United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Integrated approaches to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Actions on ABS in the context of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

Vibeke Jensen, Director UNESCO Liaison Office in New York

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

BIODIVERSITY in UNESCO

UNESCO's action on biodiversity reflects the multi-sectoral nature of its mandate including:

Knowledge dimensions

- Science and traditional knowledge on biodiversity

On the ground conservation, sustainable use and management

- World Natural Heritage Sites
- Biosphere Reserves

Education

- Biodiversity education, including in education for sustainable development

Cultural dimensions

- Links between biological and cultural diversity – intangible heritage, languages, values, beliefs

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

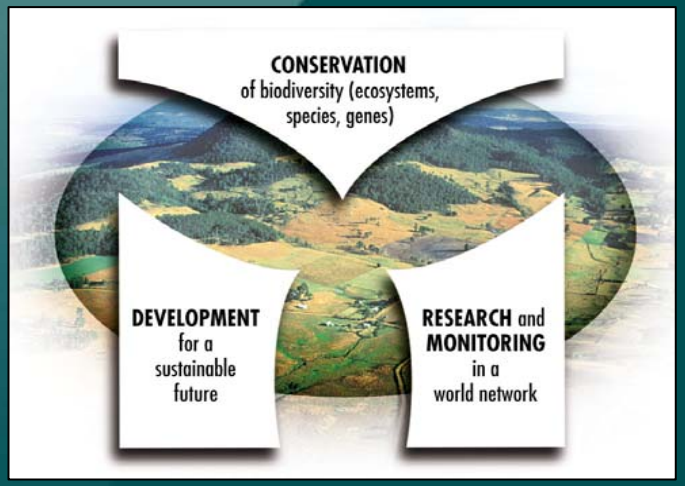
UNESCO & The Convention on Biological Diversity

Through its Programmes, UNESCO promotes integrated approaches to CBD implementation with the focus on:

- Integration of the three objectives of the Convention - conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing
- Integration of environmental, social, economic and cultural aspects of biodiversity challenge
- Increased focus on addressing the causes of biodiversity degradation and loss

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

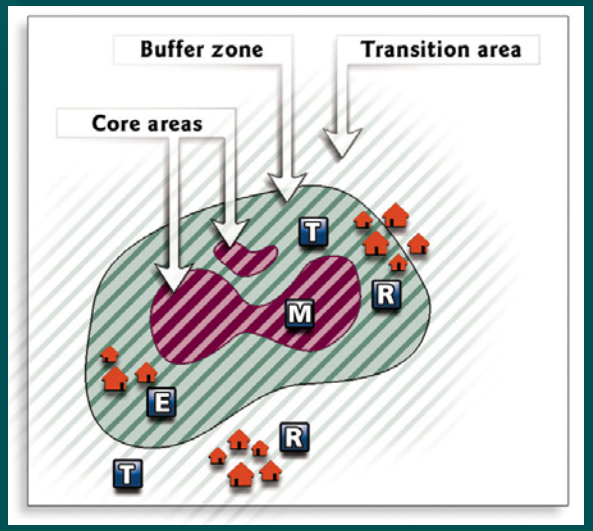
INTEGRATED APPROACH TO CBD IMPLEMENTATION



Example of Biosphere Reserves as means of implementing the 3 goals of the CBD

Key Objectives

- Conserve biological and cultural diversity
- Promote sustainable economic development
- Research, monitoring, education and training



Zoning System

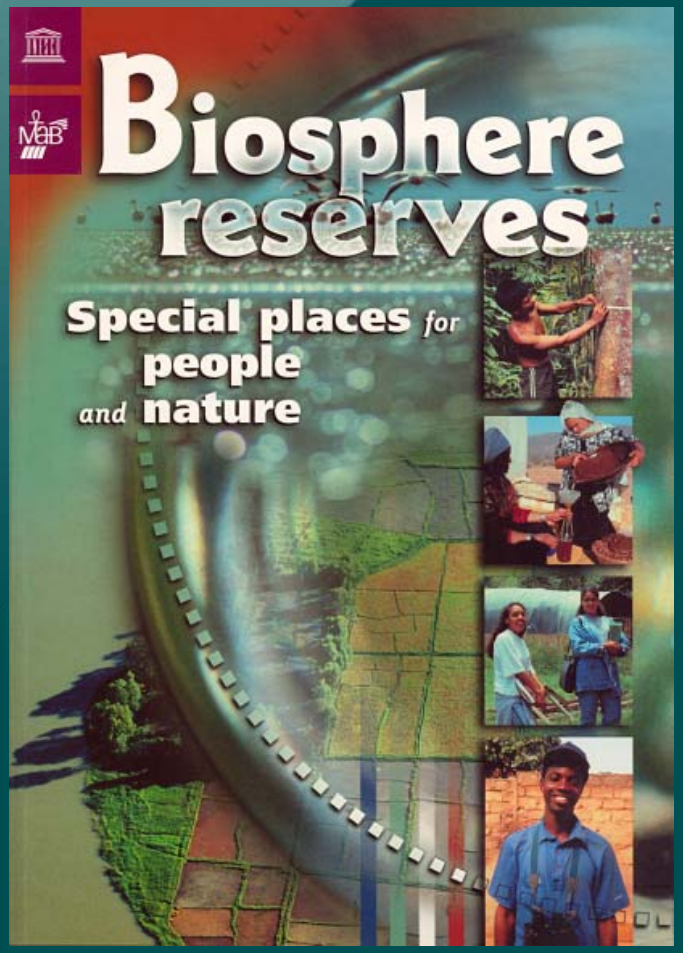
as means to meet the challenges of biodiversity management in multi-use areas with the objective of sustainable development

Organizational/governance arrangements

enabling involvement and participation and dialogue between all actors in management and decision-making processes

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

BIOCULTURAL APPROACH TO ABS



Promotion of Biosphere Reserves as means of implementing access & benefit sharing provisions under the CBD

Relevant objectives under 1995 Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves :

- Preserving **genetic resources, species, ecosystems** and **landscapes.**
- Promoting **conservation and sustainable use**, through the **transfer of appropriate technologies, including traditional knowledge**
- Ensuring that **benefits derived from the use of natural resources are equitably shared with the stakeholders.**

In accordance with these objectives– promotion of bio-cultural approaches to access and benefit sharing

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

BRINGING ABS TO BIOSPHERE RESREVES

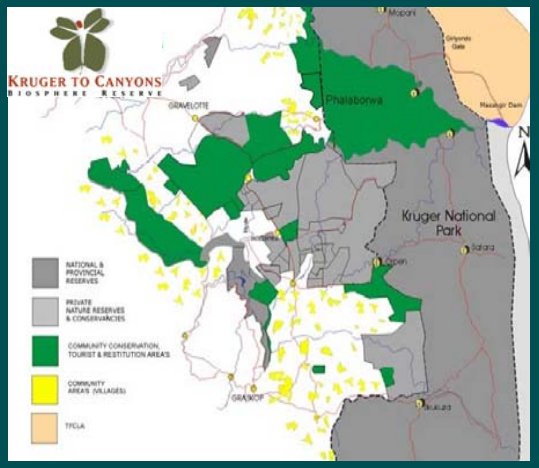
Pilot in Kruger to Canyos Biosphere Reserve, South Africa

In collaboration with GIZ (ABS Capacity Development Initiative) Natural Justice

K2C Biosphere Committee

Biological diversity

Cultural diversity



Institutional fragmentation

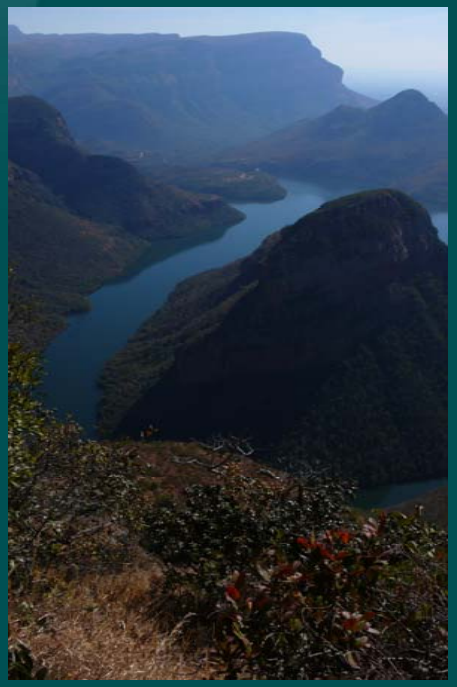
Testing Bio-cultural Protocols as tools that can contribute to operationalization of ABS provisions in biosphere reserves while promoting the achievements of:

- The three objectives of the CBD
- The three objectives of biosphere reserves

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

BRINGING ABS TO BIOSPHERE RESREVES

Success of the Bushbuckridge Healers Biocultural Protocol



- The process of development of the protocol as important as the protocol itself
- It allowed traditional healers community to organize itself and define common challenges
- To articulate their contribution to *in situ* conservation
- To define prior informed consent regarding access to their lands and traditional knowledge
- To describe ways and means of knowledge sharing
- To understand their rights according to national and international law
- To formulate a call to stakeholders for respect of customary laws and related needs.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

BRINGING ABS TO BIOSPHERE RESREVES

BCP- Follow up

- Formation of **Kukula Traditional Healers Association**
- Assessment of areas currently unavailable to healers and enabling support of management authorities to allow their access into these areas
- **Local cosmetics partnership** development between the healers and the local cosmetics company
- **Educating and Awareness** Creation on the bio-prospecting laws and the rights of traditional healers as regards the protection of and sharing of their traditional knowledge

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ABS – CHALLENGES and OPPORTUNITIES in The WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

- **Further awareness raising** – through Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme; regional and thematic networks of biosphere reserves
- **Building on the experience from Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve** – sharing of lessons with other biosphere reserves
- **Capacity building** – training of biosphere managers and development of appropriate tools
- **Reaching out to other stakeholders** - particularly scientists and researches involved in biosphere reserves research
- **Further understanding the links between biological and cultural diversity and their implications for the implementation of the CBD and its protocols –** UNESCO-CBD Joint Programme

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

FUTURE PRIORITIES OF UNESCO's WORK RELATED TO BIODIVERSITY

Implementation of UNESCO Biodiversity Initiative – established in 2010 to enhance coordination among different biodiversity related activities in the field of science, education and culture

More focused work around Aichi Biodiversity Targets - mainly the targets on

- education and public awareness (Target 1)
- protected areas (Target 11)
- traditional and indigenous knowledge (Target 18)
- science technology and innovation (Target 19)
- access and benefit sharing (Target 16)

Contribution to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) with particular emphasis on integration of traditional and scientific knowledge systems

United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Thank You for Your Attention

Vibeke Jensen, Director UNESCO Liaison Office in New York