

Transcript of the Video

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The management of a territory that is called Biosphere Reserve relies on an Action Plan that the same territory presents to UNESCO during the application process. This very Action Plan should base on the Seville Strategy, in the Lima Action Plan, in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and in the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, in the case of Montseny Biosphere Reserve, these days [September 2020] we are between the end of an Action Plan and the adoption of the following one.

Until now, the way we implemented the Plan was through working groups, specifically four groups that would lead the daily management of the Reserve. The first working group is for the issue of ecolabeling and the related patrimonialization of the rural heritage. Another working group of mobility and public transport, which is a very relevant topic in Montseny BR, since it is close to the place [Barcelona] where approximately 70% of Catalonia's population lives and therefore receives many visitors. Another working group works on energy efficiency. In the case of Montseny, given the abundance of forests, biomass is a central topic. And another working group that is dealing with water management. As we like to say in Montseny BR, water is the element on which we orbit. The conservation of natural heritage passes by a good water management.

Besides these four basic working groups, opportunities come up. In this sense, and looking at the 5th Sustainable Development Goal - gender equality - in 2017 we organized some meetings to discuss the role of women in the rural world. These meetings were held in Montseny BR and people from other Biosphere Reserves came to share their experiences.

The idea that we managers had at that time was to discuss a topic that we believed important, without expectations. And the meetings were successful, mainly thanks to the engagement of attendants, who put emotions and feelings in what was happening and it created in Montseny -as I like to say- a small revolution.

And when the meetings concluded, many people, both men and women came to me saying that it had to continue, that we had to keep working the topic of gender equality, so we kept working, and last year [2019] we approved the Gender Equality Plan of Montseny Biosphere Reserve.

A plan that deals with equal gender opportunities, in a world -the rural- where inequality is even larger than in the urban world, it counts of a series of objectives (available in our website), and what is important to say is that it has been a Plan born from the same citizens of Montseny Biosphere Reserve that enabled the organization of a series of workshops on women empowerment, the creation of a women assembly, and above all... That people got to meet. Rural and mountain areas - as it's the case of Montseny BR- they are isolated areas. So people were not knowing each other's' before. They did not have a relationship. Thanks to all these workshops, all the meetings and the Gender Equality Plan, a small revolution happened, as we like to say. Small business and enterprises led by women are starting, especially in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

I believe it is very important also because that it is not accomplishing just the 5th SDG, but also other ones, especially the #17, the one on Partnership. Well, this is the small experience of Montseny BR, and do not hesitate in contacting us for anything.