

UNESCO CHAIR PROGRESS REPORT



Title of the Chair:	UNESCO Chair on Biosphere Reserves and natural and mixed World Heritage Sites
Host Institution:	University for International Cooperation
Date of establishment of Chair:	October 2016
Period of activity under report:	October, 2016 – May, 2017
Report established by:	Tania Moreno, Chair executive coordinator

1. Executive Summary:

The present report presents the actions carried out by the *UNESCO Chair on Biosphere Reserves and natural and mixed World Heritage Sites* during the seven-month period from October 2016 to May 2017, considering the date of the signing of the new agreement between UNESCO and the University for International Cooperation (UCI, for its acronym in Spanish).

During this period, the Chair supported the implementation of the Masters Program in Protected Areas Management and Ecoregional Development, and two short term courses offered by the Latin American School of Protected Areas in topics of interest to the Chair, reaching 89 students from different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

At least ten conferences were developed by the Chair holder and other collaborators, reaching more than 600 people from countries like Costa Rica, Ecuador and Chile.

The Chair is constantly cooperating with the UNESCO headquarters and offices in the region, as well as with the Costa Rica National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO. Since 2010, UCI has been a member of the Costa Rican MAB National Committee, and for the period 2017-2018, the Chair holds the position of substitute for the academic sector on the board of the committee.

For the next period, 2017-2018, the Chair is committed to coordinate the process of periodic evaluation of the Water and Peace Biosphere Reserve. In addition, two good practice books on biosphere reserves will be published in conjunction with the UNESCO Montevideo Office, and a compilation of dissertations by UCI students on issues related to UNESCO sites will be undertaken. We will continue to strengthen alliances with UNESCO Chairs linked to biosphere reserves, as well as the development of training programs to strengthen the management of biosphere reserves and world heritage sites in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2) Activities:

Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period

a) Education/Training/Research (key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)	
i) Education (leading to certificate)	<p>Support to the professional Master's Program in Protected Area Management and Ecoregional Development, offered on line by the Latin American School of Protected Areas (ELAP) with a degree from the University for International Cooperation.</p> <p>This program currently has 42 active students (43% of whom are women) from nine Latin American countries.</p>
ii) Training (short term)	<p>The Faculty of Environment and Development, which holds ELAP and the UNESCO Chair, maintains an annual offer of short virtual courses related to topics of interest to the Chair and with Latin American scope. In the first half of 2017, two short on line courses were implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrating tourism visitation into the management of protected areas. Duration: 40 hours, February - March, 2017. Students enrolled: 21 students.• Bases for the design of social and environmental projects. Duration: 40 hours, April -May, 2017. Students enrolled: 26 students. <p>For the rest of the year, there is an offer of 5 additional courses focused on territorial management and protected areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regeneration and rehumanization of the human landscape• Governance in protected areas• Financial sustainability for protected areas• Mountain ecosystems and water management• Participatory monitoring in protected areas
iii) Research	<p>During the months of March and April 2017, documentation of experiences of UNESCO Chairs linked to biosphere reserves was carried out under the short-term contract for professional services for the Management plan of the Macizo del Cajas Biosphere Reserve, Strengthening Good Governance of the Ecuadorian German Program for the GIZ Department in GFA. At least seven UNESCO Chairs were identified in Latin America and Europe working in / with biosphere reserves. Results of this documentary research could be expanded and published in the second half of 2017.</p>

b) Conferences/Meetings

(key conferences and meetings organized by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)

i) Key conferences and workshops hosted by the Chair

The Chair did not organize its own events during this period.

ii) Other conferences/organizational activities undertaken by the Chairholder

- Conference "Regenerative development to global change, guarantor of an economic, social and environmental future", addressed to an audience of 500 participants of the Protected Areas National Conference, on November 24, 2016 at the Catholic University of Temuco, Chile.
- Conference and dialogue on biosphere reserves and regenerative development with the Network of Organizations of the Araucanía Biosphere Reserve, Chile, on April 1, 2017.
- Conference on Biosphere Reserves offered in Liceo Los Andes de Melipeuco, Chile, to students, teachers and school authorities, on April 3.
- Conference on biosphere reserves and regenerative development at the Municipal Theater Auditorium in Curacautín, Chile, on April 3. It was attended by local authorities, representatives of community organizations and civil society.
- Conversation on the Araucarias Biosphere Reserve, global change and the role of biosphere reserves, meeting with 18 representatives of the Network of organizations of the Araucarias BR and the National Forestry Corporation of Chile (CONAF). As a result of this discussion it was agreed to activate the Committee of Araucarias BR, to coordinate actions and create a joint work plan with stakeholders.
- Conference in the framework of the launching of the "Strengthening Program for the management and innovative and sustainable organization of the Cooperativa Campesina Boroa", held on April 15 at the Autonomous University of Chile.

Within the framework of the short-term consultancy for the Management plan of the Macizo del Cajas Biosphere Reserve -Ecuador, a visit to this biosphere reserve was carried out between May 29 and June 2, 2017, where different activities were implemented:

- Meeting with director and staff of the Ministry of the Environment to discuss the management plan of the Macizo del Cajas biosphere reserve.
- Conference on regenerative development, UNESCO Chairs and Biosphere Reserves at the National University of Education of Ecuador UNAE, Cuenca.
- Meeting with officials of the Ministry of Environment and other professionals involved in the project for the development of the Management Plan and Model, as well as for the management of the biosphere reserve itself.
- Conference on regenerative development and biosphere reserve in the Municipality of Guabo.
- Radio interview on the management of Macizo del Cajas Biosphere Reserve.
- Visit to the core area of Macizo del Cajas Biosphere Reserve.
- Conference at the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Azuay. Short discussion with academics about the interest and possibilities of establishing a UNESCO Chair associated with the Macizo del Cajas biosphere reserve.
- Conference in GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) for officials and special guests on regenerative development in the context of biosphere reserves.
- Meeting in UNESCO Quito with Dr. Jorge Ellis and Director Saadia Sánchez Vegas.

iii) A selection of conference presentations by other colleagues

- Conversations about trail improvement and training to park rangers at the Isla del Coco World Heritage Site, facilitated by Ronald Chavarría in November 2016.
- Presentation by Tania Moreno about the MAB Program and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves during the General Assembly of the MAB National Committee of Costa Rica, held on February 8, 2017, attended by 32 representatives of public institutions, non-governmental

organizations, universities, and private sector.

- Conference presented by Tania Moreno about the World Network of Biosphere Reserves addressed to teachers of secondary education in the canton of Palmares, Costa Rica. Event organized by the Madre Verde Foundation on April 21, 2017, in which 22 teachers participated.

c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships

(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institution,s including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)

Since 2014, an agreement and cooperative actions have been maintained with the Anillo Primavera initiative and the UNESCO Chair in Habitat Management and Socially Sustainable Development of the ITESO Univesrity, in support of the management of La Primavera Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.

Communication with the UNESCO Chair of Sustainable Development and Environmental Education of the University of the Basque Country persists in the line of cooperation in strengthening the network of Chairs associated with biosphere reserves.

d) Publications/Multimedia Materials <i>(major publications and teaching/learning materials)</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output: 	Books		
	Books (edited)	✓	2 (not yet published)
	Books (chapter)		
	Monographs		
	Research reports	✓	1
	Journal articles (refereed)		
	Conference proceedings		
	Occasional papers		
	Teaching/learning materials		
	Multimedia materials		
<p><i>Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.</i></p> <p>i) Theses</p> <p>In the period corresponding to this report, no thesis has been developed through the Chair</p> <p>ii) Publications</p> <p>Since 2015, the Chair has worked in coordination with the UNESCO Montevideo Office, in the development of two publications that are still under review to be published in 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships for sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves. Experiences of success in Latin America. Compilation of good practices in Biosphere Reserves in Latin America and the Caribbean. 			

e) Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices
<p>The UCI UNESCO Chair has constant communication with specialists in the Natural Sciences Sector of the UNESCO Offices in Montevideo, San José and Quito, with the objective of supporting the implementation of biosphere reserves and natural and mixed heritage sites in Latin America</p>
f) Other <i>(any other activities to report)</i>
<p>Since 2010 to date, the Coordinator of the Chair is a member of the MAB National Committee of Costa Rica where she served as Secretary of the committee until December 2016.</p>

3. Future Plans and Development Prospects:

Outline of action plan for the next biennium and short/medium and long-term development prospects.

Please do not hesitate to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced

(Not exceeding 300 words)

For the period 2017-2018, the Chair will work at least on the following initiatives:

- Participation in the Conference of UNESCO Chairs "Mobilizing UNESCO Chairs in the Natural Sciences for policy action towards the 2030 Agenda", to be held in Geneva from July 5 to 7, 2017.
- Coordination of the periodic evaluation process of the Water and Peace Biosphere Reserve in Costa Rica.
- Exchanges and establishment of new cooperation agreements with other institutes and UNESCO Chairs of Latin America and other regions of the world.
- Development of a training program in regenerative development directed to the civil society of biosphere reserves in Latin America. This program will be developed jointly between UCI, the Huerquehue Foundation and Parks for Chile.
- Update and implementation of the online course on biosphere reserve management.
- Infographic design on the exceptional universal value of Mesoamerica's natural and mixed world heritage sites.

Appendix:

1) Human Resources

The Chair has two part-time staff, one Chair holder and an executive coordination.

Chair holder: Eduard Müller.

Doctor in Veterinary Medicine. Founder and rector of the University for International Cooperation (UCI). Specialist in management and evaluation of conservation and development projects, protected areas management, planning of sustainable local development, sustainable tourism, sustainable production systems, wildlife management, management and development of biosphere reserves.

Executive Coordinator: Tania Moreno.

Biologist, Master in Project Management, doctoral student in Education. Member of the MAB Costa Rica Committee since 2010. With experience in coordinating conservation and development projects, creation and management of biosphere reserves in Central America, communication and teaching-learning processes in virtual environments.

All the activities of the Chair are supported by the staff of the University for International Cooperation (UCI) and its Latin American School of Protected Areas (ELAP), among them, professors with recognized experience in protected area management and biosphere reserves, for example:

- Allan Valverde. Master in Management of Protected Areas and Ecoregional Development. Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Development of UCI.
- Fernando Bermúdez. Master in Project Management. President of the MAB National Committee, Costa Rica.
- Viviene Solís. MSc. In Ecology. Manager of CoopeSoliDar R.L., Costa Rica.

2) Financial Resources			
<i>Please tick sources of financial contribution and specify the amount in U.S. dollars</i>	Host Institution	✓	\$13,625
	Partner Institution		
	Government Body		
	Other Public Institution/Body		
	UNESCO		
	Other UN Agency		
	IGO	✓	\$14,200
	NGO		
	Industry		
	Other Private		
<p><i>Give details of financial contributions, material resources and space.</i></p> <p>From October 2016 to May 2017, UCI, as host institution of the Chair, has provided the office and all equipment and material necessary for the development of the Chair's actions, in addition to having invested USD \$ 13,625 in Professional services for the coordination of the activities of the Chair.</p> <p>During the months of March to May 2017, the Chair holder was hired by the German Ecuadorian Program for Strengthening Good Governance, through the consulting firm GFA Consulting Group, for an amount of \$14,200 dollars, for the development of a consultancy of short term in the Macizo del Cajas Biosphere Reserve, Ecuador.</p>			

End of the Form