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## The role of communities in sustainable ecosystem management inside Japanese biosphere reserves

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Biosphere Reserves (BRs) are protected areas of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, established by the national government and recognized under the UNESCO's man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. BRs' main function is to demonstrate the balanced relationship between the people and nature for the sustainable development. It compiles the three main roles such as conservation role with the need of maintaining biological diversity, genetic resources and ecosystems; development role with the need to associate the environmental protection with the development governing principle in the fields of socio-cultural and ecological sustainability; logistic role with the need to establish international network, monitoring, research, education and information exchange. In spite that the first Japanese BRs was designated in 1980 and they were less known among local people and remained passive until the 2010, when new BR was nominated in the project to conserve the large evergreen broadleaf forests in the Aya region. Since, that time with the involvement of local communities and bottom up management plans, BRs popularity started to grow and as for 2019 the number of Japanese BRs increased until 9. Most of Japanese BRs are situated in the moutaneos areas and promote sustainable socio-economic development of the region by integrating the conservation of biological and cultural diversity, based on the efforts of local communities and stakeholders. Several projects are developed by the local communities in promoting ecotourism and guide system and forest therapy for healing purposes and educational activities. Also, local natural resources management projects, forestry and fishery management, landscape restoration projects, organic agriculture with the recycling oriented system, as well as development of local brands are used to promote the local economic and industrial development.

### Biography

Aida Mammadova is an associate professor at Kanazawa University. Before joining Kanazawa University, she was working at United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Studies of Sustainability Operating Unit Ishikawa Kanazawa as Project Assistant. She did PhD in Medical Sciences. Her present research is in environmental education and regional sustainability studies.

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