

Table of contents

Acknowledgements	I
Table of contents	III
List of Figures	VII
List of Tables	IX
Abbreviations	XI
Abstract	XIII
Zusammenfassung	XV
1 Introduction: The role of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves for global nature conservation and their function as model regions for sustainable development	1
1.1 Problem statement: Quality enhancement strategies in the Man and the Biosphere Programme to increase the credibility and coherence of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.....	1
1.2 Objectives and research questions	5
1.3 Thesis structure.....	6
2 Nature conservation and protected areas	7
2.1 Definition of key terms and historical overview	7
2.2 National Parks in the United States of America and Game Reserves in the British Empire	9
2.3 Globalization of nature conservation after the Second World War	12
2.4 Protected areas by IUCN definition and global coverage	15
3 The World Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves	21
3.1 Historic outline and idea of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves	21
3.2 Periodic review process and the introduction of the Exit Strategy.....	25
3.3 Spatial diffusion of the World Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves	33
3.4 Key actors and structure of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves	43
3.5 Interlinkages with other UNESCO programmes for nature conservation.....	46
4 Methodology	51
4.1 Qualitative expert interviews.....	51
4.2 Qualitative content analysis	58

5	Case Studies: the complexity of the biosphere reserve concept in practice.....	61
5.1	Africa	62
5.1.1	Ghana	62
5.1.2	Kenya	65
5.2	Arab states: Sudan	68
5.3	Asia and the Pacific	71
5.3.1	Australia.....	71
5.3.2	China	74
5.3.3	Indonesia.....	77
5.3.4	Japan	79
5.3.5	Republic of Korea	81
5.4	Europe and North America	83
5.4.1	Austria	83
5.4.2	Bulgaria.....	86
5.4.3	France.....	89
5.4.4	Germany.....	92
5.4.5	Russian Federation.....	96
5.4.6	Slovakia.....	98
5.4.7	Spain	100
5.4.8	Sweden	104
5.4.9	United Kingdom	107
5.4.10	United States of America	110
5.5	Latin America and the Caribbean.....	114
5.5.1	Colombia.....	114
5.5.2	Honduras.....	116
6	Results.....	119
6.1	Greatest challenges related to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves	119
6.2	Quality improvement strategies: the Exit Strategy and the Process of Excellence.....	125
6.3	Implementation and improvement of the periodic review system	129
6.4	Interlinkages with other UNESCO labels.....	133
6.5	How many UNESCO Biosphere Reserves will be needed in the world?	136

7 Synthesis and discussion	141
7.1 The big picture	141
7.2 National implementation of quality management requirements and the periodic review process	148
7.3 Effects of recent quality enhancement strategies on MAB Programme	151
7.4 Improvement of evaluation process.....	157
7.5 Interlinkages with other UNESCO labels	158
8 Conclusion.....	161
Bibliography.....	165
Annex	185