



UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

A tool for conservation and development in Ethiopia

Stakeholders' Workshop on Legal Aspects



Facilitated and documented
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Organised and hosted by **GTZ-SUN**
and the **Ministry of Science and
Technology**

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BoARD	Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development
BR	Biosphere Reserve
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECFF	Ethiopian Coffee Forest Forum
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EWNHS	Ethiopia Wildlife and Natural History Society
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
H.E.	His Excellency
IBC	Institute of Biodiversity Conservation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
masl	Meters above sea level
MoARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoST	Ministry of Science and Technology
NABU	The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region
SUN	Sustainable Utilisation of Natural Resources Program
TBRs	Trans-Boundary Reserves
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WG	Working Group

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

This report documents the process and the results of the stakeholders' workshop held to discuss and agree on the legal framework and structure for the establishment of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (BR) in Ethiopia. The workshop is jointly organised and hosted by GTZ-SUN program and the Ministry of Science and Technology. It was held on 11th December 2008 at Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa. The workshop attracted over 35 participants from 27 concerned institutions.

Among the distinguished guests H.E. Ato Girma Worlde Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Ato Juneydi Saddo, Minister of Science and Technology and H.E. Dr. Claas Knoop, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ethiopia.

The report is organised into six sections. Section 1 gives the background with regard to the workshop objectives, participants and opening speeches. Section 2 summaries the different presentations on the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve concepts, legal requirements, worldwide experiences and Kafa Coffee BR initiative in Ethiopia. Sections 3 and 4 give the outcome of working groups with regard to the way forwards towards establishing Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve, and conclusion respectively. The last section gives brief highlights of the press conference that took place during the workshop to inform and influence the public about the UNESCO BR development in Ethiopia. The workshop is facilitated and documented by TAM Consult.

1.2 Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were:

- Develop common understanding and consensus on the concept, criteria, and requirements (international and national) for establishment of the UNESCO BRs in Ethiopia.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders involved in the legal framework and establishment of UNESCO BRs.
- Analyse gaps and opportunities and elaborate next steps towards establishment of the UNESCO BRs.

Please refer to Annex 1 for the workshop schedule.

1.3 Participation

The workshop was attended by some 35 participants. The participants are composed of the following institutions (See Annex 1 for detail list of participants):

- GTZ/ SUN Program
- The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Institute of Biodiversity Conservation
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ministry of Tourism & Culture
- Bureau of Agriculture & Rural Dev't, SNNPR
- Bureau of Trade and Industry-Tourism and Culture, SNNP
- Forum for Environment
- Ethiopian Wildlife and natural History Society
- Ethio Wetlands
- Ethiopia Coffee Forest Forum
- Lem Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Foresters Association

- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Water Resources
- Wildlife Development, Conservation and Utilization Authority
- Standing Committee on Natural Resources, House of Peoples' Representatives
- Office of the PM and Cabinet Affairs Minister
- Addis Ababa University
- Non-Timber Forest Products Research & Dev't Project
- FAO
- UNESCO
- FARM Africa
- ZEF /University of Bonn
- Office of Regional State, SNNPR

1.4 Opening Speeches

1.4.1 Welcoming Remarks by Dr Andrea Bahm, SUN Program Manager

Dr. Andrea Bahm, GTZ/ Sustainable Utilisation of Natural Resources (SUN) Program has welcomed the participants to the workshop. In her remarks, Dr. Andrea indicated that the workshop is organised to initiate dialogue among the relevant stakeholders and identify gaps that should be addressed in order to make the establishment of biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia a reality.



More specifically, Dr. Andrea pointed out that the focus of the workshop, among others, to be on creating the basic legal framework which is the core for establishing the reserve (see Annex 1).

Finally, Dr. Andrea invited H.E. Dr. Claas Knoop, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, to give opening remarks and H.E. Ato Girma Woldegiorgis, President of the



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to give an opening speech.

1.4.2 Opening Remarks

by H.E. Dr. Class Knoop, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ethiopia

HE Dr. Claas Knoop, Ambassador of the FRG, in his opening remarks highlighted that:

- Reducing the rate of poverty in the world by 50% in the year 2015 is challenging unless due attention is given to the role of healthy ecosystems in proving sustainable livelihoods and to the importance of environmental governance.
- If ecosystems decline, the burden falls heavily on the poor. Therefore, in such situations improving the status of ecosystems is vital to satisfy the needs of the local community.
- Problems associated with excessive soil erosion, degradation of forests and deforestation affect the local, regional and national economy. For developing countries like Ethiopia the cost is high in terms of loss of the biodiversity and rehabilitation of the ecosystems.
- The Ethiopian-German Cooperation on the management of natural resources, under the umbrella of the SUN-Program, has made substantial achievements within the last three years of implementation. To date, there are about 300,000 beneficiaries of watershed development measures in the highlands of Tigray, Amhara and Oromia.
- The programme concept and range of selected activities follow the motto: from food aid to regular economic and rural development. The MoARD and other public entities were supported on Natural Resource Management (NRM) matters, sustainable land management issues and legal aspects of land use. SUN-Program has also contributed to the development of forest policies and strategies.



- Efforts of the Ethiopian Government in fighting natural resources and ecosystem degradation are highly commendable. Enactment of important legislations, policies and strategies, building regional capacity to implement them, etc. are among the efforts that the Government is making.
- UNESCO's 'Man and the Biosphere' programme is a very important tool for sustainable development by reconciling conservation with development and improving ecosystem goods and services.
- With individual biosphere reserves, all stakeholders- local community, local government, rural development planner, researcher, conservationist, etc.,

cooperate for same goal. Local community and local government are the main actors in the programme and decision makers. Such a bottom-up approach in eco-system management especially creates more room for dialogue and speeds up the process of democratisation.

Finally, HE Ambassador expressed his hope that the current efforts to establish the first Biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia will bear fruit and that the German Government would provide needed support towards this end. He concluded, his remarks, by saying, **'Yes, We Can'**.

Please refer to Annex 4 for the Opening Remarks of H.E. Dr. Claas Knoop, Ambassador of the FRG.

1.4.3 Official Opening Speech by H.E. Ato Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E Ato Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the FDRE, in his opening speech emphasised that:

- Severe vegetation degradation and deforestation has resulted in excessive soil erosion by water and wind that in return caused water shortages for human use and agriculture.
- The degradation of the ecosystem services not only affects the local communities, especially the poor, but also the national economy as a whole.
- The degradation is facilitated due to absence of tools suited, to conserve the environment and to safeguard livelihoods.
- The UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme is an optimum tool for combining conservation with development, where development is made to complement, rather than compete, with conservation by making the local community at the center.
- Even though the MAB Programme was introduced two decades ago, Science and Technology took the responsibility as a focal institution, no biosphere reserve has so far been established in Ethiopia.
- Though the Government of Ethiopia has developed quite a number of strategies, policies and legislation that are well suited to this programme, some adjustments in the legal framework are still required for long-term protection against any form of intrusion.



H.E. President Girma Wolde Giorgis finally thanked everyone who has been involved in organizing the workshop, particularly GTZ and officially declared the workshop open.

Please refer to Annex 5 for an official opening speech of HE President Girma Wolde Giorgis.

Following the three speeches, Professor Dr. Michael Succow, German MAB Committee and Alternative Nobel Prize Winner for Right Livelihood, gave a presentation on the worldwide experience of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the presence of the guest of honour (refer to section 2.1).

2 UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE CONCEPT, EXPERIENCES, AND LEGAL ISSUES: PRESENTATIONS

To develop common understanding, share experiences and develop vision with regard to UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, different papers were presented by resource persons from the field. These are:

1. UNESCO Biosphere Reserves - Worldwide Experiences by Prof. Dr. Michael Succow, German MAB Committee
2. Potential BR areas in Ethiopia (Keynote Address) by Professor Zerihun Woldu, Addis Ababa University
3. The PPP Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve Initiative by Mrs. Svane Bender-Kaphengst, NABU/ PPP
4. The UNESCO MAB concept on Biosphere Reserves by Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis, Science Program Specialists, UNESCO Addis Ababa Cluster Office
5. Legal framework for the establishment of Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia – challenges and ways forward by Mr. Stefan Weiss, German University of Giessen



2.1 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves - Worldwide Experiences

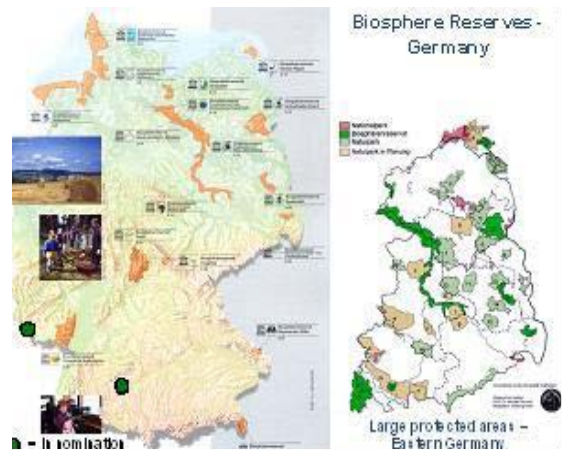
by Prof. Dr. Michael Succow, German MAB Committee

Mankind and nature in the 21st Century

- To satisfy the needs of an increasing human population – while at the same time insuring the ecological balance – is the very basis for the survival of mankind. It represents one of the biggest challenges to human civilisation today.
- Conservation of nature ought to be the most significant social investment, social service and social benefit for our future!
- Dramatic anthropogenic impacts on global environment (climate change, loss of biodiversity) lead to a profound distortion within human society.
- In this dilemma the protection of nature, i.e. the natural basis of our very existence, becomes a fundamental importance in the very own interest of mankind!
- Until now, the functional efficiency of the earth's biosphere is being ensured to a large extent by so far unused, not yet substantially affected ecosystems. However, these ecosystems do cover not more than 20-25% of the world's landmass surface.
- If we leave nature untouched, we cannot exist – if we destroy nature, we will perish. That means, our society can only successfully walk the fine line between change and destruction, if it acts within the framework of ecological balance and identifies itself as part of nature. It is our urgent task to protect nature, not for the sake of nature, but for the sake of mankind.

What we need: Economic valuation of ecosystem services

- Carbon sequestration and storage
- Groundwater recharge
- Soil stability by vegetation cover
- Filtering and disposal of pollutants
- Evapo-transpiration and cooling
- Biodiversity

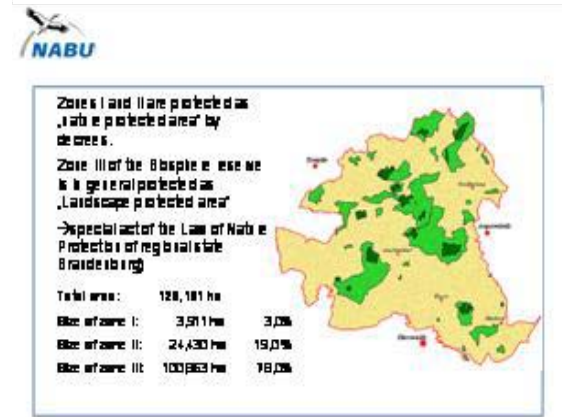


NABU Example for best practice

Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide-Chorin, Germany



Experience starting:
Biosphere Reserve
Schorfheide-Chorin, Germany
Summer 2007



- Develop regional economic circles
- Create a label for recognition of regionally produced products („corporate identity“)
- Conserve and promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM)
- Promote organic farming
- Improve the processing and refining of agricultural primary products

Education and creation of awareness

- Information Centres
- Guided tours
- Ranger groups in the towns

Administration of the biosphere reserve, the staff of the information centres and centres of environmental education

- Local initiatives : Working group “Local Agenda 21“, Ranger kids groups, youth “art and nature protection“

Eco-tourism for sustainable development

Tourism in protected areas is a good option for additional income. The basic prerequisites are:

- Tourist infrastructure (hiking trails, camp sites and recreation areas...)
- Good service in regional gastronomy and accommodation
- Authentic traditional villages and settlements
- Offers for guided tours for wildlife watching and cultural events



2.2 Ethiopia’s Biosphere Reserve Potentials- A Keynote Remarks

by Prof. Zerihun Woldu , Addis Ababa University

Professor Zerihun Woldu gave a keynote address. His keynote remarks focused on the Biosphere Reserve potentials of Ethiopia. He has served as a vice chair of the UNESCO



MAB in Paris representing Ethiopia from October 2005 to February 2008. In his remarks, Professor Zerihun Woldu, highlighted Ethiopia’s rich culture, landscape and biological diversity on one hand and the threatening of these biodiversity by long history of anthropogenic influences on the other. He noted also the following:

There are more than 80 nations, nationalities and peoples in Ethiopia. The landscape ranges from 110 m below sea level to

more than 4600 m above sea level. The geological, edaphic and agro-ecological diversity is rivalled only by few places on earth. There are about 9 broad vegetation types in which one can find more than 7,000 plant species 12% of which are endemic to Ethiopia. The mammalian and avian diversity and endemism is also astounding. Ethiopia is one of the twelve Vavilovian centers of cultivated plants. Two of the 34 Biodiversity hotspots are found in Ethiopia. In sum, Ethiopia is a cradle of civilization and natural diversity and scenic beauty.

The few remaining forests patches of intact habitats are diminishing at an alarming rate and the biological diversity is being lost as the result of the direct effect resource exploitation and as a result of habitat loss. In short our ecological footprint is growing by seconds and our ecological resilience is dwindling in the same rate.

He also explained how he has suffered by the questions asked from different people during his term of service as a vice chair of the UNESCO MAB in Paris. He explains, "How many reserves does Ethiopia have? As if they have not seen the BR map of the world or - When is Ethiopia nominating its next BR? As if there has been another one before. These questions have frustrated me and I have promised myself that I will not go back to UNESCO MAB without being accompanied by an application."

According to him, among others, without any order of priority or importance, the Bale Mountains National Park, the Simien Mountains National park, the Alatish Proposed National Park, the Awash National Park, the Nechisar National Park, the Guelele Botanical Garden, and the Kafa Coffee Forest are unique in their own right and therefore are equally important and the task of nominating them for BR is equally urgent.

The participatory forest management approach being initiated in Kafa Coffee forest is the first and biggest step taken so far and could be considered as important landmark in the whole process of BR establishment.

Ethiopia is left behind in protecting and sustainably using its unique ecosystems and its biodiversity. It is upon this generation to gain the lost decades of (Minsk to Madrid) and join the globalized world of the BR Network. Looking at the other side of the coin, he said " I also consider the delay as blessing disguise because it has given us the opportunities to learn from mistakes and success histories of the 105 countries which are ahead of us. We can benchmark many of the biosphere reserves and bring home best practices without repeating unnecessary mistakes."

He also emphasized that the role of MAB committee in this advisory role is highly anticipated. Institutions that are represented in the MAB committee need to be revitalized. The regional offices affiliated with the establishment of the BR must take the responsibility for the successful establishment of the BR in the specified location.

Please refer to Annex 6 for the full introductory remarks by Prof. Zerihun Woldu.

2.3 Background of the PPP Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve Initiative

by Mrs. Svane Bender-Kaphengst, NABU / PPP

Mrs. Svane Bender-Kaphengst, NABU/PPP presented the background to the workshop and the project's goals. The workshop has been planned by the Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve Initiative within the Public Private Partnership Program (PPP), led by NABU, for the establishment of Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve. She explained the reasons/ potentials why Kafa Coffee Forest has to be the first BR in Ethiopia; the fauna,



flora, bio-geographic and socio-economic characteristics of project area, what has been done so far, which activities are underway and which are planned.

Mrs. Bender-Kaphengst's presentation is summarized as follows:

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme is a new and promising approach for Ethiopia, which could assist in safeguarding Ethiopia's environment as well as improving people's livelihoods through using a sustainable development approach.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Project

The PPP project entitled 'Introduction of Sustainable Coffee Production and Marketing Complying with International

Quality Standards using the Natural Resources of Ethiopia' has the following goals:

- Sustainable production and marketing of wild coffee
- Support to family planning and Aids/HIV prevention
- Conservation and management of wild coffee forests through Participatory Forest Management (PFM)
- Support to the Establishment of a pilot UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (BR Working Group, led by NABU)

Commercial, Public and Non-profit Partners

-  Aid by Trade Foundation (www.cottonmadeinafrica.com)
-  German Technical Cooperation GTZ (www.gtz.de)
-  German Foundation for World Population (www.weltbevoelkerung.de)
-  GEO Rainforest Conservation (www.regenwald.de)
-  Kafa Forest Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (www.kafacoffeeunion.com)
-  Kraft Foods (www.kraftfoods.de)
-  The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (www.NABU.de)
-  Original Food GmbH (www.originalfood.de)
-  Rotary Germany (www.rotary.de)



Svane Bender-Kaphengst, NABU/ PPP Project

Project Area: Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve

- Located 450 km south west from Addis Ababa in Kafa Zone, SNNP Regional State.
- Total size: ~ 400, 000 hectares.
- Altitude varies from 1,000-3,500 masl
- Greater than 70% vegetation cover.
- Among the 34 global biodiversity hotspots.
- Represents one of the last remaining forest areas of the country → Source for

freshwater.

- Natural caves, waterfalls, hot-springs, sacred places, historic and cultural places.
- 244 plant species (30 endemic, 57 rare, 14 threatened).
- 294 animal species (61 mammals, 21% of the total for Eth and 210 birds, 23% of the total for Ethiopia).
- Forest ecosystems.



Upland rainforest with *Coffea arabica*, *Prunus africana*, *Scheffleria abyssinica*, *Olea welwitschii*, *Polyscias fulva*,

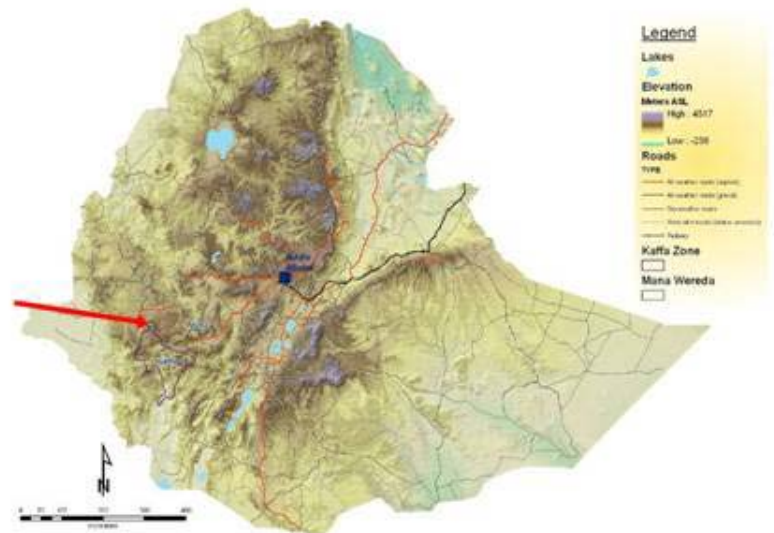
Upland humid forest with *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Ilex mitis*, *Measa lanseolata*,

Bamboo/Sindarindunaria thickets with *Hagenia abyssinica*.

- Freshwater ecosystems
Highland peat land and shrub dominated wetlands,
Mid highland permanent fresh water / seasonal wetlands,
Lowland reservoirs/sinks for discharge and water/flood regulation.
- Traditional land use
Perennial and enset-coffee-forest farming systems

Why Kafa should become a pilot Biosphere Reserve

- Kafa offers optimum preconditions:
 - a. untouched areas for core zones,
 - b. existing sustainable development approach, for example access permit granted for different forest and forest products (coffee incl. certification, honey, tourism and other NTFPs),
 - c. existing structures (40 PFM, forest user groups / traditional user rights, cooperatives and unions)
 - d. high motivation of local population,
- Natural forests of Kafa are at a high risk of disappearing (42 % loss between 1980 and 1995),
- Safeguarding of Ethiopia's natural and cultural heritage,
- Avoidance of CO₂ emissions by protection of forests,
- Creation of a first pilot biosphere reserve with best preconditions to clear the way and build up capacities for other biosphere reserves in Ethiopia,
- Attraction for tourists all over the world (e.g. National Coffee Museum),



The project has developed an impressive momentum of its own. Some 6,500 farmers are now organized in cooperatives and the Farmers Union. Since 2005, wild coffee from the Bonga Forest of Kafa is exported to Europe as a speciality product - at a price that benefits the farmers.

PFM, a precondition for the sustainable use and conservation of the forest, has been established at 40 sites around Bonga.

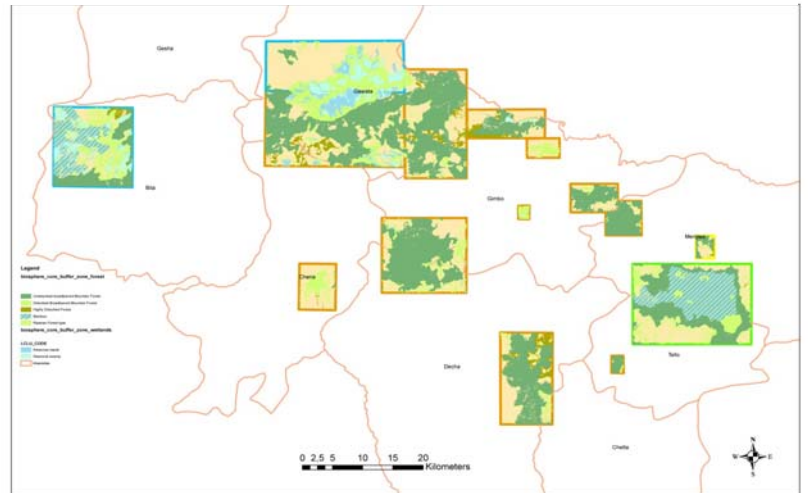
PPP Initiative for Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve: What have we done?

- Experience-sharing on a zonal, regional and federal governmental level incl. exchange trips to Germany
- Research and baseline studies on flora, fauna, land use
- GIS and remote sensing studies for vegetation and land use/land cover map compilation including draft zonation
- Support to PFM systems
- Set up of local basic infrastructure
- Participatory workshops for awareness raising and zoning of the area
- Marketing and certification of wild coffee

Ways ahead

- Communication and raising of awareness
- Support to the development of adequate legal framework at national level for all biosphere reserves in Ethiopia
- Set up of proper administration
- Implementation of basic infrastructure (park ranger units, buildings etc)
- Participative development of zonation / management plan
- Support to research and biodiversity monitoring
- Support to environmental education and ecotourism
- Support to the official application to UNESCO
- Creation of the Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve as pilot biosphere reserve as a model for other areas in Ethiopia

Potential core zones



Goals for this workshop

UNESCO regulations do not require a legal framework at national level, only core areas need legal protection, but an increasing number of countries create a legal framework for a better management and long-term perspective

- Take first steps to facilitate an adequate legal framework for Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia
- Discuss entities and responsibilities for administration and management of UNESCO biosphere reserves in Ethiopia
- Draft a roadmap for next legal and administrative steps



2.4 UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme

by Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis, Science Program Specialists, UNESCO
Addis Ababa Cluster Office

Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis gave a presentation on the MAB programme's objectives, governing structure, MAB research agenda; World network of BRs and regional network review of Africa and the way forward towards establishing UNESCO BR.



Accordingly, he explained that:

MAB Programme in UNESCO

MAB Programme is a research programme on ecosystems and on environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The idea of a MAB programme in UNESCO began in the late 1960s when governments started to realise the magnitude of human pressure on the earth and the need for international cooperation to address environmental problems.

MAB Programme objectives are mainly environmental research and conservation. That is,

- Objective 1: to study and improve the relationship between people and their environment
- Objective 2: to conserve the environment through sustainable use

of natural resources (biosphere reserves)

More than 140 countries participate through MAB National Committees or Focal Points. The Programme is governed by an International Coordination Council of 34 countries



Main ecosystems studied:

- Tropical and sub-tropical forest ecosystems
- Arid and semi-arid zones
- Mountain ecosystems
- Island and coastal ecosystems
- Ecological effects of urban systems

MAB research agenda focuses

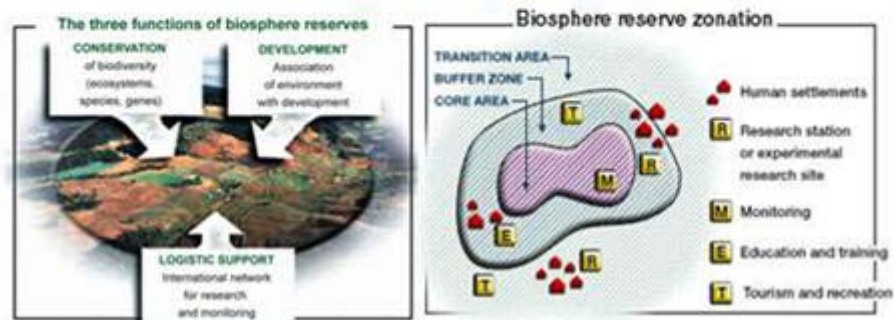
on ecological, social and economic dimensions of biodiversity loss and the way to reduce this loss. This is to respond to the 2010 target set by the WSSD and the Convention on Biological Diversity. It also focuses on promoting environmental

sustainability (Millennium Development Goal 7). For this, MAB promotes multi-partner initiatives like

- Global change impact on mountain ecosystems
- Climate change implications for the management of urban systems (carbon trade)
- Sustainable development of small islands and the coastal-marine interface
- Synthesis of knowledge and new research on arid lands & humid tropical ecosystems.

Biosphere Reserves are MAB on the ground

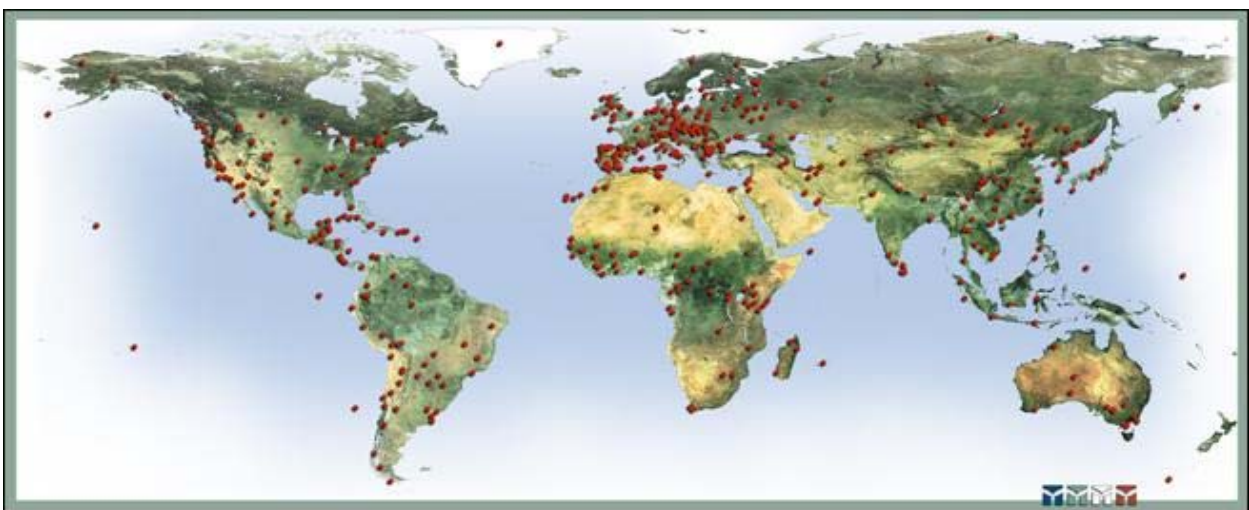
... have multiple objectives and a general zonation pattern adaptable to different ecological and socio-economic contexts.



- Capacity building and training: Training workshops on the prevention and management of conflicts in natural resource use, MAB Young Scientists Awards (10 per year in all regions) , ERAIFT (a regional post-graduate school training future experts in integrated tropical forest management) .

WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES:

- Now, there are 531 biosphere reserves in 105 countries.



- Biosphere reserves are areas which are internationally recognised for promoting and demonstrating a balanced relationship between people and nature (combining conservation and sustainable development). They are also sites for international environmental research and monitoring.

- MAB developed the biosphere reserve concept as an open, dynamic tool to reconcile nature conservation with economic development, backed up by science and education.
- BR are places for the harmonic co-existence of the communities, their culture and their surroundings. They focus on the development while preserving the environment. Monitor via socio-economic indicators if the BR has brought any changes in the livelihoods of the nearby communities

First TBRs created in Africa:

- 2002: « W » TBR (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Niger), inauguration by Dr Walter Erdelen, ADG/SC (Kanáré Village, Niger, November 2003)
- 2005: « Delta du Fleuve Sénégal » TBR (Senegal and Mauritania): good example of cooperation between two Regional Networks : AFRIMAB & ARABMAB
- New TBR's initiatives: e.g. Mont Elgon (between Kenya and Uganda)

The way forward towards establishment of UNESCO BR involves the following

- Legislation
- MAB National Committee (Membership and relations with NATCOM and established focal point)
- Identification of a champion

In general, the Man and the Biosphere Programme will continue to evolve over the years to reflect the needs of Member States. He concluded by the following statements:

It has to start somewhere
It has to start sometime
What better place than here
What better time than now ... (RATM)

2.5 The legal framework for the establishment of Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia – challenges and ways forward

by Mr. Stefan Weiss, German University of Giessen



TAM Consult/ Tamene H.Giorgis

The presentation is outlined into three parts:

- Legal Requirements for the Establishment of Biosphere Reserves
- The Administration of Biosphere Reserves: Institutional Setting and Procedural Elements
- Co-operation between the State and the private sector

International Law Requirements are indicated in the following three documents:

- A. Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves
- B. Seville Strategy
- C. UNESCO Action Plan for BRs

"legal" requirements ↔ relevant "soft" law rules

2.5.1 Legal Requirements for the Establishment of BRs

A. Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

- formulated with the objectives of enhancing the effectiveness of individual biosphere reserves and strengthening common understanding, communication and co-operation at regional and international levels
- intended to contribute to the widespread recognition of biosphere reserves and to encourage and promote good working examples
- encourages States to elaborate and implement national criteria for biosphere reserves which take into account the special conditions of the State concerned

Article 1 – Definition: Biosphere reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof, which are internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO's programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), in accordance with the present Statutory Framework.

Article 3 – Functions: In combining the three functions below, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale:

- (i) **conservation** - contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- (ii) **development** - foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;

(iii) **logistic support** - support for demonstration projects, environmental education and training, research and monitoring related to local, regional, national and global issues of conservation and sustainable development.

Article 4 – Criteria: General criteria for an area to be qualified for designation as a biosphere reserve:

[...]

5. It should include these functions, through appropriate zonation, recognizing:

(a) a legally constituted **core area or areas** devoted to long-term protection, according to the conservation objectives of the biosphere reserve, and of sufficient size to meet these objectives;

(b) a **buffer zone or zones** clearly identified and surrounding or contiguous to the core area or areas, where only activities compatible with the conservation objectives can take place;

(c) an outer **transition area** where sustainable resource management practices are promoted and developed.

Article 2 – World Network of Biosphere Reserves

[...]

3. Individual biosphere reserves remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the States where they are situated. Under the present Statutory Framework, States take the measures which they deem necessary according to their national legislation.

Article 2 para. 3: discretion for States concerned

Article 4 para. 5 (a): priority given to protection of ecosystems

B. Seville Strategy

- International Conference on Biosphere Reserves in Seville (Spain), from 20-25 March 1995
- two-pronged approach:
 - 1) to examine past experience in implementing the innovative concept of the biosphere reserve;
 - 2) to look to the future to identify what emphases should now be given to their three functions of conservation, development and logistical support
- Result of the analysis:
 - 1) key directives as foundation for the Seville Strategy;
 - 2) Seville Strategy provides **recommendations** for developing effective biosphere reserves and for setting out the conditions for the appropriate functioning of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Seville Strategy suggests level at which each recommendation will be most effective (international, national and local level)

1st Key Directive: Strengthen the contribution which biosphere reserves make to the implementation of international agreements promoting conservation and sustainable development, especially to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other agreements, such as those on climate change, desertification and forests.

Objective I.1.1 – Recommended at the international level

Promote biosphere reserves as a means of implementing the goals of the CBD.

GOAL I: USE BIOSPHERE RESERVES TO CONSERVE NATURAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

GOAL II: UTILIZE BIOSPHERE RESERVES AS MODELS OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND OF APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GOAL III: USE BIOSPHERE RESERVES FOR RESEARCH, MONITORING, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

GOAL IV: IMPLEMENT THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE CONCEPT

c. UNESCO Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves

“The long-term security of biosphere reserves should be assured through legal instruments, regulations or a management framework directly applicable to the biosphere reserve or to its separate management units and land ownerships. In many countries, the legal and administrative protection normally afforded to national parks, ecological research areas and other protected areas is adequate for the protection of biosphere reserves. Where such legal protection does not exist, it should be developed especially for the area concerned before it is nominated as a biosphere reserve.”

Legal Requirements for the Establishment of Biosphere Reserves: National Law Requirements; German and Ethiopian laws

d. Designation of Biosphere Reserves under German Law

Article 25 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act

(1) Biosphere reserves (“Biosphärenreservate”) are areas designated on a legally binding basis as areas to be protected and developed on a uniform basis, that meet the following criteria:

1. the area concerned is of major size and shows the characteristic features of specific landscape types;
2. the criteria defined for nature conservation areas („Naturschutzgebiete“) are met in essential parts of the area concerned, and the greater part of the remaining area meets the criteria defined for landscape protection areas („Landschaftsschutzgebiete“);
3. the area serves the primary purpose of preserving, developing or restoring landscape shaped by traditional, diverse forms of use, along with its historically evolved diversity of species and biotopes, including wild forms and formerly cultivated forms of commercially used or usable animal and plant species; and
4. the area concerned serves as a model for the development, practical application and testing of particularly sustainable cultivation and management methods, taking account of vulnerable natural resources.

Broad requirements: Federal Nature Conservation Act



Implementation: Nature Conservation Acts of the States



Establishment of specific biosphere reserve: regulations (includes designation, description and protection purpose of the reserve; zonation; orders and prohibitions; exceptions and exemptions; and compensation measures for restrictions on utilization right

E. Decisions leading to the establishment of a Biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia

Article 51: Powers and Functions of the Federal Government

[...]

2. It shall formulate and implement the country's policies, strategies and plans in respect of overall economic, social and development matters.

[...]

5. It shall enact laws for the utilization and conservation of land and other natural resources, historical sites and objects.

Article 55: Powers and Functions of the House of Peoples' Representatives

1. The House of Peoples' Representatives shall have the power of legislation in all matters assigned by this Constitution to Federal jurisdiction.
2. Consistent with the provision of sub-Article 1 of this Article, the House of Peoples' Representatives shall enact specific laws on the following matters:
 - a) Utilization of land and other natural resources, of rivers and lakes crossing the boundaries of the national territorial jurisdiction or linking two or more States;

Article 52: Powers and Functions of States

1. All powers not given expressly to the Federal Government alone, or concurrently to the Federal Government and the States are reserved to the States.
2. Consistent with sub-Article 1 of this Article, States shall have the following powers and functions:

[...]

 - a. To administer land and other natural resources in accordance with Federal laws

Article 50: Structure of the Organs of State

[...]

1. The Federal Government may, when necessary, delegate to the States powers and functions granted to it by Article 51 of this Constitution.

There might be a need to put legal developments with regard to the establishment of biosphere reserves into legislative and political context



Strategies of other legal documents being of relevance for the proper functioning of the biosphere reserve should be taken into account: e.g. Proclamation to Provide Access to Genetic Resources and Community Knowledge, and Community Rights (Proclamation No. 482 /2006) and Proclamation to Provide for the Development, Conservation and Utilization of Forests (Proclamation No. 542/2007)

- Specific legislation (“Proclamation to provide for the nomination of the UNESCO Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve”) Vs. Model legislation (example of the South African “Western Cape Biosphere Reserve Draft Bill”)
- **Overall principles guiding the legislative process:** Effectiveness, Innovation, Efficiency, and Flexibility.

2.5.2 The Administration of BRs: Institutional Setting and Procedural Elements

A. Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Article 4 – Criteria

6. Organizational arrangements should be provided for the involvement and participation of a suitable range of inter alia public authorities, local communities and private interests in the design and carrying out the functions of a biosphere reserve.
7. In addition, provisions should be made for
 - (a) mechanisms to manage human use and activities in the buffer zone or zones;
 - (b) a management policy or plan for the area as a biosphere reserve;
 - (c) a designated authority or mechanism to implement this policy or plan;
 - (d) programmes for research, monitoring, education and training.

B. UNESCO Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves

In biosphere reserves, concepts for protection, maintenance and development should be developed and implemented in cooperation with the people who live and work in them. The establishment of a capable administration for carrying out the tasks allocated to the biosphere reserve is an open, refinable process. These tasks include especially the following:

- Monitoring the success of completed protection, maintenance and development measures
- Integrating, within current and future management, the traditional skills of people living in the biosphere reserve
- Promoting acceptance and participation by the local population.

c. Legislative Framework for the Administration of Biosphere Reserves in Germany

Article 22 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act

- (1) The Federal States (“Bundesländer”) shall provide that parts and components of nature and landscapes may be designated as:
 1. [...] biosphere reserve (“Biosphärenreservat“) [...].

d. Legislative Framework for the Administration of Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia

Article 52: Powers and Functions of States

1. All powers not given expressly to the Federal Government alone, or concurrently to the Federal Government and the States are reserved to the States.
2. Consistent with sub-Article 1 of this Article, States shall have the following powers and functions:

[...]

- a. To administer land and other natural resources in accordance with Federal laws

Article 50: Structure of the Organs of State

1. State government shall be established at State and other administrative levels that they find necessary. Adequate power shall be granted to the lowest units of government to enable the People to participate directly in the administration of such units.

[...]

2.5.3 Co-operation between the State and the private sector

How can it be assured that all levels of (public) administration of biosphere reserves and non-state actors benefit from each other's activities as much as possible? Recommendations of the Seville Strategy as guiding principles:

Seville Strategy: Participation of local stakeholders

Objective II.1.5 – Recommended at the reserve level

Survey the interests of the various stakeholders and fully involve them in planning and decision-making regarding the management and use of the reserve.

Objective II.2.4 – Recommended at the reserve level

Establish a local consultative framework in which the reserve's economic and social stakeholders are represented, including the full range of interests (e.g. agriculture, forestry, hunting and extracting, water and energy supply, fisheries, tourism, recreation, research).

Objective III.3.5 – Recommended at the reserve level

Encourage involvement of local communities, school children and other stakeholders in education and training programmes and in research and monitoring activities within biosphere reserves.

Seville Strategy: Training

Objective III.4.5 – Recommended at the reserve level

Encourage appropriate training and employment of local people and other stakeholders to enable their full participation in inventory, monitoring and research in programmes in biosphere reserves.

Objective III.4.6 – Recommended at the reserve level

Encourage training programmes for local communities and other local agents (such as decision-makers, local leaders and agents working in production, technology transfer and community development programmes) in order to enable their full participation in the planning, management and monitoring processes of biosphere reserves.

Seville Strategy: Promotion of sustainable activities

Objective IV.1.7 – Recommended at the national level

Encourage private sector initiatives to establish and maintain environmentally and socially sustainable activities in appropriate zones of biosphere reserves and in surrounding areas, in order to stimulate community development.

Objective IV.1.15 – Recommended at the reserve level

Encourage private sector initiatives to establish and maintain environmentally and socially sustainable activities in the reserve and surrounding areas.

3 WAY FORWARD AND NEXT STEPS

3.1 The Process: Topics for group discussion

The workshop participants, divided into three thematic working groups (WG), have assessed gaps and forwarded recommendations or measures to be taken with regard to legal framework for the establishment of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve(s) in Ethiopia, with particular focus on Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve.

The tasks of the working group were as follows:

3.1.1 Questions proposed for the working group on legislation (WG I)

1. Given the present situation of environmentally relevant Ethiopian legislation, how can Ethiopian law best be adapted to the UNESCO requirements for the establishment of a Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve? Should there be a general piece of legislation, e.g. an Ethiopian Act for the Protection of Nature, or should there be specific legislation, exclusively dealing with the establishment of biosphere reserves? Discussions on this matter should include general considerations of efficiency and effectiveness as well as the specific Ethiopian legislative background.
2. Given the Ethiopian constitutional framework, should federal legislative power with respect to the envisaged biosphere reserve be delegated to the states (i.e. the sub-units) concerned? How should the federal and the state level interact? Some federal states have opted for framework legislation at the federal level and implementing legislation at the state level.
3. As far as substance is concerned, what should be the content of protection? Should the envisaged statutory framework only cover the core area or should it also designate the so-called buffer zone as legally protected area? What is the place of enforcement measures (incl. criminal sanctions and civil liability)? Should the granting of future usage rights be regulated?

3.1.2 Questions proposed for the working group on administration (WG II)

1. The best possible performance of an envisaged biosphere reserve should be a benchmark for efforts in the establishment of such reserves. How can best performance be organized in institutional terms? What are the procedural and organizational pre-requisites for independent and functional administration?
2. What is the appropriate level (federal, state, municipal) of administration? Which level should be the main emphasis of administration? In order to ensure participation of locals, how should multi-level administration be organized (bottom-up or top-down)?
3. How can basic data (including information on existing usage rights) required for the establishment of the administration (e.g. for the integration of rights holders in administrative processes, development of a management plan, adequate

zonation, and compensation for restrictions imposed on rights holders) be gathered? How can scientific and empirical information be gathered to complement and, if necessary, adjust administrative processes (ensuring learning capacity)? How can factors that lead to environmental degradation and non-sustainable use of biological resources be identified and addressed?

3.1.3 Questions proposed for the working group on co-operation between public and private actors (WG III)

1. As a starting point, the question arises whether and in how far there is a need for legislation with regard to private actors – in general, and more specifically, with regard to the administration of a biosphere reserve (e.g. as allowed for in the participatory forest management concept). The admissibility of private actors depends on the constitutional and administrative law framework existing in Ethiopia. It is noteworthy that private actors must be framed within the constraints of budgetary and administrative powers at the federal, state and local level.
2. Should there be model agreements for the co-operation between public and private actors? Such agreement is the legal document that establishes the rights and obligations of public entities (on the local, regional and federal level, and in respect of international organisations) and the private sector partners (e.g. NGOs, companies, foundations) with whom they team to develop co-operations. Such agreements describe the service to be provided, standards to be maintained, and the business and financial relationships between public agencies and their private sector partners. Again the question arises, whether and how adequate participation of local communities can be ensured, and whether and how external influence can be limited.
3. Is there a need to promote, by formulating pertinent recommendations, long-term participation of local and traditional communities? This may be done by organizing forums or by providing guidance. How can knowledge, practices and use of technologies for the sustainable cultivation of wild coffee by local communities be enhanced? How can the local communities of the Kafa region benefit from other marketing opportunities (e.g. eco-tourism)? How can further co-operations (e.g. through PPP projects) be promoted in other regions (for example through the exchange of knowledge and experience, establishment of networks)?

3.2 The results: Way forward

3.2.1 Development of legislative framework for the establishment of UNESCO BR (WG I)

The development of appropriate legislative framework is a basic prerequisite for the establishment of BRs in Ethiopia in general and designation of the UNESCO Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve in particular. Such framework is essential for the sustainable management conservation and development of the Kafa Coffee BR.

The participants discussed the appropriate level of legislation, gaps in the existing laws and regulations, required and useful elements of pertinent legislative acts governing the biosphere resource at policy and action level.

The following points summarises the results of the working group and discussion during plenary session:

- There is no single legislation on Biosphere Reserve that is comprehensive and specific that meets the UNESCO BR and combines both conservation and development interests in a complementary manner.
- It is recognised by the working group that there is inadequate awareness and information about the existence of relevant articles for BR establishment in the existing legislations. Therefore, there is a need to review the existing laws to find out gaps and provide recommendations for inclusion of missing articles in the existing laws or enacting of a new legislation (this could be a statement in a legislation like Ethiopian Forest Development, conservation and Utilization Proclamation or specific legislation dealing with the establishment of biosphere reserves).
- The group realized that process of legislation takes quite some time. If there is room in any of so far enacted legislations that can accommodate for BR establishment, the group recommended revisiting them or adding statement about biosphere reserve in one of appropriate legislation so that the establishment of BR in Ethiopia would be faster. For example:
 - adapting the new Wildlife Law to suit for BR,
 - Strictly limiting protection to the core zones until rules and regulations for other zones are put in place.
- The House of the Peoples Representatives (HPR) is a responsible body to enact legislation in Ethiopia. The Regional States can issue relevant proclamation when delegated by relevant federal laws/legislative instruments or Parliament.



3.2.2 Roles and responsibilities of Federal, Regional and Municipal governments (WG II)

Effective and efficient administration is essential for the successful and long-term operation of the envisaged UNESCO Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve. The group has discussed the institutional design and legal format of the BR administration, appropriate procedures for approval, monitoring and compliance of activities when the biosphere is organised and participation of relevant stakeholders. The working group's reflection and recommendations are summarised below:

- It was recognised by all participants that an independent and functional biosphere reserve administration is vital at national, regional and local level.

- A national biosphere reserve forum is recommended. The group recommended the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC) to be a host agency, but refuted during the plenary discussion. During the plenary discussion, it was highlighted by participants that the Ministry of Science and Technology should remain as a focal/ host institution (as it is focal institution for MAB programme), due to its mandate. It is neutral and independent institution that is mandated to coordinate education, research and technology development in all ministries. IBC is an implementing agency, not a coordinating agency.
- Institutions like EPA, MoARD, academic and research institutions, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, NGOs, etc. will be partners of the National Biosphere Reserve Forum. The role of the forum will, among others, include: coordination of BR initiatives in the country, analysis of new BR applications, formulation of policies and strategies and developing relevant guidelines.
- At the Regional level, BoARD, Regional Universities/ colleges, Bureau of Culture and Tourism and Agricultural Research Institutions will form the Regional BR Forum. Roles could be developing guidelines, coordination of effects and activities, analysis of new BRs, approving annual plans and monitoring and evaluation of BR performance.
- In a similar manner, the BR forum shall be established at the zonal and district level. Coordination of efforts, technical support, monitoring and evaluation and collection of data are the main responsibilities. Line offices for Agriculture and rural Development, Trade and Industry, Culture and Tourism, Justice and other development association can be part of the forum at each level.
- The BR forum at each level shall ensure that:
 - basic data required for establishment of the administration and measurement of performance of the BR are gathered, analysed and used for decision making
 - scientific and empirical information to competent and if necessary to adjust administrative procedures and processes and enhance learning capacity of stakeholders gathered
 - factors that lead to environmental degradation and non-sustainable use of biological resources identified and addressed as early as possible.
- Moreover, it is envisaged the existence of core Technical Team that provides technical support on BR issues.

3.2.3 Cooperation between Public and Private Actors at all levels (WG III)

It is recognised by the participants that the Kafa Public and Private Partnership (PPP) project has proved to be an instrument beneficial to both the environment and the local communities by bringing public and private actors together. Upon the establishment of the envisaged UNESCO Kafa Coffee BR the positive effects of such cooperation and its working conditions need to be retained, strengthened and, if possible and meaningful, integrated into the administration of the biosphere reserve.

- The public actors among others include the Administration, Agriculture and Rural Development, Trade and Industry, and other sectoral line offices. Private actors, among others, include local farmers and other community members in and around the biosphere reserve, investors, NGOs/ CSOs; community based organisations, tourists, researchers, etc.

- It is recognised by the group that there is a need for the private sectors' involvement in the administration and management of the buffer and transition zones. The administration of the core zone should be limited to the public agency. Where proved to be appropriate, the protection of the core areas (i.e., the buffer zone) can be delegated to the local communities/ traditional societies.
- The good experience with regard to participatory forest management (PFM) can be used as a good administration and management practice in the buffer and transition zones of the BR. Other good experiences from other countries should be assessed to benchmark to it.
- Model agreement for cooperation between the public and the private actors that establishes the rights and obligations of each party involved is vital. In this regard, it is recognised by the participants that benchmarking should be made to participatory forest management, in developing the cooperation agreement between the public and private entities.
- The cooperation agreements would describe services to be provided, standards to be maintained, business and financial relationships between public agencies and the private sector partners. The cooperation agreement would always consider the best interest of the local community and included in the agreement (i.e. tripartite agreement). In this regard, it is also recommended to utilise appropriate customary arrangement with the local communities.
- There is a need to promote long-term participation of local and traditional communities in the administration and management of the BR to harness the indigenous knowledge, practices and use of technologies for sustainable cultivation of the wild coffee by local communities.
- The public and the private actors can enter in a cost-sharing/ income-sharing arrangement to enhance the benefit from marketing opportunities (promotion and development of eco-tourism, research, developing social infrastructures, etc.).

4 CONCLUSION

It was concluded that:

The Ethiopian ecosystem in general and biodiversity in particular is under severe threat. As a result of this fact vulnerability of the local community is getting higher. Hence, UNESCO BR concept is an appropriate tool for conservation and development in Ethiopia and the tool is believed to reconcile conservation of biodiversity and development with their sustainable use.

Appropriate legal framework, institutional structure and procedures, and cooperation arrangement among the public, the private entities and the local communities are needed for the establishment of UNESCO BRs in Ethiopia that take into consideration:

- The international requirements
- Provisions as well as gaps in the existing national and regional laws (proclamations, articles, directives, etc.) that are relevant for the establishment of UNESCO BR
- The interest of the local community

It was recognised by the workshop participants that there exists insufficient information and know-how with regard to gaps or adequacy of the existing legal provisions (like proclamation of forest development, wildlife protection, biodiversity conservation,

land use and administration). Therefore, it is recommended that a thorough study of the existing provisions, gaps and required legal provisions (whether a new or amendment of the existing ones) should be carried out by an experts team composed of relevant institutions.

The Man and the Biosphere Committee (MAB committee) should be revitalised and re-instituted. The workshop was informed that the UNESCO Addis Ababa Cluster Office has called a meeting of MAB national committee on 22nd December, 2008. This meeting should be used as an opportunity to re-institute the MAB National Committee and the focal institutions: that host MAB Committee, i.e. Ministry of Science and Technology as well as other stakeholders, including the Regional states and civil societies.

5 PRESS CONFERENCE

Immediately after the official opening session, a press conference was organised for journalists from press and media agencies. Press statements were given by:

- H.E. Dr. Class Knoop, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany in Ethiopia; and
- Prof. Zerihun Woldu, Addis Ababa University;
- Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis, Science Programme specialist, UNESCO Addis Ababa Cluster Office;
- Prof. Dr. Michael Succow, German MAB Committee,
- Mrs. Svane Bender-Kaphengst, NABU/PPP



Left to right: Prof, Zerihun Woldu, Addis Ababa University; Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis, Science Program specialist, UNESCO Addis Ababa Cluster Office; Prof. Dr. Michael Succow, German MAB Committee, H.E. Dr. Class Knoop, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany in Ethiopia; and Mrs. Svane Bender-Kaphengst. NABU/PPP

The Panellists, among others, highlighted the following points:

- The German government is committed to supporting the establishment of the Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia.
- The Man and the Biosphere programme of UNESCO is a tool to reconcile the conservation with development to bring sustainable development. It creates a space for collaboration of the local people, local government and other stakeholders.
- The UNESCO Secretariat does not have a “police function” and it is the responsibility of each country, through its MAB National Committee or Focal Point, to ensure that the BRs respond to the criteria and function properly.

- It is disappointing that Ethiopia could not register one BR so far, even though it has huge potential for BRs. The Afro Montane Rain Forests of Bonga, Boginda and Mankira areas in Kafa Zone provide unique biogeography and biodiversity, wild coffee, as well the invaluable non-timber forest products.
- The GTZ-SUN/ PPP project has contributed to the initiation of the Kafa Coffee BR. In this regards, it has facilitated an experience sharing for relevant stakeholders' at local, regional and federal level; research and baseline study on biodiversity and land use, compilation of maps for planning/ zonation of BR and construction of a BR Office.
- Appropriate legal framework is critical for the establishment of UNESCO BR in Ethiopia based on the assessment of the existing laws and regulation, international requirements, and benchmarks.

The journalists were from:

- Press agencies: Capital, Fortune, The Reporter, The Reporter Amharic, Daily Monitor, Sendek, Sub Saharan Informer, Addis Admas, Ethiopian Herald, Addis Neger
- Media agencies: Radio Fana, Ethiopia News Agency, Walta, Ethiopia Television (ETV), Ethiopian Radio and FM.



Annex 1: List of Participants (not completed)

No.	FirstName	LastName	Company	Telephone	EmailAddress
1	Almaz	Taddesse	National Metreology Agency		almaz-td@yahoo.com;almaz_td@yahoo.com
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4	Belete	Geda	Environmental Protection Authority		
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20	Mamo	Godebo	BoARD		
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35	Zerihun (Prof.)	Woldu	Addis Ababa University	0911407255	Zerihun_woldu@yahoo.com

List of Press and Media Agencies participated at the Press Conference

Press agencies

1. Capital
2. Fortune
3. The Reporter
4. The Reporter Amharic
5. Daily Monitor
6. Sendek
7. Sub Saharan Informer
8. Addis Admas
9. Ethiopian Herald
10. Addis Neger

Media agencies

11. Radio Fana
12. Ethiopia News Agency
13. Walta
14. Ethiopia Television (ETV)
15. Ethiopian Radio and FM

Annex 2: Workshop Programme

Registration	8:30	
Opening Ceremony		Moderator: Ato Tamene H.Giorgis
Opening Remarks	9:00	Dr. Andrea Bahm, GTZ-SUN Program Manager
		His Excellency Dr. Claas Knoop, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
Opening Speech	9:15	His Excellency Ato Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
UNESCO Biosphere Reserves- Worldwide Experiences	9:30	Prof. Dr. Michael Succow, German MAB Committee
Group Photo	10:00	
Tea/Coffee Break	10:10	Organiser
Introduction of Participants	10:30	
Keynote Address	10:40	Professor Zerihun Woldu, Addis Ababa University
Introductory Note: <i>The PPP Kafa Coffee Biosphere Reserve Initiative</i>	10:50	Mrs. Svane Bender-Kaphengst, NABU / PPP
The UNESCO MAB concept on Biosphere Reserves	11:15	Dr. Alexandros Makarigakis, Science Program Specialists, UNESCO Addis Ababa Cluster Office
Open floor for Questions		
Lunch Break	12:00	Organiser
The legal framework for the establishment of Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia – challenges and ways forward	13	Mr. Stefan Weiss, German University of Giessen
Working group formation/split	13:30	
Tea/Coffee Break	15:30	
Presentation of Results to the plenum	15:45	
Conclusion and Next Steps	17:30	
Closing Remarks	18:00	

Annex 3: Welcoming Remarks by Dr. Andrea Bahm, GTZ-SUN Program Manager

Your Excellency Ato Girma Woldegiorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

Your Excellency Ato Junedin Saddo, Minister of Science and Technology

Your Excellency Dr. Claas Knoop, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ethiopia,

Distinguished workshop participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the GTZ Program "Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources" – or as we call it SUN Program, I warmly welcome you to this significant workshop on "**UNESCO Biosphere Reserves - A tool for Conservation and Development**".

I would like to remind you that GTZ is one of the major bi-lateral organizations involved in natural resources management for longer years in Ethiopia. In some of these years GTZ has been involved in special sectors where the Government of Ethiopia needed assistance; such as in the forestry sector.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

UNESCO's innovative Man and the Biosphere programme is an appropriate tool for sustainable development. In this regard, GTZ-SUN program's PPP coffee project has been working to use this tool to initiate the creation of a coffee biosphere reserve in Kafa zone which could serve as an example for future endeavours in this regard.

This workshop is organized to initiate a dialogue among the relevant stakeholders and identify gaps that should be addressed in order to make the establishment of Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia a reality. More specifically it will focus on creating the basic legal framework which is the core for establishing the reserve.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the persons involved in organizing this workshop. I would like to thank the Ministry of Science and Technology for its cooperation and for the invaluable comments and suggestions we got from its staff.

I am pleased to observe that you have accepted our invitation and came to this workshop which shows your readiness to support the efforts to establish the biosphere reserve. I am confident that we have the right people gathered here to achieve the workshop objectives.

I wish all of you success in your deliberations!

Annex 4: H.E. Dr. Claas Knoop, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ethiopia

Your Excellency Ato Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

Your Excellency Ato Junedin Saddo, Minister of Science and Technology

Distinguished workshop participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

One of the most challenging objectives of the MDGs is to reduce the rate of poverty in the world by 50 % in the year 2015. Despite the fact that much effort is made to reduce poverty here in Ethiopia and many other countries in Africa and elsewhere, the results might not be satisfactory unless due attention is given to the role of healthy ecosystems in providing sustainable livelihoods and to the importance of environmental governance.

We have learnt that if ecosystems decline the assets of the poor will also diminish, or, let me quote from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: "the burden of environmental decline already falls heaviest on the poor" (MA 2005:2).. unquote.

Despite the absence of accurate figures on how many people depend on ecosystem services in Ethiopia, it is estimated that at least 80% of the population live in rural areas. Fresh water, food, wood and fiber, climate regulation, flood regulation, disease regulation, water purification, and cultural values are some of the ecosystem services that most of the rural population in Ethiopia and elsewhere in the world depend on. In such situations improving the status of ecosystems is vital to satisfy the needs of the local community.

Problems associated with excessive soil erosion, degradation of forests and deforestation, etc affect the local and regional as well as national economy. For developing countries like Ethiopia, the cost of natural resources degradation is high. Similarly, the cost of rehabilitation is also high. As an example, soil erosion has many negative results that range from loss of top soil to siltation and sand accumulation in irrigation canals and hydroelectric dams/reservoirs which in turn have an impact on agriculture, energy and industry.

Studies are indicating that ecosystem management, good sector governance, and poverty reduction are each essential elements of sustainable economic growth. Moreover, these elements are inextricably linked.

The existence of proper policies and legislations has direct relationship with local communities and to natural resources development. Appropriate policies that address the needs of local communities improve quality of life of many individuals. Such policies and legislations are based on scientific evidences made available to law makers. Therefore, it is always necessary to generate and provide reliable information to those decision makers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Ethiopian-German cooperation on the management of natural resources has started quite some time ago. Under the umbrella of the so called SUN program (SUN stands for Sustainable Utilisation of Natural Resources) substantial achievements have been made within the last 3 years of implementation.

SUN is in the process of improving the livelihood of the rural population which is particularly affected by poverty and food insecurity. To date there are about 300.000 beneficiaries of watershed development measures in the Highlands of Tigray, Amhara and Oromiya.

The program concept and the range of selected activities follows the motto: from food aid to regular economic and rural development. Thus, in about 85 mainly food insecure Woredas the focus was laid on mobilizing, facilitating and training communities in watershed rehabilitation. The MoARD and other public entities were supported on natural resource management matters, sustainable land management issues and legal aspects of land use.

Some of the achievements on the ground include:

- About 20.000 farmers already apply new technologies and innovations in watershed management.
- 6.000 coffee farmers have gained additional income through coffee quality improvement.
- About 130.000 energy saving stoves have been sold.
- Government experts are qualified in watershed development, participatory forest management, coffee quality and energy saving techniques.

I thank you for your attention.

- Two community ecotourism associations act as private service providers and offer demand driven services.
- About 80 community watershed teams and about 100 forest user groups were established and 40 communities apply zero or controlled grazing.
- Rural communities have begun replicating SUN introduced natural resource management (NRM) measures out of their own initiative.

SUN has therefore substantially contributed to the development of forest policies and strategies which are so ambitiously driven by the Ethiopian government.

Distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen,

The Efforts of Ethiopian Government in fighting natural resources and ecosystem degradation is highly comendable in that with available budget and human capacity the government is striving to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Enactment of important legislations, policies and strategies, building regional capacity to implement these policies and strategies, etc are among the efforts the Government is making. And as I mentioned before, reliable data are essential for policy formulation.

Therefore, UNESCO's "Man and Biosphere" programme is a very important tool to provide quality data for decision makers. It is a tool for generating scientifically proven information for sustainable development by reconciling conservation with development. It is probably one of the best tools that improve ecosystem goods and services. And it is for this reason that there are over 530 Biosphere Reserves on earth. These Biosphere Reserves are networked so that best practices and scientific information are exchanged among them.

Within individual Biosphere Reserves, all stakeholders - local community, local government, rural development planner, researcher, conservationist etc., cooperate for the same goal i.e. sustainable development. Local community and local government are the main actors in the program.

Bottom-up approach in ecosystem management especially creates more room for dialogue and speed up the process of democratization. Local people and local government become the decision makers.

I hope this workshop will give much needed information to the participants on how to make use of this important tool in Ethiopia. I also hope that the current efforts to establish the first Biosphere reserve in Ethiopia will bear fruit.

I wish you all to have a good time in this workshop.

**Annex 5: Opening Speech of H.E. Ato Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the FDRE
Your Excellency Ato Junedin Saddo, Minster of Science and Technology**

Your Excellency Dr. Claas Knoop, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ethiopia,

Distinguished workshop participants, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would first like to say that it is a great honour for me to be here and deliver the opening address to this vital workshop.

In Ethiopia, major ecosystem degradation has been recognized since the 1970s. Severe vegetation degradation and deforestation have resulted in excessive soil erosion by water and wind. That in return caused rain and water shortages for human use and agriculture while making the local people vulnerable to other environmental calamities and famine. The degradation of ecosystem services not only affects local communities, especially the poor, but also the national economy as a whole.

One of the major reasons for degradation and loss of ecosystems and its natural resources is the absence of tools suited both, to conserve the environment and to safeguard livelihoods. Many approaches for ecosystem management and sustainable development have been tested. Some of these were shown to improve ecosystems and thus the services that were derived from those ecosystems improved the lives of many rural poor.

The UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere Programme" is an optimum tool for combining conservation with development, where development is made to complement, rather than compete, with conservation by making the local community at the centre. This programme is already over 30 years old being practiced in 105 countries of the world and has showed magnificent success.

Honourable guests:

The MAB Programme was introduced to Ethiopia two decades ago. Science and Technology commission (the current Ministry of Science and Technology), being a focal institution for MAB programme, it formed the MAB committee jointly with other institutions, like the Environmental Protection Agency. Even though, the Science and Technology commission took all the responsibility, no Biosphere Reserve has so far been established in Ethiopia. However, we are all happy to know that the Aksum Obelisk was nominated as UNESCO Cultural World Heritage, a concept which is also used for outstanding natural sites, then designated as Natural World Heritage like the Simien National Park.

The Government of Ethiopia has developed quite a number of strategies, policies and legislation that are well suited to this programme. In addition, Ethiopia is a signatory to many international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Despite this excellent basis, some adjustments in the legal framework are still required. All of the policies and legislation enacted so far have contained important elements that assist us to create a biosphere reserve but the legal framework for long-term protection against any form of intrusion still remains. Therefore, we expect that the outcome of this workshop will be to come up with agreed draft legal framework for the establishment of biosphere reserves in Ethiopia. This step will help to better set up all future biosphere reserves in Ethiopia.

I urge the participants to be fully involved and to produce the intended results. I expect that we will be seen as pioneers for the introduction of Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia – may more follow!

To conclude, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in organizing this outstanding workshop, particularly GTZ and I officially declare this workshop open

Thank you for your kind attention!

Annex 6: Keynote address by Professor Zerihun Woldu, Addis Ababa University

Dignitaries observed

Distinguished Workshop Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I would like to express how honored I feel for having the opportunity to address this workshop. I am proud to be an Ethiopian for the following reasons among many others:-

Ethiopia is known for its very rich, culture, landscape and biological diversity. There are more than 80 nations, nationalities and peoples in Ethiopia. The landscape ranges from 110 m below sea level to more than 4600 m above sea level. The geological, edaphic and agro-ecological diversity is rivaled only by few places on earth. There are about 9 broad vegetation types in which one can find more than 7,000 plant species 12% of which are endemic to Ethiopia. The mammalian and avian diversity and endemism is also astounding. Ethiopia is one of the twelve Vavilovian centers of cultivated plants. Two of the 34 Biodiversity hotspots are found in Ethiopia. In sum, Ethiopia is a cradle of civilization and natural diversity and scenic beauty.

I am sobered because:-

long history of anthropogenic influences are exerting high pressure and are threatening all aspects diversity. The few remaining forests patches of intact habitats are diminishing at an alarming rate and the biological diversity is being lost as the result of the direct effect resource exploitation and as a result of habitat loss The history we hear about the rate of forest clearing, which is increasing each year and the loss of arable land to soil and wind erosion, the rate at which desertification is engulfing us very intimidating. In short our ecological footprint is growing by seconds and our ecological resilience is dwindling in the same rate. I don't want to bore you with the usual figures and statistics of environmental degradation. This has been repeatedly mentioned in this workshop as well.

The relevant question is - How can the concept of biosphere reserves help to reduce some of the risks and perils which keep sobering me a lot and reminding me of the downward spiraling of biological resource depletion and the eminent point of no return if we do not act now.

Biosphere reserves are designed to deal with one of the most important questions the World faces today. How can we reconcile conservation of biological diversity and biological resources with their sustainable use?

Ladies and Gentlemen - allow me to highlight on some of the landmarks of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the network.

The concept of biosphere reserves was developed by a Task Force of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme in 1974. The biosphere reserve network was launched in 1976. There were only 57 BRs then. As of February 2008 the figure has grown to include 545 reserves in 105 countries.

In 1983, UNESCO and UNEP jointly convened the First International Biosphere Reserve Congress in Minsk (Belarus), in cooperation with FAO and IUCN. The Congress's activities gave rise to an Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves which was formally endorsed by the UNESCO General Conference and by the Governing Council of UNEP in 1984.

While much of this Action Plan remains valid today, the context in which biosphere reserves operate has changed considerably as was shown by the UNCED process and, in particular, the **Convention on Biological Diversity**.

The **Convention on Biological Diversity** was signed at the 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, entered into force in December 1993 and has now been ratified by more than 100 countries. The major objectives of the Convention are: conservation of biological diversity; sustainable use of its components; and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

The General Conference, UNESCO organized an International Conference on Biosphere Reserves at the invitation of the Spanish authorities in Seville (Spain) from 20 to 25 March 1995. This Conference was attended by some 400 experts from 102 countries and 15 international and regional organizations. The Conference drew up the Seville Strategy.

The International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme which met for its 13th session (12-16 June 1995) endorsed the Seville Strategy.

The Madrid Action Plan (February 3-10, 2008) - Critically examine **the Seville Strategy** as well as the role and functions of **biosphere reserve zonation** (core, buffer and transition)) in the face of globalization and environmental transformations, such as urbanization, climate change, desertification and migration, and in relation to the Convention of biodiversity, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and Millennium Development Goals. I am glad to have been part of the Madrid Action Plan drafting body.

According to the Seville Strategy of 1995 and the Madrid Action Plan of 2008 - Biosphere reserves should preserve and generate natural and cultural values through management that is scientifically correct, culturally creative and operationally sustainable. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves, as implemented according the Seville Strategy and the Madrid Action Plan is thus an integrating tool which can help to create greater solidarity among peoples and nations of the world.

BRs have three overlapping and mutually supportive functions:-

- a. Conservation - contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- b. Development - foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- c. Logistic support - support for demonstration projects, environmental education and training, research and monitoring related to local, regional, national and global issues of conservation and sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen - I have a feeling that it will help a lot to know a bit more about the criteria for designating Biosphere Reserves. General criteria for an area to be qualified for designation as a biosphere reserve are:-

1. The area must encompass a mosaic of ecological systems representative of major bio-geographic regions, including a gradation of human interventions.
2. It should be of significance for biological diversity conservation.
3. It should provide an opportunity to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale.
4. It should have an appropriate size to serve the three functions of biosphere

reserves.

Physically, each biosphere reserve should contain three elements:

1. one or more core areas, which are securely protected sites for conserving biological diversity, monitoring minimally disturbed ecosystems, and undertaking non-destructive research and other low-impact uses (such as education);
2. a clearly identified buffer zone, which usually surrounds or adjoins the core areas, and is used for co-operative activities compatible with sound ecological practices, including environmental education, recreation, ecotourism and applied and basic research; and
3. a flexible transition area, or area of co-operation, which may contain variety of agricultural activities, settlements and other uses and in which local communities, management agencies, scientists, non-governmental organizations, cultural groups, economic interests and other stakeholders work together to manage and sustainably develop the area's resources.

More of this information can be found in the statutory frame work of the Seville strategy and the Madrid action Plan.

How do countries choose their BRs?

Reserves are nominated by national governments; each reserve must meet a minimal set of criteria and adhere to a minimal set of conditions before being admitted to the Network.

To this effect, some countries have enacted legislation specifically to establish biosphere reserves. In many others, the core areas and buffer zones are designated (in whole or in part) as protected areas under national law. A number of biosphere reserves simultaneously encompass areas protected under other systems (such as national parks or nature reserves) and other internationally recognized sites (such as World Heritage or Ramsar sites).

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a few more minutes so that I may say a few words about establishing BRS in Ethiopia. So - Which places in Ethiopia qualify for BR?

During my term of service as a vice chair of the UNESCO MAB in Paris representing Ethiopia from 2005 October to 2008 February and as a member of the MAB Committee of Ethiopia, I have witnessed the proliferation of nominations of Biosphere reserves from all over the world. I have enjoyed the opportunity of reviewing applications and recommending nominations for approval.

In the same period, I have suffered from the questions like - How many reserves does Ethiopia have? As if they have not seen the BR map of the world or - When is Ethiopia nominating its next BR? As if there has been another one before. These questions have frustrated me and I have promised myself that I will not go back to UNESCO MAB without being accompanied by an application.

Since then I have been dreaming about catching the next opportunity or creating an opportunity or collaborating with any organization or individuals who have the resources and the inspiration to work towards establishment of a Br in Ethiopia.

I think the time has come and we should not let this opportunity go because once lost opportunities take long to knock at ones door again. The places I have been repeatedly thinking about for BR in Ethiopia are:-

1. The Bale Mountains National Park in Oromia Regional Government: The Floristic and faunistic diversity of the Bale Mountains National Park is divers in its flora and fauna

and harbors many endemic plant and animal species. The landscape is diverse too. It is already a national park and therefore enjoys a legal protection

2. The Simien Mountains National parks in the Amhara Regional Government. Has the same magnitude of diversity and has the same status as that of the Bale Mountains National Park
3. The Alatish Proposed National Park – This Proposed National Park, which is found in Northwestern Ethiopia, Amhara Regional Government bordering Sudan is also diverse in Plant and animal species. Its unique position qualifies it to be a transnational BR since the area adjacent to it in Sudan is already a BR.
4. The Awash National Park – This National Park is also diverse in plant and animal species and its location between Oromia and the Afar Regional Governments qualifies it to be a Trans-regional BR and can be used to enhance a regional cooperation.
5. The Nechsar National Park which is found mainly in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional Government has many unique plant and animal species and has amazing scenic beauty. The park can be significantly expanded in the Oromia Regional Government and can be developed into a trans-regional BR.
6. The Guelele Botanical Garden: This botanical garden has the potential to develop into an Urban Biosphere reserve as there are a number of plant species and scenic sites, which qualify it for a BR. There are only a few urban Biosphere reserves in the world and its nomination for BR will receive a warm welcome.
7. The Kafa Coffee Forest – This forest found in SNNP is well located in the dense forest of southwestern Ethiopia, which makes only 3% of the remaining forest patches of the country. Its uniqueness emanates from being home of the wild coffee gene pool and the only part of the country which has this priceless resource.

The list given above is by no means exhaustive and is not in any order of priority or importance. All sites are unique in their own right and therefore are equally important and the task of nominating them for BR is equally urgent.

The participatory forest management approach being initiated in Kafa Coffee forest is the first and biggest step taken so far and could be considered as important landmark in the whole process of BR Establishment and I hope it will precipitate into a reality in the foreseeable future.

What more needs to be done in this forest to bring it to the level of nomination?

- a. Detailed survey of the biological resources including the flora and the fauna needs to be made
- b. A detailed three dimensional map of the landscape and locations of important resources need to be made

In addition, provisions should be made for

- c. mechanisms to manage human use and activities in the buffer zone or zones
- d. a management policy or plan for the area as a biosphere reserve
- e. a designated authority or mechanism to implement this policy or plan
- f. programme for research, monitoring, education and training

National MAB Committees will then forward the nomination with supporting documentation to the MAB secretariat after having reviewed the potential site taking into account the BR criteria.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do not have to tell you that - like all walks of development, Ethiopia is left behind also in protecting and sustainably using its unique ecosystems and its biodiversity. It is upon this generation to gain the lost decades of (Minsk to Madrid) and join the globalized world of the BR Network.

I hope you will agree with me that - it is better to be late than never. Looking at the other side of the coin, I also consider the delay as blessing disguise because it has given us the opportunities to learn from mistakes and success histories of the 105 countries which are ahead of us. We can benchmark many of the biosphere reserves and bring home best practices without repeating unnecessary mistakes.

Therefore, the role of MAB committee in this advisory role is highly anticipated. Institutions that are represented in the MAB committee charged with responsibility and duty of getting the application nominated need to be revitalized. The regional offices affiliated with the establishment of the BR must take the responsibility for the successful establishment of the BR in the specified location.

Hence, I would like to urge you all as concerned citizens to fully participate in the establishment of the first BR in Ethiopia and be champion of the sustainable development and change the map of BRs in the world with a dot in Ethiopia.

I also urge the same concerned group not to stop at preparing application at only this current one but contribute to placing several dots on the map of Ethiopia as a member of the BR network. I hope this workshop will meet its objectives and the participants will benefit from it. To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank GTZ SUN Program for taking this bold initiative of establishing a BR in Kafa Zone.

Thank you and wish you good Luck!