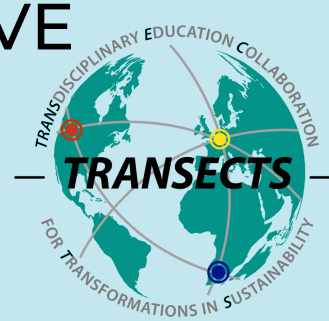


KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RIVER LANDSCAPE ELBE BRANDENBURG BIOSPHERE RESERVE



TRANSDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL LEARNING LABORATORY (TILL)

Sense of place and culture of remembrance

Challenges:

- Attracting youth to the region is a common concern
- Tourism is viewed positively because of its economic impact, as long as it recognizes history respectfully
- Conveying local history needs to be done in a way that limits harm



Sense of place and culture of remembrance

Reccomendation:

The Biosphere Reserve must consider the local context, dependence, identity and attachment of those living in the region. This will increase the likelihood of engagement and of forming long-term partnerships



Development measures

Challenges:

- Development versus tranquility
- Lack of funds and support
- Infrastructural maintenance
- Aging and declining population
- Balancing local versus non-local interests
- Tourism infrastructure concentrated along the river



Development measures

Recommendations:

- Promote "slow tourism"
- Maintain existing infrastructure
- Explore opportunities beyond the Iron Curtain Trail
- Build inclusive spaces and events
- Raise awareness and support for existing measures



Cooperation with regional networks

Challenges:

- Power dynamics
- Limited communication
- Limited collaboration
- Restrictions
- Differing priorities



Cooperation with regional networks

Recommendations:

- Understand local needs and concerns
- Foster long-term participatory partnership
- Promote wider inclusion in decision-making
- Increase access to information
- Maintain access to land
- Support the local economy
- Reconnect generations and preserve local heritage



Contribution to the potential UNESCO World Heritage Site

Recommendations:

- Focus on connecting nature and historical value
- Maintain historical landmarks preserve their significance
- Consider a mixed cultural heritage site



The Green Belt initiative as a contribution to the Biosphere Reserve

Main challenge:

- The Green Belt is deemed as a 'top-down' project, undermining the Biosphere Reserve's positive vision

Recommendation:

- Address issues with a focus on community engagement activities and cultural history initiatives



Other considerations:

Local people value nature and history and would like to share their knowledge. Whether it is a dependence on the land or to protect nature, residents of this region want to see it thrive. The gap that we have identified relates to the socio-economic development function of the Biosphere Reserve.



We encourage the Biosphere Reserve to engage local people regularly and meaningfully. Efforts will be most successful if they can meet the unique needs of different shared responsibility holders.

