

**Minutes of a meeting of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group (UBIOM SPG) held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, at 14:00 in the King Orry Room, Government Offices, Douglas**

**Present:**

Hon Alfred Cannan MHK	Chief Minister - Chair	AC
Hon Clare Barber MHK	Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture	CB
Dr Ken Milne	Director of Environment, DEFA	KM
Dr Richard Selman	Head of Ecosystem Policy, DEFA	RS
Miss Jo Overty	Biosphere Project Officer, DEFA	JO
Miss Breeshey Kermode	Biosphere Project Assistant, DEFA (minutes)	BK
Mr Leigh Morris	CEO, Manx Wildlife Trust	LM
Dr Breesha Maddrell	Director, Culture Vannin	BM
Mrs Sarah Comish	General Secretary, Manx National Farmers' Union	SC
Mr Ean Parsons	President, MNFU	EP
Mr Bill Dale BEM	Founder, Beach Buddies Isle of Man	BD
Mrs Angela Byrne	Head of Visit Isle of Man	AB
Mrs Marlene Maska	Chair, Isle of Man Arts Council	MM
Ms Jennifer Houghton	Chair, Institute of Directors IoM	JH
Miss Jo Callister	Advisory Teacher for Manx Curriculum and Climate Change, DESC	JC
Mrs Ieda Yell	ESG Sub-Committee Chair, Institute of Directors IOM	IY
Ms Rose Dahlan	Change/Engagement Manager, Climate Change Transformation Team	RD
Mr Chris Martin	Head of Operations, The Children's Centre	CM

**Apologies**

Manx National Heritage  
 Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group  
 Isle of Man Municipal Society

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1/22/1</b></p>	<p><b>Chief Minister's welcome and opening remarks</b></p> <p>AC said it was good to be chairing his first meeting of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man (UBIOM) Stakeholder Partnership Group.</p> <p>He said sustainability had never been higher on the agenda, whether that be taking the decisions that affect our very existence in the form of climate change and threats to biodiversity, or cherishing what we have that makes life in the Island unique and special. Our UNESCO Biosphere status identifies the Isle of Man as somewhere with a conscience that cares about a sustainable future and acts to ensure one. It connects us with the issues that challenge us, prompting interest, care and action. It benefits us economically, environmentally and as a community.</p> <p>2021 was a significant year for UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man. As a Biosphere, we must fulfil the global programme's three overarching functions of sustainable development, learning and conservation. But Biospheres are encouraged to deliver their own local imperatives, too, and</p>

	<p>June 2021 saw us publish our aims and ambitions in the form of a vision and strategy, 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future'. This strategy outlines how we can all get involved with, and benefit from, being Biosphere citizens. The attractive document, and the accompanying much improved website, give those looking in on the Isle of Man a flavour of how a modern, vibrant Biosphere delivers for its people and the planet.</p> <p>Although some work was inevitably thwarted by Covid, 2021 also saw many positive activities and initiatives, not least the wonderful Ellyn exhibition and a pilot workshop series to help businesses adopt sustainable practices.</p> <p>AC said the year ahead was an exciting one, as we embed our strategy. We have our Biosphere Bee Community Picnic; our schools will explore our Biosphere status during a dedicated week; we have two arts-related projects being developed and we have many other plans. Delivering a successful Biosphere is, of course, about much more than the projects the officers launch and nurture.</p> <p>AC said it was good to see members of this group launching their own initiatives and amplifying the Biosphere messaging and encouraged members to continue to be ambassadors for, and drive forward, our Biosphere's aims.</p>	
1/22/2	<p><b>Apologies</b> Recorded above.</p>	
1/22/3	<p><b>Conflicts of interest with items on the agenda</b> None recorded.</p>	
1/22/4	<p><b>Minutes of meeting on 14th July 2021 for approval</b> Three minor typing errors noted and amended. Minutes approved.</p>	
1/22/5	<p><b>Matters arising not featured elsewhere on agenda</b> None recorded.</p>	
1/22/6	<p><b>Progress report – paper and verbal update by Jo Overty, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man</b></p> <p>JO gave a detailed progress update from the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man team on the following headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UBIOM vision and strategy Working Together for a Sustainable Future</li> <li>• UNESCO attendance/involvement</li> <li>• Staffing</li> <li>• Budget for 2021/22</li> <li>• Five Es current/planned project updates in: Economy, Education, Engagement, Enjoyment, Environment.</li> <li>• Awards</li> <li>• Business</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Culture/arts</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>	

- Events
- House of Keys candidate sessions
- Lecture
- Nature
- Nicole Stott book
- Partners
- Refill Isle of Man
- Rubbish Group
- Talks
- Tourism.

The full paper was circulated.

1/22/7

**Technical Sub Group – paper and verbal update by Gail Corrin, Technical Sub Group member**

In February 2021, SPG agreed to the creation of a Technical Sub Group of UBIOM to oversee progress up to the periodic review that will be undertaken by the Man and the Biosphere Programme in 2026.

Volunteers from SPG were sought and the group comprises:

Gail Corrin, University College Isle of Man  
 Leigh Morris, Manx Wildlife Trust  
 Bill Dale BEM, Beach Buddies Isle of Man  
 Peter Reid and Mark Waterhouse, IoD Isle of Man (who may attend on an interchangeable basis).

The sub group has created a draft framework to work to which is the subject of today's verbal update/discussion.

It is important to note that the sub group will not be conducting an audit of UBIOM but providing an oversight framework for the lead up to reaccreditation.

The framework was created drawing from Biosphere global pillars, with added governance. It is mapped to criteria from UBIOM's strategy (the five Es). The framework takes a formative approach and will be conducted biannually from 2022 to 2026 by the sub group. Questionnaires, interviews, artefacts and 'audits' will provide the required information for the framework. 'Scoring' is largely subjective and included to give indication of change; what aspects are improving, require attention, etc. Reviewing 'changes' to and within the Biosphere is a key suite of questions in the Periodic review. Governance has been added as a 'pillar' to assist in our understanding of what are the most effective ways to manage the Biosphere collaboratively and with integrity and success while recognising limited funding/resources.

This is still a draft and may be subject to change.

JC said she will link up with GC to discuss UNESCO schools' week and the sub group.

<p>1/22/8</p>	<p>JO noted that we are seizing every available opportunity we can as a Biosphere and we are not wedded to what we said five years ago in the nomination papers.</p> <p>The room agreed that they were happy with the proposed framework and for the sub group to continue with the workstream and report back to the next SPG with next steps.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Technical Sub Group to get together again and finalise the next steps, bringing an action to the next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Establishment of a Nature Recovery Network – paper by Dr Richard Selman, Head of Ecosystem Policy, DEFA, and Leigh Morris, CEO, Manx Wildlife Trust</b></p> <p>DEFA and MWT have agreed needs and a basic design regarding a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) website, with different designations/land management approaches adding layers and area into our NRN.</p> <p>DEFA have assessed what fits into the Convention on Biological Diversity ‘Other Effective Conservation Measures’ (OECMs).</p> <p>MWT has been mapping the baseline areas (designated sites and OECMs). A full list of all land types/designations for the baseline needs to be agreed but a provisional figure of 10, 567ha has been produced by MWT, which is 18.5% of the land area. This is subject to change and requires further verification so should not be published as a figure. Challenges so far have included getting the necessary access and permissions for the most up-to-date shape files, GIS integration issues and addressing overlaps.</p> <p>This figure includes all ASSIs, registered heath, MWT nature reserves, wildlife sites and the Point of Ayre Area of Species Protection for Birds. MWT awaits shape files for: statutory bird sanctuaries (though mostly overlapped), registered tree areas and national glens, MNH land (however, much is overlapped) and therefore the baseline figure will increase. New micro-forests will be considered.</p> <p>It does not include important bird areas delineated by the RSPB and JNCC or non-heath DEFA hill land (not currently managed or protected for nature, though an agri-environment scheme relating to environmental benefits is under development). The ambition is that farmland judged to be ‘good enough’ in terms of nature friendly farming will be added to the NRN.</p> <p>DEFA have noted the webpage development need (GTS services likely to be necessary) at their internal digital projects committee and agreed that this can be raised with GTS.</p> <p>A further discussion with GTS is then necessary to determine whether it has the resource to generate the webpage and link it to the Biosphere website within a reasonable time schedule. The benefits of a GTS product will be that it has expertise in generating such products on ArGIS, which is utilised</p>	<p><b>UBIOM Technical Sub Group</b></p>
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<p>1/22/9</p>	<p>across Government, the product would be updated with Government mapping (eg. updated base maps) it might be integrated with other Government layers, and can be maintained without recourse to outside contractors for regular edits. RS noted that GTS has responded to initial communications and is discussing how to take this forward.</p> <p>LM added that a NRN is being adopted across the UK and The Wildlife Trusts are supportive of this. He added that David Bellamy has been working with DEFA and some map layers have been added online with existing nature sites. The baseline is there, but an App should be designed for the addition and definition of sites and the creation of summarising data for monitoring. Work will continue to move this forward in 2022.</p> <p><b>ACTION: DEFA and MWT to continue to develop the Nature Recovery Network and report progress to the July 2022 SPG meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Youth involvement – paper and discussion by Jo Overty</b></p> <p>Youth involvement is important to the UNESCO Biosphere 'Man and the Biosphere' Programme. The UN formally defines youth as those aged 15 to 24, although MAB Programme events have invited participation from those aged 18 to 35.</p> <p>The MAB Programme periodic review Biospheres undergo every 10 years asks: <i>How were young people involved in the organization's and community decision-making processes? How were their interests and needs considered within the biosphere reserve? What are the incentives or programs in place to encourage their participation?</i></p> <p>JO gave a background of previous efforts and workstreams in the area of youth and highlighted challenges that were presented. For full details of this background refer to the paper circulated.</p> <p>It was proposed a young person be recruited to the Stakeholder Partnership Group, with the terms of reference and wording of advertisement to be brought to the July 2022 SPG.</p> <p>There was discussion around alternative options and why they were impractical. It was noted that the UNESCO schools' week in June 2022 may help to engage young people with Biosphere.</p> <p>There was a request to involve young farmers, as they do a lot of community engagement and they are also Biosphere Partners.</p> <p>In support, it was also noted that there is a lot of reach for young people studying at higher education level at UCM with activities. 'Intern' is a key word: Isle of Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin have had successful interns who both delivered Biosphere projects.</p>	<p><b>DEFA/ MWT</b></p>
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<p>1/22/10</p>	<p>It was suggested that if there was a will in schools to have a 'Biosphere club' and feed back in to the SPG, this could be managed within schools and young persons' organisations. It was stated that most schools have some kind of club in regard to the environment and all schools are Biosphere partners.</p> <p>AC concluded that there appears to be plenty of support for the proposal, so the group should appoint a youth member to the SPG</p> <p><b>ACTION: Advertise for and appoint a youth member of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group, bringing draft TORs and advertisement to the July 2022 meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Developing Awareness on Climate Change for Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) - paper from Ieda Yell, Institute of Directors Isle of Man</b></p> <p>The Institute of Directors (IoD) is proposing to develop a series of events, in partnership with Government and businesses, to promote climate change awareness for SMEs. This initiative is in line with other European climate change hub initiatives dedicated to SMEs.</p> <p>In 2021, the Isle of Man Institute of Directors created an ESG sub-committee, aiming at promoting best practices and educating companies' directors about sustainability in business and climate change risks and opportunities. In 2021, the IoD organised three successful events, two online (with international experts and business leaders as panellists) and the third live, at the Manx Museum. In 2022 the IoD plans to continue to promote events which contribute to promote sustainable development, engagement and education on climate change and biodiversity, and is planning the following events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 30/01/2022: a joint event between the IoD and PlasticBusters</li> <li>2. Technical visits to Swagelok (spring) and Zurich International (second half of 2022) showcasing technology and climate change mitigation actions and products which contribute to decarbonise energy production and consumption.</li> <li>3. A follow up course/seminar on climate change and directors' duties aimed at financial companies (date to be determined, second half of 2022), possibly in partnership with the World Economic Forum Chapter Zero.</li> <li>4. A Biosphere Bee Community Picnic in summer, date to be determined.</li> </ol> <p>JH stated it is important that SMEs have support surrounding green issues and how to implement sustainable practice.</p> <p>IGY added that the Biosphere partnership helps to promote the Island and relocate more directors here.</p> <p>IGY said the IoD would like support from the Biosphere team to promote the above mentioned events with the Biosphere Partners.</p>	<p>UBIOM</p>
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<p><b>1/22/11</b></p>	<p><b>ACTION: IoD to host sustainability events with support and promotion by UBIOM.</b></p> <p><b>Man and the Biosphere Programme 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary online exhibition - verbal update by Jo Overty</b></p> <p>The MAB Programme reached its 50th anniversary in 2021. Due to the disruption caused by Covid-19, the celebrations will continue into 2022. One 50th anniversary activity is an online exhibition showcasing Biospheres' work in the form of narrative, images and podcasts.</p> <p><a href="https://www.unesco.org/mab/50anniversary/en">https://www.unesco.org/mab/50anniversary/en</a></p> <p>To be considered for inclusion, Biospheres were invited to identify a species, its habitat/location and the work being done to understand and conserve it, plus possible interviewees, and submit this to the MAB Programme in the form of a one-page submission.</p> <p>Working on a tight deadline, UBIOM submitted a proposal that the exhibition feature the Calf of Man, a marine nature reserve and Biosphere core area, which is owned by Manx National Heritage, and the work being done to conserve/study the Manx shearwater and seals.</p> <p>It is hoped UBIOM will hear back shortly as to whether we have been successful and will involve all relevant parties in gathering the narrative and images and scripting and creating the podcast if we are chosen. Manx Radio broadcaster Howard Caine has agreed to prepare the podcast if we are selected.</p>	<p><b>UBIOM/ IoD</b></p>
<p><b>1/22/12</b></p>	<p><b>Biosphere Artist in Residence – verbal update by Leigh Morris</b></p> <p>Manx Wildlife Trust is recruiting a Biosphere Artist in Residence to connect a variety of audiences to nature in different ways. LM had spoken to JO who was supportive of the proposal and Isle of Man Arts Council (IOMAC) is funding the initiative. The brief the applicants have been given is very broad with a view to seeing how this is best interpreted. The artist in residence must run five separate events that will attract different groups and walks of life to connect with nature through art. JO and IOMAC will be involved in interviews.</p>	
<p><b>1/22/13</b></p>	<p><b>ACTION: To appoint a Biosphere Artist in Residence who will deliver community events engaging arts and nature in our Biosphere</b></p> <p><b>What's The Sea To Me? – verbal update by Jo Overty</b></p> <p>Artreach Studios in Peel (a UNESCO Biosphere partner) approached UBIOM with a proposal for a joint art/science/education project celebrating the undersea world. Its new studio is in Peel, close to the harbour. The studio has a good reputation for workshop and exhibition delivery, with the curators being well-respected artists in their own right, with good networks within the artistic community.</p>	<p><b>MWT</b></p>

A meeting of interested parties, including Biosphere/DEFA officers and Culture Vannin and Manx Wildlife Trust, agreed to develop a multi-faceted project involving art, science and education, connecting the community with the value of the sea in terms of climate change, economy, health, etc but also exploring its beauty and magic.

Artreach Studios has been successful in obtaining initial funding from Culture Vannin to research and develop the project and interested bodies have been invited to answer questions re the shape and scope of the project.

It is ideal timing as DEFA blue carbon initiative is getting under way in 2022. The Isle of Man has 10 Marine Nature Reserves. Almost nine tenths of the Biosphere is sea.

It is anticipated that the project would be an ideal UBIOM 'Five Es' project for 2022 and beyond.

**1/22/14**

**Standing item: Research – verbal updates**

JO – Emma Sayle, a Masters student at UCM studying Business Sustainability, and doing a placement with UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, is surveying businesses and creating an online sustainability toolkit to make widely available for any business or organisation that wishes to utilise it.

LM – September last year saw the first out facing public report from Manx Wildlife Trust. Moving forward, there will be more of a focus internally on research and a view to create more published papers from the Trust. The Trust has drafted a Calf of Man research strategy for and alongside Manx National Heritage.

LM also connected with a social scientist at a Net Zero event in Douglas, where discussions around involving young people with research were had.

GC – UCM's Research Festival continues to focus on sustainability as a theme and the festival will go ahead again this year on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022.

UCM Talks: Dr Matt Coleman, a Bangor University fisheries scientist based at DEFA, is delivering a talk on how data is collected and used to inform sustainable lobster fisheries management in our Biosphere. This talk will take place online on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

UCM has signed a research agreement with the University of Chester, which looks to place PhD students on the Island with supervision from UCM.

SB – The survey of LiDAR data from the Calf and Meayll peninsula successfully identified around 350 archaeological sites in the area, mostly consisting of subtle earthworks ('lumps and bumps'), which will be incorporated into the Isle of Man Historic Environment Record. The process has successfully demonstrated the value of the LiDAR data, which covers the whole of the Isle of Man, and opens the opportunity for further data analysis, particularly of upland and marginal agricultural areas, which form the greatest, and least well-known and understood, repository of archaeological sites on the Island.



Update on the underwater survey mentioned in February 2021 point 2 - Bangor University has carried out an underwater multi-beam sonar survey of 80 wrecks between Peel and Anglesey to establish whether the technology would reveal any information. The results are very encouraging – one image shows a so far unidentified shipwreck off the Calf of Man lying on the seabed, surrounded by the hollows made by depth charges in World War II. Identification of the wrecks is ongoing and the results will be incorporated into the Isle of Man Historic Environment Record in 2023/24.

MNH is also exploring possibilities to work with the Isle of Man Sub Aqua Club and the University of Essex to produce a photogrammetric survey of the wreck site of *HMS Racehorse* off Langness. It is hoped that on-Island skills acquired during the project will then be utilised for further future underwater photogrammetric survey work on other cultural *and* natural heritage sites in Manx waters, providing detailed information to aid management of these sites.

In February 2020, trustees authorised expenditure up to £6,000 to obtain high resolution multi-beam data from sea bed sites, including wrecks in Manx territorial waters, in collaboration with Dr Michael Roberts, Centre for Applied Marine Sciences, University of Bangor. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, survey got underway in August, rather than in April as planned. A list of 17 wreck sites within Manx territorial waters was provided to Dr Roberts as prioritised targets for survey. 80 wrecks were surveyed between Peel and Anglesey. The raw data is being processed and models produced, and we expect to have this processed data by the end of November 2020. Dr Roberts reports that the early indications are that the results are generally very good and that he has been able to achieve the survey of selected Manx wrecks without the need of the £6000.00 budget allocated from reserves. Once the data from the survey is received and assessed, MNH will liaise with Dr Roberts about potential future projects.

1/22/15

### **Other updates – round the table**

MM – recommended UBIOM’s webinar in February 2022 on built heritage and added that she had attended a webinar at the House of Manannan regarding sustainability and other uses for upgrading and retrofitting existing buildings regarding materials like wool which gave a good insight to future sustainable solutions. Isle of Man Arts Council’s joint strategy with Culture Vannin is being updated and the organisations have found in the last two years there are lots of opportunities to engage in greener initiatives jointly.

BM – Culture Vannin is finalising the second half of the Arts and Culture Development Strategy. It is also finalising with the Department of Education, Sport and Culture a 10-year Manx Language Strategy, with a focus on lifelong learning.

Culture Vannin is releasing £40,000 in grants to celebrate 40 years of the organisation and the remit is wide. The deadline to apply is 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The scheme is running in conjunction with the normal funding.

The Conrhenny Biosphere shelter has been approved by Treasury.

	<p>Culture Vannin has found there to be an increased number of visiting journalists, researchers, writers, students and a general international interest in the Manx language.</p> <p>RD – the Climate Change Team has launched a public consultation which will be shared with the group after this meeting for wider reach. The consultation closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. She thanked SPG for its support at the COP26 events/initiatives that were held on-Island.</p> <p>JC – UNESCO Biosphere schools’ week is due to go ahead as planned the week before national week (27<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July) and there have been successful meetings with the Probation Service regarding the use of the public garden in St John’s, which is tended by the service. Plots in the garden will be offered to schools for the week, along with various other activities all available from a ‘menu’ on the Eco-Schools website. JC and BK will continue to plan the week.</p> <p>JO - James Bridge, Secretary-General of the UK’s National Commission for UNESCO may attend as an official guest of Tynwald Day provided there are no further Covid-19 restrictions.</p>	
<b>1/22/16</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b> Nothing raised.</p>	
<b>1/22/17</b>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>The date/location of the next meeting of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group will be:</p> <p>Wednesday 13th July 2022, 2pm to 4pm, King Orry Room, Government Offices, Douglas.</p> <p>A confirmation email will be sent out immediately after this meeting.</p>	

Note: minutes will appear on [www.biosphere.im](http://www.biosphere.im) once agreed

**Approval:**

Hon Alfred Cannan MHK, Chief Minister and Chair of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man

Signature:

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.