

Dyfi Biosphere Reserve Project

Terms of Reference for the Steering Group of the Stakeholder Engagement Phase

Purpose

- To manage & facilitate a community engagement process, to enable the people of Bro Ddyfi to come to an informed decision about the establishment of a modern Biosphere Reserve
- Upon the consent of the community, to oversee the preparation of an application to UNESCO
- To keep these Terms of Reference & membership under review
- To give way to a representative Biosphere Reserve management body upon gaining UNESCO approval

Location

Initially the working boundary of the Transition Area (and thus, the Biosphere Reserve) will be the catchment of the Afon Dyfi as defined by the current community council boundaries.

Membership of the Steering Group

- The relevant Local Authorities (Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Powys & Snowdonia National Park)
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Welsh Development Agency
- Tourism Partnership - Mid Wales
- Ecodeyfi
- A member of a local Community Council (Currently Machynlleth Town Council)
- A representative of the interests of the local farming community (Currently Farming Connect)
- A representative of the interests of Welsh language and culture (Currently Celtica)

Working arrangements

This group will work bilingually in Welsh and English.

Activities of the Steering Group

- Seek to secure funds and resources for the project
- Consider specific resource requirements on a case by case basis
- Share relevant information between partners
- Exemplify good practice in stakeholder and community participation

- Appoint and oversee an appropriate responsible body to manage funds, staff and contractors
- Decide what kinds of staff and / or contractors the responsible body should employ
- In the event of stakeholder and UNESCO consent for the enlargement of the Dyfi Biosphere Reserve to convene an appropriate body or mechanism to implement the Biosphere Reserve management plan, then to hand over to that body and wind-up
- Oversee and/or undertake the following illustrative activities:

Project Activities

- Expand upon & complete initial pre-project stakeholder identification exercise
- Identify & agree key geographic & sectoral stakeholder groups
- Prepare stakeholder engagement plans for key stakeholders
- Prepare supporting material for stakeholder engagement plans including as appropriate; exhibitions, leaflets, power point presentations, audio visual presentations, and other supporting materials e.g. models and maps
- Engage with key stakeholders as per plans
- Ascertain stakeholder hopes, fears and offers
- Determine the level of informed consent for the extension of the Dyfi Biosphere Reserve
- If interim stakeholder feedback indicates that consent is likely, identify and resolve any outstanding stakeholder concerns as part of the preparation of the application to UNESCO
- If enlargement is appropriate prepare and submit a valid application to UNESCO
- Provide continual feedback to key stakeholders
- Liaise with the press and media as appropriate
- Organise and run meetings as appropriate to bring together stakeholder groups and external experts and assist local stakeholders in understanding the benefits and requirements of a Biosphere Reserve in the Dyfi Valley
- If enlargement appears inappropriate identify and establish partnership projects and programmes which build upon any good will and knowledge gained during the stakeholder engagement project