

**HSBC first Isle of Man bank to receive UNESCO Biosphere status
due to successful green initiatives**

HSBC has become the first bank in the island to be accepted as a partner into the [UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man project](#).

The UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man project is centred on protecting the island as a special place to live, work and visit. There's a focus on taking care of nature, wildlife, infrastructure and the economy and looking at ways of introducing energy saving measures, supporting local produce and minimising waste. It's also about education, helping people understand what makes the island so special and encouraging involvement to keep it that way. The Isle of Man is the first entire Island Nation in the world to receive the UNESCO Biosphere endorsement.

HSBC was accepted as a partner thanks to its strong commitment to sustainability in the Isle of Man. This includes HSBC's global Reduce programme, launched in 2012, which focuses on several areas including paper, energy and water consumption, waste reduction, ethical supply chains and reducing HSBC's carbon emissions by approximately 40% per employee by 2020.

Year on year, HSBC in the Isle of Man also dedicates employee time, expertise and funding to help the local community in areas such as education, sport and the environment, and supports both public and private sectors to work towards achieving the Island's sustainability goals.

HSBC colleagues also collected water samples from natural sources across the Isle of Man as part of HSBC's global HSBC Water Programme. Run in partnership with EarthWatch, WaterAid and WWF for seven years, concluding in November 2018, the Water Programme enabled the Bank's island employees to become 'citizen scientists'.

UNESCO Biospheres are areas across the globe that have been endorsed by UNESCO as outstanding places for nature and people and where there is a healthy balance between the two. There are currently 701 biosphere sites in 124 countries, also known as biosphere reserves. Biosphere reserves such as the Isle of Man, encourage people to enjoy these special natural places to the full and get involved in helping to keep them special.

Commenting on HSBC's partnership with the project, Jaime Amoedo, HSBC Isle of Man Country Head, said:

"The Isle of Man really is a very special place to live and work, and it's important we're in harmony with the natural environment. As one of the Island's largest banks, we have a duty to inspire and help customers and employees make a difference."

Isle of Man Chief Minister Howard Quayle MHK, who chairs UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, said:

"I warmly welcome HSBC as a Business Partner of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man. It is important that we work together to ensure a sustainable future for the Isle of Man and the business community has a significant role to play in this, via the commitment of its management and its workforce to contribute to our Biosphere aims."

Chantal Le Goff, Head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Channel Islands and Isle of Man, also commented:

"We are thrilled that HSBC in the Isle of Man has been selected as a partner of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man project, and to be the first bank locally. We're proud of our green and sustainable initiatives and I look forward to developing on our sustainability projects further drawing on the expertise of UNESCO to protect the Isle of Man."

Interviews

Media are invited to attend a short presentation and talk by Isle of Man Chief Minister Howard Quayle MHK at 11.15am on Monday 3rd February at HSBC's Douglas branch. The Chief Minister and Jaime Amoedo, HSBC Isle of Man Country Head, will also be available for interviews directly after the talk at 11.45am – please notify if you would like to attend and/or arrange an interview by close of business on Thursday 30th January 2020. Interviews will be arranged on a first come first served basis.

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Note to editors:

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