

# Announcement: new manual

## *African Man and Biosphere Reserves: guidance to assess ecosystem services*

A manual is being prepared by the research team of the EVAMAB project to address the assessment of ecosystem services in African Biosphere Reserves (BR). It should be finalized by the beginning of 2020.

### Why this Manual?

#### *Meeting the need of the AfriMAB network*

During a general assembly of the AfriMAB network about “Green Economy and ecosystem services” in 2013, the concept of ecosystem services (ES) was quite new for the participants. They needed to know more and be capacitated in these ES issues for a better management of the MAB sites.

The EVAMAB project was launched to address this need. It involved many MAB stakeholders, observed good practices, study cases related to ES and it became logical to summarize its findings in a user-friendly manual that would inspire and support MAB managers and other stakeholders to address ES in their MAB Reserves.

### What is the EVAMAB project?

EVAMAB: “Economic valuation of ecosystem services in Man and Biosphere reserves: testing effective rapid assessment methods in selected African MABs”.

The project addresses the assessment of ecosystem services (ES) in MAB sites from 4 African countries. It lasts 30 months (2017-2019) and is financed in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between Belspo (Belgian Science Policy) and UNESCO-MAB.

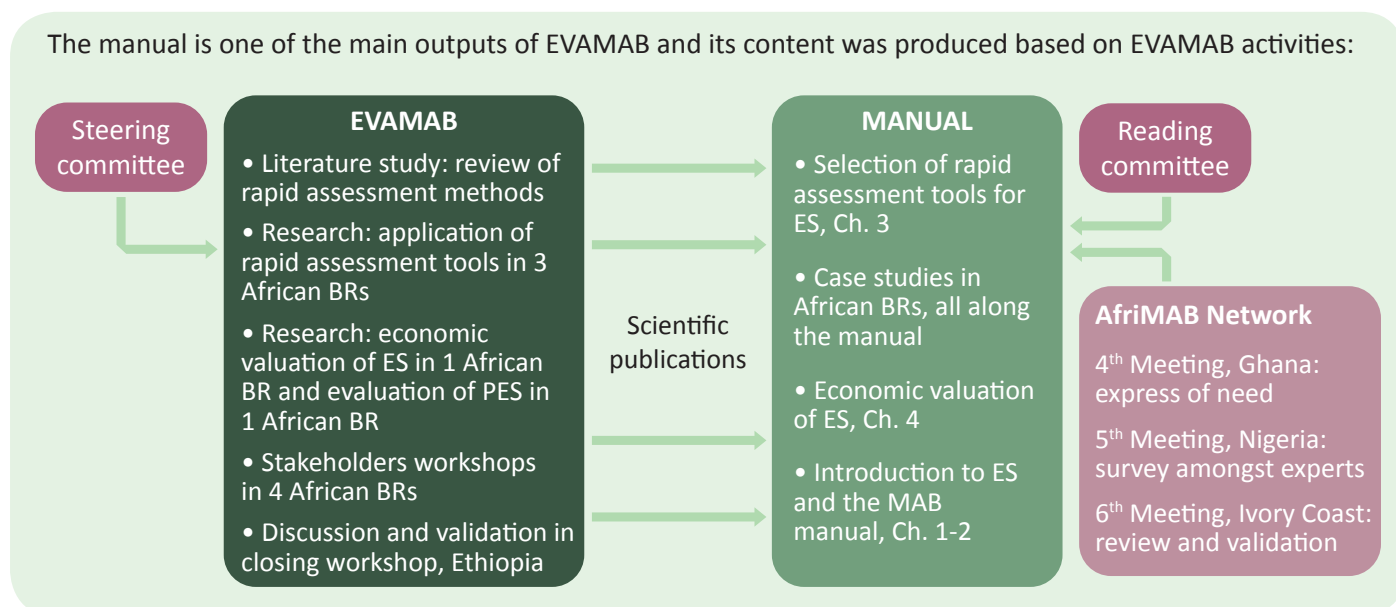
- About 20 North and South scientists conducted field work in 4 African Biosphere Reserves (BR). This included field surveys and stakeholders workshops in:
  - ➔ Benin: Pendjari National Park and BR
  - ➔ Uganda: Mount Elgon National Park and BR
  - ➔ Tanzania: Lake Manyara National Park and BR
  - ➔ Ethiopia: Lake Tana National Park and BR
- Closing workshop: About 40 scientists and African BR managers gathered in Ethiopia to discuss the results of the EVAMAB project, and priorities for this manual.

- A reading committee will have the opportunity to review and validate the content of the manual.
- The draft manual will be presented during the AfriMAB meeting in Abidjan (October 2019), to representatives of the AfriMAB network.

More info, see: <http://www.biodiv.be/evamab>



The manual is one of the main outputs of EVAMAB and its content was produced based on EVAMAB activities:



## African MAB managers and decision makers: it is your manual!

This manual intends to primarily reach the **managers** and administrators but also decision makers of African Biosphere Reserves, as they are on the field and need to take day to day decisions, defuse conflicts, be in dialogue with many stakeholders, and promote the protection of biodiversity.

The draft manual will be presented in Abidjan, and participants will have the opportunity to give their opinion about it.

**Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further comment.**

## The main objectives of the manual

- To outline the **significance of ecosystem services for the management** of African BRs ;
- To increase the **awareness, knowledge** and use of ecosystem services among stakeholders involved with African BRs ;
- To serve as a support & background document for the **AfriMAB network** and beyond ;

- To serve as a **transfer mechanism** for key principles and approaches of ES in BRs ;
- To **maintain sustainably** ecosystems and their services in BRs and **support the management** of BRs in favour of both Nature and People ;
- To be a milestone in a process of **continuous learning**.

## Content

I am a policy maker, decision maker, politician, authority    I am a BR manager

I would like to...

- refresh my **understanding of MAB**
- better understand the **concept of ecosystem services (ES)**
- have some idea about existing **rapid assessment** tools for assessing ES
- understand how to value ES and have some examples
- understand **Payments for Ecosystem Services**
- translate this knowledge into **concrete actions** towards better conservation, sustainable development and a greener economy

- Chapter 1 - Introduction & Outlook
- Chapter 2 - Ecosystem services
- Chapter 3 - Ecosystem Services Assessment Tools
- Chapter 4 - How to value ecosystem services?
- Chapter 5 - From ecosystem services assessment to real changes

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