



A UNESCO THEMATIC NETWORK ABOUT
UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND NORDICITY
Annual meeting report 2018

Finland, October 2018

The Nord MAB co-leading team:

Kari Evensen, Nordhordland Biosphere Initiative, Norway

Päivi Halinen and Minna Tunkkari-Eskelinen, Finland

Annette Tenberg, Moen Biosphere Reserve , Denmark

BACKGROUND

The NordMAB is a sub network for Nordic cooperation, a part of the global network of Biosphere Reserves (BR), recognised by the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) of UNESCO.

In 2005, the Nordic Council of Ministers financed a study on establishment of NordMAB. The study concluded the following:

- network for people working in biosphere reserves or otherwise involved in the MAB- programme in the Nordic region is highly desirable.
- The network should be named “Nord MAB”.
- The organisation status of the network should be: “ a network of expertise on biosphere reserves in the Nordic region.”

Following those recommendations, Nord MAB had been put in place and in 2011; a first of several following annual meetings was organised:

- 2011: Lake Vänern Archipelago BR (Sweden)
- 2012: North Karelia BR (Finland)
- 2013: Manicouagan-Uapishka BR (Canada)
- 2014: Archipelago Sea BR (Finland)
- 2015: Nedre Dalälven River Landscape BR (Sweden)
- 2016: Nordhordland BR Candidate (Norway)
- 2017: Island of Moen BR (Denmark)
- 2018: Lake Päijänne Initiative (Finland)

During 2014-2016, NordMAB received network grants from the Nordic Council of Ministers, which enabled a higher degree of participation during the annual meetings and strengthened the cooperation across Nordic Biosphere Reserves. The annual meetings have had workshops designed to enhance NordMAB synergy, capacity and visibility.

In 2015, a new global strategy (2015-2025) was adopted for the MAB Programme and the following year an accompanying action plan was endorsed by the 4th World Congress for Biosphere reserves in Lima, Peru, the Lima Action Plan (2016-2015).

NORD MAB DEFINITION AS STRUCTURE

NordMAB is a thematic network within UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), with the objective of enhancing cooperation among biosphere reserves in northern parts of the world.

Nord MAB is composed of Northern BRs that share common characteristics and challenges, as well as associates and partners that are interested in those challenges. The council of NordMAB is including coordinators and experts from all the BRs in Nord MAB. The geographical borders are not set and can be handled 'case by case' when needed.

The common characteristics of Nord MAB BRs are:

- Large territories and small population
- Remote and sparsely populated regions
- Youth leaving for larger centres
- High quality but fragile natural environments
- Abundant natural resources
- Large-scale industrial projects
- Presence of first nations
- Cold climate
- Arctic, sub-arctic and boreal environments

The common challenges and themes found within the NordMAB network are:

- Conflict resolution
- Sustainable tourism
- Local food promotion / branding
- Nature conservation
- Zoning of biosphere reserves
- Sustainable industrial development
- Traditional knowledge
- Social entrepreneurship promotion
- First Nation development
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Considering the above, in 2018, NordMAB is composed of designated BRs

1. Archipelago Sea (Finland)
2. North Karelia (Finland)
3. Blekinge Archipelago (Sweden)
4. Nedre Dalälven River Landscape (Sweden)
5. East Vättern Scarp Landscape (Sweden)
6. Lake Värnern Archipelago (Sweden)
7. Kristianstads Vattenrike (Sweden)
8. Manicouagan-Uaspishka (Canada)
9. North-East Greenland (Denmark)

10. The island of Moen (Denmark)
11. West Estonian Archipelago (Estonia)
12. Wester Ross (UK)
13. Galloway and Southern Ayrshire (UK)
14. Lapland (Russia)
15. Smolensk Lakeland (Russia)
16. North Vidzeme (Latvia)

Active, but not designated BRs:

1. Vindelälven - Juhtatdahka (Sweden)
2. Voxnadalen (Sweden)
3. Nordhordland (Norway)
4. Lofoten (Norway)
5. Great Bear (Canada)
6. Lake Päijänne (Finland)

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The main outcome of the annual meeting 2018 was to offer the opportunity for experience exchange between NordMAB BRs and to contribute to strengthening the identity of the network.

A workshop about NordMABs roll as an implementer of the 2030 Agenda was included in the meeting. The workshop was introduced by three presentations:

BRs and 2030 Agenda, emphasized the role of BRs to implement the Agenda 2030: Think global, act local. Bridge the LAP and NordMAB focus themes.

- Presentation by the national MAB coordinator Johanna MacTaggart, Sweden.

The SHAPE project and how the project links to the SDGs and value of the NordMAB network Building partnerships and identify common priorities. Identify best practice and feedback to communities: learning journeys in Storytelling to build holistic and authentic products. Can tourism be sustainable?

- Presentation by Kari Evensen Natland from the Nordhordland BR candidate, Norway.

Biosphere for Baltic, good practice and cooperation of BRs around the Baltic Sea, with focus on SDG 14. An initiative of the Swedish MAB, connecting the SDGs to the project goals and the NordMAB network.

- Presentation by Anna Särnblad, project leader of Biosphere for Baltic, Marine Education Center in Malmö, Sweden.

The following group discussion pointed out how the NordMAB focus themes (shown below) are relevant for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The Nord MaB network aims to strengthen cooperation across Nordic Biosphere Reserves and create models of synergy, capacities and management that will be recognised within the UNESCO and the world Network of Biosphere Reserves. We establish and reinforce leadership of Nord MaB's Biosphere Reserves by 3 simultaneous strategies:

- 1) Enhance synergy among NordMaB
- 2) Enhance Nord MaB capacities within 3 common challenges identified by Nord MaB:
 - Fostering Northern Sense of belonging
 - Building collaborative relationships and partnerships
 - Using traditional knowledge and place-bound potentials
- 3) Enhance Nord MaB visibility and presence

How does the NordMAB focus themes align with the SDGs?

The discussion was based on the simultaneous strategies for NordMAB. The task was a selection of which goals are the most important ones for The NordMAB. The following SDGs and comments were reported back in the plenary session:

17 Partnership for the goals - Goal 17 is about people, it connects people to the biosphere; it is about building trust and long-term relations. Goal 17 is the one that builds the NordMAB network.

14 Life below water - All life begins in water, everything on land affects water and acting within the goal is necessary in relation to climate change.

15 Life on land – is of same importance as Goal 14. The BRs work with conservation of nature and culture, communication and they are building collaborative relationships and use local knowledge. To keep/enhance the social ecosystem services leads to better conditions for biodiversity.

12 Responsible Consumption and 13 Protect the planet - both are of relevance for all 3 NordMAB themes. The NordMAB BRs use traditional knowledge and place based potential, such as local food and local products; they are building collaborative relationships and create projects like 'plastic change'. BR can guide people and communities in a sustainable direction (wool project, seaweed project).

8 Good jobs and economic growth – this goal is exceptional relevant for NordMAB BRs in wider rural areas. To keep people living in the BRs and to prevent them from moving to the bigger cities.

4 Quality Education and 3 Good health - are the basis for all BRs populations and challenges especially for rural areas with decreasing population.

Closing session

The agenda for the closing session started out with a sum up from the SDG workshop. The participants agreed about a number of SDGs linked especially to the Nordic biosphere reserves and the NordMAB focus themes as shown before.

The NordMAB network has an important role to share experiences and knowledge within the Nordic regions and countries. We will have further discussions about how to implement the visualization of SDGs in the NordMAB network and how to inspire by good examples and best practice.

The NordMAB website. The participants suggest developing the NordMAB homepage by showing good examples from all BRs within the network. Topics could be how to work with the SDGs in BRs. The goal with the website is to share best practices and to use it as an active forum, as an event platform and connect it to social media.

How to secure the NordMAB partnership? The model of a 'co-leading team' is very well functioning regarding planning and organizing the annual NordMAB meetings. The annual meeting is the main activity within the network and an excellent opportunity for the hosts to share the NordMAB spirit with local stakeholders, thus strengthening the relationships with the local stakeholders. On the other hand is the NordMAB cooperation vulnerable, since it is entirely built on voluntary work by the members. So there is a common wish to strengthen the partnership.

The further development of NordMAB. For further development of the network and to make a stronger connection to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the plenum suggested seeking funding opportunities for a joint project.

The NordMAB co-leading team:

In 2016 the NordMAB Network decided that the NordMAB co-leading team should be composed of past, current, and future hosts of the NordMAB annual meeting. This co-leading team is responsible for planning of meetings, follow-ups between meetings, and reporting on network activities to MAB Intergovernmental Coordinating Council.

The co-leading team for 2018 /2019 are:

Minna Tunkkari-Eskelinen and Päivi Halinen, Lake Päijänne Biosphere Initiative, Finland

Annette Tenberg, Moen BR, Denmark

Natasha Hutchinson and Audrey Sinclair, Wester Ross BR, UK

Thank you, Kari Evensen Natland and Johanna MacTaggart for your inspiring engagement for the NordMAB Network and the job you have done through your time in the co-leading team.

Host of NordMAB 2019: Wester Ross BR in Scotland made an offer to host a NordMAB network meeting in October 2019.

In April 2019 EuroMAB will be organised in Dublin. The co-leading team will check out the possibility for a NordMAB workshop on this occasion.

ANNEX 1. Participants in Finland 2018

NordMAB Participants	
Name	Biosphere area/Organisation
Mattias Holmquist	Blekinge Arkipelago BR
Lia Rosenberg	West-Estonian Archipelago BR
Claes Hellsten	East Vättern Scarp Landscape BR
Inger Måren	Nordhordland BR Candidate
Kari Evensen Natland	Nordhordland BR Candidate
Ørjan Arntzen	Lofoten Matpark (Company)
Johanna MacTaggart	MAB Sweden
Anna Moa Westerlund-Rönnerberg	Archipelago Sea BR
Anna Särnblad Hansson	Project leader for Biosphere for Baltic
Audrey Sinclair	Wester Ross BR
Göran Blom	MAB committee
Christian Friis	Gränna
Cristina Ericson	Nedre Dalälven River Landscape BR
Annette Tenberg	Moen BR
Ole Hampenberg Andersen	Moen BR
Paul Debois	Moen BR
Jimmi Spur Olsen	Moen BR
Eva-Lisa Myntti	Vindelälven-Juhtadahka, Grans sameby
Peter Emil Kaland	Nordhordland BR candidate
Cecilia Vallinder	Vindelälven-Juhtadahka candidate
Carina Wettemark	Kristianstads Vattenrike BR
Sanna Kipinä-Salokannel	Archipelago Sea Area BR
Eva Hauge-Fontaine	Norwegian Environment Agency
Päivi Halinen	Pro Päijänne Association, Lake Päijänne BR candidate
Minna Tunkkari-Eskelinen	Specialist/ JAMK Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences & Pro Päijänne Association
Finnish Participants	
Name	Company
Ari Yrjölä	Lehmonkärki owner
Anna Pajari	Lahti University of Applied Sciences

Johannes Sipponen	Drinking Good Southern-Päijänne Association
Lea-Elina Nikkilä	Leivonmäki National Park Friends Association
Ari Seppälä	Järki Särki Entrepreneur
Harri Taskinen	Managing Director, Tavolo Bianco Oy
Tommi Lindh	Director General, Alvar Aalto Foundation
Jonas Malmberg	Architect, Alvar Aalto Foundation
Meri Lumela	Chair of the City Board City of Jyväskylä
Eila Tiainen	II Vice Chair of the City Board City of Jyväskylä
Heli Leinonkoski	Chancellor City of Jyväskylä
Juha Markko	Chairman of Pro Päijänne Association
Minna-Maaria Hiekkataipale	Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences
Janne Laitinen	Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences
Essi Säynätmäki	Student/Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences
Marika Viinikainen	Student/Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences



ANNEX 2. Workshop Programme



Dear NordMAB partners

We are proud to be hosting the NordMAB -meeting in Finland 2018. The Päijänne area is large and we want you to get at a glimpse of the area, therefore we are spending time driving by bus through the future biosphere area of the lake Päijänne along the shore of the lake from south to north. The first night we stay at **Lehmonkärki venue in Asikkala**, by the Lake Päijänne. We hear about the ongoing project "Branding Päijänne", in which "sustainable and responsible activities in the lake Päijänne area are being strengthened and promoted and preconditions to apply the UNESCO's BR status are being examined."

Next morning we'll continue our drive towards north. We drive through Päijänne national park and visit shortly Leivonmäki National Park, where we take a short walk on the duckboard and meet local NGO representative. On the boat trip over the lake Päijänne from Rutalahti village to Säynätsalo, we hear fishing and fisheries activities from Denmark and Finland. We land to Säynätsalo harbour and visit the Säynätsalo Town Hall by the world famous architect Alvar Aalto. We hear about the history, present day and future activities of the Town Hall. We also hear about the preparation of Alvar Aalto's legacy to UNESCO World Heritage listing. The day will end up to the city reception and buffet dinner at Jyväskylä Town Hall.

We shall stay **the second night at Verso hotel in the very city centre of Jyväskylä** and we shall end our meeting at the hotel Verso the 3rd October by 9.30. The first group to leave by train to Helsinki will be guided to the station. The second group shall have a little free time before departure either to Helsinki or to Turku. The third group will attend the Päijänne Seminar at Korpilahti Alkio -college.

Lake Päijänne area has been a candidate for BR network for almost ten years. We have been working to promote sustainability in the area in several projects, latest by a project "Branding Päijänne". Therefore we have combined NordMAB -meeting with Branding Päijänne -project to bring three brave NordMAB members to a panel in Päijänne Seminar the 3rd October, organised by the project. The Seminar is focused to the Finnish audience and will be held in Finnish except for the Panel.

The Program of the NordMAB -meeting at the lake Päijänne 1st-3rd October 2018

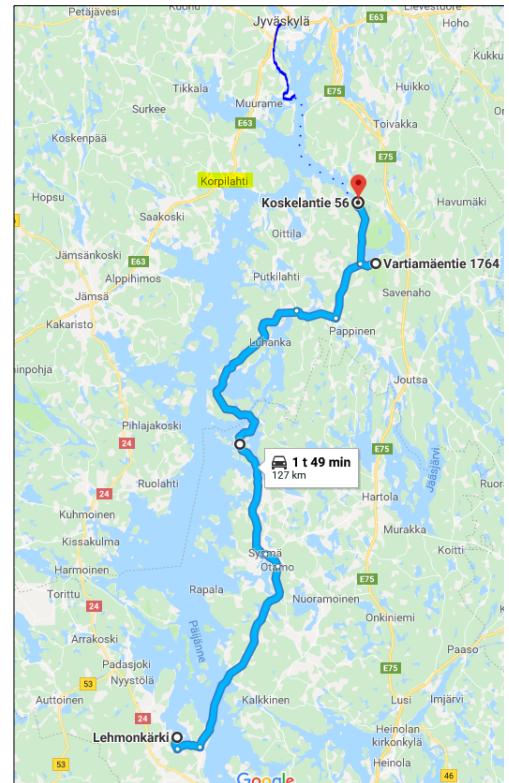
The program will start the first day afternoon by **10 minute country activity reports**. You are kindly asked to prepare the reports beforehand.

The second day morning we have our **NordMAB workshop** with important theme.

Biosphere reserves have an important role in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In short, the Agenda points out the direction of where we need to lead development on a global scale and biosphere reserves show how to do it! Inspired by good examples within our network, we here offer forum for dialogue about the relevant contribution of our NordMAB network to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to individual SDGs in particular.

Annette Tenberg has promised to be a moderator for this session and Introductions to the themes are given by Johanna Mac Taggart: *BRs and the 2030 Agenda*, Kari Evensen Natland: *The SHAPE project* and Anna Särnblad: *Biosphere for Baltic*.

Wednesday-morning we have a short meeting of how to go forward? Who will be hosting NordMAB 2019? And Closing NordMAB 2018 meeting. Farewell and trains to Helsinki and Turku.



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Schedule

Monday 1.10.2018

Time	Agenda	Presenters & other info
11:00	Arrival at Helsinki Airport and get together at Starbucks Coffee	Starbucks Coffee, arrivals hall 2B Minna Tunkkari-Eskelinen +358407657151 Päivi Halinen +35844 3111705
12:00	Bus leaves from the airport towards Lake Päijänne.	Take-away lunch in bus.
14:30	Arrival at Lehmonkärki, Asikkala	Accommodation arrangements Owners' talk: Ari Yrjölä Coffee and smoothie www.lehmonkarki.fi/InEnglish
15:00	Short presentations of activities for sustainable development in the area.	Johannes Sipponen, Tourism and Fishing in the Lake Päijänne Anna Pajari, Branding Päijänne -Project
15:30	Introduction to lake Päijänne	Päivi Halinen & Minna Tunkkari-Eskelinen
16:00	Country activity reports	10minutes/ country
17:00	Voluntary nature activity time	
19:00	Dinner	
	Option for sauna	

Tuesday 2.10.2018

Time	Agenda	Presenters & other info
7:30	Breakfast	
8:15	NordMAB meeting Workshop moderator: Annette Tenberg BRs and the 2030 Agenda: Johanna MacTaggart The SHAPE Project: Kari Evensen Natland Biosphere for Baltic: Anna Särnblad	
10:30	Bus leaves towards Jyväskylä	Introduction of the area during the bus drive: Päijänne National Park,

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		sojärvi National park and Leivonmäki National Park, about the lake.	
12:30	Leivonmäki NP, pathwalk on the mire (1,7 km, duckboard).	www.nationalparks.fi/en	
13:20	Bus to the boat in Rutalahti, local activity presentation	Lea-Elina Nikkilä, Leivonmäki national park friends association	
14:00	Boat trip by Kulkeevettenhalki from Rutalahti to Säynätsalo harbour. Lunch. (Weather conditions!)	Ari Seppälä	www.jarkisarki.fi/about
		Paul Debois	Fishing Zealand
16:30	Säynätsalo harbour, walk to the Town Hall		
16:45	Säynätsalo Town Hall/ Cultural Heritage by architect Alvar Aalto + coffee	Harri Taskinen	www.tavolobianco.com
		Jonas Malmberg, Tommi Lindh	www.alvaraalto.fi/en
17:30	Bus transportation to Jyväskylä city center	www.visitjyvaskyla.fi/en	
18:00	Accommodation in Hotel Verso	www.hotelliverso.fi/en	
18:45	Walk to the City Hall from hotel Verso	Get together at the lobby	
19:00	City Hall reception and buffet dinner	Meri Lumela Eila Tiainen http://www.jyvaskyla.fi/international	

Wednesday 3.10.2018

Time	Agenda		Presenters & other info
7:00	Breakfast		
8:10	Family business talk		Conference room "Kerkkä". Aino Pärnänen, hotel Verso
8:15	How to go forward? Host for 2019?		Conference room "Kerkkä"
9:30	Closing NordMAB 2018 meeting and Farewell		
10:00	Option A	Jyväskylä railway station and return trip to Tikkurila	Train to Tikkurila 10:15. Arrival at Tikkurila at 13:29*
10:00	Option B	Free time	Train to Tikkurila 13:13. Arrival at Tikkurila 16:29**
10:00	Option C	Päijänne Seminar in Korpilahti begins. Panel with NordMAB participants. The	Panel with NordMAB participants 11:20-12:00 Lunch

Transport information 3.10.2018.

*10:15 train leaves from Jyväskylä. Transfer at Tampere 11:54-12:02. Arrival in Tikkurila at 13:29.

**13:13 train leaves from Jyväskylä. Transfer at Tampere 14:50-15:02. Arrival in Tikkurila at 16:29.

Transfer to HEL Airport from Tikkurila; see info: https://www.vr.fi/cs/vr/en/junaliput_lentoasemalle_en

- The I trains going to the Airport leave from Tikkurila on track 4 at approximately 10 minute intervals during rush hours.
- Changing trains in Tikkurila is simple, and the trains are accessible. Take an escalator or lift to the station level, and go from there to track four and board the train.
- Travel time to the Airport from Tikkurila is 8 minutes. There are only two stations between Tikkurila and the Airport. Hiekkaharju and Leinelä.

ANNEX 3. Activity reports

1. Norway
2. Estonia
3. Finland
4. Sweden
5. United Kingdom
6. Sweden, Nedre Dalälven
7. Finland, Lake Päijänne Initiative
8. Denmark



REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018

Name of organisation: Nordhordland BR Candidate

Name of rapporteur: Kari Evensen Natland

E-mail address of rapporteur: kari@nordhordland.net

1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

Sustainable tourism

*Nordhordland is a partner of the sustainable tourism initiative: **SHAPE** (Sustainable Heritage Areas; Partnerships for Ecotourism) with other Biosphere Areas, Regional parks and World Heritage sites. The aim of the NPA-project, funded by EU, is to develop ecotourism initiatives and metodes for how authorities and businesses can develop sustainable tourism based on natural and cultural assets. The project aims to promote and help the initiatives through an e-service website.*

2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

As we have been working on the application to be designated as a biosphere area, we have done different things and hosted several meetings with different stakeholders to raise awareness and a sense of belonging to the purposed biosphere area. All eleven municipality councils have this year approved the Nordhordland application and sent it to our Government to decide further action.

We have initiaed a project called 'Young in Nordhordland Biosphere area' – a project for involving, engageand inspire young people to model their furture in Nordhordland as a part of the worldwide MAB-programme.

b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector

We have conducted several projects that involves partnership with private sector:

The local food project, working with different foodproducers for buidling up competence, marketing an branding food from the biosphere area. In 2018 Nordhordland had for the first time





a common stand for our local foodproducers on Bergen Food Festival. 11 participants.

SHAPE, as described working with the tourism industry in the area.

Campaign for Norwegian wool in Nordhordland. Raise awareness for the use and traditions of the wool. Working with the whole business chain from farmers to designers and innovators. In October 2018 we arrange the woolweek festival for the fifth time with a programme larger than ever!

c. Using traditional knowledge

Our traditional knowledge is an important issue and a keyfactor in all of our projects described above.

Research: The UNESCO Chair for MAB-programme has got funded a research-project: TRADMOD – From traditional resource use to modern industrial production: Holistic management in western Norway. The project will be following Nordhordland BR through challenges in converting to greener development.

3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence

NordMAB is presented through the SHAPE project and get visibility in newsletters from the project and also to the stakeholders involved in SHAPE.



REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018

Name of organisation: West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve

Name of rapporteur: Lia Rosenberg

E-mail address of rapporteur: lia.rosenberg@keskkonnaamet.ee

1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

(Please mention participation in workshops, projects, and initiatives that are common for NordMAB)

- New co-project Adult Learning in BRs / Nordic Learning Network. Project funded by NordPlus Adult Fund. The Leadpartner is Hiiumaa Vocational School and partners are Regional Training Center in Kuressaare (West-Estonian Archipelago BR), Litorina Folkhighschool (Blekinge Archipelago BR) and North-Vidzeme BR Support Association (North-Vidzeme BR).

The aim of the project is to establish permanent contacts and to create a new network among educational and scientific institutions in BRs around Baltic Sea. We want to define topics that could be a common interest for future adult education platform for sustainable development, which combines research and practical skills.

Expectations:

- Good practices in implementation on Sustainable Development Goals
- More partners and stronger co-operation between Nordic/Baltic countries
- Comparable data of adult education possibilities or models, which help develop the future platform and new international curricula
- More UNESCO visibility in our biosphere areas
- West-Estonian Archipelago BR is participating in co-project Biosphere for Baltic.

2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

(Please name activities within your BR/Organisation and if necessary include short descriptions that correlates to below themes)

a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

(The objective is to provide youth, to enhance their



a strong identity experience to Nordic knowledge and foster their motivation

to take part of Nordic environmental awareness raising issues, climate changes in particular).

- Our BR participated in project Biosphere Challenge. 5 schools from our archipelago took the challenge and voted for their favorite place in the biosphere area. Most important value of the project is that we could raise awareness through recognition and sharing emotions. Excellent initiative from Sweden!

b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector

(The objective is to enhance collaboration between BRs and BR Candidates across the North to build beneficial links with private sector, in order to maximize social responsibility and sustainable development in Nordic BRs)

- The year began with some changes. We updated the council of our biosphere area. The new council is broader and consists mostly of representatives of local organizations. We have 22 persons in the council, the majority of them are roof organizations, which bring together local companies, associations and societies. With such a council, we can get closer to the local people and hopefully make the biosphere program more relevant to them.

3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence

(Please mention participation in UNESCO related meetings vs non-UNESCO related meetings)

We celebrate the Biosphere day in 27th of March every year.

There is a new topic every year, which is important on current time. This year we choosed the "Impact of Climate Change on the Baltic sea". The main thesis were presented by the President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Member of Academy Tarmo Soomere. His presentation was based on studies in the Baltic Sea, in particular on the wind, wind direction and strength. Fisheries and alien species are reviewed by Henn Ojaveer, the leading scientist at the Department of University of Tartu. Senior researcher of University of Agriculture Arvo Tuvikene talked about the health and life of the sea fish. The most interesting part of his presentation was about fish communication.

The presentations were very exciting and caused interesting discussions. Researchers could share their research results directly with local people. As climate change influences the lives of our islands, what we should be prepared for? It is inter-sectorial interest, all sectors need to know about possible changes. Almost 100 participants attended the event.

Please send your report to: anrg@vordingborg.dk

THANK YOU!



REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018

Name of organisation: Archipelago Sea Biosphere Reserve

Name of rapporteur: Anna Moa Westerlund-Rönnerberg

E-mail address of rapporteur: annamoa.westerlund-ronnberg@pargas.fi

1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

- Participation in a *Branding Päijänne* seminar, informing about activities and practice in the Archipelago Sea BR, April 2018
- Participation in project *Biosphere for Baltic*
 - o Participation in meeting in Kristianstad, May 2018
 - o Participation in and hosting meeting in Korpo, October 2018
- Participation in NordMAB meeting, October 2018

2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

- *The Pike and his friends*
 - o *The Pike and his friends is a model with focus on environmental knowledge for young children. It is a collaboration between the biosphere reserve and the city of Pargas's early children's education. The Pike has toured around the day care centers in Pargas for several years now with different themes. For example: life below the surface, the food cycle and waste disposal. Earlier the visits haven't involved any external teacher, but this year we are testing a new model. A person is hired to create a programme in archipelago culture and the same person will also be touring with the Pike and his friends to the day care centers.*
- *Biosphere Reserve goes lower secondary school*
 - o *This is a model that has been practiced for several years, the BR office assists the teachers in 7th grade in a yearly class about the BR and the MAB Programme, the model also includes a trip to an island in the National Park.*
 - o *The model has been focusing on the 7th graders but this year we have also made a try to reach out to the whole school (preschool-9). Three of the schools within our BR now flag with our BR-flag. The idea is to raise awareness about the BR among the pupils. In addition, the schools in the area now have sustainable development as a focus area, therefore it was very suitable to start the flagging now.*



- *Before flagging the coordinator has attended meetings with the teachers to tell them about the BR and the MAB Programme so they truly understand why they are flagging and are able to answer questions from the children.*
- **School Boats**
 - *In the island of Nagu, the parent association has applied for money to acquire three rowing boats with outboard motors. These have been taken into use this fall and the idea is that they can be used in different subjects at school - from visual arts to chemistry, biology and domestic economics. The goal is for all pupils attending school to have basic knowledge of sea sense, how to row and how to use an outboard motor. Although Nagu is an island, there are not so many pupils who master these skills. The school boats are therefore part of preserving traditional archipelago skills.*
- **MAB concept in upper secondary school**
 - *During a course with two secondary schools of Pargas together developing voluntary bilingual courses the coordinator has been visiting and presenting the Biosphere Concept and the MAB Programme.*
 - *The coordinator has presented the Biosphere Concept and the MAB Programme to tourism students in Axxell, a school for upper secondary vocational education.*

b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector

- **Mathantverk- Artisan food**
 - *Involvement in arranging the annual open Finnish Championship in Food Craftmanship.*
- **Partnership program**
 - *We are developing a partner program, so far we have received one application, but we hurry slowly and hope to eventually get more partners.*
- **Ambassador**
 - *We have planned for a new ambassador training course that starts this fall. The course is organized in collaboration with Åbo Akademi University. The course will consist of five parts, both lectures and workshops.*
 - *We hope that in summer 2019 we will have several new eager ambassadors for our BR.*

c. Using traditional knowledge

- *Many of the above mentioned projects are using traditional knowledge – for example Mathantverk and the School Boats.*

3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence

- *Participation in the VIII Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves, Menorca, May 2018*



REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018

Name of organisation: Swedish MAB

Name of rapporteur: Johanna MacTaggart

E-mail address of rapporteur: johanna.mactaggart@biosfarprogrammet.se

1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

Biosphere for Baltic – New project

Biosphere for Baltic is a project that aims to facilitate learning and disseminate good practices from biosphere reserves in the Baltic Sea region, within and beyond the network of biosphere reserves. Also, to highlight the contribution of biosphere reserves to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14 in particular) and the 2030 Agenda. The project focuses on two themes: *Source to Sea* and *Learning and Ocean Literacy*. Both themes are of great importance to sustainable development in the Baltic Sea and for the implementation of SDG 14 – Life below water. The themes are also broad, in the sense that they cover many topics and can be interpreted widely.

During 2018, Biosphere for Baltic joins 9 biosphere reserves in two international exchange events. The first exchange event was held in Sweden in BR Kristianstads Vattenrike in May, and the second event is planned to be held in October in Archipelago Sea in Finland. Participating BRs are Kristianstads Vattenrike, Blekinge Archipelago, River Landscape of Nedre Dalälven (all in Sweden), Archipelago Sea in Finland, West Estonian Archipelago in Estonia, North Vidzeme in Latvia and Møn in Denmark, Southeast Rügen BR in Germany and Slowinski in Poland.

The project is fully funded by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and supported by Swedish MAB Programme. The project is expected to end in February 2019.

Biosphere Ambassadors

Since 2007, Biosphere ambassadors have been appointed. Initially in Lake Vänern Archipelago BR and later applied in all BRs in Sweden. The ambassadors represent individuals, enterprises and organisations and they are trained specifically in the local BR, to become spokes persons for the BR. Today, there are more than 400 biosphere ambassadors that voluntarily promote their local BR and the MAB Programme by showcasing local solutions to global challenges in practise. During 2017 and 2018, Swedish MAB collaborates with the United Nations Association of Sweden to train the biosphere ambassadors in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. **(LAP A1.1)**



2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

Biosphere Challenge #4

All people living in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve have a special opportunity to showcase good examples of sustainable ways of living in harmony with our planet Earth. The first Biosphere Challenge was initiated in 2015 by Biosphere Reserve Lake Vänern Archipelago in Sweden and Lake Vänern Museum. It is a challenge for elementary schools in UNESCO BRs. The purpose of the Biosphere Challenge is to show the effects of many people working together towards a common goal. Together we can create a change towards a more sustainable future!

The theme of the Biosphere Challenge 2018 is My Favourite Place in the Biosphere. We challenge school classes to show their favourite place in their UNESCO biosphere reserve. The location can be a place that is important to the pupils. A place where they get new energy, find peaceful quiet time, or a place where they can run around and play as much as they want. Collectively, the classes who accept the challenge will portray beautiful, amazing and cool places in biosphere reserves around the world!

The Challenge of 2018 involved schools in BRs in Estonia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Sweden. It is offered by Swedish MAB in collaboration with *UNESCOS Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP)*.

b. Building collaborative partnerships

Thematic Network for Social Entrepreneurship

Since 2011, Swedish MAB has explored opportunities for biosphere reserves to collaborate with the private sector. Sweden is the co-leader of the global working group for biosphere reserves and social entrepreneurship and has been the co-producer of workshops with this topic during EuroMAB network meetings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. Sweden also offered a post-event in conjunction to MAB-ICC in 2014, and hosted a workshop during the World Congress for biosphere reserves in Lima, Peru, 2016.

This international collaboration has resulted in the Social Entrepreneurship and Biosphere Reserve Developmental Framework and the online platform *OASIIS* (Opening Access to Sustainable Independent Income Streams: <https://www.oasis-br.org>), which is designed to encourage and promote sustainable economic development within and beyond biosphere reserves. **(LAP C4.2, C6.1 & C6.2)**

Report *Shining a Light in the Anthropocene*: <http://social-capital.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SLA-report-final-online.pdf>, highlighting the value of UNESCO designation for BRs.

c. Connecting to traditional and place based knowledge and research

Project development: Sweden highlights the role of UNESCO biosphere reserves as model regions for climate adaptation in forest landscapes



Swedish MAB is conducting a preparatory study, which aims to stimulate collaboration between European BRs for the further development of BRs as model regions for climate adaptation in the forest landscape. BRs from different climate and vegetation regions can thus provide learning about forest ecosystems and forest management in different climates. During the preparatory study, we will arrange an International Forest Symposium as a forum for cooperation, exchange and inspiration. It will focus on the role of BRs as model regions for climate adaptation in forest landscapes and how BRs contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030, specifically SDG 13. During the symposium we will discuss case studies that highlights:

- the forest landscape in the BR
- major challenges related to climate change adaptation
- local policies and guidance mechanisms related to forestry
- knowledge gaps between scientific knowledge and local practice

The preparatory study is funded by the Swedish Forest Agency.

3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence

(Please mention participation in UNESCO related meetings vs non-UNESCO related meetings)

Please send your report to: anrg@vordingborg.dk

THANK YOU!





REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018

Name of organisation: Wester Ross Biosphere

Name of rapporteur: Audrey Sinclair

E-mail address of rapporteur: asinclair61@yahoo.com

1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

WRB is a partner in the SHAPE project (Sustainable Heritage Areas: Partnerships for Ecotourism) which is part of the NPA Programme. We are working with groups from across the Nordic area to identify and find solutions to common issues in ecotourism.

2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

We are developing a programme to raise the awareness of environmental issues, both on land and coastal issues, to the young people in our 3 high schools. With so much attention and publicity being given to the effects of plastic pollution of our seas and shores, this is catching the attention of more than just a few of our young people. The project to encourage the reduction in the use of plastics is being consolidated and expanded.

b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector

Tourism is a majority industry in Wester Ross. WRB is continuing to work with tourism businesses as part of the ongoing work of the SHAPE project to investigate ways of bringing sustainability to tourism. The North Coast 500, the tourist route which has gained so much popularity in the last few years, passes through a large section of Wester Ross. This has brought about a large increase in the numbers of visitors in a short period of time. Whilst this is good for the local economy, there are issues with lack of facilities and infrastructure to deal with the large numbers. This has a knock on effect of local communities feeling resentful of the numbers of visitors affecting detrimentally their way of life. By building on existing and creating new partnerships in the private sector, WRB plans to lead on development of a Destination Management Plan for the area, to help to identify the issues and look for solutions.

c. Using traditional knowledge

Being important features of our heritage, Gaelic language, crofting and other land and sea uses feature prominently in the section on sustainable development in our newly developed 5 Year Strategic Plan. We have started to work with local museums and other bodies to promote the cultural heritage of the WRB area, although this work is at an early stage.



3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence

Having been invited to exhibit at the Arctic Circle Forum held in Edinburgh at the end of 2017, we were given a very prominent stand and were able to interact with a wide variety of attendees from across the Nordic countries. With it being a high profile event, attended by a number of Ministers from the Scottish Government, we were able to engage a few in dialogue about the importance of biospheres.

In light of the recently announced plans by the Scottish Government to develop a Scottish Arctic Strategy, Glasgow Caledonian University and the Environmental Research Institute at the University of the Highlands and Islands have been commissioned to deliver a mapping report outlining Scotland's current links with the Arctic region. Wester Ross Biosphere was invited to a stakeholder meeting, along with representatives of academia, civil society, business and government to contribute our knowledge and expertise to this process and to influence future government policy.

On a local level, reporting back on WRB's attendance at the annual NordMAB meeting enhances the profile of NordMAB within the Wester Ross Biosphere area.



REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018

Name of organisation: Biosphere Reserve Nedre Dalälven River Landscape

Name of rapporteur: Cristina Ericson

E-mail address of rapporteur: Cristina@nedredalalven.se

1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

(Please mention participation in workshops, projects, and initiatives that are common for NordMAB)

We have taken part in the NordMAB each year and was Organizer 2015.

We participate in the project Biosphere for Baltic.

2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

(Please name activities within your BR/Organisation and if necessary include short descriptions that correlates to below themes)

a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

(The objective is to provide a strong identity experience to Nordic youth, to enhance their knowledge and foster their motivation to take part of Nordic environmental awareness raising issues, climate changes in particular).

Our youth coach participated in MAB Youth Forum 2017.

b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector

(The objective is to enhance collaboration between BRs and BR Candidates across the North to build beneficial links with private sector, in order to maximize social responsibility and sustainable development in Nordic BRs)

We are working with our networks of sustainable tourism, water and fish management and open landscape. The last is to create contacts between landowners, nature conservation contractors and animal owners.

c. Using traditional knowledge

(The objective is to connect with indigenous communities in the North through sharing of their traditional knowledge and to strengthen models of sustainable development, environmental and social management strategies and policies)

Not recent.





3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence

(Please mention participation in UNESCO related meetings vs non-UNESCO related meetings)

No action.

Please send your report to: anrg@vordingborg.dk

THANK YOU!



REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018

Name of organisation: Lake Päijänne BR Candidate/

Name of rapporteur: Päivi Halinen and Minna Tunkkari-Eskelinen/Pro Päijänne Association

E-mail address of rapporteur: paivi.halinen@gmail.com; minna.tunkkari-eskelinen@jamk.fi

1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

Päijänne BR Candidate has arranged together with JAMK University of applied sciences and the city of Jyväskylä, NordMAB partner meeting in October 2018. Connected to NordMAB meeting also participation to panel discussion in Päijänne Seminar was arranged. Members of Swedish and Danish biospheres attended the panel discussion to support the preparation of Biosphere establishment at Päijänne area.

2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

(The objective is to provide a strong identity experience to Nordic youth, to enhance their knowledge and foster their motivation to take part of Nordic environmental awareness raising issues, climate changes in particular).

b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector

Muurame municipality and Pro Päijänne Association had a common project by 31.12.2017, where the benefits of biosphere status to the Muurame municipality tourism development were examined. The biosphere concept was introduced to over 250 stakeholders, enterprises, municipalities, NGOs and project representatives. Three municipalities, Muurame, Joutsa and Toivakka made municipality board level decision to promote the application of the biosphere status.

Pro Päijänne Association has been supporting Branding Päijänne project (administered by JAMK University of applied sciences) during the year 2018: The concept and the Branding Päijänne project were introduced to and discussed with the representatives of the ministry of environment and the ministry of culture and education in the beginning of May 2018. Project has arranged workshops and discussions about the concept with almost 100 attendees.

PP Association and Branding Päijänne project organized UNESCO's coordinator (Meriem Bouamrane) visit at the Päijänne area mid May 2018.

Meriem Bouamrane met over and farmers union to



50 stakeholders from forest owners municipality, and regional

administration representatives, enterprises, university researchers and people from universities of applied sciences.

The BR Concept has been introduced during two Päijänne cruises to Journalist's Association and Green party representatives in August-September 2018.

c. Using traditional knowledge

The BR concept was presented in the yearly meeting of Cultural heritage specialists in environmental administration in the ministry of environment 18th of October 2018. To demonstrate the cooperation between NordMAB members, SHAPE initiative was introduced as an example of bringing up traditional knowledge and to strengthen models of sustainable development.

3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence

Meriem Bouamrane from UNESCO visited lake Päijänne area mid May 2018 and met over 50 stakeholders from forest owners and farmers union to municipality, and regional administration representatives, enterprises, university researchers and people from universities of applied sciences. The visit was visible in media.

BR Concept has been presented during Päijänne cruises to Journalist's Association and Green party representatives in August-September 2018. The presentation was published in a newspaper "The Future of the Countryside" (the national voice of the Farmers' and Forest owners' Union). Biosphere concept and the Branding Päijänne Project were introduced and discussed with municipality mayors of Central Finland Province/Region, 18.9.2018.

NordMAB network visited lake Päijänne area 1.-3.10.2018. Swedish and Danish members participated in panel discussion in Päijänne seminar giving their support and their expertise in to the use of the area. The occasion and the interview of the panelists was published in newspaper "The Future of the Countryside" (the national voice of the Farmers' and Forest owners' Union). Almost 100 stakeholders attended the Päijänne -seminar.

Please send your report to: anrg@vordingborg.dk

THANK YOU!



REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK

OCTOBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2018

Name of organisation: The Moen Biosphere Reserve

Name of rapporteur: Annette Tenberg

E-mail address of rapporteur: anrg@vordingborg.dk

1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

(Please mention participation in workshops, projects, and initiatives that are common for NordMAB)

The Moen BR is part of the co-leading team of NordMAB and has participated in the organisation of the NordMAB meeting in Finland 2018.

2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

(Please name activities within your BR/Organisation and if necessary include short descriptions that correlates to below themes)

The Moen BR is participating in Biosphere for Baltic project.

The Moen BR has created a partnership with the Kristianstads Vattenrike in Sweden. The partners have organised study trips to each other in 2018.

a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

(The objective is to provide a strong identity experience to Nordic youth, to enhance their knowledge and foster their motivation to take part of Nordic environmental awareness raising issues, climate changes in particular).

This example is not only focusing on the Northern Sense of belonging but also globally relevant. Strong identity experience enhance knowledge and foster motivation: One of the focus themes in the Moen BR is 'bees', both wild bees and honeybees. A third part of all crops is pollinated by bees. Life on earth will hardly be able to survive without them. But the number of wild bees is decreasing globally and in Denmark too. The Moen BR has initiated cooperation with a number of Danish researchers to generate knowledge especially about the wild bees state and wellbeing. We cooperate with beekeepers and farmers and involve schools and people.

b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector

(The objective is to enhance collaboration between BRs and BR Candidates across the North to build beneficial links with private sector, in order to maximize social responsibility and sustainable development in Nordic BRs)

Within the Moen BR:

In 2018 we have been built up a local network of volunteer ambassadors and a partner network of enterprises. We have organized to thematic meetings: one about 'the bees' and one about 'Dark Sky'. The BR has started cooperation with national researchers about mapping the wild bees in the MoenBR. The MoenBR had in 2018 a number of cooperation with students from different universities and different projects, such as biologists, designer, architects, anthropologists and tourism researchers. We have built up cooperation with the Stevns world heritage team.

Within the NordMAB network:

The high school in Vordingborg , is working on a project application under the Nord Plus Junior program and invited the following partners: Österänggymnasiet, Kristiansstad, Sweden and Saaremaa Co-educational Gymnasium, Estonia The goal: Networking between teachers and students about implementing of SDG No. 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) in education. The schools fostered this idea as a contribution to the Baltic Sea and the BR's of their region.

c. Using traditional knowledge

(The objective is to connect with indigenous communities in the North through sharing of their traditional knowledge and to strengthen models of sustainable development, environmental and social management strategies and policies)

Sharing traditional knowledge to strengthen models of sustainable development: Eelgrass (*zostera marina*) is traditionally collected and used on Moen. In 1917 Kalvehave Tang Export, a local industrial enterprise, was exporting eelgrass for insulation of buildings or filler of mattresses all over Europe. The local farmers collected the seaweed on the beaches and dried it on their fields.

Today seaweed is having a sustainable renaissance. Insulation bats of seaweed from Moen, produced by the Danish enterprise Zostera.dk , received the first Danish 'cradle to cradle' certificate on 'gold' level. Seaweed isolation has the same insulation value as insulation of mineral wool. It has almost infinite durability and can be recycled in the production of new insulation mats. Seaweed mats are easy to handle and sustainable on several parameters:

- Renewable materials
- No harmful substances
- 100% recyclable
- Circular economy
- Low energy consumption
- Does not generate wastewater
- Meets a number of demands for social responsibility

3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence

(Please mention participation in UNESCO related meetings vs non-UNESCO related meetings)

The MoenBR is representing both the MAB in general and the NordMaB during the yearly UNESCO meetings in Denmark.

On local level we celebrate a number of events, which now focus on the MoenBR as well:

- The traditional herring market, where the Moen BR is focusing on the Baltic Sea as well as to the species belonging to it.
- The apple event, where the MoenBR is focusing on the 'wild bees' and the meaning of pollination.



NordMAB in Finland 2018.