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联合国教育、  
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**Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences**  
**Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**

Ms Daline Vinhal Pereira  
Analista Ambiental  
Departamento de Áreas Protegidas  
Secretaria de Biodiversidade e Florestas  
Ministério do Meio Ambiente  
Brazil

9 September 2019

Ref: SC/EES/2019/185

Dear Ms Vinhal Pereira,

I am writing to inform you of the results of the deliberations of the 31<sup>th</sup> session of the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, which was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, from 17 to 21 June 2019 to consider proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions/renaming to biosphere reserves, follow-up and periodic review reports

The MAB Council made the recommendations attached with regards to the **Espinhaço Range** and the **Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserves** periodic reviews and the **Cerrado Biosphere Reserve** follow-up.

The full report of the 31<sup>th</sup> session of the MAB International Coordinating Council is available on the UNESCO-MAB website at:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/about-mab/icc/icc/31th-session/>.

I thank you for your continued support of the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves that now consists of 686 biosphere reserves in 122 countries.

Yours sincerely,

Miguel Clüsener-Godt  
Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences  
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Cc.: Permanent Delegation of Brazil to UNESCO  
National Commission of Brazil for UNESCO



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**Extract of the recommendations and comments of the MAB Council  
at its 31<sup>th</sup> Session at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris  
from 17 to 21 June 2019**

**Periodic reviews**

**143. Espinaço Biosphere Reserve, Brazil.** The Council welcomed the additional information and the clarification on feasibility of the extension and cooperation with neighbouring biosphere reserves in relation to the proposed extension. The country explained all areas of overlap between the various Brazilian biosphere reserves represent important ecotones between the ecosystems of the different biomes and, therefore, are included in more than one reserve. These are points of integration of the National Landscape Connectivity Programme, coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment. They are, therefore areas of intense cooperation between biosphere reserves. After reviewing this information, the Council considered that the site **meets** the criteria and accepted the extension of the Biosphere Reserve.

**144. Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve, Brazil.** The Council welcomed the additional information sent by the country, as well as the clarification of the extension and cooperation with neighbouring biosphere reserves in relation to the planned extension.

**145.** The country mentioned that after 28 years of successful work, the Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve, has proved to be capable of complying with the principles and functions of the biosphere reserves. The country mentioned the importance of this extension, given that it will preserve the fragile Atlantic Forest Biome.

**146.** The country explained that all areas of overlap between the various Brazilian biosphere reserves represent important ecotones between the ecosystems of the different biomes and, therefore, are included in more than one reserve. These are points of integration of the National Landscape Connectivity Programme, coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment.

**147.** After reviewing this information, the Council considered that the site **meets** the criteria and accepted the extension of the Biosphere Reserve.

## **Follow-ups**

**168. Cerrado Biosphere Reserve (Brazil).** The Council welcomed the information sent by the Brazilian authorities. The Cerrado Biosphere Reserve sent a Periodic Review in 2016, later in 2017, which met the criteria, and a follow-up (that was not requested) in 2018.

**169.** The document sent by the national authorities does not follow the structure of a Periodic Review. It proposes a huge increase in zonation from 25 million ha to 76,240,779.83 ha (88,215,853 ha, different numbers are given), on the grounds that the authorities would like to preserve the Cerrado biome. The authorities later sent a letter requesting not proceed with this extension.