

# 10 Years of Cooperation in Lake Vänern Archipelago and Mount Kinnekulle UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

*"Lake Vänern Archipelago and Mount Kinnekulle UNESCO Biosphere Reserve  
is a driven, active and inspiring model region for sustainable development."*

The Vision of the Biosphere Association

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# *For Future* GENERATIONS

**We are now looking back at a full ten years of tireless work to show what a fantastic area the Lake Vänern Archipelago and Mount Kinnekulle really is.**

We have decided that we must be a sustainable model area for all dimensions of life. By that we mean that we want to make the area accessible and develop it, without leaving future generations with worse conditions.

**In retrospect, we can conclude** that many successful activities and projects have been implemented over the years. The 10-year evaluation highlights many great examples. The evaluation process itself has also been very rewarding. We have seen good examples but have also had the courage to be self-critical.

**It is a challenge but also** a unique opportunity to act as a biosphere reserve and be concrete in our vision, aiming to fulfil the UN global Sustainable development goals in Agenda 2030. If we make a joint effort, the next ten years may be an even greater journey of discovery and something to tell our children and grandchildren about. We could say that we were involved. That we made a difference.

**On behalf of the Board,**

Katarina Sundberg

Lake Vänern Archipelago and Mount Kinnekulle Biosphere Reserve

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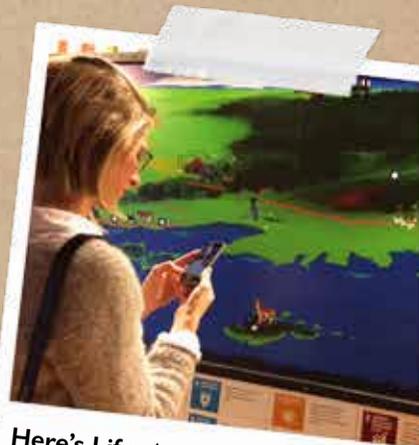
**ElectriVillage**, a world-unique solar-powered hydrogen gas station. Refuel the car, and clean water is its only emission!



**The Biosphere Reserve's Mini-Ambassadors**, 5- and 6-year-olds learn about the important interaction between humans and the biosphere, alongside their teachers.



**Vänerlöjrom**, (Lake Vänern vendace roe). The development of the brand has led to more and more people opening their eyes to the vendace and the 'gold' of Lake Vänern. These initiatives have strengthened the local fishing industry.



**Here's Life**, A communication project that through exhibitions, game apps, lectures, films and a number of meeting places and collaborative activities spread knowledge about the Biosphere Reserve and Agenda 2030.



**Thanks to the Biosphere Trail**, you can hike or cycle a full 138 km through the entire biosphere reserve. Here you can experience Kinnekulle and a lot of rich natural environments and cultural heritage.

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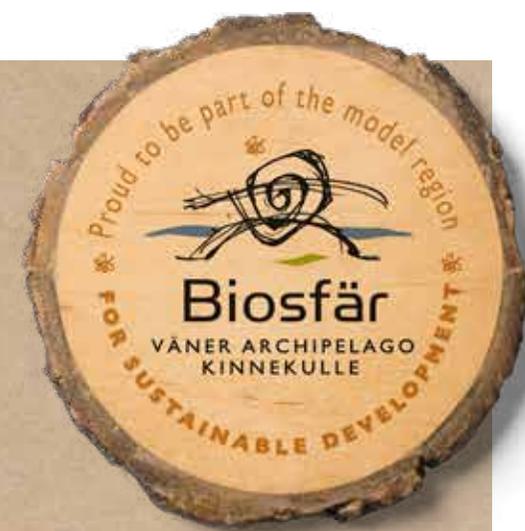
**The biosphere reserve has approximately thirty biosphere ambassadors** who are familiar with what the biosphere reserve is about, in terms of everything from geography to the interaction between humans and the biosphere. They communicate knowledge and inspiration and are important parts of the Biosphere Association. The concept has spread to more biosphere reserves.



**The Biosphere Challenge** is for school-children. Over the years the challenges have covered subjects such as democracy, reducing food waste and recycling waste materials. The participants are found not only locally but in other Swedish biospheres and various parts of the world.

## Sustainable BUSINESS

The business community is one of the keys to the success of the transition to a more sustainable society. 60% of the members of the biosphere association are companies and organizations. Sustainable producers in the Biosphere Reserve have the opportunity to use the Biosphere Association's logotype.



## My place in THE BIOSPHERE

**My place in the Biosphere** is the name of a publication, as well as a traveling exhibition which have both spread the results of research, conducted by researchers at the University of Gothenburg and the University of Gävle. They have looked at the role of the cultural environment and the cultural ecosystem services cultural heritage and site identity for human well-being and for sustainable landscape management within the Lake Vänern Archipelago and Mount Kinnekulle Biosphere Reserve.



## The Lake Vänern Archipelago and Kinnekulle Biosphere Reserve

The biosphere reserve is located on Lake Vänern's glittering southeast coast. Here by Sweden's largest lake you will find the flat-topped mountain Kinnekulle. The geology testifies to a million-year journey from what once was seabed, to today's flat-topped mountains and rich natural and cultural landscapes. Inside the biosphere reserve there is also a vibrant archipelago, inviting communities, and agriculture together with many protected sites of natural and historical heritage. Here, investments are also made in circular solutions and modern, sustainable innovations.

## A joint initiative to transition in line with Agenda 2030

In 2010, UNESCO named this site one of the world's model areas for sustainable development following a joint application from the municipalities of Lidköping, Götene and Mariestad. The biosphere reserves can be seen as arenas for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and by year 2020 we could see that the biosphere reserve had taken many steps forward. The first ten years have formed a good basis for even more collaboration and sustainable development for the coming years.

### Collaboration for a positive development

The coordinating unit for the biosphere reserve consists of a non-profit association with a biosphere office and a board members. Membership is open to everyone; individuals, companies, associations and organisations. In addition to the coordinator and staff, biosphere ambassadors, educators, politicians and officials in the municipalities are other persons who continuously work for the dissemination of knowledge and a positive development of the biosphere reserve.

## 10-year evaluation

Every ten years, the biosphere reserves compile in-depth evaluation reports. These provide an overall picture of the development of the entire biosphere reserve. The comprehensive report and this simplified popular version, both include initiatives and projects carried out by the biosphere association and by others throughout the biosphere reserve, such as residents, municipalities, businesses, the County Administrative Board and associations. The 2020 evaluation report has been approved by Unesco in Paris.



THE GLOBAL GOALS



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Biosfär  
VÄNER ARCHIPELAGO  
KINNEKULLE

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