



**UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man
Stakeholder Partnership Group meeting
10th July 2023, 11am to 1pm**

**Minutes of a meeting of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder
Partnership Group (UBIOM SPG) held on in the King Orry Room, Government Offices,
Douglas**

Present:

Hon Clare Barber MHK	Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture (Chair)	CB
Mr Steven Stanley	Interim CEO, DEFA	SS
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 Peter Reid	Institute of Directors Isle of Man	PR
Mr Martyn Cain	Arts Development Officer, Isle of Man Arts Council	MC
Mr Paul Fletcher	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	PF
Mr Adrian Moore	Business Development Manager, Isle of Man Food and Drink	AM
Ms Fenella Logan	Isle of Man Municipal Association	FL
Ms Phoebe Harwood	Marketing Manager, Locate Isle of Man	PH
Mr Chris Kneale	Manx National Farmers' Union	CK
Mr Steve Blackford	Head of Properties, Manx National Heritage	SB
Mr Leigh Morris	CEO, Manx Wildlife Trust	LM
Miss Jade Foster	Engagement Manager, Climate Change Transformation Team	JF
Mrs Muriel Garland	The Green Centre	MG
Ms Gail Corrin	Higher Education Manager, University College Isle of Man	GC
Ms Angela Byrne	Head, Visit Isle of Man	AB
Ms Ciara Sowerby	Youth Representative	CS
Ms Georgia Untisz	Youth Representative	GU
Mr Liam Smyth	UNESCO Project Implementation Manager – Local to Global	LS

Apologies:

Chief Minister (chair)
Culture Vannin

Item		Action
2/23/1	<p>Chief Minister’s welcome and opening remarks Opening remarks were not read in the absence of the Chair. CB, vice chair of UBIOM chaired the meeting in place of the Chief Minister.</p>	
2/23/2	<p>Apologies Recorded above.</p>	
2/23/3	<p>Conflicts of interest with items on the agenda None recorded.</p>	
2/23/4	<p>Minutes of meeting for approval Minutes approved and signed off.</p>	
2/23/5	<p>Rolling action point list CB read through the rolling action point list and noted the progress on each item. This is available as a full document on request.</p>	
2/23/6	<p>UK National Commission for UNESCO and Local to Global project – Liam Smyth, Project Implementation Manager, UKNC, via Teams</p> <p>LS thanked the room for inviting him to the meeting and shared a presentation. For the first time, Local to Global will convene UNESCO site coordinators and external consultants to generate a community of practice that promote skills, confidence and capacity building in the key areas of audience development, stakeholder mapping and inclusion; fundraising and financial stability, and digital transformation and web development. The national value of UNESCO to the UK and crown dependencies was discussed and the estimated financial annual benefit to local communities through UNESCO projects is £151 million.</p> <p>LS then talked about funding revenues and showed the room an illustrated map of the UK UNESCO sites, of which the Isle of Man features and has a small blurb and link to the Biosphere website.</p> <p>LS concluded his presentation and asked the room if they had any questions. LM asked about the availability of funding here due to the Isle of Man not being part of the UK. LS informed that from a marketing perspective they are leading from the UK but they are absolutely recognising the crown dependencies.</p> <p>JC said it would be good if we could create our own local map and translate to Gaelic. The room was in agreement and LS said he could pick this up with JC. GC asked if we could adopt the style of the designed map to use in our own Biosphere and LS said he could put us in touch with the illustrator or we can choose a local artist and have our own design commissioned with the help and support of the UK commission.</p>	

<p>2/23/7</p>	<p>LM added that recently Manx Wildlife Trust appointed a new Biosphere artist in residence who may be worth considering for this. LS thanked the room again and praised the work of UBIOM. The slides will be shared with members of the group following the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: to set about looking at having a local map designed for UBIOM, and translate to Manx Gaelic, keeping LS in the loop</p> <p>Progress report – paper and verbal update by Jo Overty, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Project Officer, and Breeshey Kermodé, UBIOM Project Assistant</p> <p>The paper was taken as read and is available on request. There were broad discussions around the report, mainly concerning lack of resource to deliver the many projects and initiatives UBIOM are tasked with through a two person team. JO noted that volunteers for the earmarked shows throughout the summer have dropped out and she could do with some help from the SPG. CB said people may be put off volunteering if they don't know what to expect and may be faced with questions they are unable to answer, and suggested an activity for the show such as asking people to detail what their Biosphere means to them and have an interactive activity. There were further discussions around shows and staffing challenges.</p> <p>JF asked how many submissions have been made to the new Nature Recovery Network (NRN) and JO said as it was launched last week it is unlikely that it has been populated yet. JF suggested showcasing the NRN map at shows and events. LM said that other Wildlife Trust CEO's said the NRN was ground breaking and leading in this field.</p> <p>CB added that Biosphere will be debated in July Tynwald, reaffirming Government's commitment to the periodic review in 2026 and the current Vision, Strategy and 5Es. It was also noted that Tynwald's Environmental and Infrastructure Review Committee have asked for an annual report detailing Biosphere work streams.</p>	<p>UBIOM/JC/LS</p>
<p>2/23/8</p>	<p>Technical Sub Group – paper and discussion led by Gail Corrin, Higher Education Manager, UCM, and Leigh Morris, Chief Executive, Manx Wildlife Trust, Technical Sub Group members</p> <p>The paper was taken as read and is available on request. GC reiterated why the survey was being conducted and why the sub group had been appointed, to ensure that UBIOM don't have any major gaps in delivery ahead of the periodic review in 2026. The results of the survey reflected a clear message that engagement is strong in the Biosphere and the area which is lacking is in an economic respect, and Biosphere could be an economic driver.</p> <p>There were discussions around some of the partnered business replies who had said they did not feel their partnership with UBIOM had changed their company or added any kind of value. It was discussed that partners actively seek to join and that it is the role of the partner to get involved in our initiatives, as the partnership is a choice and UBIOM are</p>	

<p>2/23/9</p>	<p>unable to instruct anyone to get involved. Governance of UBIOM was discussed further and it was discussed and agreed, as per the rolling action point list, that parties who form the current SPG who have failed to attend any of the meetings since inception will no longer form the group and will be removed from mailing lists and meeting requests. An interesting comment was noted in the survey around understanding Net Zero, Biosphere and biodiversity and how they all relate to each other with Biosphere as the contextual thing, though GC said there is clearly a general lack of perceptual understanding. GC asked the SPG if the survey results provoked anything from the group. JC mentioned that there was no response from education but said DESC recently sent a survey to all schools and part of that asked about Biosphere – there have been 23 responses so far. Every school on the Isle of Man is a Biosphere partner and they were asked what they do in line with their partnership and the wider initiatives regarding waste, biodiversity and climate issues. JO added that UBIOM are also inviting partners to a networking event this autumn in a bid to further connect partners and allow them to share ideas. RS mentioned the work previously done by a Masters student regarding networking, with a business group set up on Facebook which has unfortunately become quiet since the student stopped managing the group, and said it may be worth considering a similar thing for NGOs if engagement can be encouraged. There was further discussion around partner engagement and LM asked CB if, with the positive projection for Biosphere, another government department could take on for example the administration of the partner scheme. CB said she had spoken with the Department for Enterprise and they want to be more involved and have subtle work streams with Biosphere at the helm. GC mentioned conducting a public survey and suggested asking people at the shows for their thoughts. There were further discussions on current projects and if these could be streamlined or conducted online, for example the Sustainable Mann workshops. JF added that the Net Zero team are looking at developing online modules on platforms such as eLearn Vannin. CB asked what the next step of the technical subgroup would be. GC said they are in a good place and now need to discuss how they can extend their impact. It may be a good exercise to go through the survey results and break them down in to 4 or 5 topics and create further thematic groups, potentially delivering on one of the Es each. PR said we have good feedback that we should use and take the strategy to see if there are any gaps, and he doesn't believe the strategy should be fixed and it should be reactive to changing circumstances and there is a retrospective piece of work on this. It was suggested that we start with governance before breakout groups, so involving the relevant people.</p> <p>ACTION: to review and create a focused next step for the TSG ACTION: to remove non-participating members from the SPG</p> <p>Delivering more with existing/fewer resources – report and discussion led by UBIOM SPG Sub Group of Jo Callister, Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum and Climate Change, DESC; Jade Foster, Engagement Manager, Climate Change Team; Dr</p>	<p>UBIOM TSG JO</p>
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	<p>Breasha Maddrell, Director, Culture Vannin, further to appointment January 2023 UBIOM SPG</p> <p>The paper was taken as read and is available on request. JF talked about the various topics discussed by the group and gave an overview of the ideas to streamline Biosphere’s work and projects, such as creating short informative videos in place of talks. JC said there may be extra work for the short term but then long term it should ease the workload. AB mentioned the use of videos that are already there in the likes of the Visit department or elsewhere in government that can be repackaged. SS agreed and said we can really align the strategy to the works already happening across the Island. JO’s long list can be reviewed along with relevant expertise around the SPG to take some work forward. AB added that a business case could be built for this and potentially provide funding for another person. AB also mentioned that a visitor levy which could eventually be brought to the Island has been discussed and is being trialled in the likes of Scotland.</p> <p>ACTION: to take a look at ‘the long list’ and pull together elements that are already happening across Island to align to the Biosphere Vision and Strategy</p>	<p>UBIOM</p>
<p>2/23/10</p>	<p>Developing the suggestion for an exhibition to mark 10 years as a Biosphere – report and discussion led by UBIOM SPG Sub Group of Paul Fletcher, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group; Martyn Cain, Arts Development Officer, Isle of Man Arts Council; Fenella Logan, Isle of Man Municipal Association</p> <p>The paper was taken as read and is available on request. FL explained how the group came to the final idea through considering what needs to be exhibited in regard to this and thoughts were around ‘what is Biosphere’. Funding opportunities may be available for the exhibition. CB asked if there was an idea of cost and FL said there has to be an official request for an exhibition submitted before the cost would be known. CB said she can put a bid into Treasury but there are a number of avenues to explore. MC touched on the intricacies of involving artists and if they would be commissioned which would need to be decided. Resource was discussed for prepping the exhibition and it was noted that prepping for an exhibition would take around 6-12 months. MC added that the proposed timings of the exhibition would collide with the Arts Council’s 60th birthday celebrations and so the team may be very busy with those preparations and unavailable for this. PF mentioned museum availability being a grey area. MC added we could remind people why we have the Biosphere status. CK asked if people would go and would they be engaged enough to go to a physical exhibition. PF said it could also act as a hub for other activities. CB suggested a trail around the museum of things that are already in the museum related to Biosphere. MC said we do still have the luxury of time on our side in regard to this. RS asked if we could get a lasting effect from this i.e. something permanent. JF mentioned the natural history gallery being a good space. JO said perhaps we could look at Autumn</p>	

	<p>half term for this and it was agreed that the sub group would continue to explore feasible options for the exhibition.</p> <p>ACTION: to continue to develop the idea of a celebration on 10 years as a Biosphere</p>	UBIOM SPG exhibition Sub Group
2/23/11	<p>UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Youth Representatives – updates from Georgia Untisz and Ciara Sowerby</p> <p>CS announced she is leaving the SPG as she is moving to London for a new job. GU said she doesn't have much to report and the hardest thing she faces is trying to get the Biosphere message across to young people who seem to forget what it means or do not understand why they should care. CB suggested that sustainability is the fundamental message to spread as young people have a good grasp on sustainability these days. Discussions were had around how to further engage young people and new ideas for the next recruited youth rep.</p>	
2/23/12	<p>Standing item: Research – verbal updates No updates provided.</p>	
2/23/13	<p>Other updates – round the table</p> <p>We did not get to this agenda item in the meeting due to time constraints but the following updates were sent by email after: <u>Food and Drink Team:</u> the Biosphere team are invited to the Southern and Royal Shows to promote their messages and projects. It has been suggested to the Climate Change team that UBIOM and CC have a combined approach at this year's Festival, encouraging the following messaging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buy local, Buy Seasonal - Reduce Food Miles and carbon impact - Reduce Food Costs - Reduce Food waste <p><u>Visit Isle of Man:</u> Visit have commissioned and filmed with the help of Leigh Morris and Bill Dale a 'Sustainable Travel International' video which isn't just about tourism but more about place making and includes Biosphere, so this will be able to be used by Biosphere in their messaging as it is a generic piece.</p>	
2/23/14	<p>Any other business Nothing to note.</p>	
2/23/15	<p>Date of next meeting The date of the next UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group Meeting will be Wednesday 31st January 2024, 2pm to 4pm, in the King Orry Room, Government Offices, Bucks Road, Douglas.</p>	

Note: minutes will appear on www.biosphere.im once agreed.

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

Signature:

Date: 31st January 2024.