




The UNESCO MAB Programme in Ethiopia

**Cross-fertilizing workshop for the EVAMAB project (Bahir Dar,
Ethiopia, 13-17 May 2019)**



Biosphere reserves:

- Areas that promote balanced relationship between people and nature
- Special places for people and nature
- Ensure sustainable development through engagement of all actors

MAB programs:

- Governing body that coordinates, leads and supports BRs to achieve their functions (conservation, development and logistic support)



Ethiopian MAB National Committee

- MAB was introduced and existed in Ethiopia since 1987
- Established and chaired by the then Science and Technology Commission until February 28, 2018
- BR establishment started in 2010
- MAB committee has been undertaking planning annual MAB activities and making biannual evaluations jointly with members
- Since February 28, 2018, the MAB committee is being chaired by Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission with Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) serving as a secretary
- Activities are underway by the leading role of the two institutions such as establishing a national BR network and activating the MAB activities

Ethiopian MAB ...

In Ethiopia, five biosphere reserves were established since 2010. These include:

- Yayu forest coffee biosphere reserve (2010)- Oromia
- Kafa biosphere reserve (2010)-SNNP
- Sheka forest biosphere reserve (2012)-SNNP
- Lake Tana biosphere reserve and (2015)-Amhara
- Majang forest biosphere reserve (2017)-Gambella





Composition of MAB National Committee

- The MAB committee is composed of institutions working in areas of **research, education, culture, natural resources** and **biodiversity** both from federal and regional government where BRs are established. It also includes universities, local NGOs and professional societies affiliated to BRs.



Members of the national MAB committee

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission

Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Ministry of Mines, Energy and Natural Petroleum

Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

Ethiopian Wild life Conservation Authority

Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research

National Meteorology Agency

Intellectual Property Rights Office

Representatives of regional bureaus where BRs were established

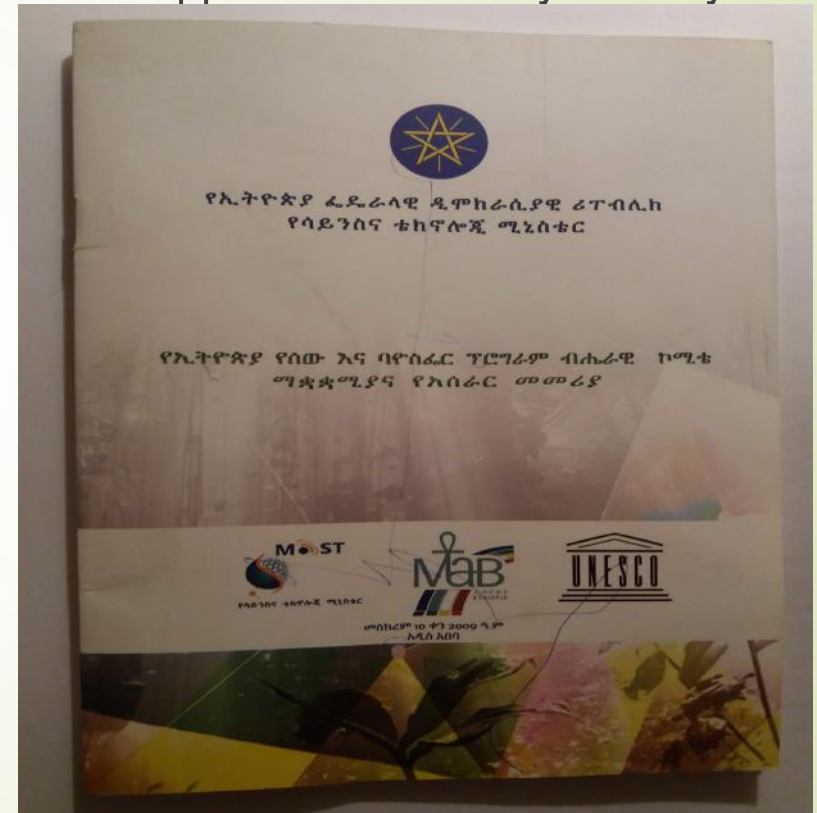
Representatives of NGOs working in areas of BRs development, universities and professional societies

Ethiopian MAB National Committee Establishment and Working Guideline

- MAB establishment and working guideline was drafted and approved in 2016 by Ministry of Science and Technology.

Contents of the guideline

1. Objectives of the guideline
2. Structural organization
3. Committee members
4. Roles and responsibilities of MAB committee
5. Non-voting members
6. Meeting rule
7. Roles and responsibilities of MAB committee chair
8. Miscellaneous provisions






Weakness(challenges)of MAB committee

- Lack of organizational structure for BRs
- Weak implementation of MAB committee annual plans
- Lack of data base on BRs
- Weak communication system between BRs and MAB committee (e.g reporting system)
- Lack of monitoring system on BRs (e.g conservation and development status)
- Lack of organized research activities on existing BRs



Opportunities

- Development partners working with BRs
 - A wealth of scientific information on BRs
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Future directions

- Activating and strengthening MAB committee secretariat
- Revising and updating the MAB committee members
- Establishing BR financial sources
- Monitoring and evaluation system to insure implementation of the MAB annual activity plan including BR management plans
- Approving and launching the proposed biosphere reserve national network



Thank you