



PARTICIPATION REPORT
EUROMAB MEETING
ESTONIA

Presented to the Nordic Council of Ministers
May 2015

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The meeting of the EuroMAB 2015 network brought together several Biosphere Reserves of Europe and North America. At least 50% of NordMAB Council was represented.

The meeting focused on the new MAB strategy (2015-2025). In connection with the exit strategy and the preliminary results of the branding and communication strategy, the new MAB strategy will be discussed at the next session of the MAB International Coordinating Council (June 2015, UNESCO, Paris). The EuroMAB meeting also discussed the contribution of the network to the preparation of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves to be held in Lima, Peru, in March 2016. This networking opportunity enabled NordMAB once again to position itself as a Nordic leader in the global network.

PLANNING AND PRESENCE

The event took place in the Biosphere Reserve of the Western Archipelago of Estonia and took place over three days, from 20 to 22 May 2015. Nearly 150 participants attended.

The complete program can be found here: <https://www.conference-expert.eu/en/euomab-2015-haapsalu/177-event-programme>

The summary of the various workshops can be found in appendix 1.

ELEMENTS OF INTEREST

- Jean-Philippe L. Messier was co-organizer of the event. He also facilitated the working session on the NordMAB network and presented the results in plenary.
- Addition of a new Biosphere Reserve from new country to the NordMAB network: Denmark
- Manicouagan-Uapishka BR has been mandated by the NordMAB network to produce all the communication tools (creation of the logo, pamphlet and website).
- The NordMAB network agreed on the elements of the action plan 2015-2016, including important events to be attended.

APPENDIX 1

Title	Workshop synopsis	Leaders
Communication and branding	Discover how you can use the new brand and toolkit to create effective engagement plans for your own biosphere reserve. An interactive working session facilitated by Jeff and Laurie from Within People. Virginia from VF Social will run short, sharp problem solving sessions to give you best practice tips for using this powerful channel more effectively in your communications.	Laurie Bennett, Jeff Melnyk, Eve Ferguson
Biosphere Reserve Landscapes for	Speakers: Günter Köck, Austria: Biosphere reserves and the diversity of landscapes Arne Arnberger, Austria: 3 case studies on human health and	Arne Arnberger

<p>Human Health and Well-being</p>	<p>benefits in biosphere reserves</p> <p>Group work/discussion on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which biosphere reserve landscapes might be particularly restorative for humans? - Do you know already existing human health offers based on biosphere reserves landscapes? - What offers are missing? Ideas for new offers? - How to initiate and foster cooperation between BRs offering human health offers? 	
<p>Social Entrepreneurship: Designation as a driver of sustainable economic development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colin Campbell (ASC, Scotland) – ‘Towards a MAB Social Enterprise Strategy’ - Johanna MacTaggart (Lake Vänern Archipelag BR & National BR Coordinator, Sweden) – ‘ Biosphere Innovation System’ - Andy Bell (North Devon BR, England) - ‘Woodland Enterprise Zone’ - Alvaro de Torres Suárez (Spanish Government) – ‘Social Entrepreneurship and the Spanish BR Network’ - Quino Miguélez (Observatorio RB, Lanzarote) – ‘Renewable Energy in BRs’ - Estonian Social Enterprise network (Aune Lille mets) <p>The outcome of this workshop is to develop a proposal to go forward from Estonia to the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves: A New Vision for the Decade 2016-2025 in Lima</p>	<p>Colin Campbell Johanna MacTaggart</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Knowledge</p>	<p>Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) and Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve (MABR) are both situated on Vancouver Island, in British Columbia, Canada. These biosphere reserves are neighbours, and although they share similar ecological features and sustainability challenges, they have their own stories to tell about how Indigenous knowledge has guided their (re-)development. Coming together as part of EuroMAB’s Indigenous Working Group, CBT and MABR welcome you to an engaging and interactive workshop where</p>	<p>Monica Shore</p>

	<p>participants will explore the knowledge gaps and barriers that stand in the way of collaboration with Indigenous Peoples. Participants will find themselves in a safe and positive space where difficult questions can be asked and where knowledge, traditions and protocols of several of Canada's First Nations will be shared.</p> <p>Activities: The (hi)stories of CBT, MABR and the West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve. "Bringing attention to the 'C' word in UNESCO" (Culture)</p> <p>Breakout activity: different question at each table. Participants move around freely between tables and spend 5 (?) minutes at each table. Flipchart paper covers all tables. Participants record their thoughts and questions on paper.</p> <p>Come back together as larger group. Share main findings, lingering questions, thoughts on what needs to be reported back to UNESCO</p>	
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<p>COBWEB: Empowering Citizen Science in Biosphere Reserves</p>	<p>The Citizen Observatory Web project COBWEB has 13 partners from 5 European countries and is predicated on the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.</p> <p>Workshop objectives: - Introduce Citizen Science/crowdsourcing as a topic relevant for EuroMAB - Stimulate a discussion around relevance of the concept for meeting the sustainable development agenda in the context of BR's - Explain how the COBWEB project is using the WNBR to advance research in this area - Talk about, and demonstrate, the software we have developed, invite the audience to try it out and provide feedback - Stimulate discussion about how related research associated with the WNBR may be taken forward, eg, using additional EU funding.</p> <p>The COBWEB consortium would be delighted if, at the end of the workshop, there was interest within the EuroMAB community in using project outputs. But even if this did not immediately happen, it is still</p>	<p>Andreas Panitsas Chris Higgins</p>
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	<p>a good dissemination activity for us and we would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the work of EuroMAB. We will make sure that the event was informative and interesting for attendees.</p>	
<p>Participatory Approaches and Development of Local Economy in Biosphere Reserve</p>	<p>Workshop objectives: - Exchange of the methodologies and practical experiences for securing and enhancing participation of the local communities for the preparation and implementation of the management plans of the Biosphere Reserves - Exchange of the experiences of integrating Nature Conservation with the Socio-Economic Development in the Biosphere Reserves; - Introduction of the Best Practices of Promoting Green Economy in Local Level; Speakers:</p> <p>Didier Babin, MaB France: Biosphere trophies as motivation to participate in the Management of Biosphere Reserves in France.</p> <p>Catherine Cibien. MaB France: Charters for building eco-actors networks in Biosphere Reserves.</p> <p>Christian Diry, Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Austria: Business & Biodiversity- financing nature conservation via corporate social responsibility.</p> <p>Arvo Kullapere, Advisor for Biosphere Program. Environmental Board, Estonia : Sustainable use of Forest -the Engine for Green Economy in Saaremaa County;</p> <p>Kaja Lotman. Regional Manager of Hiiu, Lääne,Saare Region. Environmental Board, Estonia: Multiple Benefits of Maintenance of the Semi-natural Grasslands in West-Estonia and Islands,</p>	<p>Valdur Lahtvee, Álvaro de Torres Suárez</p>
<p>(Re)creating a network of Biosphere scientists</p>	<p>Although many scientists work within individual BRs, often (but not always) with the organisations responsible for coordinating/managing them, and some scientists have conducted comparative research across multiple BRs, a collaborative network of such scientists does not exist. Such a network could have many benefits, such as:</p>	<p>Tomas Kjellqvist, Martin Price, Lisen Schultz, Susanne Stoll-Kleemann</p>

- 1) collaborative research (see point 3), particularly aimed to have clear impacts (an increasing requirement of funding agencies);
- 2) sharing of research findings and good practice (as identified by research) across multiple BRs sharing similar issues (e.g., ecological, governance, economic) to the benefit of coordinators/managers in their day-to-day activities;
- 3) obtaining funding for research projects, particularly from the European Union, given that most programmes (e.g., Interreg, Horizon 2020) require that projects are proposed and implemented by partnerships of stakeholders;
- 4) exchanges of scientists and their students (e.g., through the EU Erasmus+ programme)..

The objectives of this workshop will be:

- 1) to identify any existing and planned scientific collaborations across BRs;
- 2) to discuss themes for collaborative research – to benefit both scientists and BR managers/coordinators, particularly in the light of identified funding opportunities;
- 3) to consider if it would be desirable to establish a formal structure to foster the network, including effective knowledge exchange, and if so, what steps are required;
- 4) to propose elements for the developing MAB Strategy and Action Plan
- 5) to consider including one or more sessions (or a theme?) at the 4th World Congress of BRs in 2016.

Speakers:

- Tomas Kjellqvist, Swedish National Commission for UNESCO, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden:

'Integrated science and co-creation' - Lisen Schultz, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sweden: 'Comparative research on governance processes and outcomes in biosphere reserves'

- Martin Price, UK MAB Committee, University of the Highlands & Islands UK + University of Bergen, Norway: 'Possible opportunities for funding collaborative research in biosphere reserves'