



UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man

Stakeholder Partnership Group meeting

Item 6: Progress report from Biosphere Project Officer and Ecosystem Policy Officer

Staffing:

In addition to a full-time project officer, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man now has a 0.5 of week limited-term administrative assistant (AO) working on Biosphere until the end of October 2019.

Budget for 2019/20:

The annual budget allocated by DEFA for UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man has increased from £10,000 (increased during the year to £20,000) in 2018/19 to £50,000 in 2019/20. There will be a separate update on this.

Island Community Fund:

A £250,000 fund was launched by the Manx Lottery Trust in April 2019 to support community projects that are in line with the Biosphere status. The first funding round was June and two grants have been approved. No further details are available to DEFA until the annual report. Application dates and details are on the MLT website and we encourage SPG members to promote the fund so it is used.

Vision and strategy:

There will be a separate update on this.

UNESCO visits:

Since the last routine meeting we have hosted Dr Meriem Bouamrane, Programme Specialist with the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme (October 2018); Professor Dr Enny Sudarmonowati, Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee (ICC) (November 2018); Professor Peter Bridgewater, former global director and now member of the ICC (June 2019) and Dr Miguel Clusener-Godt, global Director of MAB (July 2019). Their successful visits have given us good context on the priorities of the programme globally and have put the Isle of Man 'on the map' within UNESCO.

Attendance at UNESCO events:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man played an important role in EuroMAB in Dublin from 1st to 5th April. A #ProudtoShare video was screened and Dr Richard Selman appeared on stage to talk about our Biosphere during the plenary and we helped to deliver four of the 19 workshops. The video will appear on UNESCO MAB's website. Isle of Man Creamery cheese was sent over for display/sampling at a cultural evening. Dr Bouamrane commented: 'The Isle of Man is everywhere at this event.'

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man also attended the six monthly meeting of the UK Man and the Biosphere Committee, held in Dublin to coincide with EuroMAB. It was unable to attend the meeting held in the Isle of Wight in October 2019 as that coincided with Dr Bouamrane's visit. The Isle of Man has offered to host the spring 2020 meeting of UK MAB (decision by UK MAB pending).

World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man joined this network in the summer of 2018 and is among Biospheres contributing to the first phase of its Zero Plastics initiative, along with Archipelago Sea Area, Blekinge archipelago, Cat Ba Archipelago, the Commander Islands, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, La Selle, Lanzarote, Menorca, Ometepe, Península de Guanahacabibes, Terres de l'Ebre and Urdaibai.

See <http://zeroplastic.islandbiosphere.org>

The WNICBRs regularly shares positive Isle of Man news on its social media channels.

Tourism

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man attended Destinations: the Holiday and Travel Show at Olympia, London, in January/February 2019 with Visit Isle of Man, to promote Biosphere. It attended Visit Isle of Man Tourism Day at the Villa Marina in February and three of the four Visit Isle of Man tourism networking events in the Island's regions, engaging with potential new partners within the accommodation and attractions sectors. A training evening was held for the Guild of Manx Registered Tour Guides, who are now armed with Biosphere messaging (this will be repeated in September 2019). Similar training will shortly be delivered for staff of the Isle of Man Welcome Centre. Officers also attended a recent meeting with Visit IoM over increasing ecotourism.

Business:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man engages with business and commerce at various levels. The Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce is a committed partner and we will be working closely with in, in coming months, on a number of initiatives, not yet public. Following a presentation by the Biosphere Project Officer, the Isle of Man Business Network has become a new partner and is keen to engage with our Biosphere to deliver events for on sustainability in business. Another large company is discussing with us what will be an exciting sustainability event. We gave a talk to the Business Agency of the Department for Enterprise in March 2019. A meeting is planned in coming weeks with KPMG, which carried out a global audit of business sustainability. Employers large and small continue to sign up as business Partners.

Food and drink

The sector is a strong supporter of the Biosphere, with many partners coming from that sector. The Government's Food Matters strategy, which promotes and develops the local food and drink industry, is strongly synergistic with Biosphere and cross-promotional opportunities are being taken advantage of. A representative of Biosphere helped to judge the Food, Farming and Fisheries Awards this month.

Community:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man engages with community initiatives where they share the ethos of Biospheres globally. A number of community initiatives are Biosphere Partners.

Education

There will be a separate update on this from DESC and UCM.

Not covered in that:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man was part of the inaugural Isle of Man Research Festival (19TH July 2019) and the global chair, Professor Dr Enny Sudarmonowati opened the event by Skype.

We are joining the Sustainable Development Goals Book Club and, each month for 17 months, will purchase for all primary schools books on the SDGs.

We are investigating twinning with new Biosphere Isle of Wight.

Ballakermeen High School has appointed a 'Biosphere prefect' and the project is working with him.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man hosts international, UCM and secondary school students on work experience throughout the year.

Awards

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Awards were held for the first time in 2018, with categories for environment, energy, education/public awareness and sustainability. They attracted 30 entries. The awards are repeated in 2019 and the closing date is August 30th 2019. To date, there have been six entries.

Projects and collaborations:

Refill Isle of Man:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man has been licenced to deliver the nationwide Refill scheme since January 2019. The scheme will reduce plastic consumption and litter. Prior to launch, seven Refill Isle of Man premises had signed up independently. Refill has proved popular and we have since recruited a further 123 Refill Stations, Island-wide, including shops, cafes, restaurants, museums, libraries and tourism attractions. Administering the scheme is a sizeable part of the 1.5 officers' workload. Our social media channels now carry a Refill Station of the Week feature.

'Biosphere Badge':

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man launched a 'Biosphere Badge' for Girlguiding Isle of Man in January. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers gain the badge by fulfilling two or more actions relating to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Isle of Man Scouting is shortly adopting the badge and another UK Biosphere is considering replicating the badge there.

Design an Ad:

With Year of Our Island, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man sponsored a challenge for primary and secondary school students to design advertisements discouraging use of plastic and plastic littering. The brief had four winners.

Family Library Summer Reading Scheme:

The scheme has an 'Ocean' theme and we are going to read related stories to children and have provided Marine Nature Reserve spotter sheets and leaflets for the signing up packs.

Festival of Trees:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and Manx Wildlife Trust entered a 'plastics awareness' Christmas tree into the Save the Children Festival of Trees, held at Isle of Man Airport in December 2018/January 2019.

Mother Language Day:

UNESCO marked the day (21st February 2019) with a project to share readings of The Little Prince in different languages and Culture Vannin submitted a recording.

Poetry Map:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is collaborating with the Manx Bard and Culture Vannin to create a Poetry Map of the Island, in line with the ethos of connecting people with nature. With two weeks to the deadline, 99 poems have been submitted. The Map will provide a lasting resource for visitors and locals.

Visit Laxey Valley:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is collaborating with the charity Visit Laxey Valley, which will tell the story of the village 'from sea to summit'. The project meets all three central aims of Biospheres: sustainable development, consideration and education.

World Biodiversity Day – 8th May:

UNESCO MAB marked this by requesting recipes, which will appear in a global Biosphere cookbook. The Isle of Man submitted recipes for its 'national dish, queenies, and bonnag.

Other:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is delivering training sessions (August 2019) to guides who will lead visitors on Walk the Isle of Man (October 2019).

Discover Diving's Splash-In 2019 underwater photo and video competition will showcase UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.

The Isle of Man Film Festival worked with Biosphere over it being a topic of the environment-themed festival in 2019 but the event has been called off. However, a short film competition, Green Shoots, was run with schools via Biosphere.

Mannin Quilters are producing work telling the Biosphere story from the perspective of the Island's six sheadings and this will go on public display.

Events:

Manx Wildlife Week – 4th-12th May:

DEFA delivered walks and talks and UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man 'Voice For Our Future', an event delivered by and aimed at inspiring young people, with the keynote speech by well-known young nature ambassador Dara McAulty.

Inaugural Biosphere Lecture – 12th June:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man staged a lecture, delivered by Professor Peter Bridgewater and sponsored by Zurich International. Professor Bridgewater, a formal global director of the Man and the Biosphere Programme and Australia's delegate to the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Council, said he believed it was a 'world first'. The following week, at the ICC meeting in Paris, he described the Isle of Man as: 'A very new and modern Biosphere, which, I am sure, will be a significant contributor to the world network in the years to come.'

Festivals:

Festivals have run within the ethos of, and in partnership with, Biosphere including: The Great Manx Shindig, Mindful Mann and Dark Horse Festival. As part of this, they have used reusable cups and become temporary Refill Stations.

Other:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man/Ecosystem Policy Team had a stand at the Environment Festival (3rd/4th May) and will be at the Southern Agricultural Show (27th/28th July), Royal Manx Agricultural Show (9ths/10th August), Our Island; Our World Festival (31st August) and Isle of Man Food & Drink Festival (15th/16th September).

Partners:

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man has 187 Partners across the categories of Government, community, education, business and environment/culture. Interest is high and Partners frequently wish to meet ahead of participating. Administering the scheme and record-keeping is a sizeable part of officers' workload.

Talks:

We have delivered talks to, and taken part in panels for, community clubs, charities, organisations, businesses, schools/UCM and arms of Government.

Website:

We have made recent improvements to our website www.biosphere.im including new sliding banners highlighting topical matters, that can be rotated; online forms for the Biosphere Awards and Poetry Map and a much easier to read and search directory of Partners. The Biosphere Project Officer is, when time permits, updating the text. A Department for

Enterprise STEP scheme student is contacting all Partners' to update their website entries to ensure they accurately reflect their current activity.

Marketing/publicity

Via Department for Enterprise, we continue to work with Lansons and Hope and Glory to promote the Island internationally and they pitch messages to media as appropriate.

National Geographic is visiting from 4-6th August to focus on Biosphere/green credentials.

The Department for Enterprise is considering an 18-month 'Natural Choice' international branding campaign that will complement the Biosphere messaging.

New Nature magazine for the under-30s recently featured four pages on the Island following an approach by UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.

The programme for the L'orient Festival (2-11th August) will contain a full-page on Biosphere courtesy of Visit Isle of Man.

The Manx Life #MyBiosphere feature, originally scheduled to end after 12 editions in April 2019, has been extended because it is popular with readers. New authors are always sought.

We have content in each edition of Go Green, a quarterly supplement on the environment produced by Isle of Man Newspapers.

Social media

We continue to update three social media channels – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – seven days a week and sometimes more than once a day, sharing our own news and that of Partners and other compatible groups.

Newsletter:

We continue to produce a monthly newsletter, containing a curated combination of our own and relevant Isle of Man Government news and that of Partners and other groups and initiatives. Production of a newsletter is encouraged under the global Biosphere Lima reporting framework.

Advertising/marketing:

We have advertising at Isle of Man Airport and at the Sea Terminal.

We belong to a new forum for those who market the Isle of Man, along with Visit IoM, Isle of Man Food and Drink, Manx National Heritage, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, Isle of Man Bus and Rail and the Curragh's Wildlife Park.

DEFA #BeMoreBiosphere:

We have launched a campaign within DEFA to encourage staff to align their work with our Biosphere status and promote the status externally.

Youth forum

The Youth Forum – convened when DEFA advertised for three young people to represent the Isle of Man at the World MAB Youth Forum in Italy in September 2017 – continues to meet but participation has dwindled and we plan to re-form the group with specific aims and purposes. A Department for Enterprise STEP scheme student is assisting the project officers on this.

One representative from UK/Ireland MABs can attend the 2019 MAB global Youth Forum at Changbaishan Biosphere, China, from 15th to 18th September and we have invited applications from within our own Youth Forum.

Future plans:

There are lots of plans in the pipeline (see full rolling delivery plan below) but among highlights are: a Bikers for Biosphere scheme for TT 2020, collaborating with the Isle of Man Flower Festival and Manx LitFest; participating in an Inter-Island Public Health conference the Island is hosting.

Appended is the full rolling delivery plan:

Rolling activity plan/progress

2019			
JAN			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for Feb		3 rd January	Done
Launch of IoM Newspapers' Go Green in 2019 campaign		11 th January	Delayed
Launch of 'Refill' scheme		14 th January	Done
Attend tourism networking event (east of Island)		16 th January	Done
Workshops for Blue Badge Guides		17 th January	Done
Manx Radio interview re Refill		22 nd January	Done
Dr Fiona Gell delivers talk at Coastal Futures conference		23 rd /24 th January	Done
Talk to Ballakermeen High School		29 th January	Done
Destinations London with DforE		31 st January-3 rd February	Done
January newsletter		January TBC	Done
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	Done
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	Done
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	Done
FEB			
<i>2nd Feb: World Wetlands Day</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for March		Start Feb	Done
Launch of Little Green Shoots film competition (IoM Film Festival)		Start Feb	
Talk at Isle of Man business school		6 th February	Done
Hosted Biosphere Youth Forum Meeting		7 th February	Done
Talk to IoM Freethinkers re Darwin Day		10 th February	Done
Attend tourism networking event (south of Island)		13 th February	Not available
Irish Sea Centre public meeting		21 st February	Done
Participate in The Little Prince Global Read-Aloud Project re Mother Language Day		21 st February	Done
Stakeholder Partnership Group workshop 1 on management plan		25 th February	Done
Attend Visit Isle of Man 'Day' at Villa Marina		26 th February	Done
February newsletter		February TBC	Done
Bi-termly meeting with education		February	Done
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	Done
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	Done

Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	Done
<i>MARCH</i>			
<i>March 3rd: UN World Wildlife Day</i>			
<i>March 21st: UN International Day of Forests</i>			
<i>March 21st: UN International day of the Forest</i>			
<i>March 21st: UN World Poetry Day</i>			
<i>March 22nd: UN World Water Day</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for April		Start March	Done
Youth Forum Meeting		5 th March	Done
Talk to Manx Ornithological Society		5 th March	Done
Participate in Trees for Life		6 th March	Done
Script/film one minute video for EuroMAB		10 th March	Done
Stakeholder Partnership Group workshop 2 on management plan		15 th March	Done
Attend tourism networking event (west of Island)		20 th March	Done
Talk to Business Isle of Man Agency		21 st March	Done
Talk to Maughold Social Club		22 nd March	Done
Submit article for New Nature magazine		End March	Done
March newsletter		March TBC	Done
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	Done
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	Done
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	Done
<i>APRIL</i>			
<i>April 22nd: UN World Mother Earth Day</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for May		Start April	Done
Manx Folk Awards with Biosphere theme		1 st -4 th April	Done
Attend UK MAB and EuroMAB in Dublin: provide film, appear on plenary panel, deliver three workshops, launch WNICBRs plastics scheme etc		1 st to 5 th April plus extension for UK MAB meet	Done
Meeting with DforE, Visit Isle of Man, MNH, IoM Bus and Rail and Steam Packet re year ahead planning (will be quarterly)		10 th April	Done
Re-engage with Manx Guild of Registered Tour Guides – start of cruise season			Done
Panel discussion at Isle of Man Grad Fair		17 th April	Done
Pokerstars Plastic/Biosphere talk		24 th April	Done
Participate in Bright Futures conference at Legislative Buildings		26 th April	Done
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services plenary		29 th April-4 th May	Done

Meeting with Isle of Man Business Network		30 th April	Done
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	Done
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	Done
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	Done
<i>MAY</i>			
<i>12th May: World Migratory Bird Day</i>			
<i>20th May: World Bee Day</i>			
<i>22nd May: UN International Day for Biological Biodiversity</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for June		Start May	Done
Biosphere lunch and learn at Zurich		2 nd May	Done
Stall at Beach Buddies environment festival		3 rd -4 th May	Done
Launch of Island poetry map competition to coincide with TE Brown birthday		Ahead of 5 th May	Done
IPBES global assessment report on biodiversity published		Bank Holiday 6 th May	Done
Shoot Biosphere awards video		Bank Holiday 6 th May	Done
Talk to Queen's Pier Restoration Trust		Bank Holiday 6 th May	Done
Play leading role in Manx Wildlife Week		4 th to 12 th of May	Done
Voices for our future: UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man event		12 th May	Done
BIC Invasive Species Week		W/c 13 th May	Done
Launch of Splash In competition		W/c 13 th May	Delayed
Talk to board at KPMG		14 th May	Delayed
Content in 'Go Green' IoM Newspapers supplement		16 th May	Done
Participate in World Biodiversity Day re theme 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health'		22 nd May	Done
Talk to IoM Executive Club		23 rd May	Delayed
Sensing Change campaign with MU		End of May	
Deadline for bi-annual newsletter of WNICBRs		End May	Done
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	Done
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	Done
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	Done
<i>JUNE</i>			
<i>5th June: UN World Environment Day</i>			
<i>8th June: UN World Oceans Day</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for July		Start June	Done
Inaugural Biosphere Lecture		12 th June	Done
Launch of internal DEFA #BeMoreBiosphere campaign		17 th June	Done

Launch of 2 nd UNESCO Biosphere Awards		17 th June	Done
IoW admitted to WNBR? Confidential – Minister to welcome		19 th June	Done
National Refill Day		19 th June	Done
Mindful Mann 2019		29 th June	Done
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	Done
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	Done
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	Done
<i>JULY</i>			
<i>28th July: National Bog Day</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for August		Start July	Done
Isle of Man biodiversity in July/August edition of New Nature magazine		July/August edition	Done
Global director here for Tynwald Day		4 th -7 th July	Done
Splash-In awards night		13 th July	Delayed
Talk to Santon WI		16 th July	Done
Meeting with DforE, Visit Isle of Man, MNH, IoM Bus and Rail and Steam Packet re year ahead planning (quarterly)		17 th July	
Global chair opens/we attend inaugural Research Festival		19 th July	
Stakeholder Partnership Group meeting		24 th July	
Content in 'Go Green' IoM Newspapers supplement		25 th July	
Stand at Southern Agricultural Show		27 th /28 th July	
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	
Launch Biosphere Scout Badge		TBC	
Launch of Awards for Excellence, IoM Newspapers – Sustainability category		TBC	
<i>AUGUST</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for September		Start August	
Meeting re 2020 Isle of Man Flower Festival		5 th August	
Planning meeting re Inter-Island Public Health Forum Conference		25 th June 2019	
Festival Interceltique de Lorient celebrates UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man		2 nd to 11 th August	
Attend Royal Manx Agricultural Show		9 th /10 th August	
Attend Our Island; Our World event		31 st August	

Walk the Isle of Man festival: attend 6 x training sessions		Whole month	
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	
<i>SEPT</i>			
<i>16th Sept: UN International Day for Protection of the Ozone Layer</i>			
<i>27th Sept: UN World Tourism Day</i>			
<i>27th Sept: UN World Maritime Day *(or last Thurs in Sept)</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for October		Start September	
Isle of Man Film Festival with environment theme		4 th -8 th September	
Attend Isle of Man Food and Drink Festival		14 th /15 th September	
Walk the Isle of Man festival: attend launch event and involved all week		29 th Sept-6 th Oct	
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	
<i>OCT</i>			
<i>1st Oct: World Habitat Day *(first Mon in Oct)</i>			
<i>13th Oct: UN World Migratory Birds Day *(second Sat in Oct)</i>			
Manx Life #MyBiosphere article for November		Start October	
Biosphere Business Game at UCM		23 rd October	
Work with One World Centre on One World Week		TBC	
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	
<i>NOV</i>			
Deadline for bi-annual newsletter of WNICBRs		End Nov	
Meeting with DforE, Visit Isle of Man, MNH, IoM Bus and Rail and Steam Packet re year ahead planning (will be quarterly)		TBC	
Process new Partner applications		Whole month	
Promote Refill Isle of Man and process applications		Whole month	
Maintain 4 x social media channels each day		Whole month	
<i>2020</i>			
Biosphere walk and talk as part of Inter-Island Public Health Forum Conference		25 th June 2019	
Biosphere theme for Flower Festival		July 2020	
Biosphere theme for Hall Caine Prize		September 2020	

TBCs			
Training for welcome centre staff		TBC summer 2019	
'Our Planet, Our Business' screening		TBC summer 2019	
Take part in SDG Book Club – 17 books for all schools		TBC summer 2019	
Biosphere Business Challenge at UCM		TBC	
Biosphere themed schools' conference – kickstarting the work running up to big event 2021		TBC	
Chamber of Commerce CSR event for new charity cluster		TBC	
Launch of 'Bikers for Biosphere' scheme		TBC	
Invite local authorities to participate in Biosphere Partnerships		TBC	
Launch of DEFA staff volunteering scheme		TBC	
Twinning Biospheres		TBC	
Mannin Quilters' Biosphere exhibition/cultural collaboration		TBC	
'Walk & Talk' for business		TBC	
UCM marine science course		TBC	
Exhibition at Tynwald Building		TBC	
Collaboration with IoM Photographic Society		TBC	
Shop 'open' and 'closed' signs		TBC	
Shop window competition		TBC	
Create educational materials		TBC	
Govt staff and public drop ins to learn about Biosphere		TBC	