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UNESCO BIOSPHERE ISLE OF MAN - PROJECT OVERVIEW



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MEETING
THE PLEDGE
PRINCIPLES



The scope of **The Biosphere Isle of Man Pledge** is deliberately broad and inclusive. We don't want to be prescriptive with our project partners, which is why we leave the application of the Pledge to you.



This is not about meeting pre-set standards but about direction of travel. You don't need to be active in all of the areas highlighted in the Pledge; choose those that are the best fit for your business and most important to your staff and stakeholders.



Your focus may be internal – for example, accreditation for an environmental management system. It might be external, for example, engaging with local community projects. Or it might be both. All activities that relate to any of the principles are equally valid.



Involvement in Biosphere Isle of Man as a project partner is not just about direct volunteering. It could be sponsorship of projects or materials. It might involve mentoring. Or it could come in the form of pro-bono advice and support for charities and community groups.

Here is a little more detail in the context of the Pledge principles...

- **Protecting our natural resources** – this could relate to anything you're trying to do better that will impact positively on our natural resources, from **managing water use** to planting trees.
- Engaging with the local community – through environmental, social or community groups, whichever fit best with your business. You'll find a wide range of groups listed at www.biosphere.im
- Developing our economy in a sustainable way – doing business responsibly, balancing the need for growth with respect for our natural, social and cultural environment. Responsible businesses tend to be more resilient, contributing to a diverse economy which is more sustainable than a 'monoculture' economy.
- Promoting our outstanding living landscapes through active involvement with Biosphere Isle of Man – being an ambassador for the project and advertising the fact that you support it, thereby encouraging others to get involved.
- Supporting and promoting our cultural heritage – for example, staff involvement in, or corporate sponsorship of, cultural events and groups.
- Making our environmental impact positive wherever possible – closely related to the first principle of protecting our natural resources, this could include anything from energy saving and waste management measures to support of local environmental projects.



What is a Buffer (Care) Zone?

An area that provides linkages to other zones and is managed in a way that's compatible with conservation.

What is a Transition (Sustainable Development) Zone?

This zone is where we live and work – and are encouraging sustainable economic development. These zones will cover all remaining areas outside Core and Buffer (Care) Zones such as Urban areas – and where the focus is on developing our communities and economy in a responsible way.

Do we need to keep people out of any of these areas?

Definitely not. The more people can value the special parts of the island, the more we'll be able to keep them special.

Will the government be spending a lot of money on this?

There will be a cost involved in our UNESCO nomination bid – mainly in communicating the project to island residents and businesses. However, in the most part this will not be project requiring new investment, but rather one that highlights and networks the great work already being done by community groups, charities, schools and businesses – for example, initiatives by the Manx Wildlife Trust, Manx National Heritage, The Children's Centre, Southern Communities Initiatives to name but a few.

What is the difference between Biodiversity and the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man project?

They sound similar and they complement each other. The Biodiversity Strategy will focus on species and habitats. The UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man project will focus on what is called "ecosystem services" which in plain English means the benefits people get from biodiversity and ecosystems; like food, clean water, amazing landscapes, fresh air, and our overall quality of life. It is also more interested in encouraging sustainable development. Biosphere Reserves are about a good working balance between people and nature, not about nature in isolation.