



Round Table Discussion Summary

Resource Wisdom and Biosphere areas in UBC cities

The UBC Sustainable Cities Commission Meeting

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”the **biosphere** is the global ecological system integrating all living beings and their relationships, including their interaction with the elements of the lithosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere.” (Wikipedia)

UBC in Jyväskylä, Finland

May 18, 2017 Workshop notes and synthesis

Table 1 – Best practices from your city /region; how local businesses can benefit from the biosphere status, taking full advantage of it in business

- the Archipelago route in Karlskrona is a good example.
- touristic areas; main businesses may be other than tourism – a small challenge.
- e.g. sports fishing: how much of it can the area take and still remain sustainable?
- limitations to businesses; e.g. the 7 rapids' route in Konnevesi having brown trout: there's a price for fishing, limitations of the amount of persons & the time. Question: What is the optimal use of the area?
- part of the project is maintenance: who is the administrator? A company, a municipality, an association? Different models may affect the use & the business. E.g. some areas have been blocked from visitors; in order to have access some measures (like buying the land) may be necessary. Maintenance is costly; can the responsibility be shared (one takes care of something, another of something else etc.)?
- private people want privileges, but are not ready to do anything

Table 2 – Best practices from your city /region; how research and science can support the development of a biosphere area

- Maintenance of water areas!
- Further development and improvement of fishing and fishing industry
- Brown trout of Päijänne is the traditional fish of the region. Where can people find local fish?
- Rapids of Konnevesi as an example. Waterways that flow into Päijänne. Brown trout is unable to spawn in Päijänne.
- Lithuania: weather and wind is effected by ...how to protect the routes, different for pedestrians and cyclists. Maintaining a d bringing sand by municipality people. There is sea law that you cannot do nothing
- School visits. Päijänne tunnel as a content for school kids and camping schools in the South-Finland. In the future –can it be a National learning center for school aged people?

Table 3 – Best practices from your city /region; how environmental education can be implemented in a biosphere area

- Beach cleaning project “Clean Beaches” and stored water campaign “Only rain in the drain”
- Posters of the aforementioned project and tables from university regarding pollutants to help explain environmental problems to people
- Archipelago areas have a program with daycare centers - “Pike and the Gang”. The Pike is a toy inside a box, travelling into different daycares teaching children how to help nature
- Bioblitz from Sweden - biodiversity inventories. Local people or special programs participate, people get to know various plants and wildlife this way
- Pride of biosphere motivates people to act more sustainably and travel elsewhere
- In Soviet Russia after WWII some people were not aware of their history, and environmental education and historical research may help in uncovering lost history

Table 4 – Best practices from your city /region; how citizens can be involved in the development and decision making process in the biosphere area

- pushing people and organizations to participate
- Leader programs which have their own strategies and the biosphere idea included in the strategy of each program
- what is the concept and how do I contribute?
- lots of activities for the local people > involvement of the local people
- listen the citizens and give them information about the plans
- there can be conflicts between permanent citizens and tourists
- organization where anybody can join
- ambassadors = network of people who are citizens but who know better and spread the information, miniambassadors at schools (schoolchildren)
- regular meetings between the municipalities and organizations > seek for collaboration possibilities
- close to the citizens > work closely with the citizens

Table 5 – Best practices from your city /region; how resource wisdom and circular economy have been applied in the biosphere area

- Jyväskylä City strategy
- Local food – fish, “JärkiSärki” (Komppa-Seppälä), honey, also others
- Competitions for ideas and models are done in B.region, route maps, activating core stakeholders
- Competent people from different fields (e.g. Lahti Fisuverkosto)
- More information from the companies around Päijänne
- Utilizing Leader-groups (fund); get together with micro entrepreneurs
- Ecologically produced food
- Päijänne tourism branding; packages, routes, menus, etc.
 - Cooperation already started -> more voice in the future
- What other industries? Bioeconomy (fresh air, clean water)
- Image is what companies could use in the future.

Table 1 – What added value biosphere status can bring/brings i.e. how Lake Päijänne area would benefit as its best of the biosphere status in view of the **Business**

- What added value biosphere brings / the theme of the table
- global network of biosphere areas is definitely an asset
- freeing the routes for fish to come back to their native rapids (now blocked)
- learning from sustainable solutions of other regions
- use of the UNESCO status, respected
- neutral table for discussion of various actors; collect them together
- an opportunity especially for small cities/municipalities with decreasing population: new source of livelihood
- better equality between cities & rural areas, big & small
- the “green image” is important to industries
- “it hasn’t brought anything bad elsewhere, so, why not?”
- it unites people: “we want this to be our thing!”

Table 2 – What added value biosphere status can bring/brings i.e. how Lake Päijänne area would benefit as its best of the biosphere status in view of the **Research & science**

- Benefits of research
 - in political decision making; e.g. SYKE and LUKE in Finland do research in order
 - University research is done for scientific public
 - How to value more in the society? The concrete more better.
- Already existing ecosystem; should do measuring and indicators.
- Not only natural science; should have more fields. Topics such as "Life quality research" , "Motivation of learning".
- Money-issue & get together: what value research can bring us in the region? Research projects based on the needs
- Social forum for researchers; The role becomes clear, shared projects within multidisciplinary researchers. Brand is attractive in international research exchange and such.
- Economy research; how it has a link to my life & what is the meaning for the people
- Tourism increase; Asians are more aware of label/status destinations.
- Innovations! It should come up with the brand products.

Table 3 – What added value biosphere status can bring/brings i.e. how Lake Päijänne area would benefit as its best of the biosphere status in view of the **Environmental education**

- Regular activities and programs; Local businesses would benefit from added tourism
- Environmental education made easier and more concrete
- Unesco, biosphere is an international mark of environmental awareness
- More cooperation between universities, more projects and monetary support; Raising and noticing the worth of the environment, taking pride in it
- Example of two different schools coming on boats onto an island and getting to know both each other and the nature through this program
- Linking biosphere to work health programs, because working adults often cannot attend such things due to their work schedules

- School field trips, for example many Chinese children make school trips to other countries to see their environment and learn about it
- Cooperation between businesses and schools, themed events. Linking these events to regular curriculums to motivate people to attend
- Should biospheres remain rarities, a specialty that people would go through some trouble to see? Something exclusive, so that people can appreciate it more – rarity as a value
- Educational certificates for supporting environmental awareness, status symbol to the outside
- Would an environmental certificate be lucrative to higher educated people looking for the next place to study?

Table 4 – What added value biosphere status can bring/brings i.e. how Lake Päijänne area would benefit as its best of the biosphere status in view of the theme of the **Citizens' participation** > **What added value the citizens can bring to biosphere area**

- acceptance of the society
- a regular person advertises best (tourism)
- to work better as a municipality
- a continuous dialogue between the inhabitants
- improvements to the city by knowledge
- face to face contact important > meetings
- also web-based information available: social media, web-pages
- > face to face and modern methods combined
- a clear vision, core vision, something very concrete
- immaterial, cultural things that are in common in Päijänne region?
- each one's word is heard

Table 5– What added value biosphere status can bring/brings; how Lake Päijänne area would benefit as its best of the biosphere status in view of Resource Wisdom

- German wetland; canals, row boat tours, locals offering services
 - -> Päijänne area local businesses & residents ?
- Resources; plants, animals, services (Branding)
- Biosphere brand provides problem solving forum e.g. local saw owners & wood industry workers
- Preserving the local culture but bringing in concepts from circular economy
- Communicating the business side to the stakeholders
 - No limiting of local people's livelihood
 - Not only nature
- Challenges with the giant size of the area
- Biosphere status won't change local regulations & laws for business owners
- Intangible vs. tangible exportable products; food items, restaurant involvement
- Unesco image varies between countries; most people don't know/have no strong feelings
 - What benefits?

Table 1– identify different interest groups; what kind of different interest groups, even conflicts, can be seen –**Business-** in the biosphere context

- many interest groups: municipalities, landowners, businesses, all kinds of associations etc. with different views. A lot of information and education of people is needed.
- land ownership can be a challenge; owners may restrict the use of the land. Even walls may be built around the property to prevent people from visiting it.
- Sometimes the borders are “extended” with small scale constructions like fireplaces, benches etc. even if there is no actual ownership.
- cities & municipalities losing their young people do not always listen to alternative solutions: fear for change, for restrictions, for (environmental) protection.
- “Private citizen attitude”: don’t come to tell me how to use my forest!
- how to contact people, what channels to use: a clear communication plan is needed.
- LEADER financing has been used by SME’s, also for information purposes.

Table 2— identify different interest groups; what kind of different interest groups, even conflicts, can be seen - **Research & Science-** in the biosphere context

- Involvement of more than only one scientific field (crosssectional)
- Scientific university might not always know the need of the actors in the fields.

Table 3— identify different interest groups; what kind of different interest groups, even conflicts, can be seen - **Environmental education-** in the biosphere context

- Environmental education could help solve conflicts between different interest groups
- Discovering interests through education and finding solutions by spreading knowledge
- Schools, children. If small children learn about environment young, the knowledge will stick with them later on
- Children tend to bring things home from schools, “demanding” their parents to do certain things, like recycle, if it was said at school
- School and business cooperation - both sides could learn from organized visits and programs
- Employees with vast awareness of environment could give the companies a positive image
- Several sessions where sustainability and biology were discussed
- Organized practicality, such as a cleanliness day. Children who participate in cleaning the nature are less likely to litter-

Table 4 – identify different interest groups; what kind of different interest groups, even conflicts, can be seen -**Citizens' participation**- in the biosphere context

- Maintenance of waters > there are truly interested specialists more than citizens
- Conflicts concerning land properties and natural resources
- Mistrust towards nature conservation projects, forest owners are afraid of losing their forests
- Risks must be recognized
- Transparency
- Is Finland's Archipelago Sea Biosphere Reserve just a supplement to a nature reserve?
- Locals (such as forest owners) should be part of the steering group
- Finland's biosphere reserves haven't brought any restrictions with them, only benefits

- Target groups are different, some people don't even know that this project exists, some people are very active
- Is it necessary to include biosphere reserve in scheme?
- Messages must be targeted according to the target groups > what are the benefits for each group?
- Benefits must be recognized
- "Productizing": biosphere stake (Karlskrona) or biosphere blueberry jam
- Being proud: "I'm part of this and I'm proud of this"
- bottom-up approach

Table 5 – identify different interest groups; what kind of different interest groups, even conflicts, can be seen -**Resource wisdom**- in the biosphere context

- Companies, land owners, public sector, local people, local infrastructure
- Researchers from different fields (economy, social, consumer studies, societal science)
- Buildings & restrictions
 - Negative atmosphere; builders and architects
- Utilizing curriculum (awareness); sustainable life, entrepreneurship education, environmental education
- Cooperation with teachers
- Environmental knowledge & Resource wisdom in line (Bioeconomy)
- Local products availability and accessibility
- Fishing industry involvement, local people such as village/county groups

Synthesis: Lots of ideas for Lake Päijänne

- We must consider all the stakeholders (e.g. school kids, international tourists, private land owners, etc.)
 - Schools are relevant institutes in environmental education (may effect to parents at home)
- Lot of work to do in identifying the benefits of other industries than tourism
 - Tourism industry should set a question: how much the area can take tourists and still remain sustainable?
- Cooperation between people is a shared wish
 - Lake Päijänne & Unesco brand work provides a conflict solving forum/tool

Hosts and Notes

The themes & host(s) of the table:

- Table 1: theme Business / Ms. Laura Ahonen, notes Jonna Veltheim (JAMK student)
- Table 2: theme Research and science / Ms. Minna Tunkkari-Eskelinen & Ms. Mirva Leppälä (JAMK University of Applied Sciences)
- Table 3: theme Environmental education / Ms. Tanja Tuulinen (ELY), notes Nina Vitikainen
- Table 4: theme Involvement and citizen's participation / Ms. Salla Pykälämäki, notes Ms. Kirsi Kesänen
- Table 5: theme Resource wisdom and circular economy / Mr. Otso Tolonen (Jkl), notes Lauha Liira (JAMK-student)

Content of the discussions

- FIRST ROUND – Best practices from your city / region
- SECOND ROUND – What added value biosphere status can bring/brings
- THIRD ROUND – identify different interest groups