

Jashenko R., Maltseva E.,  
Amita Prasad, Ram Prasad  
Chaudhary

**The results of the 8th Meeting  
of the South and Central Asia  
Man and Biosphere Network  
(SACAM), Almaty, Kazakhstan,  
24-25 October 2016**

The 8th Meeting of the South & Central Asia MAB (SACAM) Network was held in 24-25 October 2016 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting titled as «Biosphere Reserves and Sustainable Development» was attended by 65 participants including those from SACAM member countries. The aim was to discuss how to jointly promote BRs to serve as models for sustainable development. Barsakelmes Biosphere Reserve (Kazakhstan) has received the UNESCO certificate of the inclusion of Barsakelmes to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, such decision was approved by member states of the MAB International Coordinating Council in its 28th session on 19 March 2016 (Lima, Peru). Three delegates were approved as Bureau members of SACAM Network for the next biennium period: Mr. Roman Jashenko (Kazakhstan) as a Chairperson, Ms. Amita Prasad (India) as a Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary as a Rapporteur. The meeting work was divided into five plenary sessions, one of them was devoted to presentation and discussion of the national reports of the SACAM participating countries. The main results of the meeting were the updated Statues of the SACAM Network and the Meeting Recommendations, both documents will be published soon in the «Bulletin of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, geographical series». The 8th SACAM meeting recommendations were aimed at implementing the principles of the Lima Action Plan into the national MAB Action Plans to strengthen the cooperation within SACAM network. Meeting approved membership of new member states: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

**Key words:** UNESCO, Man and the Biosphere Programme, SACAM Network

Ященко Р.В., Мальцева Э.Р.,  
Амита Прасад, Рам Прасад  
Чаудхари

**ЮНЕСКО-ның (SACAM)  
Оңтүстік және Орталық Азия  
биосфералық резерваттар  
желісінің «Биосфералық  
резерваттар және тұрақты  
даму» атты 8-ші отырысының  
нәтижелері, Алматы,  
Қазақстан, 24-25 қазан 2016 ж.**

ЮНЕСКО-ның (SACAM) Оңтүстік және Орталық Азия биосфералық резерваттар желісінің қатысушы мемлекеттерінің 8-ші отырысы 2016 жылдың 24-25 қазанында Алматы қаласында (Қазақстан) өтті. Кездесу ортақ тақырып «Биосфералық резерваттар және тұрақты даму» тақырыбында желінің қатысушы мемлекеттерінен 65 қатысушылар қатысты. Отырыстың мақсаты, ЮНЕСКО-ның биосфералық резерваттарын тұрақты даму моделі ретінде бірігіп дамыту. Барсакелмес (Қазақстан) биосфералық резерваты ЮНЕСКО биосфералық резерваттарының Бүкіләлемдік желісіне қосылу туралы сертификат алды, мұндай шешім МАБ-тың Халықаралық координационды кеңесінің 2016 жылдың 19 наурызында (Лима, Перу) болған 28-ші сессиясында қатысушы мемлекеттер қолдады. Кездесудің негізгі нәтижесі желінің Жарғысы және қатысушылардың дайындаған ұсыныстары, бұл екі іс-қағаз төменде келтірілген. 8-ші желі отырысының ұсыныстары Лим жоспарының негізгі ойларын іске асыруға, желі аясында ынтымақтастықты нығайту үшін оңтүстік және орталық Азия мемлекеттерінің ұлттық жоспарының іс-әрекетіне бағытталды. Желінің мүшелері 3 жаңа мемлекет-мүшелерді (Қырғызстан, Тәжікстан және Өзбекстан) қабылдады және Әзірбайжан үшін бақылаушы статусы берілді.

**Түйін сөздер:** ЮНЕСКО, «Адам және биосфера» МАБ бағдарламасы, Оңтүстік- Ортаазиялық биосфералық резерваттар желісі.

Ященко Р.В., Мальцева Э.Р.,  
Амита Прасад, Рам Прасад  
Чаудхари

**Результаты 8-й встречи Южно-Среднеазиатской сети биосферных резерватов ЮНЕСКО, Алматы, Казахстан, 24-25 октября 2016 г.**

8-я встреча стран участников Южно-Среднеазиатской сети биосферных резерватов ЮНЕСКО состоялась 24-25 октября 2016 г. в г. Алматы (Казахстан). Заседания встречи проходили под общей темой «биосферные резерваты и устойчивое развитие» с участием 65 участников из стран-членов сети. Цель встречи состояла в том, чтобы обсудить, как совместно развивать и продвигать биосферные резерваты ЮНЕСКО в качестве моделей для устойчивого развития. Биосферный резерват Барсакельмес (Казахстан) получил сертификат ЮНЕСКО о его включении во Всемирную сеть биосферных резерватов ЮНЕСКО, такое решение было одобрено государствами-членами Международного координационного совета МАБ во время 28-й сессии совета 19 марта 2016 (Лима, Перу). Основными результатами встречи стали обновленный Устав сети и выработанные участниками встречи рекомендации, оба документа представлены ниже. Рекомендации 8-й встречи сети были направлены на реализацию основных идей Лимского плана действий в национальные планы действий стран южной и средней Азии для укрепления сотрудничества в рамках сети. Участники встречи приняли в состав сети 3 новых государств-членов (Кыргызстан, Таджикистан и Узбекистан) и утвердили статус наблюдателя для Азербайджана.

**Ключевые слова:** ЮНЕСКО, программа МАБ «Человек и биосфера», Южно-Среднеазиатская сеть биосферных резерватов.

**THE RESULTS OF THE  
8TH MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH AND CENTRAL  
ASIA MAN AND  
BIOSPHERE NETWORK  
(SACAM), ALMATY,  
KAZAKHSTAN, 24-25  
OCTOBER 2016**

The 8th Meeting of the South & Central Asia MAB (SACAM) Network was organized on 24-25 October 2016 in Almaty (Hotel Holiday Inn), Kazakhstan by Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO and Kazakhstan National MAB Committee in association with SACAM Secretariat, UNESCO New Delhi, Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. The theme of the meeting was «Biosphere Reserves and Sustainable Development». Representatives from MAB Programme in the South and Central Asian region, including MAB National Committees and biosphere reserve (BR) managers and experts from national and international organizations attended the meeting. The aim was to discuss how to jointly promote BRs to serve as models for sustainable development, including how to better apply the Sustainability Science framework in BRs from the region and how the MAB Programme could collaborate with other UNESCO relevant scientific programmes and designated sites such as Global Geoparks and World Heritage Sites, and other internationally designated sites (e.g. RAMSAR sites).

The meeting was attended by 65 participants including those from SACAM member countries as well as representatives from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting as observers. Kazakhstan host country was represented by members of National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO and National MAB committee besides experts from universities, BRs and other institutions.

The meeting was opened by the General Secretary of the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO Ms. Assel Utegenova, who invited for the welcoming remarks Mr. Erlan Nysanbayev, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan), Mr. Galymkair Mutanov, Rector of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Mr. Ram Boojh, Secretary of SACAM, UNESCO New Delhi Office, Mr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Ms. Marie Prchalova, Science Programme Specialist, Division of EES, Section on MAB Research and Policy: Ecology and Biodiversity, UNESCO HQ.

During the opening session the Barsakelmes Biosphere Reserve (Kazakhstan) has received the UNESCO certificate of the inclusion

of Barsakelmes to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, such decision was approved by member states of the MAB International Coordinating Council in its 28th session on 19 March 2016 (Lima, Peru).

At the end of the opening session three delegates were approved as Bureau members of SACAM Network for the next biennium period: Mr. Roman Jashenko (Kazakhstan) as a Chairperson, Ms. Amita Prasad (India) as a Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary as a Rapporteur.

After that the meeting work was divided into five plenary sessions, one of them was devoted to presentation and discussion of the national reports of the SACAM participating countries, in other session the participants get information on the current status of the existing Kazakhstan biosphere reserves, as well as two potential biosphere reserve (Karatau and Altyn-Emel), those were submitted to UNESCO for approval in this year. The Kazakhstan MAB Committee appreciates the Kazakhstan National Geographic Society for the valuable support on the preparation of nomination dossier of Altyn Emel BR. In addition, the program of the meeting also included a discussion of the achievements, challenges and prospects for the development of the network SACAM and development of the final document, «Guidelines for the implementation of the action plan in the Lima region SACAM countries.»

After the main sessions, a thematic tour to the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University was carried out with a visit to the university museums, as well as an additional session to familiarize with the activities of the University as a global hub of the United Nations on sustainable development and the presentation of the UNESCO Chair of Sustainable Development. At this session, a copy of the official certificate of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve «Barsakelmes» was officially presented for storage in UNESCO Chair on sustainable development.

The main results of the meeting became the updated Statutes of the SACAM Network and the Meeting Recommendations that were aimed at implementing the principles of the Lima Action Plan into the national MAB Action Plans to strengthen the cooperation within SACAM network. The Statutes adopted by all present members of the network, among other things, included some updates on the history and membership requirements, as well as admission of the 3 new member states of the SACAM Network: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with the adoption of Azerbaijan as an observer. The updated Statutes and Recommendations are presented below.

### **The recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the sacam network**

The 8th Meeting of the South & Central Asia MAB (SACAM) Network was organized on 24-25 October 2016 in Almaty, Kazakhstan by Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO and Kazakhstan National MAB Committee in association with SACAM Secretariat, UNESCO New Delhi, Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF) and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. The theme of the meeting was «Biosphere Reserves and Sustainable Development». Representatives from MAB Programme in the South and Central Asia region, including MAB National Committees and biosphere reserve (BR) managers and experts from national and international organizations attended the meeting. The aim was to discuss how to jointly promote BRs to serve as models for sustainable development, including how to better apply the Sustainability Science framework in BRs from the region and how the MAB Programme could collaborate with other UNESCO relevant scientific programmes and designated sites such as Global Geoparks and World Heritage Sites, and other internationally designated sites (e.g. RAMSAR sites). The meeting was attended by 65 participants including those from SACAM member countries; Bangladesh (1), Bhutan (2), India (2), Iran (1), Maldives (3), Nepal (2) and Sri Lanka (2). Kazakhstan host country was represented by members of National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO and National MAB committee besides experts from universities, BRs and other institutions. Representatives from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting as observers.

The meeting took note of the recent global agreements such as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Climate Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It also discussed the outcome documents of the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, held in March 2016 in Lima, Peru which focused on «*A New Vision for the Decade 2016-2025: UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Development*» and aimed to assess lessons learned and new challenges to be faced by the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), as well as the Lima Action Plan (LAP) for Biosphere Reserves for 2016-2025.

The meeting discussed the progress and challenges related to BRs presented in country presentations and decided to work together to design

the national MAB programmes in line with the MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan and recommended that MAB National Committees prepare their own strategies using the MAB Strategy and LAP as the key points of reference. These should be founded in national and regional realities and imperatives to contribute to the LAP at the regional and global level. The SACAM Secretariat and UNESCO Offices in Almaty, Dhaka, Islamabad, Kabul, Kathmandu, New Delhi and Tehran with support from Regional Sciences Bureau for Asia & the Pacific, Jakarta and UNESCO Paris will provide necessary technical support to respective National MAB Committees in developing the national LAP and follow up on the implementation as and when required. ECOSF also agreed to support and facilitate ECO Member States in designing their national strategies and actions in line with LAP.

*Following were the recommendations:*

1. SACAM Network member countries should make efforts to set up National MAB Committees and designate biosphere reserves which have none. SACAM Network Secretariat and respective UNESCO offices should provide necessary support to such efforts.

2. Member countries should establish incentives and schemes to promote research, education and management of biosphere reserves and make use of these sites for education for sustainable development activities.

3. Efforts should be made to create transboundary Biosphere Reserves wherever feasible. The transboundary issues were discussed as a predominant subject across the region which require continued intensive dialogue and discussion for preparation and declaration of a site as a transboundary BR. Strengthening of existing and creating new partnership and enhancing the transboundary, regional and international cooperation at different thematic and organizational levels was agreed.

4. For sustaining activities of the network, it was decided to create a Biosphere Reserve fund/ SACAM Trust Fund by voluntary contribution from member countries. Other sources of funding should also be explored.

5. Capacity strengthening programmes for biosphere reserve managers and other stakeholders should regularly be organized by each country. At the SACAM region level at least one such programme be organized each biennium. Best practices, success stories and lessons learnt should be documented and information disseminated.

6. Network members agreed to work together, as well as individually, to raise the Visibility of

the Network through appropriate branding and communication by variety of media including social media. Need to properly communicate LAP and its regional/national implementation efforts, was also stressed.

7. The meeting felt the need to develop joint programmes based on identified common interests and subjects across the SACAM Network. The Network should base their planning and efforts in identifying new value and new thinking, and echoing that in one voice, to make the system transparent, accountable, and legitimate. Strengthening existing and seeking new partnerships – in particular, with regard to resource mobilization and joint / regional project development was recommended.

8. The need for using existing platforms such as the ECO/ECOSF, SAARC and synchronizing with various UN programmes was stressed.

9. The group reviewed a number of best practices within individual BRs and the involvement of populations in management and providing livelihood opportunities. SACAM should actively work towards engaging local communities in order to strengthen the management and governance processes by developing appropriate indicators for review of BR performance and also to promote application of traditional / indigenous knowledge in various BR planning processes. In this regard, the SACAM Network shall initiate to set-up an effective mechanism to share best practices and lessons learnt in BR management, on-the-ground implementation of LAP, stakeholders involvement, cooperation, partnership, etc. MAB Communication strategy shall be instrumental in this regard.

10. The network stressed that periodic review of implementation of MAB Programme show improvement leading to conservation and sustainable development. The meeting also noted the wealth of information provided within these reports that highlight issues faced by many which could be taken note of by the MAB secretariat to be addressed.

11. Closer/targeted cooperation with relevant UNESCO Chairs and UNESCO Category 2 Centers – sub-regional, regional and international levels; in particular in research areas related to MAB and sustainable development was recommended.

12. The meeting discussed in detail the proposed amendments to the Statutes and agreed on the following:

12.1. The Procedure of accepting new SACAM members of new countries was decided upon and shall be as under:

(i) new countries to be observers for at least one SACAM Network meeting

(ii) legal framework or National MAB Committee to be in place

12.2. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were unanimously accepted as new members, provided that SACAM Network Secretariat receives official letter from the corresponding national authorities of the new members.

**Table 1** – SACAM Network timeline, 2016 to 2025

<b>Implementation and Reporting Timeline of SACAM Network</b>
<b>2016 to 2025: Annual Progress Report by regional and thematic networks and biannual Progress Report by Member States</b>
○ 39th session of the GC: November 2017
Progress Report on the implementation of the MAB Strategy and LAP by the UNESCO DG to the General Conference
○ 2020: Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Lima Action Plan
Annual Progress Report by regional and thematic networks and biannual progress report by Member States
○ December 2025
Final Report and Evaluation of the Lima Action Plan 2016-2025

### **The statutes of the South and Central Asia mab network**

#### **Background**

During a Regional Meeting of Coordinators of National MAB Committees and Biosphere Reserves, organized by the UNESCO New Delhi Office, in collaboration with the Indian National Committee for MAB and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and hosted by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education at Dehradun, India from 22-25 February 2001, MAB representatives from eight Asian countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, expressed the will to forge closer sub-regional collaboration by initiating a process that would lead to the creation of a «South and Central Asia MAB Network».

Taking note of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and in particular its Article 8 that encourages the establishment of regional and thematic sub-networks, the representatives of the 8 (eight) UNESCO Member states (Bangladesh, Bhutan,

India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) participating in the South and Central Asia MAB Meeting held in Hikkaduwa (Sri Lanka) from 15 to 18 October 2002, officially established the «South and Central Asia MAB Network» and approved its Statutes. Afghanistan was admitted to the Network at its 3rd Meeting held in Jodhpur, India from 12-15 November 2007 and Republic of Kazakhstan joined the Network in the 4th Meeting of the Network held in Qeshm Island (Iran) on 14–17 November, 2011.

The changes in the Statutes were made and approved by the representatives of the Network Member states of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka at the 8th Meeting of the South and Central Asia MAB Network held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) on 24-25 October 2016 and organized by the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO, Kazakhstan National MAB Committee in collaboration with ECO Science Foundation and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. The Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan were unanimously approved as new members of SACAM during this meeting.

#### **Name of the Network**

The name of the network is «South and Central Asia MAB Network», which should be abbreviated and hereinafter referred to as SACAM Network.

#### **Objectives**

1. To provide an institutional mechanism for South and Central Asia countries to exchange information on the three functions of biosphere reserves; conservation, development and logistic support.

2. To compare experiences in the management of biosphere reserves in South and Central Asia, particularly in relation to zoning and harmonizing a biosphere reserve's goal of conserving biodiversity with its function of supporting socio-economic development of local economies and people.

3. To exchange information with regard to institutional and administrative arrangements for the management of biosphere reserves of South and Central Asia and to make appropriate recommendations for improvement.

4. To identify, design and implement multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research programmes and short-term studies and projects that explore and demonstrate links between conservation of biodiversity and sustainable socio-economic development of local people in and around biosphere reserves of South and Central Asia.

5. To provide opportunities for staff of biosphere reserves and coordinators of MAB National Committees in South and Central Asia to improve their activity, knowledge and skills in implementing the corresponding MAB Strategy and Action Plan.

6. To promote and strengthen cooperation between the SACAM Network and other regional UNESCO MAB networks especially in the Asia Pacific Region in the implementation of the global, regional and national initiatives with relation to biodiversity, ecosystem services and climate change.

7. To promote and facilitate information exchange and co-operation with UN Programmes (such as UNEP, UNDP, etc.), international conventions (such as the Convention on Biodiversity Conservation, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, etc.), regional international organization (such as Economic Cooperation Organization, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, etc.), international nature conservation organizations (such as IUCN, WWF, BirdLife International, etc.), as well as any other interested international organization.

#### **Membership**

The Member of the SACAM Network could be the UNESCO Member state located in the region of South and Central Asia through the National MAB Committee or other representative of the National Commission for UNESCO.

New Member of the Network should be approved by consensus of all Member states of the SACAM Network present at its regular meeting.

The new Member States of SACAM Network must comply with the norms as agreed by the SACAM Network Member States in the Recommendations of the 8th Meeting of SACAM Network.

UNESCO assists and supports the SACAM Network activity by the UNESCO field Offices in New Delhi (Secretariat), Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran), Islamabad (Pakistan), Kathmandu (Nepal), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Kabul (Afghanistan) and Almaty (Kazakhstan).

#### **Activities**

##### **Meetings**

There shall be at least one meeting of the SACAM Network Members every two years.

SACAM Network Members shall periodically meet with other countries of the Asia Pacific Region and other regional networks.

#### **Seminars and workshops**

Apart from the meetings mentioned under (i) above, SACAM Network Members may organize special scientific seminars and/or training workshops. While the frequency of the organization of such events shall depend upon available financial and other resources, training workshops shall be organized at least once every three years.

#### **Exchange and specialists**

Scientists, administrators, managers and policy-makers concerned with the implementation of the corresponding Action Plan and Strategy for Biosphere Reserves in SACAM Network country may visit other countries to share knowledge and experience. Whenever possible, delegation(s) of SACAM Network countries may visit biosphere reserves in countries outside the Network to exchange views regarding biosphere reserve management.

#### **Dissemination and exchange of information**

SACAM Network Members will regularly exchange, either directly, or through the services of one of the National MAB Committees, or through the International MAB Secretariat in UNESCO, Paris, or the UNESCO Offices in New Delhi, Teheran, Islamabad, Kabul, Kathmandu, Almaty and Dhaka, some information on issues, problems and solutions to the management of biosphere reserves. Such exchange of information shall be via rapidly evolving electronic media as well as conventional instruments such as newsletters, brochures and technical and popular articles. SACAM Network, in cooperation with UNESCO, shall ensure that the proceedings of all meetings, seminars and workshops covered as part of SACAM Network activities shall be published and disseminated as soon as possible.

#### **Research cooperation**

Any SACAM Network Member may initiate bilateral and multilateral cooperation for carrying out research on specific themes and issues of biosphere reserve management. In this regard a Member may, in consultation with other Members, solicit cooperation, outside of the South and Central Asian Region, as well as of international organizations and donors.

#### **Management cooperation of transboundary biosphere reserves**

All SACAM Network Members are encouraged, through the launching of specific projects, to ensure cooperation in management of transboundary biosphere reserves (e.g., Sunderbans Mangrove Ecosystems, both in India and Bangladesh; Manas in Bhutan and India). Such cooperation is particularly encouraged with respect to SACAM Network Members' participation in the implementation of

multilateral agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention (WHC) and other relevant multilateral agreements.

#### **Promotion and fund raising**

Any SACAM Network Member, in consultation with other Members, may launch private or public sector campaigns to promote the work of SACAM Network and to generate funds for the activities of the SACAM Network.

#### **Budget**

The core budget for the operations of the SACAM Network shall be derived from the funds of UNESCO's Regular Programme and from the Budget approved for the activities of SACAM Network by the General Conference, particularly those earmarked for implementing the corresponding Action Plan and Strategy for Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO Offices in New Delhi (India), Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran) and the MAB Secretariat in UNESCO, Paris. Other UNESCO contributions to SACAM Network may derive from the Director-General's allocations for specific draft resolutions relevant to SACAM Network and approved by the General Conference, National and Participation Programmes requests and specific proposals submitted to, and approved by the International Coordinating Council and the Secretariat of the MAB Programme.

Any SACAM Network Member state may provide funds to support SACAM Network activities, through funds-in-trust or voluntary contributions schemes of UNESCO, or directly to a recipient Member in another SACAM Network country(ies). SACAM Network Members, individually or jointly, may prepare as well as launch fund-raising campaigns to support SACAM Network activities.

A SACAM Network Member may provide support to activities in kind: e.g., a SACAM

Network Member may agree to host and meet all local expenses of visitors from other SACAM Network States if the latter (or other Members such as UNESCO) are meeting the costs of international travel of visitors; all such contributions in kind made by SACAM Network Members shall be acknowledged in publications which are the outcome of the activity under consideration.

#### **Administration and coordination**

The activities of the network shall be administered and coordinated by the UNESCO, New Delhi Office, in cooperation with UNESCO-MAB, Paris and regional field offices as well as National MAB Committees or focal point in each SACAM Network Member country. Any SACAM Network Member country may discuss with UNESCO, New Delhi Office, short-term arrangements for one of its specialists assisting the UNESCO, New Delhi Office, in implementation of SACAM Network activities. Countries belonging to SACAM Network may also unanimously decide, at any time in the future, to assign Secretariat responsibilities to one among themselves.

All funds which are administered by the UNESCO-New Delhi Office and the UNESCO-Teheran Office shall be in accordance with the UNESCO Manual Guidelines for managing a specific category (Regular Programme, funds-in-trust, etc.) of programme funds. Whenever a donor who is not a Member of SACAM Network agrees to provide financial assistance to SACAM Network activities, the procedures for the management of said funds will be mutually agreed upon by SACAM Network Members including UNESCO, and the donor.

#### **Other Matters**

Any amendments to the text of the SACAM Network, including those concerning the termination of the operations of SACAM Network, shall come into effect only with the unanimous approval of all its Members.