

Mr Collen Vixen Kelapile
President of the Economic and Social
Council (ECOSOC)
Department of Economic and Social
Affairs
1 UN Plaza, Room DC1-1428
New York, NY 10017
USA

1 March 2022

**Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences**

Ref: SC/EES/DIR/2022/ECOSOC

Dear President,

Thank you very much for your invitation to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme to provide an input to the thematic review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2022, in view of its meeting in UN Headquarters in New York in July 2022.

The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme plays a central role in the implementation of UNESCO's Biodiversity Strategy and, more generally, in supporting Member States in achieving SDG's. Launched in 1971, the MAB Programme is UNESCO's oldest intergovernmental scientific programme, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021 and 2022, and its unique World Network of Biosphere Reserves (727 sites in 131 countries) builds on more than 50 years' experience from protection to integrated management of connected landscapes and seascapes, demonstrating that it is possible to live in harmony with nature.

Good practices can inspire to reconnect beyond the boundaries of protected areas to empower all sectors of societies for the environment, for human health, for green development. We, in the MAB Programme, also believe that only a profound change in our system of values will allow us to restore our relationship with nature and to move from the dominance of economic values towards values promoting collective well-being. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that such a change is urgently needed.

I have consulted the MAB Secretary a.i., Ms Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa, and with the help of the MAB Secretariat and its various antennas in regional offices, we have collected the attached inputs, for the consideration of the HLPF. These are focused, as suggested, on "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", considering mainly activities we have implemented in various regions of the world, mobilizing and involving our World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and policy recommendations we could elaborate on the results achieved so far.

I thank you for your cooperation and I wish you every success for the upcoming HLPF 2022 Forum.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'A. Olatunde Adepaju', written over a horizontal line.

Adeshola Olatunde Adepaju
Chair of MAB International Co-ordinating Council

cc: Ms Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa, MAB Secretary a.i., Director a.i. of the Division of Ecological and Earth sciences

Annex: examples of MAB activities and project contributing to SDGs on “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “