

## Transcript of the Video

### Juana Barber Rosado

If we consider the three objectives of a Biosphere Reserve: the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, the sustainable development of peoples who live in these territories and the logistic support.

The meaning of the latter is always difficult to understand, especially for us here in the Spanish Network [of BRs], maybe because of the literal translation from English of the term, but in exact terms, on what the logistic function draws the attention is on the fact that Biosphere Reserves are 'laboratory spaces' sites where sustainability models might be tested, models where sustainable development of peoples should be compatible with conservation that is, this third function [of a BR] comes in support to the first two objectives to be met.

It is in this third objective - the logistic support in laboratory spaces - where [scientific] research has a very relevant role. Given the importance of the role - [scientific] research cannot be performed by whom is managing the territory. Management is hard, sometimes: the day-by-day is very complicated, so people who are in charge of managing the territory cannot be the same who conduct scientific activity

Is here where the union between management and the academic entourage becomes crucial and this is what should be stressed: it is very important for a Biosphere Reserve manager -to make the right decisions- to know what is exactly going on in their territory, on a scientific base the Scientific committees play such a role there in Countries where Biosphere Reserves exist.

For example in the case of Spain, a Scientific Committee exists within the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves, and it is multidisciplinary, as it can only be because in a Biosphere Reserve, with the previously mentioned objectives, the range of issues you have to deal with is very vast: not only we are speaking about biodiversity protection; not only we are speaking about local development in its broad meaning -related to a rural environment: so to agricultural, forestry issues-, but we are talking of many other things: of employment, of social issues, of everything that happens in that territory. Therefore, the existence of a Scientific Committee multidisciplinary that works together with managerial actors is a successful model towards which we should aim everywhere there are Biosphere Reserves.

I'd like to bring the example of what has been done in the case of the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves and its indicators system. A system of indicators was built in collaboration between managers and academics, so to understand if the Biosphere Reserves were complying with their objectives in the accomplishment of the Seville strategy and the Lima Action Plan. Why? Because UNESCO is periodically evaluating [the BR] every 10 years. But obviously, if after 10 years of work, they tell you that you are not doing a good job, that would be discouraging but if you perform monitoring along these 10 years by yourself - in collaboration with a Scientific Committee- you can more easily evaluate independently where you should intervene, where you should put more resources, or what direction you should take.

So, I believe this is important and it has been an effective approach in Spain and was satisfactory in terms of the periodical evaluation.

Finally, this Scientific Committee is obliged to provide a return back to society, in the territory that is the object of study. It is very important that we start to work on what is called 'citizen science'. That is because people should gain awareness of their territory, for this territory be a successful Biosphere Reserve and to get awareness, it is important to know what is happening. And who else but the Scientific Committee is best suited to return the results of their analysis back to society? I strongly believe it is very important to have a Scientific Committee in any Biosphere Reserve.