February 15, 2011

**Brock Environmental Sustainability Research Unit**

**Tourism and Environment/Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Brock University**

Niagara Region

500 Glenridge Ave.

St. Catharines, ON

L2S 3A1 Canada

T 905-688-5550 x4782

F

brocku.ca



***Program* BESRU *Workshop*:**

Socio-ecological Inventories: Building Resilience to Environmental Change within Biosphere Reserves.

***Purpose*:**

To convene a two-day scholarly exchange with Canadian and Swedish environmental scientists, social science scholars and researchers to share expertise in resilience, socio-ecological inventories (SEI’s) and Biosphere governance and evaluation. Day One will be taken up with participant presentations of thematically relevant research; Day Two participants are asked to ‘roll up their sleeves’ and collaborate on the construction of a draft module integrating SEI’s with the interconnected, interdependent dimensions from the UNESCO MAB program.

***Products (or Deliverables)*:**

The ‘deliverable’ in this context is to contribute to a draft ‘Annex’ to be finalized post-workshop as an adjunct for the Resilience Alliance Workbook on Socio-Ecological Inventories (<http://www.resalliance.org/index.php/resilience_assessment>). This Annex will integrate some of the recent research and scholarship being developed by those actively undertaking socio-ecological inventories, by those investigating dimensions of the UNESCO MAB Program domestically or internationally, and those who may have knowledge/integration of both areas.

***Principles*:**

The workshop is organized under the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) for which UNESCO seeks to integrate principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning to address social, economic, cultural and environmental problems faced by humans in the 21st century.

The workshop is also in response to UNESCO’s Madrid Action Plan and the 40th anniversary of the MAB Program inviting stakeholders within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) to engage in fostering a more harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue, knowledge sharing and improvement of human well-being. As sites of excellence, the 564 ecosystems comprising the current constellation of the WNBR offer one of the premier planetary frameworks for the development and building of international capacity to manage complex socio-ecological systems. This may be achieved through greater dialogue at the science-policy interface, through environmental education and through multi-media outreach to wider communities interested in more sustainable development.

***Place, Time and Dates:***

March 7th and 8th, 2011 at Brock University main campus, Inniskillin Hall meeting room and wine library from 9-4 each day (Please see link <http://www.brocku.ca/ccovi/about-us/inniskillin-hall> ). Parking is available in the campus’ west parking lot nearest the venue as well as across Glenridge Avenue from the venue. Lunch, nutrition/refreshment breaks provided onsite, and March 7th supper provided in nearby Niagara Falls.

***Participants (see attached brief bios)*:**

Dr. Ryan Plummer

Brock University Professor of Tourism and Environment

Director of Brock Environmental Sustainability Research Unit

Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Resilience Centre

St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Mr. Brad May

Wilfrid Laurier/University of Waterloo PhD Candidate

Environment Canada Adaptation and Impacts Research Group, Toronto, Canada

Brock University Instructor, Tourism and Environment Department, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Dr. Adam Fenech

Adaptation and Impacts Research Group, Environment Canada   
University or Toronto, Scarborough Campus, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dr. Lisen Schultz

Visiting Swedish Scholar from

Stockholm Resilience Centre

Dr. Åsa Swartling

Visiting Swedish Scholar from

Stockholm Resilience Centre and Stockholm Environment Institute

Dr. Maureen Reed

Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability and  
Department of Geography, College of Law  
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Dr. Liette Vasseur

Brock University, Professor of Biology  
St. Catharines, Canada

Minjiang Scholar, Fujian Province, China

Mr. Marc-André Guertin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA)

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  

Dr. Rebecca Pollock

Communications Manager for the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

Previous Post-Doctoral Fellow with

University of Waterloo, Canada Department of Environment and Resource Studies

Ms. Kerri Pickering

Project Manager  
Niagara Climate Change Project  
Brock University/ Environment Canada

St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Dr. Richard Mitchell – Workshop Chair

Brock University, Associate Professor Child and Youth Studies

Co-Chair Brock University Sustainability Committee

St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Ms. Samantha - Tourism and Environment Student Rapporteur

Ms. Joselyn – Tourism and Environment Studetn Rapporteur

***Participant Preparation, Presentation and Discussion Questions (if useful please address)***

1. How might socio-ecological inventories be more fully integrated with indicators/metrics from the UNESCO MAB areas for research? To ensure environmental, economic and social sustainability Biosphere reserves have three inter-connected functions:

* Conservation: protecting cultural diversity and biodiversity, including genetic variation, species, ecosystems and landscapes and securing services provided by such diversity
* Development: fostering economic and human development that is environmentally and socially sustainable and culturally appropriate
* Logistic support: facilitating demonstration projects, environmental education and sustainable development education and training, research, and monitoring. While education, research, monitoring and capacity enhancement are seen as components of the logistic or knowledge-generation function of biosphere reserves, they are also integral to the conservation and development functions.

(See also Shultz, Folke, & Olsson [2007] ‘Enhancing ecosystem management through SEI’s: lessons from Kristianstads Vattenrike, Sweden available from: <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/publications/artiklar/enhancingecosystemmanagementthroughsocialecologicalinventorieslessonsfromkristianstadsvattenrikesweden.5.5f70f696125498bca9b800016623.html>

and Taylor [2004] ‘Resilience and Biosphere Reserves’ available from: <http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/research/environments/papers/envs32_3_06taylor.pdf> )

2. What are some of the most beneficial supports for environmental population health or human well-being in your work/research utilizing SEI’s and/or Biospheric metrics/dimensions?

***Program (Subject to revision):***

Pre-Workshop Sunday March 6, 2011 from 1:30-3:00 for those wishing to participate Field Trip to Niagara Glen and Whirlpool. (See <http://www.niagaraparks.com/nature-trails/niagara-glen-whirlpool.html> ) ***and please wear outdoor footwear ;-)***

**Day One - March 7, 2011, Inniskillin Hall**

8:30-9:00 Coffee, Inniskillin Hall Meeting Room, Brock University

9:00-9:10 Welcoming Remarks, Review of Program from BESRU Director Ryan Plummer and Workshop Chair Richard Mitchell

9:15-9:45 - Dr. Lisen Schultz Presentation

9:50-10:20 – Brad May/ Kerri Pickering / Dr. Ryan Plummer Presentation

10:20-10:40 – Refreshment/nutrition break (with Welcome from Brock University Dean of Social Sciences Thomas Dunk)

10:45-11:15 – Dr. Rebecca Pollock Presentation

11:20-11:50 - Dr. Adam Fenech Presentation

12:00-1:00 - Lunch at Alphie’s Trough Faculty Club Restaurant onsite

1:05-1:35 - Dr. Maureen Reed via Videolink

1:40-2:10 - Mr. Marc-Andre Guertin via Videolink

2:15-2:45 - Dr. Liette Vasseur Presentation

2:50-3:05 - Refreshment/nutrition break

3:10-4:00 – Roundtable discussion of participant questions posed on p. 4 above

5:30 - Dinner reservations at Table Rock Restaurant overlooking Niagara Falls.

**Day Two - March 8, 2011 – Inniskillin Hall**

9:00-4:00 Development of Draft Annex