conservation of biological diversity, compatible economic use, and cultural values, through public and private partnerships, interdisciplinary research, education, and communication."

### Focal Issues

Within the mission of the U.S. Biosphere Reserve Program a wide range of conference and workshop topics are eligible. For example: a forum for Biosphere Reserve stakeholders at a single Biosphere Reserve unit or cluster of units; a regional or local vision setting workshop; or a conference for Biosphere Reserves stakeholders from throughout a region focusing on an issue or management approach of shared interest. Other ideas for conferences and workshop topics promoting the mission of Biosphere Reserves are welcome.

The U.S. Biosphere Reserve Directorate also intends to support partnership projects. Proposals are sought which strengthen cooperative relationships for enhancing the functions of Biosphere Reserves. Innovative and new approaches to conservation challenges will be given priority. Examples of eligible projects could include: assessing natural or cultural resources; building public support for conservation and sustainable development; fostering demonstrations of cooperative ecosystem management, or developing local planning mechanisms. Other ideas for partnership projects that promote the mission of Biosphere Reserves are welcome.

Feasibility studies for expanding the activities of existing Biosphere Reserves to more fully implement the regional, ecosystem-based mission of the BR program also are encouraged. However, feasibility studies for designating new Biosphere Reserve units are ineligible.

Proposals may include a request for partial staff support only if the proposal and the staff position are related to expanding the regional activities of a Biosphere Reserve or promoting a cooperative program involving multiple agencies and nongovernmental partners.

## Proposal Content

Each proposal should have a title page and a one page synopsis of the proposal activities.

A maximum of three additional pages should describe: (1) The affected Biosphere Reserve or Biosphere Reserve cluster; (2) the applicant's relationship to the Biosphere Reserve; (3) the proposed conference or partnership project; (4) how the proposed conference or project relates to past, current, and projected BR activities at the site; (5) how the proposal complies generally and specifically with the evaluation criteria; and (6) how the results of the conference or activity will be evaluated.

All proposals must also include a one page itemized budget including personnel, travel, operation, and equipment/supplies with justification. The budget page should show the status of any matching funds to the proposed activity.

A one-page map of the affected Biosphere Reserve, showing protected area(s), zone(s) of managed use, and zone of cooperation if applicable. The site of the proposed activities must be included.

The last page of the proposal should be a one-page letter of endorsement from the Biosphere Reserve manager(s). If the proposed activity would involve or benefit more than one Biosphere Reserve, one page letters of endorsement should indicate the support of the managers of the involved or affected Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere Reserve managers should endorse no more than one single proposal in each funding category this year.

# **Evaluation and Review Process**

A review panel of The U.S. Biosphere Reserve Directorate will evaluate proposals based upon the following criteria:

• Alignment of the proposal with the mission and goals of the United States Biosphere Reserve Program as defined in Strategic Plan for the U.S. Biosphere Reserve Program dated December 1994, available from the U.S. MAB Secretariat, (address below);

• Likelihood that the proposal will result in tangible progress within a year toward promoting cooperative regional, ecosystem based initiatives that integrate conservation and sustainable development at Biosphere Reserve sites;

• Demonstrated local support for the project;

• Innovation in implementing Biosphere Reserve functions;

 Potential to replicate the concept or project at other Biosphere Reserve sites;

• Extent to which grant funds will be leveraged with matching funds or support from other private or public sources;

• Demonstrated capacity of the applicant to implement the proposal;

• Endorsement from Biosphere Reserve Manager(s).

### Limitations

Grants may not be used for: feasibility studies for designating new biosphere reserves; institutional overhead; academic research; acquisition of land, buildings, or capital equipment; general support of agency functions; or political activities. All grants should produce tangible results within one year. Members of the Biosphere Reserve Directorate are not eligible to receive benefits from funds awarded through this request for proposals.

Awards will be announced by January 31, 1996. Principals will receive from the U.S. MAB Secretariat copies of all U.S. MAB/BR review evaluations of their proposals and a written notification of the directorate's decision on their proposal.

Submission of Proposals by December 1, 1995 and for further information: U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program, OES/ ETC/MAB, Department of State, Washington, DC 20522–4401, Tel: (202) 776–8318, Fax: (202) 776–8367, Attn: Biosphere Reserve Directorate.

Dated: August 22, 1995.

#### Roger E. Soles,

Executive Director, U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program, Office of Ecology and Terrestrial Conservation. [FR Doc. 95–24340 Filed 9–29–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4710–09–M

## [Public Notice No. 2255]

# Advisory Committee to the United States Section of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

The Advisory Committee to the United States Section of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) will meet on October 18, 1995 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and October 19, 1995, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Sheraton International Airport at Baltimore/Washington Airport, 7032 Elm Rd., Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting will discuss an overview of highly migratory species research, the implementation of ICCAT conservation measures by the U.S. and other countries, reports of the Committee's working groups, and other matters. The meeting will be open to the public.

The Advisory Committee will also meet October 18, 1995 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and October 20, 1995 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. These sessions will not be open to the public inasmuch as the discussion will involve classified information and discussion of that information as it relates to the United States negotiating position to be taken at the Annual Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas to be held in Madrid, Spain from November 10–17, 1995. The members of the Advisory Committee will examine various options for the