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# Social Enterprise & Biosphere Reserves Development Framework



## About the Author

**Colin Campbell** is the founder and Executive Director of Assist Social Capital, which uses social capital as a critical resource for social innovation and community resilience. He has worked in the field of social enterprise since 2001. In 2003, he began using a social capital approach for the design and facilitation of a series of peer-to-peer clusters, the Social Enterprise Networks (SENs; [www.se-networks.net](http://www.se-networks.net)). There are now 21 SENs with over 450 active social enterprises meeting on a regular basis to learn from each other and exchange knowledge and ideas and a combined economic impact of £300+ million per annum. He was also responsible for the design and development of the [www.ReadyforBusiness.org](http://www.ReadyforBusiness.org) database, a government funded pilot to promote opportunities for social enterprise in public procurement, which works principally due to the existence of a strong social connectivity within the network of SEN's.

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## Social Enterprise and Biosphere Reserve

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## Ministerial Foreword



Scotland is playing a leading role in developing the social enterprise model. In recognition of this in March 2012 Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond MSP launched the International Social Enterprise Programme to support social enterprises based in Scotland with a genuine global reach. This fund is supporting Assist Social Capital CIC (ASC) to develop a social enterprise approach in and around Biosphere Reserves in Europe, Canada and Asia.

UNESCO's 621 Biosphere Reserves in 117 countries, provide our communities, our children and young people with an opportunity to actively safeguard our natural capital for the future. Social enterprises empower communities to engage with the challenges of our 21st Century such as climate change, health, food and water security. By linking with UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme, the Social Enterprise in Biosphere Reserves Development Framework will help strengthen environmental and economic progress. This will be achieved by supporting social enterprises in and around Biosphere Reserves to thrive, providing a platform to generate new socially and environmentally responsible employment.

I am therefore very pleased to support Assist Social Capital's work to stimulate ambition in this matter and wish the project every success.

**John Swinney**

**Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth**