



## **DECLARATION OF THE FIRST IBEROMAB YOUTH FORUM**

*We, the young people of the IberoMAB Network, 89 representatives of 43 Biosphere Reserves in 23 countries,*

*Meeting in the Bosques de Paz Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador and Peru) from 5 to 8 December 2018 in the First IberoMAB Youth Forum, with the desire to enable the IberoMAB youth to engage in horizontal, inclusive and transparent governance related to social, political, economic, educational, cultural and environmental issues, where our participation will help mitigate the problems and needs faced by the youth of biosphere reserves, in cooperation with the entities concerned,*

*Expressing our gratitude to UNESCO through its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the MAB national focal points and the governments of Ecuador and Peru, the Mancomunidad Bosque Seco, the Bosque Seco (Ecuador) and Noroeste Amotapes-Manglares Biosphere Reserves (Peru), which make up the Bosques de Paz Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, the Paltas canton, to the National University of Loja through the Zapotepamba Binational Technical Training Center and the organizing team for their hospitality and commitment,*

*Acknowledging with special thanks the Government of Flanders of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Abertis Foundation, the Government of Spain through the Autonomous Authority for National Parks (OAPN) and the Spanish Cooperation in Ecuador, Itaipu Binational, the San Francisco University of Quito, Galapagos Conservation Trust and all those who through their financial support made this event possible,*

*Recognizing that this forum has provided an excellent opportunity to share and collaborate with the youth of IberoMAB biosphere reserves, and allowed us to form a collective vision for the future,*

*Understanding that although we come from different origins, we agree on the objectives and actions of the biosphere reserves, the IberoMAB Network and the MAB Programme,*

*Propose the following actions oriented within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Lima Action Plan for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025), the Santa Marta Agreements of the XVIII Meeting of the IberoMAB Network (Colombia, May 2018) and the final Declaration of the UNESCO MAB Youth Forum (Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy, September 2017) and adopt the present 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 a in a democratic manner 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.

8 December 2018, Catacocha, Ecuador