# TWINNING

of the
North-east Tobago UNESCO
Man and the Biosphere Reserve
Management Plan

## SUMMARY SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

**The UNESCO strongly recommends the strengthening of BRs through twinning which can be seen as intensified networking between two specific BRs.** Twinning facilitates cooperation between management organisations, governmental agencies, private sectors, academia, and civil society organisations with the aim of achieving concrete operational results and benefits through peer-to-peer activities. There are many, global examples for successful twinning programmes for BRs; as of 2023, the NETMABR does not have a twinning arrangement.

The TOBIMA should be clear that BRs in economically less fortunate countries compete for twinning with BRs that offer and possibly have funding for access to markets, knowledge exchange, education, cultural exchange, etc.

NETMABR has not yet much to offer to a potential twinning partner; a sales pitch needs to be developed and substantiated by actual and mutual benefits to make the NETMABR attractive.

Furthermore, the TOBIMA should consider establishing one North-South and one South-South twinning cooperation, with each fulfilling similar but also complementary functions and ideally resulting in a substantiated and successful triangular cooperation.

Establishing twinning arrangements may take several years. Many twinning related activities can be implemented without formalised arrangements and should include shared positive experiences of 'learning by doing' including, but not limited to:

Student-, vocational-, and internship exchange programmes, capacity building, research, cultural, religious, and sports visits, fairs, and business to consumer (B2C), business to business (B2B), and business to government (B2G) interaction.

## HIGH LEVEL GOAL

**NE Tobago and its future twinning partner(s) are empowered on their path to regenerative development, improved resilience and management of cultural and natural heritage through continuous socio-cultural, economic and knowledge exchange and capacity building.**

## PRIORITY NEEDS

- TOBIMA and residents of the NETMABR are equipped with the tools to build resilience, improve the status of cultural and natural heritage, and foster sustainable economic development while maintain authenticity;
- negative effects of myopia such as intolerance, stagnation, low resilience, and inadequate response to internal and external threats are counteracted;
- NE Tobago carefully opens to global partners, fostering progressive, democratic, and economic development while cherishing cultural and natural heritage.

## STRATEGIES

- Identify thematic areas and define desired results through which the NETMABR could benefit from twinning arrangements;
- position the NETMABR as an attractive twinning partner; the related attributes may vary between South-South and North-South partnerships;
- identify the most opportune moment to open the NETMABR for twinning opportunities;
- market the NETMABR as a potential twinning partner;

- identify most promising twinning partners and gradually increase collaboration from loose contacts to contractual arrangements; and
- provide resources for twinning activities.

## KEY PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- identify thematic areas of interest and desired results and determine limits of acceptable change in collaboration with TOBIMA members;
- design a convincing triangular twinning model between NETMABR, one NS-, and one SS partner;
- develop twinning marketing material and a well-designed, but very honest, portfolio that can be directly shared with potential twinning partner

Selection criteria for potential NS and SS twinning partners should include inter alia: easy and affordable travelling, presence of universities and innovative industries, cultural and educational similarities, English as a common language, high level medical facilities, similar sustainable development threats and weaknesses, and potential for import and export.

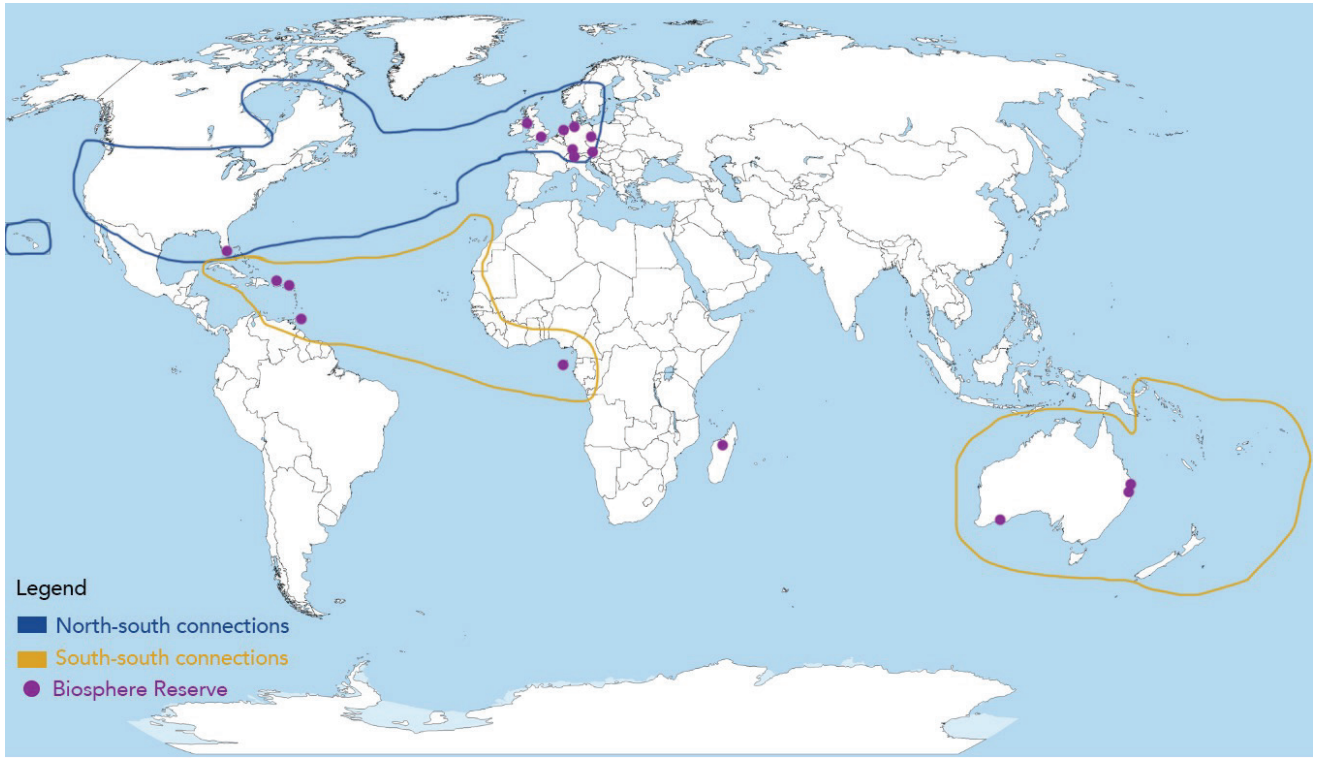



Figure: Prioritised geographical twinning areas