



WORKSHOP: 4- Partnerships between BRs and Universities

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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 51

FORMAT OF THE WORKSHOP:

The workshop concerns the ways to develop opportunities for strengthening the ties between universities and biosphere reserves for the purposes of EDUCATION.
A separate workshop concerns BRs and Scientific Partnerships.

The workshop was divided into 2 parts:

PART 1: Update and 'blue sky'

Update

A workshop held in Lima identified a range of courses and learning opportunities that take place in Biosphere Reserves around the world. Their common attributes included:

- Immersive learning on-site, learning by doing, learning by listening
- Blended learning including theoretical/experiential, on-line/on-site
- Co-production of knowledge that has mutual benefits for community, university and student participants
- Creating culturally-safe learning spaces for nurturing empathy and healing (using indigenous ways of knowing and western science, using different glasses for viewing and understanding ecosystem services)
- Co-constructing place-based research that is on-going, including practicing facilitation skills with local people to engage in the biosphere dialogue
- Developing new technologies to allow us to perceive the environment differently. Bringing soundscapes to people help them appreciate the environment in a new way that integrates scientists and artists
- Soundscape residencies in the biosphere create learning labs for using new web-based technologies and platforms for broader knowledge mobilization, including augmented realities
- Mechanisms for collaborative learning such as partnership agreements, codes of conduct, Memoranda of Understanding can expand opportunities for networked learning and mutual benefits between universities, biosphere reserve communities and other interested stakeholders

Blue Sky

First, the participants were proposed to think broadly about the reasons why universities and BRs should partner and then identify some of the most important reasons for connecting. Then, identify what does each partner want from that relationship. Mutual benefits of BRs and Universities to working together that include:

- Enhanced learning through experience
- Transdisciplinary learning - engagement of local people, managers, students, researchers
- Ensuring research questions (and answers) are tied to action

These benefits can lead to increased funding for both

1. What are the advantages for BRs?

- Added capacity through venue of students and researchers
- Opportunity for students
- Focus on BR research needs, the BR can define research questions, address long term scientific questions, updates on new research topics sustainable sciences approach
- Students participate to inventories of flora fauna, for long term monitoring
- Youth and traditional vision
- New perspectives
- New model for region
- Create new arena and new ways of learning
- Dialogue, meet, discuss
- Student research
- Training community to increase community capacity, community engagement and knowledge exchange
- Use university research for common outreach, can help guide research at universities

2. What are the advantages for Universities to partner with BRs in their curriculum?

- Valorization of results (for different public styles), data interpreted by BR and relayed to community
- Place based studies, Access to local knowledge, real problems to solve generating knowledge in real social situation
- Support for Ma/MSc or PhD from BR managers
- Good areas for research – action, give legitimacy for research, research ties to action
- Guidance from BR managers
- Access to resources for both
- Share knowledge

PART 2: Why create or develop a network of training programs and universities connected with BR? How and for which purpose?

A questionnaire was sent before Euromab: 18 answers from Europe and an interest for further cooperation

What are the needs?

Most important 'need' is the building of a trustful relationship from which all other things will flow.

Also needed:

- Political support
- Overall coordination
- Funding
- 'space' in the university and capacity to do things differently

Yes, it would be great to have an international database of programs offered for both students and managers

Which format?

- On-line, modular
- Website – need contact person, map, searchable by keyword, topic, geographic area (look at Biosphere smart), consider cost of maintenance
- Difference between basic and more advanced courses.

Which information required?

- List of courses, locations, subject area, credit/certification, specific subjects, how connected to BR
- Level of targets, delivery methods, assignments. Cross-reference to BR,
- Content, location, language

Needs

- Multi-lingual
- Easy to use platform
- Technical support
- Funding
- Platform

For whom?

- Students
- Managers
- Stakeholders/partners/local citizens

Other interest

A toolbox of teaching resources, modules, learn new teaching/learning styles