

Transdisciplinary Case Study 2022

"Biosphere Entlebuch - Culture and Environment"

1. Meeting of the Advisory Group (23 November 2021, Schüpflheim)

Which topics in the field of "culture and environment" could the case study address?

"Local identity - self-image and image of others".

Questions about the local language (and its communal expression), dialect, legends, music, yodelling, swinging, cattle breeding, the corresponding associations and their problems in recruiting new members, the importance of the environment or nature, biodiversity in this context.

In particular, it would be interesting to compare the old residents and the newcomers (internal views; 'questioning self-image') and also those who have moved out and live further away with their external views. Interesting questions would be: What is the Entlebuch, how has it developed and what could the future of the Entlebuch look like?"

"Biosphere Entlebuch - what has it done to us, what will happen in the future?"

Questions around the consequences for people, society, nature and the economy, how the Biosphere Entlebuch has been reflected in art, culture and identity.

With regard to lifestyles in the Entlebuch, it could be asked whether and how they are in conflict with the Biosphere Entlebuch, what role, for example, climate-friendly lifestyles can play in the Entlebuch. With regard to the economy or the hospitality industry, it could be asked how the Biosphere/Echt Entlebuch label (cheese, meat, etc.) could be more widely known and in demand, how a closer cooperation between producers, hospitality industry and the Biosphere Entlebuch could look like. Other interesting questions are what has changed in terms of Entlebuch culture, external and self-perception in the 20 years since the biosphere and how the future could be shaped. What are the visions for the Entlebuch (living) culture for the next 20 years? What does the Entlebuch of 2050 stand for, what are its characteristics, how does it distinguish itself from the surrounding area and the rest of Switzerland? Will it remain a "special case"?

"Building culture and wood in the Biosphere Entlebuch".

Questions around the importance of local architecture and building methods, especially the importance of wood as a raw material for building, sawmills, timber farmers, forest management, etc.

"Organic farming in the Biosphere Entlebuch - organic landscape".

Questions around the potential, the reasons for the very low share of organic farming in the Entlebuch and the possible ways to increase this share: What is the 'culture' among farmers in the Entlebuch and how could an 'organic culture' be established? What has changed in terms of 'organic' through the Biosphere Entlebuch?

"Peatlands as a formative element of the landscape" (Attention: minefield).

Questions around the moors, their importance for biodiversity, nature conservation, perception or aesthetics in interplay with the legal requirements, the top-down protection almost 30 years ago and the current agricultural use. It was warned that this topic is a minefield.

"Landscape development through human activities".

How did the Entlebuch cultural landscape develop and why? Human needs and demands for use lead to the shaping of habitats - what are the specifics in the Entlebuch in this respect?

"Industrial culture in the Entlebuch"

Questions around the history but especially also today's great but little perceived importance of the large local industrial companies, which are top modern, attractive and provide many jobs.

"Churches/Religion in the Entlebuch"

Questions about the current significance of churches/religion, the continuing strong connection, especially through performances by the music and yodelling clubs in the church, the diverse references to nature/the environment, especially the shaping of the landscape through inheritance law, the ways of the cross, etc.

Other topics that have been addressed but not discussed further

Hunting as a cultural asset, mobility as a field of tension in rural areas, garden (un)culture with gravel stones and lawns, wolf as a threat to identity, carnival, alpine procession, tourism in the Biosphere Entlebuch - differences between winter and summer