

# Terms of Reference for the Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB), National Committee of the Maldives

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## 1. List of Acronyms

MAB	Man and Biosphere Reserve
NC	National Committee
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
TGBR	Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves
ICC	International Coordination Council
CSO	Civil Society Organization

## 2. Background

Biosphere reserves are 'learning places for sustainable development'. They are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity. They are places that provide local solutions to global challenges. Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

Biosphere Reserves involve local communities and all interested stakeholders in planning and management. They integrate three main "functions":

- Conservation of biodiversity and cultural diversity



- Economic development that is socio-culturally and environmentally sustainable
- Logistic support, underpinning development through research, monitoring, education and training

The Maldives has three national biosphere reserves:

1. Baa Atoll declared as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve on 28 June 2011,
2. Fuvahmulah declared as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve on 28 October 2020, and
3. Addu Atoll declared as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve on 28 October 2020.

#### 4. Objective of the committee

The MAB National Committee (NC) of the Maldives will play a fundamental role in the coordination of activities related to the MAB Programme at country level. This committee is established as per the recommendations of the Technical Guidelines for Biosphere Reserves (TGBR) approved in the 32<sup>nd</sup> MAB ICC. The objective of the committee is

- 4.1 to ensure maximum participation of key stakeholders and strengthen the implementation of the functions of the biosphere reserves in the Maldives.
- 4.2 Overall coordination of the MAB Programme at national level to play a critical role in implementing the vision and mission of the MAB Programme.

#### 5. Membership

The MAB NC of the Maldives shall consist of

- 5.1 Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MECCT), Chair
- 5.2 Ministry of Education / UNESCO National Commission
- 5.3 President's Office (PO)
- 5.4 Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (MNPHI)
- 5.5 Ministry of Economic Development (MED)
- 5.6 Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture (MoFMRA)
- 5.7 Ministry of Tourism
- 5.8 Ministry of Heritage, Arts and Culture
- 5.9 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- 5.10 Baa Atoll Council
- 5.11 Addu City Council
- 5.12 Fuvahmulah City Council
- 5.13 Maldives National University
- 5.14 Member of CSO related to Sustainable Development or Environment or related field
- 5.15 Private Sector (Tourism Association)
- 5.16 Private Sector (Fisheries Association)
- 5.17 Private Sector (Agricultural Association)

Each organisation can propose a primary member and alternative member. The members of CSO and private sector will be selected through a public announcement via gazette and a transparent evaluation process.

#### 6. Role of the Committee

The roles and responsibilities of the committee is given below:

- 6.1 Identify and discuss potential biosphere reserves in the Maldives. If approved by the National Committee the site will be referred to as "candidate biosphere reserve".
- 6.2 Assist the nomination process of the new biosphere reserves, and endorse / approve the dossier for submission to the UNESCO MAB International Coordination Council (ICC)
- 6.3 Identification and approval of any changes to the biosphere reserves that should be submitted to the approval from UNESCO MAB International Coordination Council (ICC) including but not limited, (a) renaming a biosphere reserve, (b) revision of zonation of a biosphere reserve,
- 6.4 Guide, monitor and assist the implementation of the biosphere reserves ensuring the functions of a biosphere reserve are achieved.
- 6.5 Guide, monitor and assist the implementation of the MAB Strategy and associated action plans approved by the MAB ICC.
- 6.6 Assist the periodic review process of the existing biosphere reserves, and endorse / approve the review dossier for submission to the UNESCO MAB International Coordination Council (ICC)
- 6.7 Approve any voluntary withdrawal according to the Article 9, Statutory Framework
- 6.8 Annual assessment of the performance of individual biosphere reserves in the Maldives
- 6.9 Prepare and approve of the Annual Report from Maldives to be submitted to the MAB-ICC.
- 6.10 Any other matters concerning the implementation of MAB programme in the Maldives.

## 7. Role of the Chair

The role of the chair is:

- 7.1 Chair the committee meetings
- 7.2 Lead the committee and ensure that the implementation of roles identified in Clause 6.
- 7.3 Ensure the members performance and advice on the appropriate changes needed to strengthen the function of the committee.

## 8. Role of Individual Members

Each individual member represents the organization which they belong to in the committee. The roles of the individual members of the board are:

- 8.1 Attend the committee meetings. If the primary member is unable to attend a meeting they should inform the secretariat a minimum of 24 hours in advance, and ensure that the alternative member attends the meeting. If an organization fails to attend three consecutive meetings, a new nomination from the organization will be requested by the chair.
- 8.2 Implementation of roles identified in the Clause 6.
- 8.3 Report back to the organization and ensure that key personnel of the organization is informed regarding the matters discussed in the committee meetings.
- 8.4 Support and advice on any other matters concerning the implementation of MAB programme in the Maldives.

## 9. Role of Secretariat

The secretariat of the committee is the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MECCT). The role of the secretariat is:

- 9.1 Report on the national communications from MAB together with the advice from the committee members.



9.2 Arrange the logistics of the committee meetings

9.3 Prepare the agenda of the committee meetings. The secretariat should communicate the agenda to the member 3 days in advance, for approval from the committee members.

9.4 Prepare meeting minutes / reports of the meeting to be submitted for approval from the committee in the next meeting

## 10. Sub-committee and working group

MAB National Committee (NC) of the Maldives can formulate sub-committees and working groups on specific matters with additional members. In this case, a TOR shall be approved by the MAB NC

## 11. Frequency of Meetings

Meetings will take place a minimum of twice a year. Additional meetings can be arranged based on need basis.

Where additional or "extra ordinary" meetings are arranged on a frequent basis to deal with a specific issue, it would be recommended that the Chair discuss arrangements for establishing a sub-committee or a working group to deal with the issue until a full resolution has been achieved. The sub-committee should be disbanded once the matter for which it has been established is resolved

## 12. Quorum

The quorum will be achieved by:

12.1 The chair

12.2 Eight primary / alternative members

