

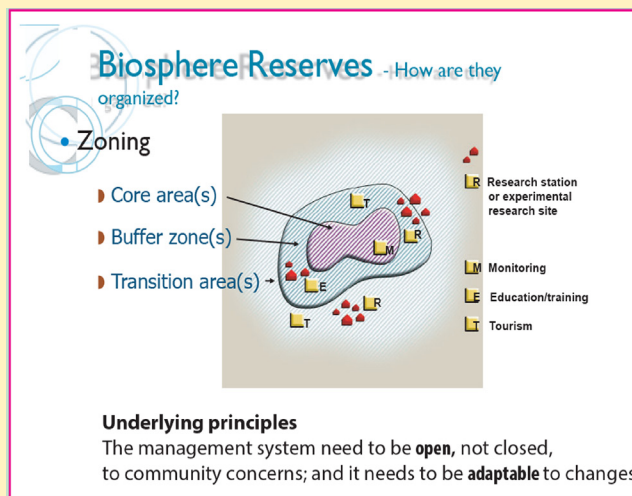
1.0 PREAMBLE

The Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme is a UNESCO sponsored world-wide programme that was launched in 1971 with the aim of promoting interdisciplinary research, training, and communications in the field of ecosystem conservation and the rational use of natural resources. The MAB Programme seeks to respond to the recommendations of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and especially the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The MAB programme established a coordinated World Network of sites representing the main ecosystems of the planet in which genetic resources can be protected, and where research on ecosystems as well as monitoring and training work can be carried out.

These sites were named as “Biosphere Reserves(BRs)” and their activities are coordinated through what is known as World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) in which Tanzania is the member. MAB Programme aims at addressing issues of Sustainable utilisation of natural resources to promote sustainable development; conservation of internationally recognized terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; and promotion of sustainable livelihoods. They serve as demonstration areas for ecologically and socio-culturally sustainable use; Conservation in situ of natural and semi-natural ecosystems and landscapes, and Logistic support for research, monitoring, education, training and information exchange.



These functions are associated through a zonation system consisting of a core area with minimal human activities except research and monitoring, which is aimed at protecting the landscape, ecosystems and species it contains (there may be several patchy core areas in a single biosphere reserve). The surrounding area acts as a buffer for the core and accommodates some human activities such as research, environmental education and training as well as tourism and recreation. An outer transition area, or area of cooperation, extends outwards and serves as a liaison with the larger region in which the biosphere reserve lies, and promotes in particular the development concern with activities such as applied research, traditional use or rehabilitation, human settlements, agriculture, fisheries, etc.



BR Zonation System



1.1 MAB PROGRAMME IN TANZANIA

Tanzania is one of the countries implementing the biosphere reserve concept, and it was first conceived and adopted in 1981 following the establishment of two BRs namely; Lake Manyara and Serengeti-Ngorongoro in 1981. Thereafter, East Usambara BR was designated in 2000, Jozani Chwaka Bay (JCB) Zanzibar in 2016, Gombe-Masito-Ugalla later in July 2018. Therefore, this makes a total of five (5) Biosphere Reserves in Tanzania. The National Environment Management Council (NEMC) is national MAB Focal Point and it plays an overall coordination of MAB activities in the country. There is MAB National Committee, which is constituted by members from relevant sectors and ministries related to issues of conservation, research, monitoring and management. The Director General - NEMC is the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee in collaboration with MAB Focal Point coordinates and supervises all issues pertaining to BR management and conservation. List of members is normally revised from time to time depending on the need and are heads of institutions or their representatives, thus, decisions made are government backed.

1.2 BENEFITS ACCRUED FROM BIOSPHERE RESERVES

There are a number of benefits accrued from biosphere reserve sites and these are not limited to:-

- Country official recognition by UNESCO a UN agency for promoting tourism;
- Participation in a World Network which facilitates sharing of information and experiences;
- Serve as demonstration testing sites to address issues related to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development and globalization;
- Can serve as land use planning and management tools; and
- Can reflect the “ecosystem approach to management” as adopted by the Convention of Biological Diversity.



East Usambara BR

Therefore, at national level, there are a number of achievements including assessment and identification of sites potential for nomination and inclusion into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves both in the Mainland and Zanzibar; Periodic review; Participation in the World Park Congress on Biosphere Reserves and MAB Intergovernmental Coordinating Council (ICC) Sessions; Participation in the AfriMAB and Biosphere Reserve Projects/Programs both at Regional and International level. Since all these activities requires a lot of information, a scientific conference is important as a fora for scientific information exchange and dissemination.

2.0 THE 5TH SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE:

MAN AND BIOSPHERE RESERVE

NEMC has among others, mandates to coordinate and disseminate information that relates to environmental research and management in Tanzania. In collaboration with other stakeholders, NEMC is now organizing a 5th scientific conference on environmental sustainability in Tanzania with a theme “**Man and Biosphere Reserves: Conservation for Sustainable Development**” to be held in Arusha. The conference has been scheduled to take place in August 28th- 30th 2019 and will bring together resource persons from local and Regional levels, who will make presentations on different themes that relate to Man and Biosphere Reserves. The conferences aim at providing fora for stakeholders (industry, regulators, academia, practitioners and NGO’s) to share information and experience on environmental management so as to achieve the national policy objectives of environmental conservation and poverty eradication.

Selected themes for the conference include: Conservation aspects and its challenges; Policy, legal and institutional frameworks; Socio-economic aspects; Sustainable financing mechanisms and strategies; Water Resources Management; Conservation and industrialization nexus. The specific objectives of the Scientific Conference are as follows:-

- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders in MAB to present scientific papers and exhibitions on sustainable conservation of Biosphere Reserves;
- Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss challenges and environmental issues related to BRs for the purpose of formulating recommendations on relevant management actions;
- Encourage national, regional and international networking on BRs and environment.
- Facilitate the documentation of current scientific knowledge and experiences through publication of quality scientific papers, proceedings and other means of information, dissemination and sharing; and
- Raise public awareness on the importance of BRs conservation for sustainable environment and socio - economic development.

A number of tangible conference outputs expected, include:-Conference proceedings; Priority issues identified and recommendations for further actions including policy advice, and Identification of Priority areas for research.



Gombe-Masito-Ugalla BR

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MAN AND BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN TANZANIA



Jozani Chwaka Bay BR