

## Transcript of the Video

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The governance of biosphere reserves was clarified at the Seville conference in 1995, particularly through the texts that are still relevant for the implementation of biosphere reserves. Biosphere reserves are not protected areas, but are more than protected areas. They integrate them, but with the vision of integrating conservation into the sustainable development of populations. The statutory framework governing biosphere reserves, which dates back to the Seville conference, sets out the provisions relating to governance in Article 4, and specifies that measures must be taken to involve and associate a set of stakeholders who are representative of the territory in which the biosphere reserve is located. The public authorities, administrations, and therefore elected representatives, local communities and also private interests: companies, associations, associations with an interest in the environment, cultural associations, etc. Both public and private interests will be associated at the time of the creation of the biosphere reserve and throughout its life and the implementation of its management.

It is therefore necessary to provide, in addition to this broad and open governance which may take the form of a management committee, resource use management mechanisms for the buffer zone where not everything is allowed and the buffer zone.

Activities must be controlled in one way or another, and therefore must have management mechanisms in place. But the whole biosphere reserve, and therefore all three areas that make it up, must have a management plan or policy. Of course, this management policy must be put in order and periodically renewed. Usually every ten years, and it will therefore need an authority or a mechanism to implement this management policy.

Also recall that the biosphere reserve must develop research programmes and environmental monitoring programmes, education, training and awareness-raising programmes. It should also be recalled that the core areas of biosphere reserves are protected areas established by law and their objective is long-term conservation. The biosphere reserve is more than a protected area, but it contains protected areas.

Then, it should be noted that the territory itself can sometimes be a protected area which will be category 5 or 6 in the IUCN categories. May contain several protected areas, sometimes several different types of protected areas, for example in France, a nature reserve and a biotope protection decree, and a piece of land that will be under land protection that will belong, for example, to the Conservatoire du Littoral (Coastal Protection Agency).

A biosphere reserve is a territory where a wide variety of stakeholders, both public and private, are involved. We must always keep in mind that several objectives have to be reconciled and therefore different types of public and private structures will be called upon to interact, but they will interact within the framework of a concerted project. The objective of this governance and the establishment and animation of this concerted project. As several types of statues are present in biosphere reserves. It will be necessary to make them consistent. In other words, the work of the biosphere reserve and this governance will serve to coordinate,

animate, implement and mobilize different types of stakeholders and, of course, sometimes to deal with complex situations. They are obviously not absent.

Conflicts between interest groups who may have a different vision of the future of the territory and who will need to be brought into dialogue, to discuss conflicts over land use, over the use of resources, sometimes from different points of view within the local population, but sometimes between the local population and governments further away from the field. Conflicts also arise between production and the economy and conservation. These are all conflicts that the biosphere reserve will have to manage and will be keen to manage.

It is obvious that information and communication are important in all this. Transparency regarding the decisions taken and the associated stakeholders, local participation is very much encouraged in biosphere reserves and different types of animation techniques are required. Therefore, all these points relating to communication, dissemination and mediation are absolutely fundamental.

The way in which biosphere reserves are organized varies a lot from one case to another and on a global scale. There are obviously different types of models that implement governance.

In some countries, there is a model called authorities, according to work done by the German Commission for UNESCO, which notes that in some cases, the state is in charge of the management of biosphere reserves, sometimes only the core areas. And in these cases, it is obvious that the State is poorly equipped and has little or no competence for local development, and therefore has a weakness. From this point of view. Often, it is the oldest biosphere reserves which were based on this type of governance model. There are also much more flexible models that the German Commission for UNESCO has called the NGO Model Coordination Model. It is a model that is more based on cooperation, a coordination function, but often limited means of management and implementation, means of intervention, land management or land use. On the other hand, these structures make it possible to fluidify dialogue at the territorial level, to make it possible and they are present in different countries. And then, of course, there are many mixed models. In France, there are many different types of arrangements, but most of them are mixed models or rather coordinated models, but nevertheless with a mix. Among the mixed models we have two biosphere reserves which are supported by national parks. The national parks in France have been adapted following a relatively recent law dating from 2006 which provides for a core area of the park which is regulated, but which is integrated into a zone of free adhesion of local authorities and whose objective will be a sustainable development project around the core of the park in a notion of ecological solidarity, solidarity between the core and the zone of adhesion, therefore a balance between conservation and development and a balance which aims to be reinforced by solidarity mechanisms. The two biosphere reserves based on this system have the same governance as the national park, with a board of directors comprising a majority of local authorities, representatives of local communities, but also the administration, representatives of the main activities of the territory, foresters, farmers, representatives of farmers, and representatives of the private sector.

And who can of course sit in thematic and specialized committees, but also have the right to take decisions at the time of the board of directors. This board is also supported by an economic, social and cultural council and a scientific committee.

Among the biosphere reserves that operate according to the co-coordination model, there are different supporting structures that can be alone or in connection with other communities. And in these cases, when there are several types of structures that support a single biosphere reserve, the biosphere reserve serves as a cooperation mechanism between different entities on the scale of a territory that has ecological, social or cultural coherence. And there, there are different possibilities: a watershed management institution as in the Dordogne, mixed syndicates, mixed syndicates of regional nature parks alone or with other mixed syndicates,

or other types of community codes such as conurbation communities when a town is part of the biosphere reserve territory. Or a marine nature park, as is the case in the biosphere reserve in Brittany. Thus, there is a wide variety of arrangements that enable the biosphere reserve to adapt as well as possible to the implementation of these three functions of conservation, development support and logistical support on the scale of a territory that is an entity in ecological, social and generally cultural terms.