

National MAB Committee  
Sudan Report  
2018-2019

The activities of National MAB Committee during 2018:

- The National MAB Committee had attained the 13th session of ICC Meeting in Palembang Indonesia 23-28 July 2018. Sudan had been elected as a vice-chair of the ICC Bureau representing Arab Region.
- The National MAB Committee, in partnership with WCGA, the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Wildlife/Red Sea State, and in cooperation with the Nature Program of the Arab Regional Center for World Heritage and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had implemented a technical workshop in Port Sudan 24-27 April, 2018 on the Evaluation of the management effectiveness of World Heritage property of Sudan (i.e. Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungenab Bay/Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (Sudan – Red Sea- 2016).
- The guidelines adopted by UNESCO and IUCN have been implemented in the so-called "Strengthening Our World Heritage: 2008" and the evaluation of the management effectiveness of protected areas (2006).
- The workshop represented a participatory activity with excellence and a well-organized successor by the Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture. The workshop was attended by a wide range of national and local institutions related to protected areas and the World Heritage property, including government and academic institutions and the local community. It came out with 8 recommendations including the importance of conducting the same training program in all biosphere reserves for evaluating the effectiveness of their management.
- The Chair of the National MAB Committee, as an expert, had participated in the first panel of expert's workshop on the Economic of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEP), on Wetlands Economic Valuation Study for the Nile Basin region during 4-5 Sept. 2018 at Nairobi Kenya, to initiate a platform for dialogue, communication and information-sharing on the scope, content and methodology of the Nile Basin wetlands economic valuation study. At the end it would bring the economic value of wetlands and water related ecosystems services into the Nile Basin Initiative planning agenda and wetland management Framework Plan. That will ultimately support the MAB agenda for better conservation, sustainable use of ecosystem and reduction of biodiversity. Dinder Biosphere Reserve as wetland being chosen with others African wetlands for future economic valuation studies.
- Within the aim of Strengthening cooperation with universities and UNESCO Chairs, the MAB Committee had participated in a consultation meeting on the current status of marine science in the National Curricula of General Education, organized by UNESCO Chair of Marine Biology and

Oceanography at National Curricula Center/ Bakht Al Rowda University / White Nile State, during 22-23 Sept. 2018, for promoting UNESCO MAB Programme and World Natural Heritage to be included as subjects within the Science Curricula in the Elementary and Higher Secondary Schools.

- National MAB Committee and UNESCO Khartoum Office had collaborated with UNESCO World Heritage Center by organizing an experts' meeting at Port Sudan/Red Sea State during 9-12 Oct. 2018. The meeting was attended by UNESCO/ WHC, and experts from Marine World Natural Heritage sites (Mauritania, Seychelles, Brazil, South Africa) and participants from Khartoum and Red Sea State.
- The MAB Committee has continued implementation of the project "Dinder BR – Al Atish National Park Transboundary Initiative, which began at 2016. An agreement for cooperation had been prepared to be reviewed with Ethiopian partners and to be signed by both countries. A meeting was proposed to be held in Addis Ababa during 2018, but due to some circumstances in Ethiopia being postponed to be held during 2019
- Managers of Sudanese BRs had attended an event which was organized by UNESCO Regional Office for Science in the Arab States at Cairo, in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) in Tunisia on 17 and 18 October 2018. With the aim "To promote responsible and effective social and economic management of biodiversity conservation" and Implementation of comprehensive planning in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the Arab Region.
- The MAB Committee held an awareness workshops about:
  - MAB Program and Biosphere Reserve concept at Wildlife Conservation General Administration on 21 March 2018.
  - MAB Young Scientists Awards at Wildlife Conservation General Administration on 25 October 2018.

#### Activities during 2019

- The agreement for cooperation for "Dinder BR – Al Atish National Park proposed Transboundary reserve, had been reviewed with Ethiopian partners and agreed to be signed by both countries. A meeting with experts from the State of Ethiopia which was proposed to be held in Ethiopia during February 2019 was postponed due to the circumstances in Sudan, for June 2019.
- The unstable political situation in Sudan was an obstacle for adopting the reviewed membership structure of the National MAB Committee, which will include many new stakeholders.
- The MAB Committee has also put forward proposals for a number of workshops, the most important of which is "The Role of Media including Journalist and Information specialists (from Sudan Television, Radio and daily News papers). The workshop will be held in cooperation with the Sudanese

Environmental Conservation Society, the Sudan Academy of Communication Sciences, the Khartoum UNESCO Office and Wildlife Conservation General Administration. This workshop is for raising awareness on the implementation of the goals of sustainable development (SDGs) within Biosphere Reserves development issues and UNESCO MAB Concept.

- The National MAB Committee oversees the activities of the National MAB Youth Forum, which was established in 2017. MAB Youth Forum had carried out number of activities and worked out a plan with goals and mechanisms with a time frame, with a periodic report submitted to the MAB Committee. The Youth Forum activities include:
  - Organizing awareness seminars on the concept of biosphere reserves and the Lima Plan of Action
  - The use of social media and information technology to exchange information and documents of the MAB program through the site of the Youth Forum on Facebook and Whats App.
  - Organization of a workshop to raise awareness of youth on MAB Young Scientist Awards
- The National MAB Committee is keen to address the biosphere reserves concept within the framework of legislation, National Wildlife Law and policy had participated on the Inception workshop (Nov 2018) and the validation workshop (April 2019) for the project "Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management in Sudan" The project is focusing on four components, aiming (with other objectives ) to promote integrated ecosystem management, improved management effectiveness at selected terrestrial and marine PAs, and BRs (focusing on Dinder and Jebel Al Dair BRs and Dungonab MPA ) and the management of their buffer and transitional zones, so as to reduce threats to biodiversity, mitigate land degradation, sustain ecosystem services, and improves people's livelihoods; through a combination of government-driven and community-based sustainable Integrated Natural Resource Management interventions. The UNESCO MAB Programme at Paris and Khartoum UNESCO Office with National MAB Committee will enhance MAB Concept within the project components during its implementation through many interventions in the 2 BRs and through the establishment of new BRs in the Red Sea State.