



## WORKSHOP: 5- Urban

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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 36

FORMAT OF THE WORKSHOP: Presentations including case studies and round table discussions

### Introduction

1<sup>st</sup> part of the workshop: Presentations from the Chairs showing what is happening in the BRs and feed the conversations

Objectives of the workshop:

- To identify how urban areas are essential to the MAB program

Traditionally a lot of the Biospheres are quite rural, they came from national parks. But more than half of the world's population today lives in urban areas, so it's increasingly more relevant that BRs should be more urban as well.

- To investigate the functional link that exists between urban and more natural areas
- Highlight selected examples of good practices from diverse Biosphere Reserves related to urban areas
- Discuss how we can work together

Is there a kind of network, or information sharing, that we could do in the future as urban Biospheres?

### Expected outcomes

- Understanding of the significance of urban areas to the MAB programme.
- Practical knowledge about inter-linkages between BRs and urban areas, and practical approaches, for replication.
- Agreed actions for future collaboration including network communications and potential projects delivery

### Presentations

- Leslie Moore: Dublin Bay Biosphere (Ireland)
- Rich Howorth: Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere (UK)
- Arianna Dongiovanni: Collina Po (Italy)

## Round table discussions

3 or 4 topics that you'd like to talk to your colleagues about (e.g. green infrastructure, sustainable energy production, transportation system, ...)

Important topics, that we need to work on in the future.

## Main issues discussed

- Engagement of local people, including awareness of BR status
- Sense of Place including the natural environment
- Bottom-up governance and engagement in BRs
- Location and effectiveness of BR visitor centres
- BR added value to urban communities already involved in other sustainability programmes
- Buy-in of urban authorities to BR agenda
- Transportation urban-rural, including private car use
- Urban pollution spreading
- Infrastructure provision from rural to urban, pressures on ecosystem services
- Ecological connectivity barriers from urban development