

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Scotland's **First**

Charter of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere



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Roger Crofts, Allan Devlin, East Ayrshire Council*



www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
member of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Charter of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

This Charter signifies that

(Insert Name of Organization)

pledges to support and operate by the following principles of the Biosphere:

Conserve the Natural Resources of the Region

We will support and contribute to the protection, enhancement and restoration of the integrity of natural environments, habitat, species at risk, biodiversity and scenic appeal.

Develop greater benefits from natural resources

We will encourage and support the sustainable development of natural resources and ecosystem products and services reflective of the region.

Develop the Economy in a Sustainable Way

We will collaborate with business, the wider community and other stakeholders to develop a healthy economy, while pursuing best practices of sustainability.

Promote Adaptation to & Mitigation of Climate Change

We will encourage and support attitudes, opportunities, research and actions in relation to adaptation to and mitigation of the implications of accelerated climate change on people, business and ecosystems in the Biosphere.

Enhance Social Cohesion & Community Regeneration

We will encourage and support attitudes, actions and events which develop links between individuals, groups, communities and between urban and rural areas to develop strong partnerships between local stakeholders and different levels of administration.

Promote Local Culture and Local Products

We will support and promote local culture, food, crafts, arts and respect local heritage and cultural traditions, including the preservation, protection and enhancement of heritage sites throughout the region

Develop Knowledge, Understanding and Promote Research

We will support, promote and disseminate knowledge and understanding based on new research and better elaboration of existing knowledge and of those special relationships and qualities in the natural environment, culture, society and economy that make up the Biosphere and secure ecosystem services into the future.

Develop Regional, National & International Learning

We will support, promote and enable the active use of the Biosphere as a learning site and living laboratory for sustainable development to demonstrate innovative approaches to enhance cooperation amongst academic, political, practitioner and stakeholder communities to address and solve context specific problems to improve environmental, economic and social conditions for people and ecosystem wellbeing

Cooperation & Networking

We will continually encourage exchanges and sharing of experience, information, good practice, research and methodologies through learning and networking opportunities at the local, regional, national and international level, including the WNBR and MAB Networks.

Enhance Health and Wellbeing

We will support and promote attitudes and actions which develop enjoyment of, and pleasure from the natural environment and develop links between individuals and communities and their environment to improve health and wellbeing.

Minimize Impacts

We will seek innovative solutions to mitigate or avoid undesirable environmental, social and cultural impacts. We will encourage activities, services and facilities that do not threaten the integrity of heritage resources or systems.

Be a Part of the Community

We will collaborate and share knowledge and ideas with partners within our community, and we will participate in the stewardship of people and nature in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Educate and Raise Awareness

We will strive to educate our employees, peers, community and visitors on the principles outlined in the Charter and, through our actions, contribute to the emergence of professionals and practitioners who can represent the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere as a Charter Member.

Monitor Progress

We will prepare a statement/monitoring report every two years summarising how we have, individually and, collectively contributed to the development of the principles of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

Signed

“To make life in our Biosphere better while caring for the natural environment”