



A UNESCO THEMATIC NETWORK ABOUT  
UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND NORDICITY

Annual meeting report – 2016

Nordhordland, October, 2016

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## BACKGROUND

NordMAB is a subnet for Nordic cooperation, a part of the global network of Biosphere Reserves (BR), recognized by the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) of UNESCO.

In 2005, the Nordic Council of ministers financed a study on the establishment of NordMAB. The study concluded the following:

- A network for people working in biosphere reserves or otherwise involved in the MAB-programme in the Nordic region is highly desirable.
- The network should be named “NordMAB”.
- The organisation status of the network should be: “A network of expertise on Biosphere Reserves in the Nordic region»

Following those recommendations, NordMAB had been put in place and in 2011 a first of several following annual meetings was organised:

- 2011: Lake Vänern Archipelago BR (Sweden)
- 2012: North Karelia BR (Finland)
- 2013: Manicouagan-Uapishka BR (Canada)
- 2014: Archipelago Sea BR (Finland)
- 2015: Nedre Daläven River Landscape BR (Sweden)
- 2016: Nordhordland BR Candidate (Norway)

During 2014-2016, NordMAB received network grants from the Nordic Council of Ministers, which enabled a higher degree of participation during the annual meetings and strengthened the cooperation across Nordic biosphere reserves. The annual meetings have had workshops designed to enhance NordMAB synergy, capacity, and visibility.

In 2015, a new global strategy (2015-2025) was adopted for the MAB Programme and the following year, an accompanying action plan was endorsed by the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress for Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru, the Lima Action Plan (2016-2025).

## NORDMAB DEFINITION AND STRUCTURE

*NordMAB is a thematic network within UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), with the objective of enhancing cooperation among biosphere reserves in northern parts of the world.*

*NordMAB is composed of Northern BRs that share common characteristics and challenges, as well as associates and partners that are interested in those challenges. The Council of NordMAB is including coordinators and experts from all the BRs in NordMAB. The geographical borders are not set and can be handled case by case when needed.*

The common characteristics of NordMAB BRs are:

- Large territories and small population
- Remote and sparsely populated regions
- Youth leaving for larger centers
- High quality but fragile natural environments
- Abundant natural resources
- Large-scale industrial projects
- Presence of first nations
- Cold climate
- Arctic, sub-arctic and/or boreal environments

The common challenges and themes found within the NordMAB network are:

- Conflict resolution
- Sustainable tourism
- Local food promotion /branding
- Nature conservation
- Youth involvement
- Zoning of biosphere reserves
- Sustainable industrial development
- Traditional knowledge
- Social entrepreneurship promotion
- First Nation development
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Considering the above, in 2016, NordMAB is composed of Designated BRs (red dots on map)

1. Archipelago sea (Finland)
2. North Karelia (Finland)
3. Blekinge Archipelago (Sweden)
4. Nedre Dalälven River Landscape (Sweden)
5. East Vättern Scarp Landscape (Sweden)

6. Lake Vänern Archipelago (Sweden)
7. Kristianstads Vattenrike (Sweden)
8. Manicouagan-Uapishka (Canada)
9. North-East Greenland (Denmark)
10. West Estonian Archipelago (Estonia)
11. Lappland (Russia)
12. Smolensk Lakeland (Russia)
13. North Vidzeme (Latvia)

Active but not designated BRs (Blue dots on map)

1. Vindelälven – Juhtatdahka (Sweden)
2. Voxnadalen (Sweden)
3. Nordhordland (Norway)
4. Møns Klint and the island of flint stones (Denmark)
5. Great Bear (Canada)
6. Päijänne

## OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The main objective of the meeting was to offer an opportunity for experience exchange between Nordic BRs and to contribute to strengthening the identity of the network. Other objectives were to explore the NordMAB contribution to Lima Action Plan (LAP) and also to find out how and in what way LAP supports and strengthens the collaboration between Nordic BRs.

National reports of contributions to NordMAB activities can be found in Annex 3: Activity reports.

The following actions in LAP related to thematic networks were chosen for group discussions:

**Inclusive, dynamic and result-oriented collaboration and networking within NordMAB -**  
Organize global/regional education, capacity building and training programmes (LAP B1.1 & B1.2).

**Outcomes:** There is a need to train BR professionals to learn to use the MAB brand & story tool kit. The common goal that all NordMAB BRs should apply the tool kit in their region was identified.

Good examples of educational, marketing and governance tools can be posted on the NordMAB webpage, <http://www.nordmab.com/>

NordMAB can be a reference group for the global communication strategy that is currently being developed.

NordMAB network meeting should be used for capacity building and training of Nordic BRs.

**Inclusive, dynamic and result-oriented collaboration and networking within NordMAB -**  
Create opportunities for collaborative research, implementation and monitoring (LAP B4.1)

**Outcomes:** Food, landscape and climate change are commonalities within the NordMAB network.

Making strategic connections between BRs, common challenges and research projects will increase collaboration within NordMAB.

Designing research projects to increase knowledge about common challenges, using BRs as arenas for knowledge generation, will contribute to increased identity with NordMAB.

Student project about labelling: Survey labelling currently used in/by BRs. Describe the requirements for each label, benefits, challenges and lessons learned. Scotland and Finland, Lake Päijännä, will introduce this idea to Universities in their regions.

**Inclusive, dynamic and result-oriented collaboration and networking within NordMAB -**  
Disseminate results and network activities internally and externally including cases of good practices in BRs. (LAP B5.1)

**Outcomes:** These network meetings are of great value when it comes to sharing experiences and disseminate results. The annual meetings need to continue and we need to find financial means to make this happen.

The meetings will keep strengthening the NordMAB identity and the MAB brand & story tool kit contributes to this. Nordhordland have used this toolkit already. We should take the next opportunity to learn from their experiences.

We need to address the challenge of keeping the new learnings and communication alive in between network meetings. This can be done by

- taking turns to deliver news to the NordMAB website,
- collecting stories from Nordic BRs to create an exhibition,
- developing guidelines on how and what to share to external groups and within the group,
- sending a newsletter
- assign persons to be responsible to send reminders and collect stories, etc

**NordMAB co-leading team:** The group decided that the NordMAB co-leading team is composed of past, current, and future host of the NordMAB Network meeting. This co-leading team will be responsible for planning of network meetings, follow-ups between meetings, and reporting on network activities to MAB Intergovernmental Coordinating Council.

**Workshop during EuroMAB 2017:** The group decided to arrange a NordMAB workshop during EuroMAB 2017 in France, April 3<sup>rd</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Host of NordMAB 2017:** Denmark made a preliminary offer to host a NordMAB network meeting in Møn, October 2017, and will give definite notice in February 2017. Finland, Lake Päijännä, offered to be the back-up host in case Denmark is unable.

## ANNEX 1. Participants

### Participants:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Biosphere Reserve</b>	<b>Country</b>
Gøran Blom	MAB Committee Sweden, Chair	Sweden
Olof Olsson	MAB Committee Sweden	Sweden
Johanna MacTaggaart	National coordinator for MAB in Sweden, Biosphere Vänerskärgrården Kunekulle	Sweden
Lia Rosenberg	West Estonian Biosphere Area	Estonia
Martin Price	MAB Committee UK, Chair	Scotland
Peter Longsholm Jølbek	Northeast Greenland Biosphere Reserve	Greenland
Marit Gystøl	Secretary for MAB Committee Norway	Norway
Olav Nord-Varhaug	MAB Committee Norway, Chair	Norway
Katja Bonnevier	Skärgårdshavets Biosphere Area	Finland
Pia Prost	Skärgårdshavets Biosphere Area	Finland
Anette Petersen	Biosphere Møn	Denmark
Annette Tenberg	Biosphere Møn	Denmark
Hanna Alfredsson	Biospherecandidate Voxnadalen	Sweden
Timo Hokkanen	North Karelia Biosphere Reserve	Finland
Cristina Ericson Turstam	Biosphere Reserve Riverlandscape, Nedre Dalälven	Sweden
Minna Tunkkari-Eskelinen	Biosphere Päijänne	Finland
Meriem Bouamrane	UNESCO, leader of MAB-program Europe	
Tonje Husum Aarland	Project Nordhordland Biosphere Area	Norway
Kjersti Isdal	Project Nordhordland Biosphere Area	Norway
Peter Emil Kaland	Project Nordhordland Biosphere Area	Norway
Arne Abrahamsen	Project Nordhordland Biosphere Area	Norway
Kari Evensen Natland	Project Nordhordland Biosphere Area	Norway
Jon Askeland	Major of Radøy Municipality, leader of steeringgroup, Nordhordland biosphere area	Norway

## ANNEX 2. Workshop Program

REGION  
**NORDHORDLAND**



# PROGRAM NORDMAB WORKSHOP

## 17.-19. OCTOBER 2016

**Heartly welcome to Nordhordland <3**



### MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

Arrival of Participants to Bergen.

20.00 Welcoming dinner at Augustin Hotel in Bergen.



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## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 07.40 Departure from the hotel (walk)  
08.00 Departure by boat to the Heathland Center at Lygra

### 09.15 Session 1 Welcome and introduction

- Presentation of Nordhordland and the biosphere initiative
- Update from last session in Sweden: Countries activities report and Network activity report.

*One representative from each country will give a brief report on activities undertaken since last year. We will send a template which will help focus these reports. The report should be no longer than 5-7 minutes per participant. This will be a good introduction and we encourage the participants to make note of a project or activity you would like to learn more about, and target the person for more information during a lunch, dinner or similar!*

11.30 Lunch

12.30 A guided tour and information about the Heathland Center



#### **The Heathland Center**

As a result of cultivation, pollution and overgrowth, this unique cultural landscape is rapidly disappearing in Norway and Europe. The Heathland Center is an information center focused on preserving knowledge and the way of life about how to manage the coastal heathlands. We preserve the heathland through traditional land use including burning and grazing by wild sheep.



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## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

### 14.00 Session 2 Workshop on NordMAB contribution to Lima Action Plan

*This session will focus on the activities in Lima Action Plan related to thematic networks. It will be around prioritizing activities, which will give us a possibility to feed back our activities to the WNBR and the Nordic Council.*

*All the participants will have instructions and something to prepare before arriving in Bergen, so look out for more information!*

*In this session there will also be a coffee-break.*

17.30 Departure

18.15 Arrival at Westland Hotel, Lindås

Optional: A hike in the nature (mountain) with Kari before dinner

20.00 Dinner

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## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

### 09.00 Session 3 Next steps and workshop conclusion

*Summing up, dialogue around preparing a larger project application to Nordic Council (others?) based on outcomes in Session 2, assigning a working group for this purpose, making clear the road map for 2017.*

*- Survey interest in arranging a NordMAB workshop during EuroMAB in France.*

*- Decide the host of NordMAB 2017.*

11.00 A short walk to Rosenlund. Information about some of Nordhordland's local food activities.

Lunch

13.00 Departure

14.30 Arrival at Flesland Airport.





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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

### REGISTRATION:

Kindly register your participation to Kari Evensen Natland at [kari@nordhordland.net](mailto:kari@nordhordland.net), or call at +47 48 07 09 72 before the first of October.

Please let us know your travel-details. If you have any preferences regarding food, or have any food allergies, please inform us.

### COST:

The conference package costs **3 500 NOK**, and includes:

- accomodation, 2 nights in singleroom
- breakfasts, lunches, three course dinners and beverage during meetings.
- All transportation from the morning 18th of October and back to the airport on the 19th.

### ACCOMODATION:

We are staying at two different hotels:

Bergen: Hotel Augustin [www.augustin.no](http://www.augustin.no)  
Adress: C Sundts gt. 22, 5004 Bergen

Nordhordland: Westland Hotel [www.westlandhotel.no](http://www.westlandhotel.no)  
Adress: 5955 Lindås

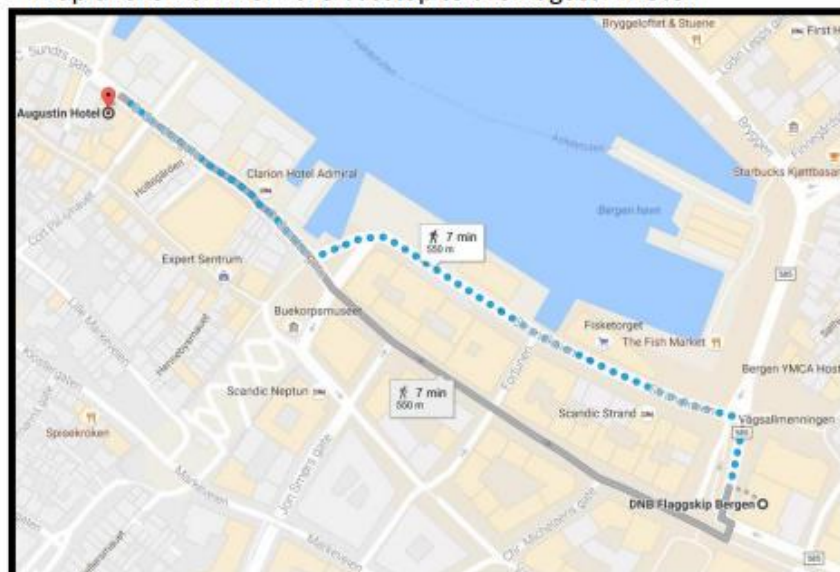
### CLOTHING:

Although we have ordered nice weather: Please bring clothes so that you can be outside when its raining and windy. And practical shoes for walking in nature (especially if you join Kari for a walk in the afternoon!)

### TRANSPORTATION:

When you arrive at the Flesland Airport in Bergen, you catch the Airport bus to the citycenter. You leave the bus at the stop of DNB, near the fishmarket. Ask the busdriver – he will know!

Map of the walk from the busstop to the Augustin Hotel.



Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions!

Again:  
Heartly welcome!  
We really look forward to see you all in Nordhordland!

## ANNEX 3. Activity reports

### REPORT OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE NORDMAB NETWORK OCTOBER 2015 – OCTOBER 2016

**Name of organisation:** Vordingborg Municipality, Denmark

**Name of rapporteur:** Annette Tenberg, coordinator for the proposed Moen Biosphere Reserve

**E-mail address of rapporteur:** anrg@vordingborg.dk

#### 1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:

*(Please mention participation in workshops, projects, and initiatives that are common for NordMAB)*

The Municipality of Vordingborg in Denmark belongs to the candidates that work on an application to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme. In 2015 we had the pleasure to take part in the Nord MAB meeting in Sweden, which both gave us important inspiration for our work and interesting contacts to the Nord MAB partnership.

In 2016 we took part for second time in the Nord MAB meeting in Norway, where we were able to contribute with a presentation of our work about the proposed Moen Biosphere Reserve and the activities on local and national level.

At this place we would like to take the opportunity to thank the Nord MAB leadership for in general offering biosphere candidates exchange of experiences at this professional level. This is a great contribution to expand to the network of biosphere reserves in the Nordic countries.

#### 2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:

*(Please name activities within your BR/Organisation and if necessary include short descriptions that correlates to below themes)*

##### a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging

*(The objective is to provide a strong identity experience to Nordic youth, to enhance their knowledge and foster their motivation to take part of Nordic environmental awareness raising issues, climate changes in particular).*

Fostering the Northern Sense of belonging was one of the subordinate themes discussed during the meeting in Norway. From our 'candidate point of view' we really understood the importance of belonging and authenticity. This special 'Northern Spirit' – of the people living at the North Sea and the Baltic Sea with thousands of inhabited and uninhabited islands, the various northern nature- and culture heritage and the awareness of climate change issues - connect the members of the NORD MAP partnership in a very special way and foster their motivation for acting together. This is quite a good tool to keep a strong identity also on the local level of the biosphere reserves.

Denmark is a small and densely populated country and especially the capital Copenhagen has the reputation of a youthful European metropolis. The biosphere candidate Moen is only one driving hour from Copenhagen but particularly appreciated by the youth as an outskirts area. We believe that belonging to the 'Northern Spirit' will especially address the youth, who is much more affected by the future challenges such for example climate change. The sense of belonging is an important tool for us to address the biosphere idea for the people in the upcoming Moen Biosphere Reserve: belonging to the island of Moen, Denmark and the Nordic Biosphere network.

**b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

*(The objective is to enhance collaboration between BRs and BR Candidates across the North to build beneficial links with private sector, in order to maximize social responsibility and sustainable development in Nordic BRs)*

At our state of candidationship we were not able to enhance collaboration with the private sector beyond our local network in the proposed Moen Biosphere Reserve. This will be one of our next steps in the process.

**c. Using traditional knowledge**

*(The objective is to connect with indigenous communities in the North through sharing of their traditional knowledge and to strengthen models of sustainable development, environmental and social management strategies and policies)*

During the meeting in Norway the participants were introduced to the Heathland project at Lygra. Here the traditional knowledge is kept alive and transformed due to modern environmental and social management strategies, which is similar to a 'demonstration project' that is described in the application regarding the proposed Moen Biosphere Reserve. The small island Nyord, with 40 all year round citizens, represents unique cultural heritage combined with an important nature reserve, characterized by wetlands and a bird sanctuary. Grazing by cattle has kept this typical landscape alive during time and preserving the knowledge and the way of life is one of the goals of the Nyord Island Centre, which shall be established on the only outlying farm on the island. A centre for conservation and preservation of knowledge, research and testing methods, for learning, training and communication and for the citizens need is planned. This will be the base for exchange of models of sustainable development and social management in the proposed Moen Biosphere Reserve and an obvious partner for the Nord MAB network regarding the use of traditional knowledge.

**3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence**

*(Please mention participation in UNESCO related meetings vs non-UNESCO related meetings)*

The proposed Moen Biosphere Reserve will host the Nord MAB meeting in October 2017 as the first official contribution to the Nord MAB partnership.

**Name of organisation: Northeast Greenland Biosphere Reserve (Ministry of Nature, Environment and Energy, Government of Greenland)**

**Name of rapporteur: Peter Longsholm Jølbæk (Joelbaek)**

**E-mail address of rapporteur: pelj@nanoq.gl**

**1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

A) Participation in NordMAB-meetings in 2015 and 2016.

B) Involved in the fundraising effort for NordMAB's Students on Ice.

C) Dialogue regarding the potential for cooperation between a new research station in RMBMU and one or more of the research stations located in the BR in Greenland.

**2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:**

**a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging**

Involved in the fundraising effort for NordMAB's Students on Ice.

**b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

No direct dialogue with the private sector but for example with the Mineral Licence and Safety Authority that issues the mineral licences in Greenland as well as with the three research stations in the BR. While not part of the private sector, these stakeholders do in various ways set the stage for activities in the area and thus may help maximize social responsibility and sustainable development.

**c. Using traditional knowledge**

As part of the current process of revising the existing order for the national park/BR in Greenland, there will be a public hearing process. We intend to use the hearing process to invite as much relevant input as possible, for example by specifically encouraging the local councils from the settlements closest to the area to have their say. Public meetings may also be part of that process.

**3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence**

Ongoing dialogue with decision makers and key stakeholders, among other things informing about NordMAB and MAB more broadly.

**Name of organisation: Archipelago Sea Area Biosphere Reserve**

**Name of rapporteur: Katja Bonnevier, coordinator**

**E-mail address of rapporteur: katja.bonnevier@pargas.fi**

### **1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

The coordinator of the Archipelago Sea Area BR participated in the NordMAB 2015 meeting in Nedredalälven in Sweden.

Project planning with focus on tourism and branding, together with the Western Estonian Archipelago BR and North Vidzeme BR in Latvia, has been initiated.

The coordinator has put a lot of effort on finding financial support for NordMAB on Ice, but unfortunately not succeeded.

### **2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:**

#### **a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging**

ViMe is a project for updating the educational program of high schools in the Town of Pargas and for integrating the concept of biosphere reserves in all courses. Both high schools in Pargas, a Finnish speaking and a Swedish speaking, are involved. The project is testing a few new courses as models for how the future courses could be developed to be bilingual (Swedish and Finnish), multidisciplinary and include more practical tasks and study trips. The students will learn about global issues such as climate change, globalisation, sustainable development and biodiversity loss, but study in local conditions and learn about the cultural history, ecological values and regional development of today in their own region. The students' awareness of the biosphere reserve and the global or Northern dimensions of the local challenges will help to foster a Northern sense of belonging. In the future some national and international connections will be developed preferably with partners from NordMAB. Discussions with North-Karelia BR about cooperation has already taken place.

#### **b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

The Archipelago Sea BR has during the last years put a lot of effort on promoting the small-scaled food industry in the region. With the help of the Archipelago Sea Area BR the concept of "mathantverk" (food handicraft) was introduced some years ago. Together with partners along the south-west coast of Finland and Åland islands, an educational program for Food Handicraft has been built up. The education program has helped many new enterprises in the Archipelago Sea Area to start up their business and/or develop their concept in a sustainable way. In October 2016 the first Open Finnish Championship in Food Handicraft was arranged together with many partners. The concept is connecting the Nordic countries through the open championships.

#### **c. Using traditional knowledge**

Cooperation between Metsähallitus/Archipelago Sea National Park and University of Bergen in management of heathlands was initiated in 2015. A team from Archipelago Sea made a study trip to Nordhordland to learn about burning techniques in management of heathlands.

In March 2016 the yearly winter meeting of the biosphere reserve was arranged in the Archipelago Center of Korpoström. The theme of this year was documentation of cultural and natural heritage. Both documentation of scientific and traditional knowledge was presented.

### **3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence**

Participation in the seminar about the Cormorant arranged the 23 of November 2015 in Turku by the Archipelago Cooperation of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

**Name of organisation: West Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve**

**Name of rapporteur: Lia Rosenberg**

**E-mail address of rapporteur: lia.rosenberg@keskkonnaamet.ee**

### **1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

Several co-operation projects were under preparation with partners from different Nordic countries during Spring 2016. Estonia hosted partners from North Vidzeme BR (Latvia) and from Blekinge Archipelago BR (Sweden). There were initiated 3 projects:

Exchange of experiences between Nordic BRs (Latvia, Sweden and Estonia). There were organized a conference in Estonia "Local community implementing Biosphere Program" in October. A Project to make the BRs more visible through new tourism products (Finland, Latvia, Estonia) will be submitted to Central Baltic Interreg in January 2017. A Project to work out the quality scheme for new meat product (Norway and Estonia). Estonia took part in the international project "Art & Local Identity" in Harlösa (Sweden) organized by the local NGO "ARNA i Fagelriket".

### **2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:**

#### **a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging**

West Estonian Archipelago BR took part in a project "Biosphere Challenge", which was designed for schools in biosphere reserves.

#### **b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

Estonian BR has worked out a protocol of joint intentions that will be signed with different stakeholders in the BR area. We have signed the protocol with representatives of private sector, with development centres, with local Leader groups. The protocol describes the good will of the parties' cooperation and sets out the rights to use the BR official logo.

#### **c. Using traditional knowledge**

There is a project initiated by Estonian BRs farmers NGO to work out the quality scheme for special sheep product. Thanks to the NordMAB network through which the contact was found in Norway, where such a product (Fenalår) has a historical tradition. Local Leader program funded the project and Estonian BR farmers will visit the BR candidate in Norway Nordhordland to learn the traditional process of making Fenalår as well as learn about the whole sheep production in West coast of Norway.

### **3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence**

Estonian BR has participated in many different conferences, seminars and meetings to promote the area. There has been always asked to make a presentation. Anniversary Conference to highlight the 25th birthday of Estonian BR. The 23rd of March will be the official birthday for Estonian BR. All Estonian islands were represented, also parliament deputies participated, even former president of Estonia had a speech. Presentation "Estonian BR and Lima action Plan" presented in UNESCO Lima Conference in Islands and Coastal BR network group. Presentation about Estonian BR for investors from Japan Participation and presentation "BR as the chance for development" in Annual meeting of Estonian Islands Association. Nordic cooperation Project – Conference "Community implementing Biosphere Program" 12.-14. october in Hiiumaa.



**Name of organisation: The proposed Nordhordland Biosphere Area**

**Name of rapporteur: Kari Evensen Natland**

**E-mail address of rapporteur: kari@nordhordland.net**

### **1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

The UNESCO branding and communication work. We have been one of the pilots in this work, that has been very important for us. We hope that as many BR within NordMAB as possible connect to this work, as we think that it will do the MAB-brand much stronger and more known than it is today.

NPA-Project: Sustainable Heritage Areas: Partnerships for Ecotourism 'SHAPE'. Application to be submitted 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2016. Partners are

- Finland: North Karelia Biosphere Reserve
- Greenland: proposed Kujataa World Heritage Site and surrounding area in Kujalleq Municipality
- Iceland: Snæfellsnes Regional Park
- Norway: Proposed Nordhordland Biosphere Area
- Scotland: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve and possibly Wester Ross Biosphere Reserve
- Canada: Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve

Here is clip from the application:

" To address the common challenges of the involved SHAs, the project partners will work throughout the project with stakeholders – particularly from the resource-based and tourism sectors and local government – by bringing them together 1) to build networks and partnerships which will identify common goals and priorities; 2) to map and understand cultural and natural assets and how they interact; 3) to realise opportunities for partnerships of stakeholders to use sets of assets for visitor initiatives which support development.

Thus, a key focus of SHAPE will be on the potential synergies between those who maintain and live from the natural and cultural heritage of the involved SHAs and those who currently bring visitors to them – or would like to do so. Some project partners are already working on innovative solutions for the sustainable management of both natural and cultural assets. Key elements include:

- bringing together stakeholders who have rarely collaborated (e.g., from natural and cultural heritage, agriculture or fisheries, and tourism) and have sometimes been in conflict, to identify common goals and find ways to work together to realise them;
- focusing not on individual entrepreneurs or organisations, but on how to integrate them at the regional scale.

These solutions will be further developed, adapted for use in tourism, and tested in the project regions and through 'learning journeys' to these, to:

- increase cooperation (e.g. joint promotion/websites/marketing/services, labelling);
- connect businesses to opportunities deriving from status as a SHA, adding value to 'sense of place';
- develop an understanding of how local assets have value in tourist markets;
- develop methods to ensure 'professional' development of these resources;
- improve interpretation/communication of information on natural/cultural heritage."

## **2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:**

- a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging**
- b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

As a proposed biosphere reserve we have been careful, and not started collaborative partnerships with private sector yet. We hope that we will receive our candidate-status soon, and then we can be more active and open to build partnerships.

But we have started within some of our projects:

'The taste of Nordhordland' – partnership with food producers, hotels, restaurants, local history groups etc

'SHAPE' – partnership with adventure companies.

### **c. Using traditional knowledge**

We do stress the importance of using traditional knowledge in all of our projects. Ex. our foodproject (the taste of Nordhordland), our 'open landscape'-project and in SHAPE. But we do not have any indigenous people in our proposed biosphere area.

**Name of organisation: North Karelia Biosphere Reserve**

**Name of rapporteur: Timo J. Hokkanen**

**E-mail address of rapporteur: timo.hokkanen@ely-keskus.fi**

**1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

- EuroMAB BR Coordinators' Conference, Hiiumaa, Estonia, May 2015
- Lima WNBRC Conference, Peru, March 2016
- NordMAB workshop in Nordhordland, Norway, October 2016
- SHAPE project (for EU NPA) preparation process 2015 - 2016

**2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:**

**a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging**

Climate change has grave consequences everywhere, but especially in the in the Boreal zone. BR has raised the northern specificity issues such as shortening of winters and increase of abrupt climatic occasions. A BR and climate change related curriculum has been officially added to a local high school; co-operation between Finnish BR's (schools) in this issue has been planned to start in Spring 2017.

**b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

Sustainability partnerships with private sector (businesses, associations and other private organisations as well as public actors such as municipalities, schools, museums) forms the cornerstone of North Karelia BR's regional development strategy.

North Karelia BR has a provincial system of formal agreements between partners and BR to promote sustainability. More than 30 big and small actors already belong to the partnership network.

Advances obtained

- BR issues have been written into municipal development strategies
- new links have been created between actors (private and private & public)
- BR's position a neutral (sustainable) development platform has improved
- partnerships have improved project planning, application preparing and implementation
- many-sided, extended and sustaining visibility

**c. Using traditional knowledge**

We do not have indigenous communities, but traditional knowledge still exists.

Traditional knowledge, working habits etc are collected through our sustainability partners, e.g.,

- handicraft skills are collected and revived through our partner, the regional Taito North Karelia (BR partner), and courses (even international) etc are held to convey the skills in their headquarters in Joensuu;
- Finland's best wooden building (outdoor) collection is situated in the BR; Pielisen Museo (BR partner) is the actor; the museum both collects the cultural heritage and maintains and the restoration skills concerning wood construction
- Ilomantsin museosäätiö (BR partner) has Finland's best collection of our national epic, Kalevala; Kalevala consists of runes which were sang by specific, skilled rune singers; Museosäätiö maintains the skills of rune singing by having, e.g., exhibitions and rune reading and singing festivals

### **3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence**

These events have not been specifically NordMAB events (except the Nordhordland gathering)

- EuroMAB BR Coordinators' Conference, Hiiumaa, Estonia, May 2015
- Lima WNBRC Conference, Peru, March 2016
- NordMAB workshop in Nordhordland, Norway, October 2016
- SHAPE project (for EU NPA) preparation process 2015 - 2016

**Name of organisation: Blekinge Archipelago BR**

**Name of rapporteur: Heleen Podsedkowska**

**E-mail address of rapporteur: heleen@blekingearkipelag.se**

**1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

**Workshops**

Participating in EuroMAB 2015, Estonia, and the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and its workshops, Lima, Peru.

**Projects**

Erasmus+ project RECORDI: Recall coastal heritage for rural entrepreneurship, together with partners in Finland, Italy and Estonia (Hiiumaa, which is part of West-Estonian Archipelago BR).

The overarching aim of this project is to improve the cultural and economic environment in remote coastal areas by bridging coastal cultural heritage with ecotourism-related entrepreneurship.

The immediate objective of the project is to create the adult learning curriculum and supportive materials, which will be used in Vocational Schools (or similar educational organisations) in study courses of ecotourism. The intellectual outputs of the project include the curriculum itself, as well as the production of short video films about best practices, and a brochure in digital form to be used as study material.

**Initiatives**

Exchange with/visits at and from BR's in Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Germany and Denmark (candidate).

Feasibility study Archipelago Route which is followed up by a 3,5 years project, the Archipelago Route, Sustainable outdoor products along trails on land and water in Blekinge. The aim of the project is to get off the ground Blekinge as an outdoor destination with a clear focus on coast and archipelago.

Associate partner in Attractive Hardwoods, which aim is to create and conserve attractive deciduous forests, both for people and species; Lithuania and Poland.

**Name of organisation: Nedre Dalälven River Landscape**

**Name of rapporteur: Cristina Ericson Turstam**

**E-mail address of rapporteur: cristna@nedredalalven.se**

**1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

Hosted NordMAB 2015

Participated in NordMAB 2016

**2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:**

**a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging**

The Biosphere Reserve has launched a "Making a movie" competition for high schools in the BR. The students are competing by creating and submitting movies about the BR.

Exampel of activities for young persons in the BR:

School of Nature, Biosphere exhibits in Gröna Kunskapshuset/Biosfärum and Naturum.

Sjöviks folkhögskola, a member of the BR association, arrange training courses in ecosustainable lifestyles, outdoor life, and crafts.

Project for integration of young refugees: "There are no tigers in the Swedish forest".

**b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

We have a close collaboration with private sectors. Representatives for forestry industry, private landowners, water right owners and enterprises are represented in the Board of the BR.

We have tourism and fish management networks where we work close with private sector.

**c. Using traditional knowledge**

There are no indigenous communities within the BR, but there are culture and traditional knowledge that we use in several different ways. For example:

Traditional chalets and forest grazing

Traditional crafts, such as building log houses

Charcoal kiln

Folklore music with local instrument Nyckelharpa

River meadow hay

Food traditions with local specialities

**3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence**

Hosted NordMAB 2015

Participated in NordMAB 2016

**Name of organisation:** BR Lake Vänern Archipelago

**Name of rapporteur:** Johanna MacTaggart

**E-mail address of rapporteur:** johanna.mactaggart@vanerkulle.se

**1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

- Participated in NordMAB 2015 and 2016

**2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:**

**a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging**

We are training mini-ambassadors for our Biosphere Reserve every year. We currently have more than 200 mini-ambassadors, ages 5-8, that continuously are learning about sustainable development issues.

We have had two Biosphere Challenges. Our Biosphere Challenge is an annual event and a challenge for schools classes in the Biosphere Reserve. The challenge have different themes for each year but always focuses on a sustainability issue. We are now launching the Biosphere Challenge for all biosphere reserves in NordMAB.

**b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

Our BR have two primary focuses for 2016: Sustainable business development and knowledge-raising and education.

We have employed a process leader for sustainable development within the business sector.

We are currently developing a strategy with the aim to increase sustainability within the business sector. Here, we work directly with individual enterprises.

We are feeding data into the on-line network platform OASIIS – Open Access to Sustainable Independent income Streams. <https://www.oasiis-br.org>

Enterprises are able to invest in local initiatives for sustainability through our GULLD-fund. The GULLD fund is funding projects that develop local solutions to global challenges.

**3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence**

- 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress for the Man and the Biosphere Programme, Lima, Peru
- Workshop about Social Entrepreneurship in Biosphere Reserves, Scotland, UK
- Meeting with UNESCO National commission of Iceland
- Non-UNESCO meetings
- Arctic Circle Conference 2015
- Scientific Conference Ruralities

**Name of organisation: Biosfärkandidat Voxnadalen**

**Name of rapporteur: Hanna Alfredsson**

**E-mail address of rapporteur: Hanna.Alfredsson@ovanaker.se**

**1. Actions undertaken to enhance synergy among NordMAB:**

Participation in NordMAB workshop 17-19 Oct, 2016, Nordhordland, Bergen, Norway.

**2. Actions undertaken within the NordMAB focus themes:**

**a. Fostering Northern sense of belonging**

Providing economic support to schools for taking part in educational activities raising awareness around the ecology of carnivores and their interactions with humans.

**b. Building collaborative partnerships with private sector**

Numerous steps, to inform the private sector about Biosphere reserves and to open up for discussions about future collaborations, have been undertaken during the candidate phase. Discussions have been initiated with one of the BRs major companies within the forest industry (Sveaskog).

**c. Using traditional knowledge**

Discussions have been initiated to start a national educational centre for old "outfield-agricultural" traditions (Utmarksbruk).

**3. Actions undertaken to enhance NordMAB visibility and presence**

No specific actions undertaken.