth Community to show case on how BR and young people activities to achieve “Living in harmony with Nature” (for side event, plenary,...)

OEWG 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Before meeting, Build our capacities on policy processes (Climate, Biodiversity,...) by working closer with the existing youth constituencies in these processes through Webinar or workshop/Training</li> <li>- Before meeting, Dialogue with CBD Focal point to present declaration and see a joint meeting with MAB National committee</li> <li>- Seek possibilities to have delegates in meeting to bring our key messages from our declaration to the process through side event, plenary or any open space for youth to engage</li> <li>- Have an online campaign how BR and young have played a role to achieve the Aichi Targets</li> </ul>
COP15	- Work Closer with GYBN

The volunteer committee to ensure the momentum is there:

#### Committee Members

- o Prosper- Rwanda
- o Oumou- Mali
- o Chim- Malawi
- o Vanessa- Central Africa Republic

**Platform of coordination:** Facebook and Whatsapp

#### Regional Action Plan: ArabMAB

TIMELINE	WHAT	OUTCOME
End of Sept.	Contact national focal point	Inform about declaration, contact regional focal point
First Week of October	Contact the BR's in the country	Share the declaration with the BR's
Mid October	Contact MoE, MoA, MoT	Share the declaration with ministries
Mid October	Contact UNESCO	Send invitation to youth in BR's to form a national platform
Mid November	Contact all youth from BR's and other environmental Ngo's and stakeholder	Create a national platform
Dec	Contact MAB focal point and CBD focal point	Meeting between national network and focal points for an update about CBD
Dec	Communicate on national platform	Create videos and posters on climate change (UNFCC visibility)
Jan -Feb	Communicate on national platform	Conduct environmental awareness activities in schools, some videos and posters for social media (CBD summit visibility)

#### Regional Action Plan: ArabMAB

##### Members:

Reem Abdalgium – Sudan

Nourhan Ahmed – Egypt

Yousra Aissadui – Tunis

Rawya Bou Hussein - Lebanon

**Regional Action Plan: Asia Pacific Man and Biosphere (MAB) Youth Network****Priority Actions**

1. Establish MAB Youth Networks at the national level
2. Build capacities of the members of the Asia Pacific MAB Youth Network on the UNESCO MAB Programme and on various international agreements and processes (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Post 2020 Framework) on biodiversity conservation and climate change
3. Connect with MAB National Committee and CBD National Focal Point to present the 2019 MAB Youth Forum Declaration and identify areas of collaboration
4. Launch database for Biosphere Reserves (BRs) research through active engagement with the academe
5. Collaborate and partner with other regional MAB youth networks (EuroMAB, IberoMAB, AfriMAB, and ArabMAB)
6. Raise awareness and promote programmes and activities of Asia Pacific MAB Youth through active social media campaign (Facebook and Instagram pages)
7. Establish an online platform for communication among the members of the Asia Pacific MAB Youth (Facebook Closed Group/WhatsApp)

The network shall also ensure its active participation in various international agreements and processes and lobby consultation results towards the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15).

Timeline	Action Plan
Back from Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connect with respective National MAB and Regional MAB Committees to present the declaration and action plans through meetings online and offline</li> <li>- Contact CBD National and Regional Focal Points to present the declaration and action plans through meetings online and offline</li> <li>- Create online platform for communication among members of the Asia Pacific MAB Youth Network</li> </ul>
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online campaign to reduce plastic waste</li> <li>- Youth consultations at the national level in partnership with GYBN</li> </ul>
Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth consultations at the national level in partnership with GYBN</li> </ul>
Global Youth Biodiversity Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Showcase consultations results</li> <li>- Hold essay/photo/video competitions</li> <li>- Youth consultations at the national level in partnership with GYBN</li> </ul>
International Union for Conservation of Nature -World Congress Convention (IUCN-WCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a monitoring survey on BRs within Asia and the Pacific</li> <li>- Launch database for BRs research</li> <li>- Publish results of the monitoring survey to feed to the IUCN red list</li> <li>- Youth consultations at the national level in partnership with GYBN</li> </ul>
OEWG 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth consultations at the national level in partnership with GYBN</li> <li>- Consolidate outcomes of youth consultations by May 2020 in lieu of COP15</li> </ul>
COP15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage volunteer platforms in universities at the national and regional levels for BRs</li> </ul>

**Asia Pacific MAB Youth Members**

Australia -	Paul Mukhin
Bhutan -	Ngawang Lekdhen Samten
Cambodia -	Nara Chan
China -	Yun Ha
India -	Hima Nair
Indonesia -	Radisti Ayu Praptiwi
Japan -	Tomonori Tasaki
Malaysia -	Carol Alexius
Mongolia -	Enkhgerel Batkhuyag
Philippines -	Katherine Jane Sapungen
Republic of Korea -	Miyeon Yoo
Sri Lanka -	Dilan Rasika Dissanayake
Uzbekistan -	Mamanbek Reimov
Vanuatu -	Filya Alexi Bill
Vietnam -	Yen Ha

**Asia Pacific GYBN Focal Points**

Philippines -	Josefa Isabel Tauli
	Kier Mitchell Pitago
Singapore -	Karl Png
	Mika Mei Jia Tan

**Social Media Managers/Moderators (FB/IG)**

Yen Ha – Viet Nam  
Tomonori Tasaki – Japan  
Hima Nair - India

**Regional Coordinators**

Katherine Jane Sapungen – Southeast Asia (SeaBRnet)  
Mamanbek Reimov – Central Asia (SACAM)  
Paul Mukhin – Pacific (PacMAB)  
Yun Ha – East Asia (EABRN)



## 7\_6 Pictures



*Figure 23: Official opening of the EuroMAB Conference 2022 at Panaroma-Restaurant NockInn*







