

## Transcript of the Video

## **Catherine Cibien**

In Biosphere Reserves (BRs), the involvement of "stakeholders" is fundamental, and concerns different types of stakeholders, for whom the stakes of participation differ. It takes place in a particular way at certain key moments in the life of the BR.

A key moment for participation, creation, periodic review and implementation of the biosphere reserve's management policy. At these stages, the inhabitants, their representatives, the private and associative sectors and institutions will have to analyze the issues facing the biosphere reserve and agree on the policy and projects to be carried out in the coming years, in the fields of conservation, support for the development of human activities, research and studies, and education - training - awareness raising.

It is therefore necessary to plan cycles of meetings that will first inform, identify and understand in a transparent manner the challenges of the moment. Then, there will come a phase of co-construction of the BR project that the official bodies will have to validate and carry out.

Various participatory facilitation techniques can be mobilized: public meetings, various participatory workshops (world café, forum theatre, or the famous THM that Obama used on a large scale for his health reform), the reports of which should be put online, made public and relayed in the local media.

Outside of these highlights, local participation is also encouraged on a daily basis, through the working methods and governance of the Biosphere Reserve, which includes representatives from the public and private sectors.

They are based on the reflections of committees or working groups and projects, which involve stakeholders, on agriculture for example, or forestry, or education. Representatives of professions, associations are invited to participate.

The social and ecological transition of a territory can only take place if the inhabitants and actors take ownership of it and make it, are themselves bearers of transformation.

Some Biosphere Reserves have established mechanisms to recognize their commitments. Depending on the country, they call themselves ambassadors or eco-stakeholders of BR. In France, eco-actors sign a charter with BR, committing themselves to a process of environmental and social progress for their own activity. Some BR have established brands for products and services that meet high environmental and social standards. Those who benefit from these brands have their quality efforts recognized by the BR.

In France, trophies are awarded every year for original initiatives by local players. All these schemes are complementary and it is not uncommon for companies with branded products to also be eco-actors or ambassadors of their BR. They enable the creation of networks and partnerships at the service of the region.



## EduB**;**oMed

Participation efforts can also be aimed at a specific social group.

Thus the mobilization of young people aged 18 - 35 is on the agenda in the BRs. Youth forums, or youth councils, are organized, in participatory formats, to train them in territorial dialogue, in the management issues raised by the territory where they live or study, and to invite them to take part in discussions concerning its future, in an informed and constructive way.

Helping the younger generation to be more proactive, to initiate the reforms necessary to achieve the SDGs before 2030 is an important issue for many countries.