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Man and the Biosphere
Programme

H.E. Ms Helena
Sångeland
Ambassador
Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary to
OCDE
Permanent Delegate of
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Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
Man and the Biosphere Programme

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Ref: SCS/EES/MAB/26/95

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to inform you of the results of the deliberations of the 38th session of the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, which was held in Hernandarias, Paraguay, from 3 to 6 June 2026, to consider proposals for new biosphere reserves and extensions/renaming to biosphere reserves, follow-up and periodic review reports.

Following the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Bureau's deliberations, the MAB Council made the decisions found in annex to this letter.

[To the Final Report](#)

I should be grateful to be informed in due course on your plan regarding the inauguration ceremony or event to be organized for the biosphere reserve.

Thanking you for your continued support of the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves that now consists of 797 biosphere reserves in 145 countries, I remain,

Yours sincerely

António De Sousa Abreu

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

CC:
Swedish National Commission for UNESCO
MAB National Committee

Extract of the final report of the 38th session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere programme

The MAB Council endorsed the Advisory Committee recommendations contained in document SC-26/CONF.238/11 without any modifications, for the countries and sites set out below:

Periodic reviews:

- i. Kristianstad Vattenrike, Sweden (including re-zoning) (SEKr2005)

Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve (Sweden). The Advisory Committee welcomed the second periodic review report of the Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2005. This diverse cultural landscape, situated in Skåne, the country's southernmost province, covers about two-thirds of the municipality of Kristianstad. The population numbers up to 78,000 inhabitants, most of who are involved mainly in the food industry, agriculture, forestry, and experience-based tourism and retail.

The Advisory Committee noted a number of changes in the published area data since the last periodic review. The core areas are now classified as marine/limnic rather than terrestrial and have expanded by roughly 20 per cent, while the buffer zones and transition areas have decreased proportionally. The updated total area of the site covers 104,362 ha, of which 6,192 ha are terrestrial and 2,389 ha marine core areas, 14,123 ha terrestrial and 7,614 ha marine buffer zones, and 67,032 ha terrestrial and 7,012 ha marine transition areas. The zonation comprises all required types of zones and complies with the Statutory Framework.

The three functions are implemented in a well-balanced manner, supported by sufficient funding, staffing and execution in accordance with five-year action plans formally adopted by the Municipal Executive Committee of Kristianstad Municipality. Projects align with the functions of biosphere reserves as well as locally defined priorities. Examples include participation in the Let Sweden Blossom initiative, which encourages farmers to cultivate pollen and nectar-rich plants to support pollinators and ecosystem services; marking heritage trees as important habitats for diverse species; collaborating with golf clubs to enhance biodiversity; the Biosphere for Baltic – Future Generations project, which involves young people in biodiversity activities; and various research collaborations with Kristianstad University, the Stockholm Resilience Centre and other institutions.

The governance structure follows an adaptive co-management approach and is remarkably inclusive. The site is coordinated by the Biosphere Reserve Management and Naturum Unit of the Kristianstad Municipality, in close cooperation with the well-established Consultation Group for the Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve, which serves as an advisory body and a platform for dialogue, enabling the exchange of information and expertise among a wide range of stakeholders. The Advisory Committee praised the biosphere reserve's communication strategy, information activities and strong international networking

efforts, both within the WNBR and with external partners, which emphasizes youth engagement. The site also forms part of the Helge Model Forest, contributing the biosphere reserve perspective to the International Model Forest Network.

The Advisory Committee concluded that the site **meets** the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and recommended that the proposed changes in size and zonation be approved. The Committee encouraged the biosphere reserve authorities to share nature-based solutions implemented on site, such as the construction of wetlands to reduce iron and aluminium content in the river, with other members of the WNBR.