

Vattenriket®



Ten years as a biosphere reserve



Benefiting man and nature

In 2005, Unesco designated Kristianstads Vattenrike as a biosphere reserve. Ten years have passed since the grand opening ceremony at Lillö. For ten years, Vattenriket has served as a model area where we have demonstrated that the preserving and developing of landscape values are able to go hand in hand. The work of the Biosphere Reserve is addressed from the perspective of the landscape. In the early years, we focused on the wetland area along the River Helge å. Since then, we have turned our attention to the valuable sandy grasslands, the countryside close to urban areas, the dune landscape and Hanöbukten Bay. We have identified ten theme areas in total.

The Biosphere work is based on dialogue and cooperation with land-owners, associations, organisations and authorities at local, regional and international level. Collecting, sharing and exploiting new knowledge are key aspects of our work. The aim is to preserve and develop the landscape values at the same time, in order to bring about social development that is social, ecological and economically sustainable. Feeding cranes in the field at Pulken, one of the visitor sites, is one way of reducing the damage done to farmland while at the same time giving nature enthusiasts the opportunity to see the crane dance at close quarters.

2010 saw the opening of naturum Vattenriket. This is now a showcase for the Biosphere work and the wonderful natural surroundings we have on our doorstep. We have set up 21 visitor sites in Vattenriket complete with information boards, birdwatching towers, broad boardwalks and paths to enable everyone to experience the surroundings. There are ecologists, information officers, nature guides and educationalists at the Biosphere Office and naturum Vattenriket whose tasks are to preserve, develop and support the landscape values in ways that benefit both man and nature. Here is a selection of the kinds of work we have done during the first ten years of the Biosphere Reserve's existence.

We are now aiming to achieve a further ten years of success.

Carina Wettemark

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Coordinator Biosphere Reserve Kristianstads Vattenrike



Ten good examples of Biosphere work



PHOTO: MARIE GRÖNVOLD

Broad paths and boardwalks make Vattenriket's visitor sites accessible to everyone.



PHOTO: SUSSIE SÖDERLUNDH

Feeding cranes at Pulken reduces damage to fields and provides an opportunity to see the crane dance at close quarters.



PHOTO: KARIN MAGTORN

Naturum Vattenriket – the Biosphere Reserve's visitor centre attracts visitors from near and far.

BOTH PRESERVING AND USING THE LANDSCAPE
The Biosphere Reserve seeks to use the landscape values in a sustainable way by: **Preserving** biological and cultural diversity, ecosystems and landscape **Developing** society in a way that is sustainable in the long term **Supporting** demonstration projects, research and environmental monitoring.



PHOTO: SVEN-ERIK MAGNUSSON

New wetlands reduce the levels of nutrients in Hanöbukten Bay and create excellent bird habitats.

MANY SATISFIED VISITORS
"Truly impressive! I'll be recommending this place to all my friends. Thank you!"
"Lots to learn about flora and fauna and insects."
"I shall be back!"
"Having visited naturum and Vattenriket, we are seriously considering moving to Kristianstad!"



PHOTO: SVEN-ERIK MAGNUSSON

New nature reserves protect important natural habitat and preserve threatened species, be the conditions wet or dry.



PHOTO: PATRIK OLOFSSON/N

The European catfish has returned to the River Helge å. Trial fishing has shown that the restocking of the species in Vattenriket has been a success.

THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE MEANS THE TILLS ARE RINGING
During these ten years, the Biosphere Reserve has received SEK 40 million in government funding for nature conservation. Moreover, Vattenriket and naturum bring in SEK 25 million a year in profits from tourism and help reinforce the brand image of Kristianstad.



KRISTIANSTADSBLADET, 5 MAY 2011

World-leading researcher highlights the work being done by Vattenriket in the form of dialogue and cooperation.



PHOTO: PATRIK OLOFSSON/N

Golf, nature conservation and outdoor recreation sit happily side by side on the multifunctional golf course at Åhus.



PHOTO: SAM PETERSON

Biosphere camps provide schoolchildren in the summer holidays with fun and learning in Vattenriket.



PHOTO: ÅSA PEARCE

Biosphere Ambassadors spread happiness and knowledge about Vattenriket.



What is a biosphere reserve?

Biosphere Reserves are model areas for sustainable development. Biosphere reserves contain high cultural-historical and biological landscape values. The work is based on preserving, developing and supporting these values. It is the UN body Unesco which designates biosphere reserves. There are just over 600 Biosphere Reserves throughout the world. Five of these are in Sweden: Kristianstads Vattenrike, Lake Vänern Archipelago and Mount Kinnekulle, Blekinge Archipelago, Nedre Dalälven River Landscape and East Vättern Scarp Landscape.

Kristianstads Vattenrike

Vattenriket is the oldest biosphere reserve in the country. It was established in 2005 and covers almost the entire Municipality of Kristianstad. It is an area stretching down from forested ridges and across the plain, through the town of Kristianstad and the wetland area of the River Helge å, and out into Hanöbukten Bay. The work is managed by the Biosphere Office, and naturum Vattenriket is its visitor centre. The body in charge is the Municipality of Kristianstad. Our work is to preserve and develop the landscape so as to benefit both nature and man.

Periodic Review

A 'Periodic Review' is a comprehensive assessment carried out by the biosphere reserve every ten years. This involves examining the work of the biosphere reserves, and Unesco takes the decision on whether these areas may retain this status. In 2015 it will be the turn of Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve to be assessed.

Vattenriket 



Kristianstads
kommun



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme