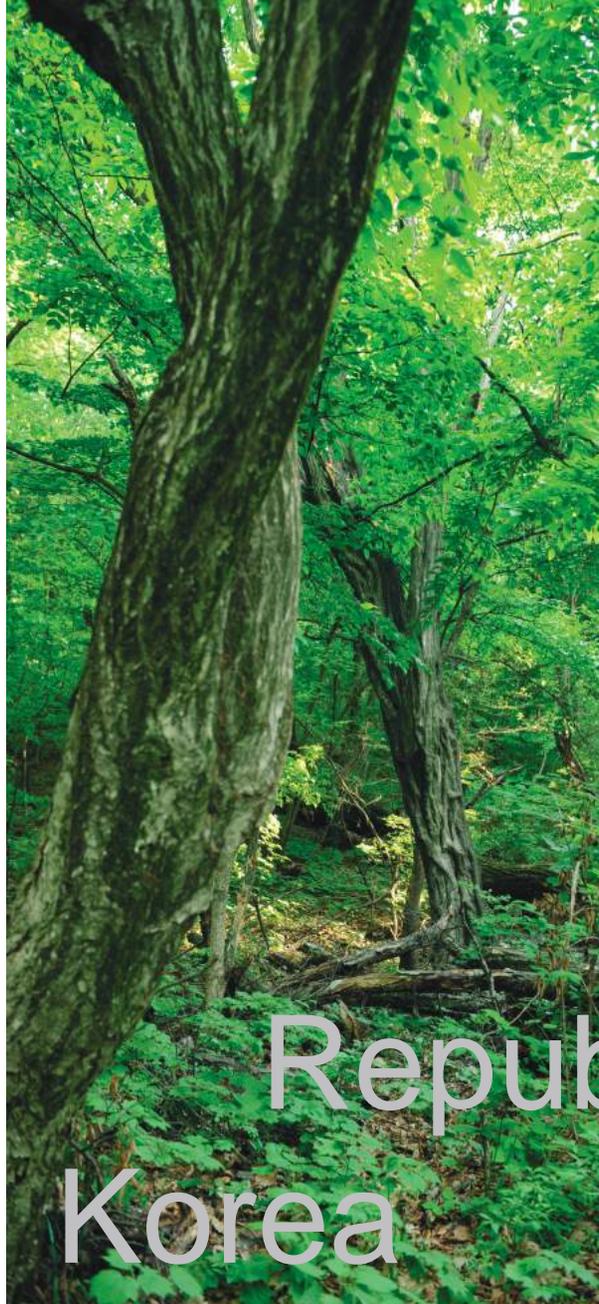


A sustainable society
where **human** and **nature** can co-exist in harmony



Republic of Korea
M A B
Strategy and
Action Plan
2016 - 2025



Republic of Korea

MAB

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1. Introduction

• The MAB Programme and Biosphere Reserves: Concepts and Trends

- 1** Launched in 1971, UNESCO's **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme** is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that explores and disseminates innovative approaches aimed at improving relationships between people and their environments through research in the natural and social sciences, education and training, and international cooperation. The International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB Programme, which consists of 34 Member States elected by UNESCO's General Conference, serves as its principal governing body, deliberating and making decisions on the operation of the MAB Programme.
- 2** **Biosphere reserves** are the places where the MAB Programme are implemented concretely. Biosphere reserves represent their biogeographic regions and contain terrestrial, marine, and/or coastal ecosystems with significance for biodiversity conservation, and are one of the representative global protected areas along with the World Heritage Sites and Ramsar wetlands. Unlike conventional protected areas, biosphere reserves include not only legally protected ecosystems but also neighboring local communities that closely interact with these ecosystems, thus promoting sustainable development by reconciling the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use. In other words, the biosphere reserves are sites where economic and social development models are built on the basis of biodiversity conservation. Since the world's first biosphere reserve was designated in 1974, their numbers have increased to 651 biosphere reserves in 120 countries (as of September 2015).
- 3** In a biosphere reserve, one or more **core areas**, adjacent **buffer zone**, and an outer **cooperative or transition area** are designated for effective implementation of three functions: **conservation, development, and logistic support**.
- 4** In the early stage of the MAB Programme (1976-1984), existing protected areas such as national parks were designated as biosphere reserves, focusing on natural resource conservation, scientific research, and education. One example in the Republic of Korea (ROK) is Mt. Seorak, which was designated as a biosphere reserve in 1982. They had very little room for implementation of the sustainable development function since it had almost no transition area. In 1995, the MAB Programme reached a turning point with the establishment of the **Seville Strategy** and the

Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Later, the **Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves 2008-2013** was adopted at the Third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in 2008.

- 5** In June 2015, the **MAB Strategy 2015-2025** was established for the next ten years, and a new **Action Plan (2016-2025)** will be finalized at the Fourth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in March 2016. The new MAB Strategy and the associated Action Plan focus on exploration and dissemination of local solutions to global challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change, poverty, and water and food security in biosphere reserves around the world, in order to ensure the well-being of people and their environment and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

• **MAB and Biosphere Reserves in ROK: Status and Challenges**

- 6** The MAB Programme in the ROK started with the translation and publication of the UNESCO MAB Series in the early 1970s. It began in earnest in the 1980s when the **MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea** was established and operated as a special committee under the Korean National Commission for UNESCO. Since 2010, the MAB Programme has been operated by the Ministry of Environment following the relocation of the ROK MAB secretariat to the Korea National Park Service.
- 7** In 1982, Mount Sorak was designated as the first biosphere reserve in ROK; this was followed 20 years later by the designation of the Jeju Island Biosphere Reserve (2002). As of September 2015, **five biosphere reserves** have been designated in ROK including Shinan Dadohae (2009), Gwangneung Forest (2010), and Gochang (2013), making a total of nine biosphere reserves on the Korean Peninsula together with four in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) (Mt. Baekdu, Mt. Guwol, Mt. Myohaung and Mt. Chilbo).
- 8** As is the case with many MAB member states, the biosphere reserve is not a type of legally protected areas in Republic of Korea. According to the criteria of the biosphere reserve designation indicated in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, core areas of the biosphere reserve should be already protected by domestic laws. Domestic laws related to the MAB Programme include the Regulations on Operation of the MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea (Ministry of Environment Directive issued in December 2009) and a few paragraphs in the Natural Environment Conservation Act that can provide legal grounds for support (Article 21 (2), Article 49 (13)).

- 9 The MAB Programme in Republic of Korea has expanded its activities and raised its national profile domestically and internationally by promoting the diffusion of interdisciplinary approaches and research in the natural and social sciences; building international support and a cooperation system for conservation within the Korean Demilitarized Zone; working to revitalize local economies through efforts such as ecotourism and local product branding; initiating and supporting regional and thematic networks such as the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN) and the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR); supporting research and publication on biodiversity in DPRK; and playing a role as a member state and as chair (2010-2012) of the International Co-ordinating Council of the MAB Programme.
- 10 Introduced more than 40 years ago, the MAB Programme in Republic of Korea is now expected to play an even greater role both quantitatively and qualitatively. Biosphere reserves should advance from a mere 'international certificate of value' to a **local development model based on conservation** which can effectively respond to various challenges like excessive development and use, as well as climate and other environmental changes. Also, successful test cases and experiences ROK has had while operating the MAB Programme and biosphere reserves should serve as stepping stones in efforts to enhance its domestic biodiversity conservation policies and strengthen cooperation for biodiversity conservation on the Korean Peninsula. International MAB networks should be effectively utilized so as to expand cooperation and support for biodiversity conservation in, and the sustainable development of, DPRK and other less developed countries.
- 11 Considering the aforementioned historical background and current status, the **major tasks of MAB Programme in ROK** for the coming ten years can be summarized as follows:
- ① **Increase awareness of biosphere reserves as a practical model for sustainable development;**
 - ② **Integrate implementation of the conservation, development, and logistic support functions of biosphere reserves by encouraging local resident participation and enhancing local community initiatives;**
 - ③ **Maintain and expand the institutional framework for effective operation and management of the MAB Programme and biosphere reserves;**
 - ④ **Reinforce ROK's role in operating and supporting the Northeast Asian and international MAB cooperative systems; and**
 - ⑤ **Establish a biodiversity conservation system on the Korean Peninsula and contribute to multilateral exchanges and cooperation in preparation for reunification.**



• Implementation Process and Timeline for the Republic of Korea MAB Strategy and Action Plan (ROK MAB SAP)

12 The ROK MAB SAP is the first of its kind to be established in connection with the MAB Programme in ROK and will remain in effect from 2016 to 2025. The new UNESCO MAB Strategy approved in 2015 is for 2015-2025, and the new Action Plan to be finalized in 2016 is for 2016-2025. The ROK MAB SAP reflects the core principles of the new UNESCO MAB Strategy and Action Plan.

13 In order to prepare the ROK MAB SAP, a strategy development working group was formed under the MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea. With this group at the center, the committee interviewed the key persons of other active MAB committees abroad, conducted case studies, surveyed members of the ROK MAB members and stakeholders of ROK biosphere reserves, held conferences at each biosphere reserve, and hosted workshops for the committee and experts, so as to canvass and reflect various opinions.



2. Vision and Mission

14 Vision of the MAB Programme in the Republic of Korea

"A sustainable society where human and nature can co-exist in harmony through the conservation and wise use of biodiversity"

15 Our mission for the period 2016-2025 to achieve this vision is to:

- support biosphere reserves so that they can serve as a model for local community-led sustainable development;
- build an effective system for public relations and exchanges so that the lessons learned from our experiences and successful test cases in biosphere reserves can spread domestically and abroad;
- cooperate with stakeholders for innovative implementation of biodiversity conservation, education for sustainable development, and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in biosphere reserves.



3. Objectives and Expected Results

Five Objectives

- [1] Strengthen the management system for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- [2] Construct and disseminate a model for sustainable social and economic development in which human beings and the biosphere can co-exist in harmony
- [3] Strengthen education for sustainable development while enhancing local community capacity and increasing awareness on biosphere reserves
- [4] Expand institutional frameworks for MAB and biosphere reserves and contributions to the international community
- [5] Promote effective communication, participation, and cooperation

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Objective 1

Strengthen the management system for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services

The ecosystem provides resources and services that are essential to our lives. However, a sharp decrease in the number of species and habitats caused by threats such as increasing development projects and climate change has become a core environmental and social issue at both the national and global levels. Biosphere reserves can effectively conserve biodiversity in core areas and enhance ecosystem services within and near their boundaries by systematically managing the use of resources and human activity in buffer zones and transition areas that encircle or adjoin strictly protected core areas. Investigation, research, and monitoring with regard to their ecological, environmental, and cultural value should be promoted through close cooperation with reserve management agencies and local residents, while also pursuing restoration of damaged ecosystems.

>> Expected Results

- ❖ Constant management and conservation of biodiversity as an important local community resource
- ❖ Use of biosphere reserves as an effective means of conserving and enhancing national biodiversity and ecosystem services
- ❖ Implementation of international and national strategies and action plans including the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the SDGs, and the National Biodiversity Strategy

Construct and disseminate a model for sustainable social and economic development in which human beings and the biosphere can co-exist in harmony

Objective 2

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The MAB Programme can create a social and economic development model in which human beings and the biosphere co-exist in harmony, while also pointing the way to a sustainable future by utilizing experiences and successful test cases in global biosphere reserves and exchanges with people from other biosphere reserves. In particular, transition areas in biosphere reserves provide opportunities to promote innovative social and economic development activities by linking and applying the ecological and cultural values of core areas and buffer zones. Biodiversity-based economic activities such as ecotourism and sales of local specialties that had been planned and carried out in biosphere reserves will be redesigned and spread to other regions as an integrated model for sustainable development that can elevate local residents' income and their quality of life.

- ❖ Biosphere reserves that function as a sustainable social and economic development model and spread to other regions
- ❖ Construction of the 'Korean-type' sustainable development model which utilizes ROK's biodiversity characteristics, lifestyle, and traditional wisdom
- ❖ Increased satisfaction, pride, and a sense of ownership in local residents with regard to biosphere reserves

>> Expected Results

Strengthen education for sustainable development while enhancing local community capacity and increasing awareness on biosphere reserves

Objective 3

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Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) includes important issues for sustainable development such as biodiversity in education and learning so that every person can acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values required to build a sustainable future. Biosphere reserves, sites for sustainable development where humankind and nature co-exist, can become a venue for effective ESD through which each player in the local community can learn new skills and values and thus effectively promote sustainable development of the region.

As part of these efforts, local residents and people throughout the country should enhance their awareness and understanding of biosphere reserves. This awareness and understanding are important factors in the operation of biosphere reserves and in conducting activities such as ecosystem conservation, ecotourism, and sales of local specialties. Information should be effectively provided and promoted to the local community and people using exemplary cases and brands of biosphere reserves.

- ❖ ESD projects conducted in all biosphere reserves throughout ROK
- ❖ Local residents' increased awareness of conservation, improved capacity to operate development projects at the local scale, and activation of resident communities
- ❖ Promotion of sustainable lifestyles and social structures in local communities
- ❖ Improved brand values and recognition of biosphere reserves as well as associated products and services
- ❖ Greater awareness of biosphere reserves among local residents and the Korean people in general

>> Expected Results

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Objective 4**Expand institutional frameworks for MAB and biosphere reserves and contributions to the international community**

In order to enhance the management system and capacity of biosphere reserves in ROK and promote active sustainable development projects, legal and institutional frameworks should be strengthened so that administrative and financial support for biosphere reserves - especially support by central and local governments - can be broadened. Also, a comprehensive domestic institutional system for applications, management and operation of biosphere reserves should be established, as the number of applications and designated biosphere reserves is increasing.

Professional and financial contributions to the EABRN and the WNICBR initiated by ROK's central and local governments will be enhanced so that they can evolve into successful international networks. Also, ROK will expand the scale of its activities and contributions to the global community given through the MAB Programme, by promoting exchanges between domestic and international biosphere reserves and providing support to biosphere reserves in developing countries.

>> Expected Results

- ❖ Enhanced legal and institutional frameworks and support on the part of central and local governments for MAB and biosphere reserves
- ❖ Establishment of a practical system to induce and support the systematic management and operation of biosphere reserves
- ❖ Enhanced contributions to the international community and an elevated national profile through cooperation within the international MAB and biosphere reserve networks and expanded support for less developed countries

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Objective 5**Promote effective communication, participation, and cooperation**

Biosphere reserves are areas where various stakeholders participate and cooperate with each other for the benefit of local communities. To this end, transparent and open communication and information sharing should be guaranteed. Various methods suitable for each regional situation should be sought and executed, especially using biosphere reserve management committees, associations for local projects, and online channels including social media. In particular, the management system, including management bodies and biosphere reserve committees, should serve as vehicles of efficient communication and exchanging views for various stakeholders to participate in. In addition, a dedicated cooperation system for an increasing number of domestic biosphere reserves should be established to boost synergies between mutual exchanges and cooperation. The functions and roles of the MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea should be strengthened by facilitating communication and cooperation among relevant agencies as well as members of the Committee. The international MAB network, including the East Asia Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN), should be used to expand support for research on protecting biodiversity on the Korean Peninsula and exchanges between North and Republic of Korea.

>> Expected Results

- ❖ Establishment of a bottom-up and participatory management system in each biosphere reserve
- ❖ Expansion of efficient experience and information sharing and cooperation
- ❖ Strengthened function and role of the management system of the MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea
- ❖ Enhanced exchanges and cooperation between South and North Korea through the MAB global network
- ❖ Expansion of international exchanges and cooperation among domestic biosphere reserves

4. Action Plan

- ※ Main actors and partners: MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea (MAB ROK), Biosphere Reserves (BRs), central government authorities, Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), local governments, protected area administrations, World Network of Biosphere Reserves(WNBR), etc.
- ※ Period: short-term (1~3 years), medium-term (4~7 years), long-term (8~10 years)

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Objective 1 Strengthen the management system for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services

No.	Actions	Main Actors	Partners	Period
1.1	To devise methods for dealing with major threats against biodiversity in core areas, in cooperation with the MAB ROK and relevant agencies	BRs	MAB ROK, management agencies for protected areas	Short-term
1.2	To carry out research on the effects of climate change on biosphere reserve and methods for local communities to deal with these effects	BRs, MAB ROK	Central government authorities, protected area administrations	Medium-term
1.3	To develop and implement an index for evaluating ecosystem services and social and cultural affairs that takes into account the characteristics of each biosphere reserve	BRs	MAB ROK, research institutes	Medium-term
1.4	To post on the MAB ROK website a list of investigation and research activities carried out on domestic biosphere reserves every year, along with key findings	MAB ROK, BRs		Long-term
1.5	To include the current status of biodiversity and conservation methods in an annual report submitted by each biosphere reserve to the MAB ROK	BRs	MAB ROK	Short-term
1.6	To conduct comprehensive research on the current status of biosphere reserve ecosystems and cultural resources in preparation for the submission of periodic reports to UNESCO every ten years	BRs	Protected area administrations, research institutes	Long-term
1.7	To publish data (e.g. illustrated books of living organisms, field guides, etc.) on the ecosystem, including fauna and flora of all biosphere reserves and/or of each biosphere reserve	BRs, MAB ROK	Protected area administrations, research institutes	Medium-term
1.8	To support fully research and monitoring on biodiversity carried out by research institutes, civil organizations, and local residents in biosphere reserves	BRs, MAB ROK	Local governments	Medium-term

Objective 2 Construct and disseminate a model for sustainable social and economic development in which human beings and the biosphere can co-exist in harmony

No.	Actions	Main Actors	Partners	Period
2.1	To provide exchange opportunities such as a national biosphere reserve forum in order to share information and experiences on the sustainable regional economic projects	BRs, MAB ROK	Local governments	Medium-term
2.2	To actively encourage the establishment and operation of social enterprises and cooperative associations led by residents of biosphere reserves; and to support exchanges and cooperation with other biosphere reserves and relevant networks abroad	MAB ROK, BRs	WNBR	Medium-term
2.3	To provide education programs and professional consultations for revitalization of local economies through such efforts as the development of products, services, and biosphere reserve brands	MAB ROK	Central government authorities, BRs	Short-term
2.4	To create legal and institutional frameworks in order to provide financial and administrative support for the promotion, distribution, and sale of products and services from biosphere reserves	Central government authorities, MAB ROK	BRs	Medium-term
2.5	To allow comprehensive access to information about products and services from domestic biosphere reserves on the website of the MAB ROK; and to hold offline events	MAB ROK, BRs		Short-term
2.6	To develop joint business models to provide products and services connecting domestic biosphere reserves; and to conduct test operations of the model	BRs, MAB ROK		Long-term
2.7	To actively encourage and support a system for reinvesting profits gained from local economy revitalization projects that use biosphere reserve brands (e.g. MOUs with corporates) and channeling them to environmental preservation efforts	BRs	MAB ROK, local governments, central government authorities	Medium-term
2.8	To establish and implement guidelines for domestic biosphere reserve branding efforts while also taking into consideration the international MAB guidelines.	MAB ROK	MAB International Committee	Short-term

Objective 3 Strengthen education for sustainable development while enhancing local community capacity and increasing awareness on biosphere reserves

No.	Actions	Main Actors	Partners	Period
3.1	To develop educational programs and materials customized by region and age group in order to raise local residents' core capacities and their awareness of biosphere reserves; and to implement these programs in each biosphere reserve	MAB ROK	KNCU, central government authorities	Medium-term
3.2	To promote the certification of UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development and cooperation with local offices of education (such as the conclusion of MOUs) in order to facilitate the development and execution of quality local education programs in biosphere reserves	BRs	KNCU, MAB ROK, educational institutions	Medium-term
3.3	To increase the number of UNESCO Associated Schools in biosphere reserves; and to support the development and activities of programs linkingschools and local communities	BRs	KNCU, educational institutions	Short-term
3.4	To develop and spread examples of Education for Sustainable Development in biosphere reserves based on indigenous and traditional knowledge	BRs, MAB ROK	Local governments	Medium-term
3.5	To cultivate the next generation of biosphere reserve professionals and promote their activities by awarding young people and developing cooperative projects with universities and research institutes in biosphere reserves	MAB ROK	Educational institutions, KNCU	Medium-term
3.6	To promote the activities of domestic biosphere reserves nationwide by participating in international exhibitions or events more than once each year and operating information centers for biosphere reserves	MAB ROK, BRs	Central government authorities, local governments	Medium-term
3.7	To designate a "Day of Biosphere Reserves"; and to cohost online and offline promotional and experiential events every year.	MAB ROK, BRs	Central government authorities	Medium-term
3.8	To allow easy access to information and rich data about domestic and foreign MAB programs and biosphere reserves on the website of the MAB ROK; and to update the data regularly	MAB ROK	BR	Short-term

Objective 4 Expand institutional frameworks for MAB and biosphere reserves and contributions to the international community

No.	Actions	Main Actors	Partners	Period
4.1	To establish legal and institutional frameworks in order to expand and strengthen MAB programs and biosphere reserve projects	MAB ROK, central authorities	BRs	Medium-term
4.2	To devise national MAB strategy and action plans every ten years; to assess the current status of domestic biosphere reserves; and to propose directions for improvement.	MAB ROK	BRs, UNESCO	Long-term
4.3	To renew the biosphere reserve management plans when submitting the Periodic Reports to UNESCO every ten year, and, if possible, the interim update every five years	BRs	MAB ROK	Long-term
4.4	To present the annual report to the MAB ROK every year in order to assess the current status and improve operations	BRs	MAB ROK	Short-term
4.5	To develop and provide systems and guidelines, e.g., national guidelines for biosphere reserve applications and operations, as well as formatting guidelines for annual reports on biosphere reserves, with a view to promoting the systematic and efficient operation of MAB Programme	MAB ROK	Central government authorities, BRs	Medium-term
4.6	To encourage and support applications for biosphere reserve candidates in cooperation with relevant agencies and authorities to contribute to the conservation of international and domestic biodiversity and the creation of sustainable development models	MAB ROK	Protected area administrations, central government authorities	Medium-term
4.7	To expand the functions professional capacity of the MAB Programme ROK secretariat to operate and support MAB Programme and biosphere reserve projects more effectively domestically and abroad	MAB ROK	Central government authorities (Ministry of Environment)	Medium-term
4.8	To develop an aid project model for underdeveloped countries that is suitable for the MAB ROK; and to expand international support through relevant domestic institutions charged with handling Official Development Assistance (ODA) and similar activities	MAB ROK	Central government authorities, aid organizations	Medium-term
4.9	To strengthen the professional and financial contributions of the MAB ROK and biosphere reserves through various international cooperation venues such as the MAB International Co-ordination Council, EABRN, WNICBR, etc.	MAB ROK, BRs, central government authorities, local governments	KNCU	Medium-term

Objective 5 Promote effective communication, participation, and cooperation

No.	Actions	Main Actors	Partners	Period
5.1	To actively encourage and support the management of biosphere reserves and participate in relevant projects by various stakeholders, such as creation of communities and biosphere reserve partnerships	BRs	MAB ROK, local governments	Medium-term
5.2	To establish various communication channels, including a website and social media, in order to strengthen transparent information sharing and a bottom-up communication system	BRs	Local governments	Short-term
5.3	To strengthen the roles of the ROK's MAB National Committee as an advisory, mediating, and deliberative body with regard to the management and operation of biosphere reserves	MAB ROK		Short-term
5.4	To build a national network of biosphere reserves and to promote exchanges and cooperation activities among them in a systematic manner through efforts such as workshops and joint projects	BRs	MAB ROK	Short-term
5.5	To make the leader of the network act as a member of the MAB ROK for close cooperation between biosphere reserves and the MAB ROK, once a national network of biosphere reserves is established	MAB ROK, BRs		Short-term
5.6	To promote the sharing and widespread use of news and information about MAB Programme and biosphere reserves domestically and abroad by publishing online regular newsletters of the MAB ROK, as well as policy briefs and case studies	MAB ROK	BRs, KNCU	Medium-term
5.7	To promote thematic subcommittees or research groups within the MAB ROK and more opportunities to cooperate with relevant domestic and foreign agencies through various projects	MAB ROK	Research institutions	Medium-term
5.8	To contribute to biodiversity conservation on the Korean Peninsula by supporting the DPRK MAB projects and conducting multilateral or North-Republic of Korean cooperative research, etc. through the WNBR and UNESCO	MAB ROK	KNCU, central government authorities, research institutions	Long-term
5.9	To set up a sisterhood relationship with one or more biosphere reserves in the EABRN and facilitate exchanges and cooperation	BRs	MAB ROK, KNCU, WNBR	Medium-term

5. Evaluation

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- 26** The MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea shall review the progress of the ROK MAB SAP over the previous year and reflects the results in MAB projects for the coming year at the annual general meetings of the Committee.
- 27** In the fifth year of executing the ROK MAB SAP 2016-2025 (2020), the MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea shall conduct an interim evaluation to adjust objectives and priorities for the action plans and suggest effective courses of action, and, if possible, it should reflect the results in a management plan for each biosphere reserve.
- 28** In the final year of executing the ROK MAB SAP 2016-2025 (2025), the MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea shall establish a subcommittee to assess the results after ten years of execution and devise follow-up strategies. The evaluation methods and schedule shall be decided at the general meeting of the Committee.



Appendix: Glossary

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

As a main instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level, these national strategies and action plans are established by Member States in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention with a view to conserving biodiversity. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are known by the acronym NBSAP. All programs and activities that can positively or negatively affect biodiversity should seek to mainstream biological diversity. To that end, in February 2014, Korea drew up its Third National Biodiversity Strategy (2014 to 2018) as a government-wide comprehensive plan and set 6 strategies and 18 objectives.

International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (IACBR)

This scientific and technical committee body advises the International Co-ordination Council of the MAB Programme, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), and the Director General of UNESCO on matters pertaining to the WNBR. This Committee is composed of 12 members, who are appointed for 4 years by the Director General.

Periodic Review for Biosphere Reserves

The periodic review is to evaluate the functions, zonation, local community participation, etc. every ten years in accordance with Article 9 of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, with a view to improving the quality and functions of biosphere reserves as sites for sustainable development. The biosphere reserve concerned should prepare and submit periodic reports. If the periodic review finds that the biosphere reserve has failed to fulfill the criteria under Article 4 of the Statutory Framework, the International Co-ordination Council of the MAB Programme can withdraw the biosphere reserve from the WNBR or cancel its designation.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was signed by representatives of 158 countries in June 1992 at the UN Conference on Environment and Development and entered into force on December 29, 1993 for the purpose of conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from biological resources. Korea is the 154th state party to the Convention.

Ecosystem Services

The Ecosystem Services refer to benefits provided by the ecosystem based on biological diversity to meet the needs of human beings. They are classified into four categories: regulating services, provisioning services, cultural services, and supporting services. These four services also can be divided into 17 subcategories.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan in 2010 adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as a national and international guideline to fulfill the aims of the Convention for the 2011 to 2020 period. At that meeting, 5 strategic objectives and 20 biodiversity targets (detailed objectives) were set in order to stop the loss of biodiversity and enhance the resilience of ecosystems for the sustainable use of ecosystem services through 2020.

UNESCO Associated Schools

UNESCO Associated Schools as members of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) conduct educational activities that reflect UNESCO's ideals of peace and human rights, international understanding, and sustainable development, with regard to four basic themes of study including global issues and roles of international organizations such as the UN and UNESCO, education for sustainable education, human rights and peaceful democracy, and intercultural learning. In Korea, a total of 406 elementary schools have joined the UNESCO ASPnet as of September 2015.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) aims to provide all people with opportunities to learn the values, abilities, knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to a socially equitable, economically growing and ecologically sustainable future by including major issues for sustainable development such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction and sustainable consumption in education and learning. The period from 2005 to 2014 was designated as the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development; this has been followed by the Global Action Programme on ESD, which is currently being implemented.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are post-2015 development goals which replace the 2000-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals comprise the agenda for national execution and global cooperation through which countries are working together to eliminate poverty and mitigate other shared risks to sustainable development such as social bipolarization, growing social inequalities and global environmental degradation. They consist of 17 development goals and 169 targets.

International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme

The MAB International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) is a decision-making body to review, assess, and coordinate the operation and activities of the MAB programme including decisions on the designation of new biosphere reserves. It meets on an annual basis and consists of 34 Member States elected every four years at the UNESCO General Conference. The MAB Bureau is composed of one chair and five vice chairs.