

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL - CANADA'S BIODIVERSITY GOALS AND TARGETS



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By the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Canadian
Biosphere
Reserves Association

Association
canadienne des
réserves de la
biosphère

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INTRODUCTION

Canada has adopted national biodiversity goals and targets for 2020. The goals and targets were developed collaboratively by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments and benefitted from input provided by Aboriginal organizations and stakeholders.

The goals and targets will guide further action by all on the conservation and sustainable use of living resources in Canada and provide the basis for measuring and reporting on progress. Canada's national goals and targets complement the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and the Biodiversity Outcomes Framework, as well as numerous provincial and territorial biodiversity strategies and plans, and support the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted by Canada and other Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Under a 2017-2021 partnership between Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association (CBRA), Canadian biosphere reserves (BRs) will actively participate in the implementation and reporting of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada in our 18 sites across the country, under the terms and conditions of an agreement to be negotiated between CBRA and ECCC.

Under the joint coordination of ECCC and a renewed national office of CBRA, each of the 18 BRs from coast to coast will be individually engaged in the implementation and reporting of targets of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada.

In doing so, CBRA is also directly complementing the implementation of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, the Biodiversity Outcomes Framework, the United Nations SDGs, the Convention on Biological diversity and the Aichi targets.

By granting this mandate, Canada demonstrates collaborative leadership by implementing the government's plan for a clean environment and a sustainable economy, as well as helping to restore its reputation for environmental stewardship.

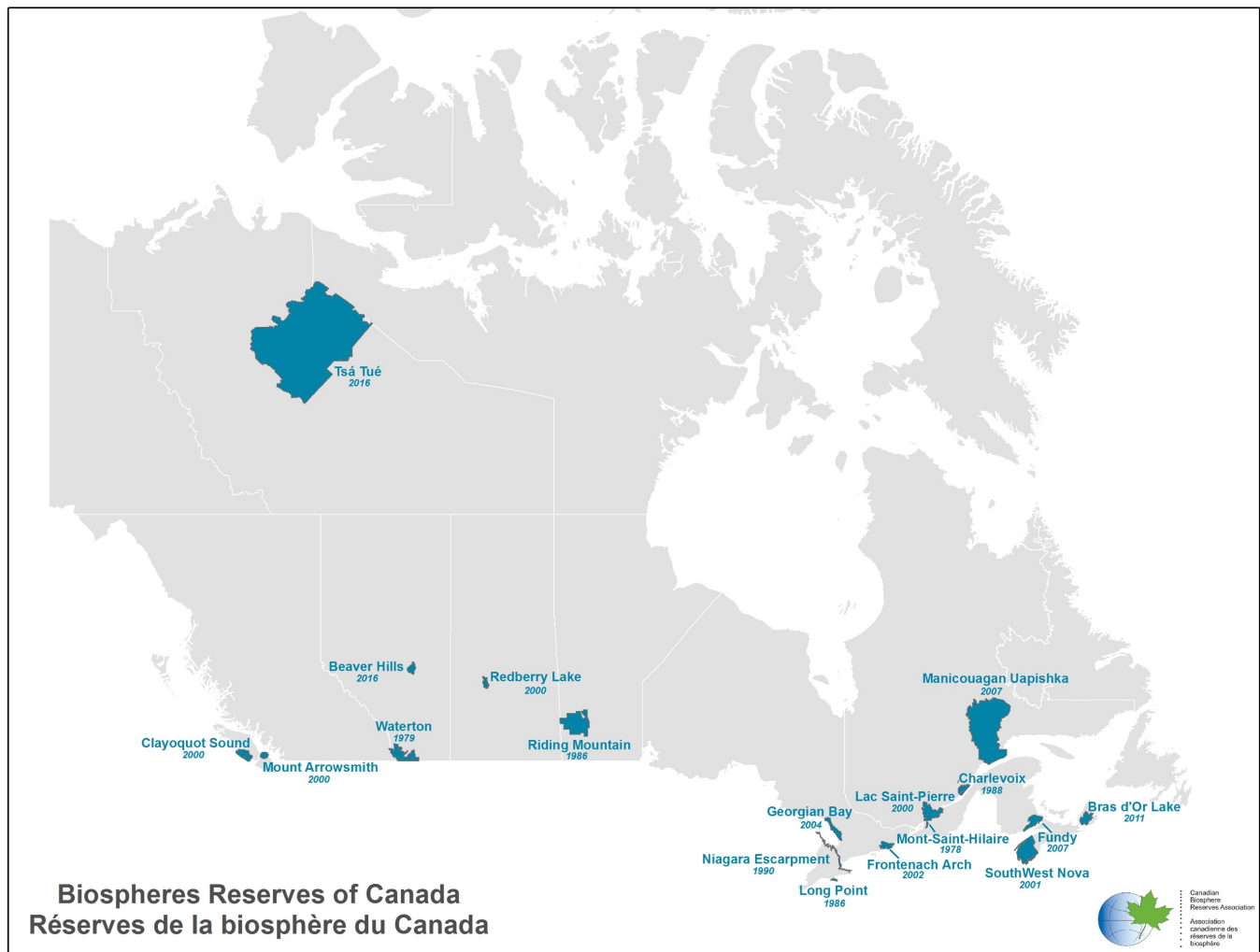
Lastly, by granting this mandate, Canada is actively promoting and recognizing its national network of UNESCO biosphere reserves as priority sites for contributing to national and global conventions and multilateral agreements such as mentioned above.

BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN CANADA

As a part of a World Network currently composed of 669 sites in 120 countries, Canada's 18 biosphere reserves (BRs) are on the front line in the implementation of sustainable development within their communities. Spanning an area of over 120,000 km², almost twice the size of New Brunswick, the biosphere reserve program plays a positive role in the quality of life for the 1,200,000 Canadians residing within their boundaries. Through the hundreds of projects, the network is involved in, we are addressing sustainable development issues in all sectors of society.

With over 35 years of experience in Canada, UNESCO biosphere reserves are pioneers in mobilizing efforts and partnerships to help shape a sustainable future for their regions.

BRs have strong potential to inspire other regions interested in transforming sustainability ideals into tangible initiatives. Biosphere reserves, both as geographic areas and convener organizations, are dedicated to achieving three functions: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable development, and capacity building by providing support for research and public education.



EXPERTISE OF CANADIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Canada's BRs are living laboratories that demonstrate how sustainable development can be implemented at the community level. Working together with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, industry partners (forestry, mining, fisheries, tourism, etc.) and diverse governmental and non-governmental agencies, Canadian BRs have been and continue to be involved in nearly 500 projects from coast to coast.

> CONSERVATION

ECOSYSTEM, HABITAT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT | RESTORATION LAND MANAGEMENT | PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS | BIODIVERSITY

> CAPACITY BUILDING

EDUCATION | NETWORKING | MONITORING AND MAPPING | SUSTAINABLE TOURISM | RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

> SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL INNOVATION | REGIONAL INTERACTION | SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANNING

CBRA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2020 BIODIVERSITY GOALS AND TARGETS FOR CANADA

As stated on biodivcanada.ca:

In order to achieve their long-term biodiversity outcomes, federal, provincial and territorial governments developed the following set of new medium-term goals and targets. These aspirational goals and targets describe results to be achieved through the collective efforts of a diversity of players both public and private whose actions and decisions have an impact on biodiversity. Governments need to do their part but cannot act alone.

Implementation of the goals and targets will rely on meaningful, full and effective participation of Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. In this respect, while Aboriginal traditional knowledge and customary use of biological resources are specifically highlighted under targets 12 and 15, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Aboriginal communities are relevant for implementing all of Canada's biodiversity goals and targets, as is protecting and encouraging customary use of biological resources compatible with their conservation and sustainable use.

Local communities, urban and regional governments, business and industry, conservation and stewardship groups, educational and scientific institutions and citizens are also all able to contribute.

Biosphere reserves in Canada work daily with these stakeholders and have unprecedented skills and experience in local mobilization. With 18 sites covering a great spectrum of the great Canadian biodiversity and ecosystems, from coast to coast and from southern Ontario to North-West Territories, CBRA is a unique asset for Canada in the implementation of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets.

Each BR will be encouraged to develop a detailed proposal that addresses specific targets and to include information on how they will engage youth and First Nations representatives in the implementation of their individual strategies.

Provision is also included in this proposal for the inclusion of Special Projects at the national level by CBRA and at the level of individual BRs or groups of BRs (e.g. possibly provincially).

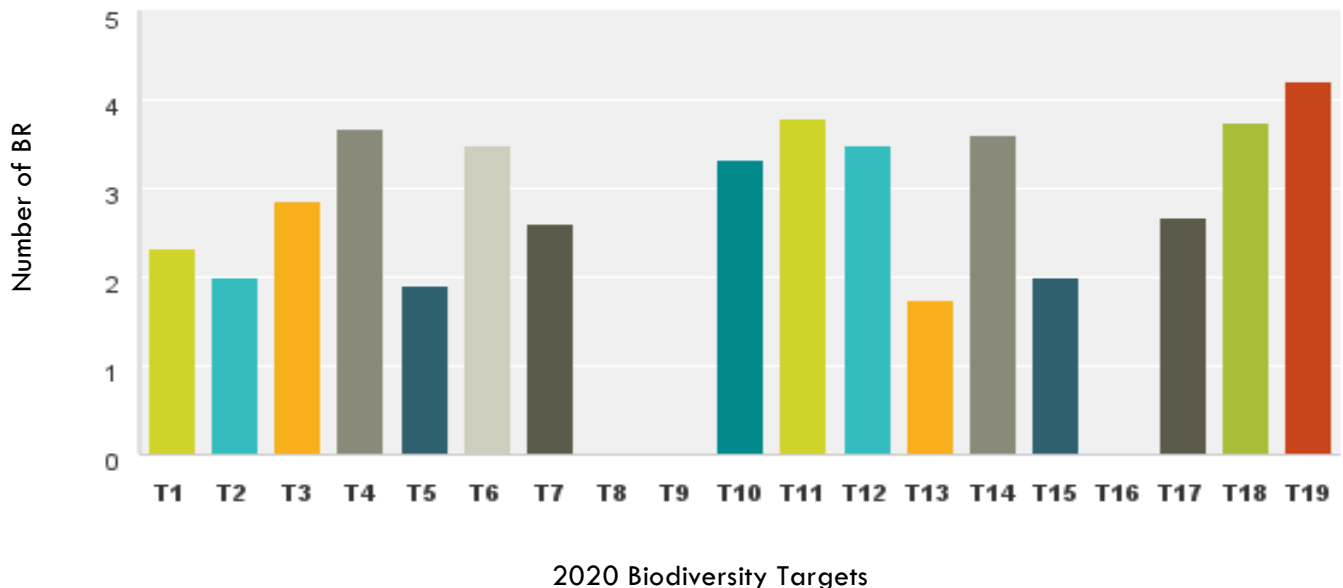
Thus, every site will be individually engaged in the implementation and reporting of at least one or several targets of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada.

WORK PLAN

A five-year plan is viewed as an optimum timeframe for meaningful implementation of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets throughout BRs in Canada, including a planning, implementing, and reporting phase.

Year	Objective
2017	Planning, implementing and reporting
2018	Implementing and reporting
2019	Implementing and reporting
2020	Implementing and reporting
2021	Implementing and reporting

A national survey was conducted in August 2016 in order to gain a preliminary overview of the targets that could be addressed by CBRA and to demonstrate that the Canadian network of BRs has the potential to implement a broad spectrum of Biodiversity Goals and Targets across the country. Each BR would be responsible for delivering on 1 to 3 targets and for addressing said targets throughout the planning phase. Concrete examples of how BR projects contribute to Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets can be found in Appendix 2. Our sites can contribute to a wide range of targets and generate broad environmental benefits in Canada, counting on our active relationship with diverse communities in various contexts across the country:



DELIVERABLES

The work plan will be result-oriented, asking each BRs to deliver concrete outcomes for identified targets (see example below and 4 others in Appendix 1).

Work plan example: Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR)

Addressing Target 3: *By 2020, Canada's wetlands are conserved or enhanced to sustain their ecosystem services through retention, restoration and management activities.*

Context

The MABR Research Institute at Vancouver Island University has developed a 5-year partnership (2016-2020) with the Regional District of Nanaimo's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program to pursue wetland monitoring and restoration activities in the region. The project will determine how the hundreds of wetlands in the MABR—most of which reside on privately owned lands—contribute to the freshwater system through groundwater recharge, natural filtration and other naturally occurring processes.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Development of long-term processes for mapping, monitoring, conserving, and enhancing wetlands
- Sustainable use and management of ecosystem services
- Contributing to informed decision-making and regional policy regarding wetlands

Timeline

Years 1-3 (2016-18): Wetland mapping and inventorying in the MABR

- Identify distribution of wetlands through predictive mapping and satellite imagery
- Ground truth wetland sites to evaluate size and health while ensuring accurate classification
- Classify wetlands based on their vulnerability to contamination from adjacent land-uses as well as their potential to contribute to groundwater recharge
- Create a detailed database of wetlands in the region
- Plan wetland restoration and management activities for Years 4-5

Year 4-5 (2019-2020): Monitor, enhance, restore, and protect wetlands in the MABR

- Evaluate the ecology, vulnerability, and local geologic positions of wetlands in the database to determine wetland sites that should be monitored, enhanced, restored, or protected
- Prioritize wetlands based on their potential to influence groundwater recharge, wildlife habitats, and water filtration while considering their ability to mitigate flooding events
- Install long-term monitoring equipment (piezometers, lysometers and data loggers) at prioritized sites to evaluate trends in surface water availability, water chemistry, local water table fluctuations, groundwater recharge, vegetation, habitat conditions, and overall functionality of wetland sites
- Quantify how wetlands contribute to groundwater recharge, mitigate flood risk, and water filtration
- Work with landholders to ensure adjacent land-use practices do not negatively influence the ability of wetlands to carry out naturally occurring processes

Approximate Budget (cash and in-kind)

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
\$60,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

- Year 1 contributions from the Regional District of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island University, Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society, and the St. John's Legacy Foundation
- In Years 2-3, the team will map and monitor rarely studied wetlands at higher elevations, where costs associated with access and personnel will increase from Year 1

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE

Overall funding would be allocated by ECCC to CBRA.

CBRA will manage the BRs allocation through an agreement to be managed over the 5 years by a Management Committee, formed of:

- ECCC Representative(s)
- CBRA's CEO
- CBRA Executive Members (Chair and Treasurer)

CBRA will ensure national coordination, overall administration, and financial reporting of its members under a unique format agreed upon by the Management Committee.

The committee will receive annual work plans and related budgets from each BR by December of each year for the following 12-month period, commencing April 1st.

Each submission will be reviewed to ensure it meets established standards and criteria and has reasonable prospects for success in the view of the Committee.

Where matching funds are budgeted, letters of commitment will be included.

The Management Committee will be in control of funds and will establish a separate CBRA bank account for that purpose. Disbursements shall be made semi-annually to BRs based upon semi-annual reports submitted by them individually documenting progress on their annual plan and related goals.

The Management Committee will have the authority to withhold funds in cases of non-performance. Such funds may be disbursed to other BRs where such advances can be justified by a special request related to extending the level of achievement of the identified target(s).

Continuing non-performance should lead to removal of a BR from the program. The resulting surplus funds may be re-allocated by the Committee as mentioned above or to national level initiatives.

FUNDING PLAN

We see 3 options of funding provided by ECCC on a five-year agreement:

Funding option	For each biosphere reserve	For CBRA national office
Low	\$150 000 per year of agreement	-
Medium	\$200 000 per year of agreement	Decreasing funding over the 5 years of agreement, from \$ 200 000 to \$0.
High	\$250 000 per year of agreement	-

2017 – Planning and Implementing

BR Funding

Each BR will receive the total sum of chosen option (low, medium or high) with no requirement for matching funding for the first year.

Each BR will validate the targets to be addressed, organize meetings with potential partners, and plan to collaboratively achieve the identified target(s). Sources of matching funding for years 2018 to 2020 will be identified.

By the end of the year, each BR will complete a multi-year plan to be submitted to the Management Committee for approval. During the first year, each BR will engage and train the required staff to develop and implement their plan in the years to come, and acquire any necessary furniture and equipment.

Simultaneously, BRs will be starting to implementation of results in year one, under a pre-approved deliverables plan for the first year.

CBRA Funding

CBRA needs to re-establish a national office, engage staff, and equip them appropriately. A decreasing funding approach is proposed, providing funding of \$ 200 000 for the first year, which will decrease over the 5 years period.

For the first year, the principal activity of CBRA will be to re-establish itself and to monitor and manage the planning phase of the agreement at the national level.

2018 - 2021 Implementation and Reporting Phases

BR Funding

Each BR will receive the sum of chosen option (low, medium or high) to implement 1 to 3 targets as approved in the plan. The initial \$75,000 may be applied to support overhead costs, and the remaining shall be considered project money and shall be matched. Funds will only be advanced by ECCC to the level that can be matched, upon the maximum agreed upon. Sources of matching funding, in cash or in kind, for the years 2018 to 2021 will be identified in the plan.

Mid-year and year-end progress reports will be submitted to the Management Committee.

Due to the planned increase in the level of program activity, we suggest that funding be increased gradually from low/medium to high as the implementation phases progress.

CBRA Funding

Funding of the CBRA Secretariat will be progressively taken over by the BR network on a membership basis. From its level of funding of the first year, CBRA funding is proposed to be decreasing as following:

2018: 150 000\$
2019: 100 000\$
2020: 50 000\$
2021: 0\$

The membership fee for each BR will be adjusted accordingly in order to keep CBRA funding at the same level from 2017 to 2021.

CBRA will ensure national coordination of the plan, funding and agreement, and will undertake national initiatives involving several or all BRs. An exhibit suggesting a number of special national level projects is presented at Appendix 2.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

As previously mentioned, biosphere reserves can be partners in implementing 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada (see Appendix 1 for examples of BR projects and contributions). The UNESCO MAB Strategy 2015-2025 sets out four strategic objectives that fit with this mandate:

1. Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services and foster the sustainable use of natural resources;
2. Contribute to building sustainable, healthy, and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere;
3. Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development and capacity building;
4. Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.

Biosphere reserves are designated upon recommendation of the country, but an official partnership based on common goals and deliverables is not always enforced. We see this agreement as an opportunity to make official the recognition of Canada's BRs by the federal government as follows:

Through this partnership and the implementation of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets, Canada actively recognizes and promotes its national network of UNESCO biosphere reserves as priority sites for contributing to the implementation of the FSDS objectives, global conventions, and other multilateral agreements such as the achievement of relevant United Nations SDGs.

Canada would then be aligned with the MAB international statutory framework:

- 1.1 Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as models, contributing to the implementation of global conventions and other multi-lateral agreements and the achievement of relevant SDGs;
- 2.1 Biosphere reserves act as, and are recognized and supported by all levels of government, as models for promoting sustainable development and advancing the implementation of the SDGs relating to equitable and healthy societies and settlements;
- 4.2 Member States actively support their biosphere reserves as models in implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Global Framework for Climate Services;
- 4.3 Member States and other decision makers recognize and promote biosphere reserves as priority sites in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular through energy efficiency and the development and adoption of renewable and clean energy, including energy saving through responsible consumption, and approaches related to carbon sequestration and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

The 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets were developed collaboratively by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments with input from others. If Canada's 18 biosphere reserves are to succeed in building partnerships to address said goals and targets, it is a key aspect to be set out in this agreement, that the recognition and support of BRs be formally communicated to the provinces and territories. For individual BRs, provincial/territorial recognition and support has been a significant challenge. Please see Appendix 3 for other benefits to establish a partnership.

APPENDIX 1.

EXAMPLES OF BR'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADA'S BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve

Addressing Target 19: By 2012, more Canadians get out into nature and participate in biodiversity conservation activities

Promote an eco-touristic development of the territory surrounding the Uapishka Station, giving the population access to an exceptional ecological environment.

Context

Co-developed by the Innu Council of Pessamit and the Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve (RMBMU), Uapishka Station, founded in early 2016, aims to foster dynamic occupation of the northern territory, in order to build scientific, socio-professional, community and tourism development. Protected areas, Native occupation, the Uapishka (Groulx) mountains, the Manicouagan astrobleme, and more other features of a rich natural and cultural heritage make this territory ideal to promote eco-tourism by developing new interpretation and education activities dedicated to a general public based on both transmission of traditional knowledge and dissemination of the scientific research. The infrastructures already in place can lodge researchers and tourists.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Easier, safer and more stimulating access to the exceptional ecological environment of the region's hinterland for general public;
- Reinforced sense of belonging of local people for their land;
- Better understanding of the interaction between human and nature, and better awareness of the importance of protecting natural heritage;
- Generating knowledge on ecosystems and natural heritage, both based on traditional knowledge and scientific research.

Timeline

SWOT Analysis | End of 2016

Winter promotion campaign | Winter 2017

Organization and testing of winter touristic activities | Winter 2017

Summer promotion campaign | Spring 2017

Evaluation of winter activities | Summer 2017

Organization and testing of summer touristic activities | Summer 2017

Evaluation of summer activities | Fall 2017

Fall promotion campaign | Summer 2017

Organization and testing of fall touristic activities | Fall 2017

Evaluation of fall activities | Winter 2018

Recasting of marketing and activities' development cycle based on the lessons of the first year | 2018-2019

Approximate Budget

Required investments	2017	2018	2019	Total
Promotion and marketing	\$32 500	\$56 700	\$47 250	\$136 450
Activities' development	\$43 325	\$106 100	\$67 950	\$217 375

* A complete detailed budget can be provided upon request

Mont-Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve

Addressing Target 2: By 2020, species that are secure remain secure, and populations of species at risk under federal laws exhibit trends that are consistent with recovery strategies and management plans.

Develop a community-based conservation and land acquisition program for species at risk in the Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve

Context

Mont-Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve (MSHBR) has one of the last remnants of primeval forests of the Saint-Lawrence lowlands. It is home to a variety of fauna and flora from which more than 60 species (provincial and federal) are considered at risk, largely as a result of habitat disturbance and loss, from mostly urban and agricultural development. Through our land conservation and acquisition program, the surface of protected areas within MSHBR has increased by almost 40% during the last 20 years. MSHBR now manages around 1 400 hectares of privately owned and legally protected areas. Over the years, MSHBR has developed partnerships with municipalities, stakeholders and local communities to restore and protect natural habitats. This project aims to implement a conservation strategy for the MSHBR to protect species and their habitats.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Development of a Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory and monitoring program to help identify, protect and restore habitats and species.
- Development of a conservation strategy to protect species at risk and their habitat
- Increased protected areas and connectivity.
- Engagement of local communities and decision makers in the protection of biodiversity and species at risk.

Timeline

Development of a Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory and monitoring program | Fall 2017

Classify natural areas by value and strategic interest for acquisition | Winter 2018

Develop a conservation Strategy for the MSHBR | Spring 2018

Monitor and manage invasive species in protected areas | Fall 2019

Engage citizens and municipalities in habitat restoration | Fall 2019

Implement a recovery strategy for species at risk | End of 2020

Increase protected areas by 8% | End of 2020

Approximate Budget

Required investments	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Land stewardship program	\$29 000	\$59 500	\$96 500	\$82 250	\$267 250
Community conservation and education Program	\$14 000	\$23 500	\$43 000	\$46 300	\$126 800

* A complete detailed budget can be provided upon request

Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR)

Addressing Target 3: By 2020, Canada's wetlands are conserved or enhanced to sustain their ecosystem services through retention, restoration and management activities.

Context

The MABR Research Institute at Vancouver Island University has developed a 5-year partnership (2016-2020) with the Regional District of Nanaimo's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program to pursue wetland monitoring and restoration activities in the region. The project will determine how the hundreds of wetlands in the MABR—most of which reside on privately owned lands—contribute to the freshwater system through groundwater recharge, natural filtration and other naturally occurring processes.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Development of long-term processes for mapping, monitoring, conserving, and enhancing wetlands
- Sustainable use and management of ecosystem services
- Contributing to informed decision-making and regional policy regarding wetlands

Timeline

Years 1-3 (2016-18): Wetland mapping and inventorying in the MABR

- Identify distribution of wetlands through predictive mapping and satellite imagery
- Ground truth wetland sites to evaluate size and health while ensuring accurate classification
- Classify wetlands based on their vulnerability to contamination from adjacent land-uses as well as their potential to contribute to groundwater recharge
- Create a detailed database of wetlands in the region
- Plan wetland restoration and management activities for Years 4-5

Year 4-5 (2019-2020): Monitor, enhance, restore, and protect wetlands in the MABR

- Evaluate the ecology, vulnerability, and local geologic positions of wetlands in the database to determine wetland sites that should be monitored, enhanced, restored, or protected
- Prioritize wetlands based on their potential to influence groundwater recharge, wildlife habitats, and water filtration while considering their ability to mitigate flooding events
- Install long-term monitoring equipment (piezometers, lysometers and data loggers) at prioritized sites to evaluate trends in surface water availability, water chemistry, local water table fluctuations, groundwater recharge, vegetation, habitat conditions, and overall functionality of wetland sites
- Quantify how wetlands contribute to groundwater recharge, mitigate flood risk, and water filtration
- Work with landholders to ensure adjacent land-use practices do not negatively influence the ability of wetlands to carry out naturally occurring processes

Approximate Budget (cash and in-kind)

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
\$60,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

- Year 1 contributions from the Regional District of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island University, Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society, and the St. John's Legacy Foundation
- In Years 2-3, the team will map and monitor rarely studied wetlands at higher elevations, where costs associated with access and personnel will increase from Year 1

Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Region

Addressing Target 5: By 2020 – the ability of Canadian ecological systems to adapt to climate change is better understood and priority adaptation measures are underway

Context

The Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve region, located on the west coast of Vancouver Island, B.C., includes 349 947 hectares within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone¹. Old-growth temperate rainforest ecosystems, characteristic of this zone, are rich in biodiversity and vulnerable to changing climate conditions. Socio-cultural relationships are equally vulnerable to shifting patterns in the atmosphere. For millennia, the Nuu-chah-nulth people have had strong cultural connections with coastal and terrestrial ecology in this region. Five different species of pacific salmon, all originating from rivers in Clayoquot Sound, have long been a source of food, spiritual inspiration and cultural identity. However, changes in water temperature and annual amounts of rainfall are negatively impacting the habitat conditions required for returning salmon. A survey of the state of biodiversity in this biogeoclimatic zone identified 106 biological communities of concern, the greatest number among all 12 zones in British Columbia. In view of addressing the impacts of climate change and our various aspects of social-ecological vulnerability, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is collaborating with local organizations and visiting researchers to respond to proactively to address three main climate change adaption goals:

1. Restore and maintain the wild salmon populations and their required habitats in key watersheds and river systems in Clayoquot Sound
2. Diversify the food supply and support food security within each community within the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Region
3. Monitor local environmental changes and integrate traditional ecological knowledge, local knowledge and scientific knowledge in a coordinated response effort

Community Adaptation Strategies and Outcomes

In 2011, several local Nuu-chah-nulth community members collaborated with a team of climate science researchers to develop a community-based climate adaptation plan for Clayoquot Sound. The shared vision is to “respond proactively to climate change rather than react to it, if and when climate change impacts become apparent”². The following adaptation strategies are congruent with the goals and objectives of the community-

¹ Austin, M.A., D.A. Buffet, D.J. Nicholson, G.G.E Scudder and V. Stevens (eds.). 2008. Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia. Biodiversity BC, Victoria, BC. 268pp. www.biodiversity.org

² Lerner, J, Editor. 2011. Climate Change Adaptation in Clayoquot Sound: Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht Community-based Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Phase II Report. Prepared by Equilibrio and Ecotrust Canada for the Hesquiaht First Nation, Tofino, BC, 226 pages.

based adaptation plan, for the purpose of building resilient communities that can respond to environmental changes while strengthening social and cultural relationships.

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) plays a key role in coordinating climate change adaptation initiatives in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Region. For example, the CBT has contributed over \$130,000 to mitigate the loss of biodiversity through salmon habitat restoration and salmon population recovery programs, and has generated over \$88,000 for regional food security projects through the Eat West Coast program. The CBT, in its capacity as a Community Foundation, also plays an important role in measuring the vitality of social-ecological systems and sharing this information in a manner which local residents can easily understand. Climate change impacts were featured in 2016 Vital Signs® report, focusing on threats to local salmon populations and habitat loss³. Over the next 5 years, we are implementing the following adaptation strategies for each of the three climate change adaptation goals:

- **Goal 1: Restore and maintain habitats in key salmon bearing rivers and streams**

Strategies:

- Participate as a partner organization in the Clayoquot Sound Salmon Round Table to develop a wild salmon habitat recovery and restoration implementation program
- Work with financial donors to grow the CBT Wild Salmon endowment fund and administer annual support funding for priority salmon recovery and restoration initiatives in Clayoquot Sound

- **Goal 2: Diversify food supply and support food security initiatives in each community**

Strategies:

- Coordinate the Eat West Coast food hub and invest in partnerships to pool knowledge and resources to strengthen our locally-based food supply & distribution chains
- Develop new kinds of food exchanges and markets in remote communities to promote locally grown food and supply healthy food choices that diversify our local food options

- **Goal 3: Monitor local environmental changes and integrate knowledge for effective responses**

Strategies:

- Partner with the BC Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network and the BC First Nation Health Authority to train local observers in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Region
- Coordinate and convene regional knowledge exchanges to support increased climate change awareness and develop collaborative adaptation plans
- Contribute to informed decision making and regional policy on biodiversity loss, conservation planning and climate change adaptation planning.

Timeline & Approximate Budget (Cash and in-kind contributions)

Goals	Year 1 2016	Year 2 2017	Year 3 2018	Year 4 2019	Year 5 2020
(1) Restore Salmon Habitats	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
(2) Build Food Security	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
(3) Monitor Environmental Change	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total	\$70,000	\$100,000	\$140,000	\$160,000	\$160,000

³ Clayoquot Biosphere Trust. 2016. Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve Region's Vital Signs Report. Tofino, B.C. 23pp. <http://clayoquotbiosphere.org/vital-signs/>

Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve

Context

The objective of the project undertaken in previous years was to make a case for sustainable communities through Integrated Landscape approaches. Specifically, the aim was to inform and support holistic thinking, planning and decision making by local municipalities and community leaders. The project used advanced mapping, modeling and analysis capabilities within the Eastern Ontario conservation community, as a result of the strong collaborative that has emerged in this part of the province. Three years of spring/summer field work on some 2,000 plots across the region supplied precise flora, soil and bedrock types, moisture and other site characteristics needed to determine exact habitat types. This data was fed into computers for analysis, and with precise geo-locations a program 'taught' the computer to distinguish habitat types based on satellite imagery. Updating information can then be done by refreshing satellite imagery, and re-running the program's database.

Lead grant applicants were Eastern Ontario Model Forest and St. Lawrence Islands (now Thousand Islands) National Park. Collaborative supporting partners were Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, Ministry of Natural Resources and United Counties of Leeds Grenville. Each of the five main partners contributed according to their expertise, and all gained equally on the return of information and analysis. FABN was contracted for the work it did for landowner contact and management of various aspects such as handling staffing contracts for field workers. In addition, there were some 20 other participating organizations, waterfront resident groups and municipalities.

The initial project value was \$365,550, 41% of which was funded by Natural Resources Canada, and the remainder by partners. An additional approximately \$150,000 was secured for some of the field work and ecological goods and services (EG&S) evaluation EG&S, such as fresh water supply, flood control, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, pest control, and pollination services derived from the landscape of Site District 6E-10, were identified and described for the stakeholder committee using geospatial information on the site district and current economic literature. Concepts were explored and explained to the community.

The project delivered in several areas:

- Ecological Goods and Services were defined with specific reference to those related to Site District 6E-10, and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere region
- Evaluation of existing tools, products, data and information were developed, related to ILM to ensure that the project built on past efforts and momentum rather than duplicating efforts, for organizational and financial efficiencies
- Public engagement polled user needs, through workshops and one on one presentations
- Mapping of potential Natural Heritage Systems met various goals and levels as articulated by decision-makers and the community at large
- Economic impact of both EG&S and future NHS scenarios were valued
- Cross sector involvement with diverse partners and grassroots involvement was accomplished
- It was demonstrated how ecological processes need to function across and beyond municipal boundaries and how the policies of one jurisdiction have an impact on others

NEW PROJECT 2017 -2021

The intent would be to bring together in 2017 the original partners to this collaboration together with several new organizations (Carleton University School of Geography, Canada Remote Sensing Agency, etc.) to determine how new mapping technologies and tools (such as satellites and drones) may be utilized to substantially improve upon the quality and quantity of environmental data available for use in the stewardship of natural resources. The group will

develop a detailed plan and budget for 4 years of activity that will update the tools available to the collaboration and undertake the collection BR-wide of certain categories of information as new and enhanced mapping layers.

The improved system and the data to be collected would assist in address in the Biodiv targets according to a specific plan to be developed by the Frontenac Arch Biosphere and its partners. It is anticipated that significant partnership dollars, both in-kind and in cash, will be available to match with ECCC sourced funds. The improved mapping will provide a solid platform for initiatives such as the mapping of all “protected spaces” within FABR.

Anticipated Outcomes

The project will create a substantially improved system of maps, layers of information and tools to be used as a platform to address a full range of biodiversity targets. The previous system focused only on ecology, and did not map development. It will:

- permit the plotting of endangered species and sensitive ecosystems on municipal zoning maps and enhance vulnerability assessment; Targets: 2, 4, 5, 7
- permit the tracking of invasive species and facilitate their control; Target: 11 assist in engaging citizens in the tracking of species at risk; Targets: 2, 19
- enable the monetization of EGS on a more precise basis than the previous pioneering system (which estimated 5 years ago that the value of ecological services in the “mixed woods forest plain” from Windsor to Montreal was approximately \$85 billion per annum); Target: 17
- permit the plotting of endangered species and sensitive ecosystems on zoning maps and to guide the process of zoning change, variances and development planning and to use the valuation of EGS on smaller scale plots; Target 4
- focus on threat and opportunity layers of data to permit SWOT analysis that better informs decision makers in government and business; Target 5
- Incorporate a mapping layer that inventories all protected areas including private conservation areas within the limits of the Biosphere Reserve; Targets: 1, 16
- Assist the broad collaboration of groups that have purchased over 10 sq. km of sensitive lands for their stewardship and provide guidance for further land acquisition. The same group have facilitated the doubling in size of the 1000 Islands National Park in recent years; Target: 1
- Enable more accurate mapping of wetlands to assist in reducing degradation and loss, and to enhance ecosystem services Target: 3
- Create an exportable model that may be transferred to other BRs in Canada to assist in their work. Targets: 13, 14
- The system will positively impact a number of ongoing programs of the BR. As an example, over 2,400 children from 6 to 12 years of age have received education in Nature Camps conducted by FAB. It is planned to expand this highly successful program both geographically and demographically within our region. The updated ILM system will provide a more detailed information base, both to educate and inspire older students, and to engage them in data collection and in hands-on remediation projects.

Timeline

Following the first 6 months of planning, the members of the collaborative will address the areas of outcome as set out above and in an order of priority established during the planning process. We anticipate being able to accomplish the majority of the initiatives within the 4.5-year time frame for project work.

Approximate Budget

Planning to be undertaken with potential partners within our region, and new partners identified above, will during the first half of 2017, establish detailed action plans with goals and budgets.

APPENDIX 2.

POTENTIAL NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES

The following are brief outlines of a sample of national initiatives that could be pursued at the national level as a CBRA project, involving several or all BR. Financial support would be from ECCC and other sponsors:

1. Youth Environmental Stewards Canada

Inspired by Katimavik Canada, and guided spiritually by First Nations values and Traditions, the program would employ young people in each BR with tasks such as monitoring, assisting with efforts to determine local stewardship needs and available support, information needs, and organizing action to address local priorities. The program would be tested within the BRs and adjusted for ultimate application across Canada.

2. Governor General's Stewardship Award

A CBRA Director previously organized and operated the Governor General's Conservation Award which was presented annually at the National Tourism Conference for a number of years. That experience proved the merits of the Awards in inspiring conservation related action by individual Canadians and Organizations.

We suggest there is merit in considering an updated version of the awards, to be named the Governor General's Stewardship Awards to assist in creating the social change needed to encourage broad community based stewardship actions across Canada. Organized by CBRA and its members, the program would be sponsored by CBRA, ECCC, and the private sector.

3. Cobweb Canada

Based on a European model, the initiative would create a platform for citizen involvement in the collection of environmental data in BRs using mobile devices to be known as The Citizen's Observatory Web (Cobweb). The program would engage people of all ages in monitoring activities and expand public understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship activity. Program to be organized by CBRA and its members with funding from ECCC, private sector and foundations.

4. The Indigenous Peoples and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Climate Solutions Alliance: Reconciliation and Sustainable Development in Canada

Canada's 18 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves span all climatic and geographic regions of the country and offer an ideal collection of national innovation hubs for reconciliation and sustainable development. Biosphere reserves work with Indigenous and local communities to develop and implement innovative solutions and best practices in reconciliation and climate change adaptation. They foster partnerships that fuel social innovation and inspire people to work together within regions, across sectors, cultures, and interest groups, and beyond borders.

Between now and 2020, Canada's 18 UNESCO biosphere reserves and its Indigenous Working Group will:

- Approach reconciliation from two perspectives: Reconciliation between diverse communities and reconciliation between society and nature;
- Work with Indigenous peoples and other agencies to find ways to meet Canada's Biodiversity Target 1 (Aichi Target 11) which intends to increase the protection of Canada's terrestrial and inland water coverage to 17%;
- Implement the Lima Action Plan 2016-2025, developed for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves, by working together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development "through the global dissemination of the models of sustainability developed in biosphere reserves" (p. 2);
- Work with the federal government and all willing partners on implementing recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada;
- Implement the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and turn to Indigenous and local communities for their leadership, traditional knowledge, and collaboration in the sustainable use of natural resources;
- Continue to acknowledge the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2008) by, amongst other examples, "recognizing that respect for Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment" (p. 2) and supporting the rights of Indigenous peoples "to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons" (p. 7);
- Lead and participate in research around climate change and Indigenous innovation for climate change adaptation, and;
- Implement best practices in sustainable development and climate change adaptation across all 18 Canadian biosphere reserves with the ultimate goal of emanating said best practices within and beyond the biosphere reserve borders.

It is both the mandate and the collaborative nature of UNESCO biosphere reserves that positions them as leaders in processes of reconciliation, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation.

5. Standardization of Collection, Recording and Mapping of Environmental

Information and Vertical Coordination of Plot Scale Studies, with Intermediate Scale Ecosystem Classification and Remote Sensing for Regional Monitoring. BRs could play an important role as a catalyst in the process of mapping environmental information for use in stewardship activities by working in collaboration with Universities, the Canadian Centre for Remote Testing and agencies such as conservation authorities to provide information obtained in the field from local plot scale studies to refine intermediate scale ecosystem classification using tools such as drones and in turn to assist in regional remote sensing by UAVs and satellites for the evaluation of the data from these new tools. We suggest that ECCC needs to take the lead in a collaboration in an effort to create a common approach to the location of monitoring facilities and the standards to be used for ecosystem data collection and, most importantly, protocols for reporting data to ensure a common means of description. This needs to be seen as a key to ensuring the success of work that may be performed in addressing Targets 13 and 14. It would appear that BRs, with their dispersion across Canada and their global mandate, are well positioned to cooperate in such an effort.

Currently, the lack of clarity on how information has been generated to create new GIS mapping layers, especially where there is a large variety of sources, significantly limits the usefulness of the information provided. We suggest that this issue needs to be addressed at the start of the effort to address the Biodiv targets to ensure the success of the effort. ECCC funding is required to drive this effort.

6. International Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Begun as a legacy initiative for the 2013 meeting in Ontario of BRs from 52 Countries of Europe and North America, the initiative now has a 12 members International working group that will meet to develop a detailed project prospectus outlining the program for research, education and exhibitions and the costs of a facility to house the program. The prospectus will be presented to EuroMAB 2017 in France in April 2017 to obtain endorsement to move to the next stages to create a waterfront centre in Brockville, Ontario. We suggest that this centre, whose mission will be to inspire citizens globally to take stewardship action in their communities, is a means of establishing Canadian leadership in the stewardship of biodiversity. The initial proponents are the EuroMAB group of BRS, Queen's University, and The Aquatarium Centre, Owned by the City of Brockville. Key partners such as the federal government Corporations and Foundations will be needed to finance the project.

APPENDIX 3.

OTHER BENEFITS TO ESTABLISH A PARTNERSHIP

While this proposal is focused upon the delivery of results in addressing most, if not all of Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Targets, and upon assisting ECCC in restoring Canada's reputation for environmental stewardship, federal recognition and support of the 18 BRs sets the stage for other benefits.

Enhancing Canada's image

Overall, the work by Canadian BRs addresses many of the specific objectives set out in the Prime Minister's mandate letter to Minister McKenna. Acceptance of this proposal is a positive step in rebuilding Canada's image as a leader in environmental stewardship and as an active supporter of UNESCO initiatives related to the environment.

Facilitating partnership development

The engagement in addressing biodiversity targets will involve partners in collaborations that could not be brought to the table without complex agreements, higher levels of investment in time and money - possibly making such collaboration very difficult. BRs may be able to make things happen expeditiously, at a lower cost, and in an atmosphere absent of any legislated authority.

Accentuating networking

The solutions developed by our 18 BRs as a result of this proposal will involve modern science as well as Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and philosophies. These solutions are exportable from biosphere reserve to biosphere reserve (nationally and globally) and from biosphere reserve to communities across Canada. Our Canadian model also provides Canadians access to the best global practices in BRs.

Responding effectively to the UNESCO MAB Strategy

Federal recognition and support of the 18 BRs will also address the other key areas of BRs' mandate provided by the UNESCO MAB Strategy and Action Plan, which includes:

- Building sustainable societies, economies and thriving human settlements;
- Facilitating sustainability science and education for sustainable development;
- Supporting mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.

APPENDIX 4.

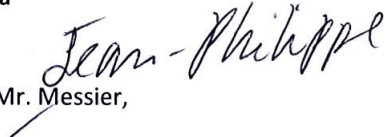
LETTERS OF SUPPORT



8 November 2016

Jean-Philippe Messier
Executive Director
Manicouagan – Uapishka World Biosphere Reserve
31 Marquette Avenue
Baie-Comeau QC G4Z 1K4

Subject: Support for the proposed partnership between the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada


Dear Mr. Messier,

On behalf of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO), I am pleased to express our support for the partnership proposed by the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) to achieve 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada.

The Canadian Biosphere Reserves network are well positioned to help the Canadian government achieve its ambitious conservation goals, while also supporting broader federal government efforts to promote sustainable development and fight climate change.

CCUNESCO is fully cognizant of the leadership role played by the CBRA as the representative of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves in Canada. These natural sites are dedicated to applying sustainable development and conserving biological diversity in this country. There is no doubt that the CBRA contains essential assets for helping the Government of Canada to meet its international commitments, particularly with respect to protecting biodiversity, pursuant to the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)* and the *Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011 - 2020*.

The CBRA, with its 18 sites across Canada (in nine provinces and one territory), is one of CCUNESCO's most important networks. Thanks to their widespread extent, these biosphere reserves constitute an invaluable sample of the wide variety of ecosystems scattered across our country (boreal forests, wetlands, prairies and Arctic, lacustrine or coastal environments). Depending on their particular features and climate, these

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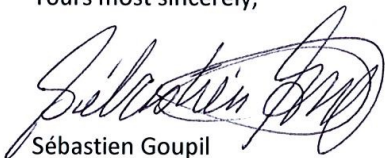
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ecosystems have their own unique and particular biodiversity, which serve as the basis of Canada's diversity of fauna and flora. In fact, the country's biosphere reserves represent an outstanding setting for protecting and showcasing this biodiversity, given that conservation is one of their primary roles.

Like the Government of Canada, the world's biosphere reserves are committed, under the *Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves* and the *Seville Strategy*, to applying the *Convention on Biological Diversity*. Moreover, the Lima Action Plan, which was approved in March 2016, is another reference that should guide biosphere reserves in achieving the objectives that include preserving biodiversity and establishing sustainable economies and societies from 2016-2025.

It is also important to mention that the Canadian Commission for UNESCO recognizes and encourages the work of the individuals and groups that work within biosphere reserves. Indeed, these actors have forged major partnerships with Indigenous communities, thereby contributing to current national reconciliation efforts. The devotion of these conservation and sustainable development experts, who constitute the pride and prestige of Canadian biosphere reserves internationally, will be sure to assist CRBA in achieving Canada's biodiversity goals and objectives by 2020.

Yours most sincerely,



Sébastien Goupil
Secretary General

c.c. Xavier Le Guyader, Program Officer in Natural Sciences



Le 9 novembre 2016

Monsieur Jean-Philippe Messier
Directeur général,
Réserve mondiale de la biosphère de Manicouagan-Uapishka (RMBMU)
31, avenue Marquette,
Baie-Comeau QC G4Z 1K4

Objet : soutien à la proposition de partenariat entre l'Association canadienne des réserves de biosphère et Environnement et changements climatiques Canada.

Cher Jean-Philippe

M. Jean-Philippe Messier,

Au nom de la Commission canadienne pour l'UNESCO, c'est avec plaisir que nous désirons apporter notre soutien à la proposition de partenariat développée par l'Association canadienne des réserves de biosphère (ACRB), visant à atteindre les buts et objectifs canadiens pour la biodiversité d'ici 2020.

Le réseau canadien des réserves de biosphère contribuera sans contredit à l'atteinte des ambitieux objectifs de conservation que s'est fixés le gouvernement canadien. Il permettra aussi d'appuyer les efforts plus larges du fédéral en matière de lutte contre les changements climatiques et de développement durable.

La Commission reconnaît en effet le leadership joué par l'ACRB, qui regroupe et représente les réserves de biosphère de l'UNESCO en sol canadien. Ces sites naturels sont entièrement voués à la mise en œuvre du développement durable et à la conservation de la diversité biologique sur le territoire canadien. Il ne fait aucun doute que l'ACRB détient des atouts essentiels pour aider le Gouvernement du Canada à respecter ses engagements internationaux, notamment en matière de protection de la biodiversité, conformément à la Convention sur la diversité biologique et le Plan stratégique sur la diversité biologique 2011 à 2020.

Le réseau canadien des réserves de biosphère reste l'un des plus importants réseaux de la Commission canadienne pour l'UNESCO, avec 18 sites répartis à travers le territoire canadien (sur neuf provinces et un

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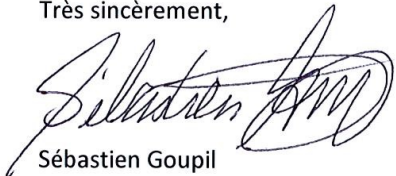
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territoire). Du fait de cette vaste répartition, les réserves de biosphère offrent un échantillonnage intéressant des écosystèmes qui parsèment notre pays (forêts boréales, zones humides, prairies, milieux arctiques, lacustres ou côtiers). Suivant leurs caractéristiques et leur climat, ces écosystèmes regorgent d'espèces qui leur sont propres, lesquelles sont à la base de la diversité faunique et floristique du Canada. Les réserves de biosphère canadiennes offrent d'ailleurs un cadre exceptionnel pour la protection et la mise en valeur de cette biodiversité, la conservation étant l'une des principales fonctions attribuées à ces sites.

Tout comme le Gouvernement du Canada, les réserves de biosphère se sont engagées, à travers le Cadre statuaire du réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère et la Stratégie de Séville, à mettre en application la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Par ailleurs, le Plan d'action de Lima, qui a été approuvé en mars 2016, doit aussi guider, pour la période 2016-2025, les réserves de biosphère dans l'atteinte d'objectifs axés entre autres sur la préservation de la biodiversité et l'établissement d'économies et de sociétés durables.

Il est aussi important de mentionner que la Commission canadienne pour l'UNESCO reconnaît et encourage le travail des gens et des communautés qui s'affairent sans relâche au sein des réserves de biosphère. Ces dernières ont d'ailleurs su tisser des liens de collaboration importants avec les communautés autochtones, contribuant à cet égard aux efforts en matière de réconciliation. De par leur dévouement, ces experts du développement durable et de la conservation, qui font la force et le prestige du réseau des réserves de biosphère canadien à l'international, aideront sans conteste l'ACRB à atteindre les buts et objectifs canadiens pour la biodiversité d'ici 2020.

Très sincèrement,



Sébastien Goupil
Secrétaire général

c.c. Xavier Le Guyader, chargé de programme en sciences naturelles

*Délégation permanente du Canada
auprès de l'UNESCO*



*Permanent Delegation of Canada
to UNESCO*

Paris, le 27 octobre 2016

Ref : UKGR0031

Monsieur Jean-Philippe Messier
Président
Association canadienne des réserves de biosphère

Objet : Réserves de biosphère et stratégie canadienne de Développement durable

Monsieur Messier,

J'étais très heureuse de vous rencontrer lors de votre visite à l'UNESCO le 14 octobre dernier et de faire le point avec vous sur les activités de nos réserves de biosphères. La participation canadienne au Congrès mondial des réserves de biosphère à Lima au Pérou a été très active ce qui a permis de faire rayonner l'expérience de nos réserves. Je suis également fière de la nomination de Tsá Tué comme première réserve située en arctique.

Je vous remercie de m'avoir fait parvenir la stratégie canadienne de Développement durable. J'ai noté avec un intérêt particulier que la stratégie reconnaît l'Association canadienne des réserves de biosphère comme un partenaire pouvant contribuer à la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable au Canada et que la stratégie fait non seulement mention des 18 réserves de biosphère canadiennes mais invite les communautés à explorer le potentiel de désigner une région comme réserve de biosphère.

Cette reconnaissance correspond tout à fait à l'accueil positif fait par le Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO en octobre 2016 au Plan d'action de Lima pour le Programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB) de l'UNESCO et son Réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère. Les délégués ont exprimé un soutien unanime au Programme MAB et ont mis l'accent sur le rôle critique que peuvent jouer les réserves de biosphère pour soutenir l'Agenda 2030 et dans la mise en œuvre de nombreux Objectifs de développement durable au niveau local, national et régional. Les liens et synergies entre diversité biologique et diversité culturelle ont également été évoqués.

Canada

Je vous félicite encore une fois pour votre engagement envers les réserves de biosphère au Canada qui grâce aux efforts concertés de l'Association, de la Commission canadienne pour l'UNESCO et des gestionnaires de réserves continuent d'être reconnues à l'UNESCO comme des sites d'excellence. ²

Je vous prie de croire en l'expression de mes bons sentiments.



Élaine Ayotte
Ambassadeure
Déléguée permanente du Canada
auprès de l'UNESCO

Canada