Pressrelease 2015-04-14

**Beijer Institute research exhibited at Svenskt Tenn**

**”The biosphere is the thin outer layer of this planet in which life exists. We humans are part of the biosphere and completely dependent on the air, the oceans, the forests and all other ecological systems in order to survive and thrive.”**

So begins the text interpreted by artist Jesper Waldersten in the exhibition Patterns of the Biosphere at Swedish design company Svenskt Tenn. It is also the exhibition's overarching message and the basis for all research at the Beijer Institute of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Regardless whether one likes nature or not, we are all totally dependent on the biosphere for our own welfare, says Carl Folke, Director of the Beijer Institute. Environmental concern is today seen by many as an obstacle to development, but the conflict between economic development and ecological sustainability is really just a mental construct.

Research at the Beijer Institute include developing new models of thinking and a terminology suited to our times. The Institute has been part of introducing and establishing the concepts "natural capital", "ecosystem services" and "ecological footprint". The results of the Institute's research are being picked up and put into practice different levels throughout the world, for example in UN documents, EU decisions and in national measures in different countries, but also at the local level in municipalities and companies.

A new approach to nature, the biosphere we live in, is the key to a more sustainable society. One way to accomplish this is to explain the world from a transdisciplinary holistic approach, applied by the Beijer Institute.

– Previously, both science and policy focused on one thing at a time. It is only now we begin to grasp the whole picture and understand the scale of the challenges. No place on Earth is unaffected by man and there is no human being that does not depend on the biosphere, says Carl Folke. He continues:

– The meeting between art and science makes it possible to reach people on a more emotional level than scientists normally have access to. We are very happy to have the opportunity to create this exhibition in collaboration with Svenskt Tenn and that it can be displayed in this unique environment.

Through the Kjell and Märta Beijer Foundation, the profits of Svenskt Tenn support the core funding of the Beijer Institute.

For more information, contact Agneta Sundin, [agneta.sundin@beijer.kva.se](mailto:agneta.sundin@beijer.kva.se), 08-673 95 38

The Beijer Institute at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences is an international research centre, a cross-disciplinary institute at the interface of ecology and economics. Its aim is to achieve a deeper understanding of the interactions between ecological systems and societal and economic development, which can help us to identify pathways to a sustainable future for humanity.