



UNESCO Office in Venice: The UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" Programme

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

The UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme

UNESCO BRESCE, Regional Office in Venice
by Karl-Heinz Gaudry S.

15th 16th April 2008
Sofia, Bulgaria
GWP- Med
GWP- BUL

International Roundtable / Public Participation for the Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources
- The Case of Nestos / Mesta River Basin -


The UNESCO MaB Programme

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 - BRs Functions and Zoning
 - **The Statutory Framework & the Seville Strategy**
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 - **Process of BR nomination**
 - **Process of BR evaluation**
 - **UNESCO in the SEE**

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- **The Biosphere Reserve Model**
 - **BRs Zoning**
 - Core Area (C)
 - Buffer Zone (B)
 - Transition Area (T)



BIOSPHERE RESERVE ZONATION

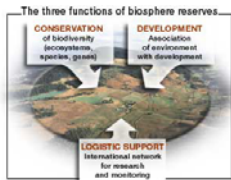
- Core area
- Buffer zone
- Transition area
- Human settlements
- Research station
- Monitoring
- Education /training
- Tourism /recreation

this schema may be adapted to various ecological, socio-cultural and legal contexts

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- **The Biosphere Reserve Model**
 - **BRs Functions**
 - Conservation
 - Conservation in situ of natural and semi-natural ecosystems - landscapes
 - Development
 - Demonstration areas for ecologically and socio-culturally sustainable use
 - Logistic Support
 - Logistic support for research, monitoring, education, training and information exchange

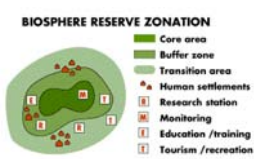
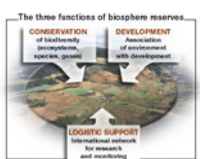


The three functions of biosphere reserves.

- CONSERVATION of biodiversity (ecosystems, species, genes)
- DEVELOPMENT of environment with development
- LOGISTIC SUPPORT International network for research and monitoring

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- ✦ The experimental, innovative and flexible role of BRs (the 3 functions)
- ✦ in the interrelated fields of water management, flood prevention, nature, conservation, sustainable tourism development...
- ✦ combined and mutually reinforcing way,
- ✦ aiming to explore, learn and/or demonstrate
- ✦ multilevel approaches to sustainable development

BIOSPHERE RESERVE ZONATION

- Core area
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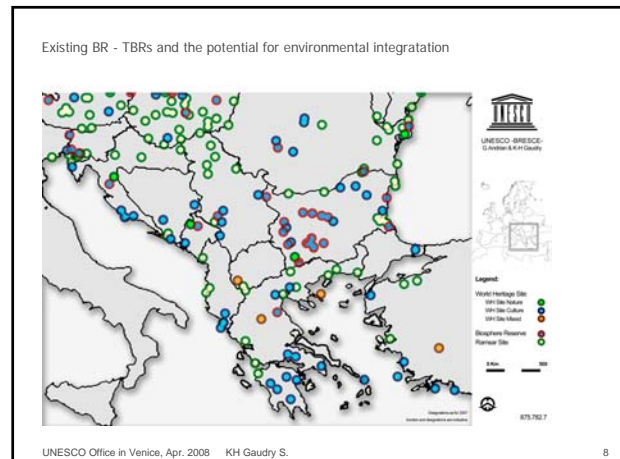
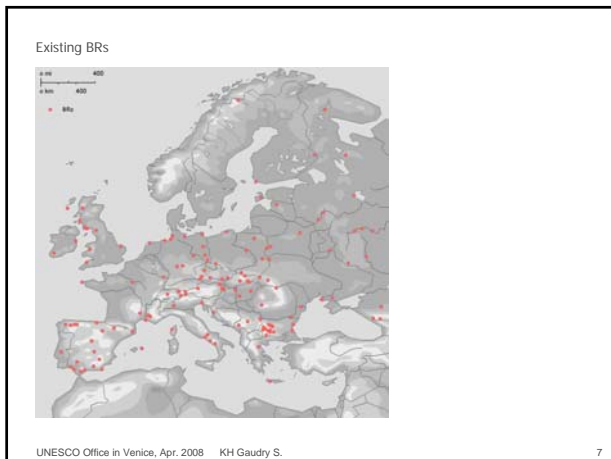
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- **The MaB Programme:**
 - The Statutory Framework & the Seville Strategy
 - The Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves is a non binding instrument for the establishment of BRs.
 - The Seville Strategy provides recommendation / guidelines for the effective development of BRs.
 - Structured according to 4 goals which reinforce the BRs objectives (conservation, development and logistics support) and addressed at multi-national levels.

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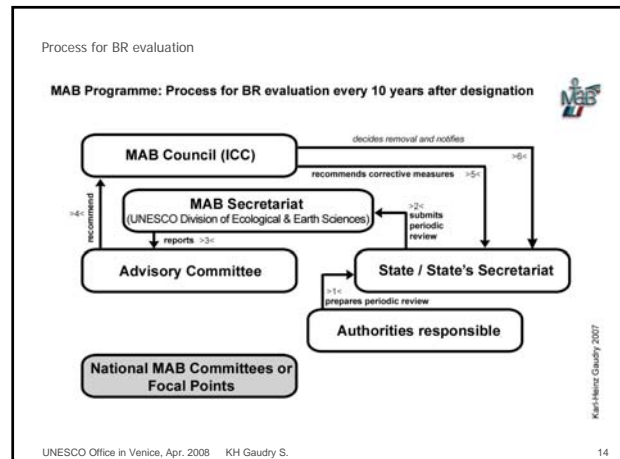
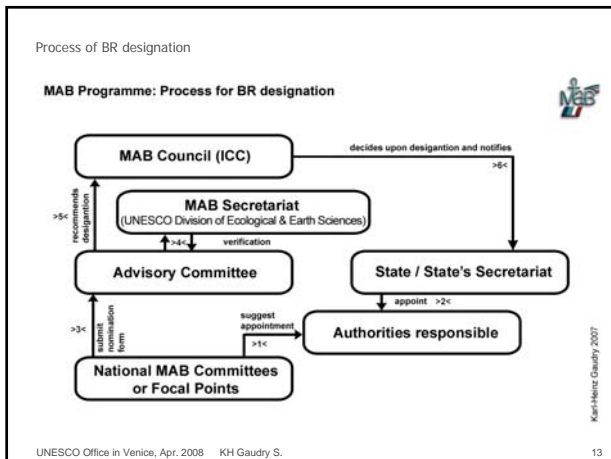
- Seville +5, Recommendations for TBR designations
- **Seville + 5**
 - **Recommendations for the establishment & functioning of Transboundary Biosphere Reserves [TBRs]**
 - Establishment
 - Functioning
 - Institutional Mechanisms
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- Seville +5, Recommendations for TBR designations
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Establishment:**
 - Definition of the zoning
 - Local and National partners & the establishment of working groups
 - Agreement between government authorities
 - Joint nomination by State authorities
 - Plan for cooperation
 - Official designation
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- Seville +5, Recommendations for TBR designations
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Functioning of the TBRs:**
 - Zonation plan: Common understanding of each zone characteristic so as the equalization of management measures
 - Publication of a joint map of zonation
 - Definition of common objectives (e.g. work-plan, time tables, budget)
 - Identification of funding sources
 - Assure a communication channel
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- Seville +5, Recommendations for TBR designations
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Institutional Mechanisms:**
 - Structure of the coordination body:
 - administrations,
 - scientific boards,
 - protected areas authorities,
 - representatives of local communities,
 - private sector
 - NGOs
 - + a permanent secretariat
 - + operational Staff
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UNESCO BRESCE in the SEE Region

Beyond International Designations: Environmental Integration in Local Territorial Development

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- **UNESCO in the SEE**
 - The EU Treaty in Maastricht (1992) integrated the concept of sustainable development (SD) when assuring:
 - 1) integration of environmental concerns in policies and territorial development
 - 2) effective participation of all socio-economic actors involved in the planning and implementation of such development
 - While a little bit neglected in the past, land use planning and territorial management are directly concerned today by such an orientation;
 - The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) adopted the concept (1999) intending to ensure a balanced SD of the Union territory

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- **UNESCO in the SEE**
 - Urgent in Central and SEE countries: **tendency** of focusing on quantitative aspects which used to be a **typical environmental protection policies approach**
 - UNESCO-BRESCE has undertaken a programme of **activities** aiming at the promotion of the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage in SEE, as part of a larger **environmental integration** effort which **transversally involves all the key development activities** and well reflect the **multi-faceted mandate of the Organization**
 - The evolving geo-political scenario in the SEE countries, **natural and cultural assets** are becoming more and more stakes of **political relevance**

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UNESCO BRESCE in the SEE Region

- **UNESCO in the SEE**
 - UNESCO BRESCE role in **facilitating** the adoption of **cross-sectoral approaches to platform a better articulation of the various scales of interventions** – ranging from the local, through to the national and international levels.
 - UNESCO BRESCEs' action: constituted by a set of field-based experimental and capacity building activities in symbolic territorial systems
 - In particular UNESCO designated sites (BRs / WH)

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▪ A successful implementation of these objectives requires:

1. continuous scientific steering of the field experiences by groups of high-level experts from EU and SEE countries (based on UNESCO's networking capacity);
2. open and frequent scientific confrontations in the frame of international forums and scientific events;
3. regular coordination meetings with international partners.

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- The ultimate goal of these activities is to **contribute** to sustainable development in the region by assuring a **sound management of single sites**, but mainly the **transfer of innovation to the national and regional levels**, so that **decision and policy making processes** could be **progressively transformed** in the direction of true **Environmental Integration**.
- The proposed activities also have a strong **capacity-building dimension** which **benefits to local communities first**, but also to **decision and policy makers** at various higher levels.

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The core of UNESCO's action in SEE is constituted by a set of field based experimental and capacity building activities in symbolic territorial systems:

- Water bodies (Danube, the Sava and the Tara Rivers, internationally shared groundwater - Karst);
- Mountainous areas (Durmitor, Stara Planina, Strenja);
- Lakes (Ohrid/Prespa and Skadar Lakes);
- Coastal cities (Kotor) and wetlands (Merik Delta, Drava-Mura river corridor).

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▪ The identified sites/systems are:

- of transboundary nature, calling for cross-border cooperation;
- recognized as systems of international importance and therefore (to be) protected by international convention and/or included in international lists such as the WH list or the MAB network of Biosphere Reserves, Natura2000 or Emerald networks;
- of combined natural and cultural interest, calling for the elaboration, testing, and implementation of more integrated approaches in territorial planning and management.

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▪ In these sites, UNESCO's aim is to:

- test, elaborate and disseminate new models of territorial planning and management (achieving Environmental Integration);
- promote trans-boundary cooperation in natural/cultural resources management and sustainable development;
- promote education for sustainable development (acculturation through territorial planning and management experiences – linkages with policy-making level – regional networking).

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▪ Complementary Efforts:

1. Networking

- The DAI
Dinaric Arc Initiative
A PLATFORM of
COOPERATION among
international actors
in the region



2. Cooperative research

- The Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System (DiKTAS) e.g.
 - Issues: water supply, energy, agriculture, tourism, salt intrusion

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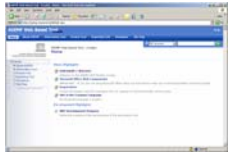
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- **UNESCO in the SEE**
 - Complementary Efforts: (cntd.)

3. **Information sharing**

- The Adriatic Sea Environmental Master Plan (ASEMP)




4. **Education**

- Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (EESD)
 - concentrating on ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION and the role of territorial planning and management in achieving it

5. **Focus on Urban Dynamics**

- Urban areas and BRs, face similar major challenges for the future

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www.unesco.org/venice

UNESCO Regional Office / Venice
Palazzo Zorzi 4930
Castello 30122
Venice, Italy
t. +39 (041) 2601524
www.unesco.org/venice
email: p.pypaert@unesco.org; khgaudry@gmail.com

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