

Why Wester Ross?

Our Biosphere designation was awarded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which joins us to a network of over 130 countries.

Our Biosphere covers a vast area of over 5,000 km², dominated by spectacular mountains, lochs and coastline and is home to an amazing collection of wildlife including white-tailed eagles, otters, pine martens, deer and red squirrels.

Our communities are proud of our cultural heritage, where the Gaelic language, small-scale fishing and crofting demonstrate our connection with the land and sea.



unesco
Wester Ross
Biosphere Reserve
since 2016
Man and the Biosphere
Programme

Our principles

-  **Benefiting people and nature** to build thriving societies in harmony with the landscape
-  **International recognition** as a member of UNESCO's global network
-  **Community led** by people who live and work in the Biosphere
-  **Problem solving** to promote sustainable economic, social and environmental practices
-  **Landscape-scale** approach to find the balance between conservation and development

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**Bringing people & nature
together to create a positive,
sustainable future**

What is a biosphere?

Biosphere reserves, or Biospheres, are UNESCO designated sites that have three main functions: biodiversity conservation, support for education, scientific research and monitoring, and Human and Economic Sustainable Development.

Biospheres consist of three interconnected zones: the 'Core Area' – where long-term conservation of the natural environment takes place; the 'Buffer zone' – where scientific research, monitoring, training and education takes place; and the 'Transition Area' – where local communities manage resources in a sustainable way.

There are over 700 Biospheres around the world. Biospheres vary greatly in terms of their population size, geography, ecosystems, socio-economic activities and challenges, but all Biospheres have two things in common: a special environment and communities who are committed to keeping it that way.

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**Finding the balance
between conservation &
development is at the
heart of everything we do.**



You are part of the biosphere

Wester Ross Biosphere Ltd is a community-led charity that manages the designation locally. Our team of staff, members, supporters and volunteers aim to bring communities together to ensure the wellbeing of our natural and cultural landscape and our long-term economic future - to create a thriving Wester Ross for everyone.

We aim to balance the interests of everyone who lives within our boundaries or visits us, including individuals, businesses and community organisations, to ensure sustainable development for all.

If you'd like to become a member, join our supporter charter or volunteer to support our work, please visit our website to find out how you can get involved.

Our projects are led by people who live and work in the biosphere

We are diverse and forward-looking, with many people living here who make their living using new technologies and innovations. There are strong local partnerships, rooted in communities that work collaboratively with Biosphere teams in a global network, to explore how – through education, science, culture, communication and information – we can create a positive, sustainable future.

Dùthchas

Tha am facal 'dùthchas' air a chleachdadh airson cunntas a thoirt air faireachdainn de bhuinteanas eadar na daoine agus an dùthaich anns a bheil iad a' fuireach. Chan eil eadar-theangachadh Beurla ann airson an fhacail ach tha ciall shònraichte aige ann an coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig. Tha am facal sònraichte seo freumhaichte anns an obair a tha sinn a' dèanamh. Tha Bith-chruinne Ros an lár ag obair gus ceangal làidir a bhrosnachadh eadar daoine agus an dùthaich mun cuairt orra gus àm teachdail seasmhach a chruthachadh.

The word 'dùthchas' is used to describe a sense of belonging between the people and the land in which they live. There is no English translation for the word but it has a special meaning in Gaelic-speaking communities. This special word is rooted in the work that we do. Wester Ross Biosphere works towards encouraging a strong connection between people and the land around them to create a sustainable future.