



Joint Declaration between UNESCO Tosco Emiliano Appennino Biosphere Reserve, Ledro Alpi and Judicaria Biosphere Reserve, and Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network

Environmental Ethics for Mountain Sustainability

Our Shared Vision

In an effort to build resilience in rural mountain Biosphere Reserves and to promote environmental ethics that support the vital social, ecological, and economic systems of these regions, we jointly commit to this declaration. In alignment with the relaunch of UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme's World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves (WNMBR) in 2021, we pledge to improve the understanding and protection of critically important mountain ecosystems and the distinct and valuable livelihoods of mountain communities. We recognize the essential role that mountain Biosphere Reserves play in piloting and implementing sustainable development strategies to improve human connection to nature and thereby safeguard our biophysical and cultural heritage, which is imperative to planetary survival and health.

Our three internationally recognized Biosphere Reserves pledge to work together to share knowledge, develop an international conservation vision, collaborate on scientific research, and conduct exchanges between local communities, organizations, and academic institutions on priorities including bioregional planning and management, environmental stewardship and education, protecting and improving water quality and abundance, cultural heritage preservation, climate change, and ecotourism. Education and inclusive community engagement are the cornerstones of this transformative environmental leadership effort.

Planning a Sustainable Future Together

We recognize that youth are an essential part of developing long-term environmental ethics and leadership capacity for the sustainability of mountain biosphere reserves. For this reason, we declare our dedication to engaging, educating, and empowering the next and future generations to advance environmental stewardship in our local communities and in international mountain biosphere reserves. Mountain biospheres do not stand in isolation. With this declaration, we recognize our interdependence and potential for mutual benefit,

partnership, and synergy in the face of the challenges posed by anthropogenic climate change.

Aligned with Our Global Biosphere Reserve Neighbors

Our joint declaration of Environmental Ethics for Mountain Sustainability supports UNESCO's strategic goals to:

- Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services and foster sustainable uses of natural resources;
- Contribute to building sustainable healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements;
- Facilitate sustainability science and education for sustainable development; and,
- Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.

Biosphere Reserve Profiles

Appennino Tosco-Emiliano Biosphere Reserve (Italy)

Located in the Northern Apennine Mountains, the Parco Nazionale Appennino Tosco-Emiliano (National Park of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines) was established in 2001 and spans four diverse provinces: Parma, Reggio Emilia, Massa-Carrara, and Lucca. Encompassing 22,792 hectares, the park is centrally located between the regions of Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna and has a diversity of cultural traditions, natural resources, and native species. The national park forms the core of the much larger (498,613 ha) Appennino Tosco-Emiliano Biosphere Reserve, first designated in 2015 and expanded greatly in September, 2021. The biosphere reserve has two distinct climates that allow for a highly biodiverse landscape. The northern area has a cool, continental climate while the south has a warmer, Mediterranean climate. Flora in the biosphere reserve includes rhododendrons, crowberries, dense beech and conifer woods and fauna includes golden eagles, wolves, roe deer and wild boar. Known for year-round outdoor recreational activities including trekking, climbing, cross-country skiing as well as rich historical and culinary offerings including Prosciutto di Parma and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, the biosphere reserve attracts domestic and international tourists. Tourists have access to ten visitor centers that provide interpretive information and resources for area activities and attractions. Although tourism is an important aspect of the reserve's operations, it is not a principal economic activity and has potential for further development. Currently, agriculture serves as the main economic activity of the biosphere reserve but recreational activities and tourism offer significant economic resources for the permanent population of 102,000 inhabitants.

Ledro Alpi and Judicaria Biosphere Reserve (Italy)

The Ledro Alps and Judicaria Biosphere Reserve received the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation in 2015 and is in the Trento region of northern Italy between two popular tourist

destinations, Lake Garda, and the UNESCO Dolomite World Heritage Site. The biosphere reserve territory is 47,427 hectares and connects the Adamello-Brenta Nature Park in the north to Upper Lake Garda in the Lombardy region in the south. The central and southernmost portions of the reserve feature steep, rocky mountains that are characteristic of the Dolomites with broad-leaved and mixed forests, in addition to agricultural crops and pastureland. The region is well-known for its bucolic landscapes and rich biodiversity in both flora and fauna. While approximately 15,000 permanent residents reside in the biosphere year-round, during peak tourist season in the summer the population typically doubles and the number of tourist arrivals can reach up to 1.6 million visitors per year. Tourism is the main source of income in the biosphere while agriculture also acts as a primary economic driver, featuring olive production, viticulture, fruit and vegetable production and animal husbandry.

Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Network (USA)

The Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) received UNESCO's prestigious Man and Biosphere Reserve designation in 1989. The CABN territory totals 3,990,000 hectares and encompasses 22 counties in north central New York and northwestern Vermont that are home to over 400,000 permanent residents. CABN's core protected zones include Vermont's Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield State Natural Areas (3,704 hectares), a portion of the Green Mountain National Forest (7,462 hectares) and New York's Adirondack State Park (2.4 million hectares). The Adirondack State Park contains the largest designated tract of wilderness land in the eastern United States. CABN includes a mosaic of federal, state, local, and privately owned land and demarcates a vast area of managed use. The Adirondack, Taconic, and Green Mountains are key features of the biosphere, along with Lake Champlain, the sixth largest lake in the United States. Due to its mountainous topography, extensive temperate coniferous and deciduous forests, significant numbers of lakes and wetlands, rich agricultural soils in the lowlands, and its proximity to markets in Quebec and the northeastern United States, the CABN hosts a diverse economy that includes forestry, farming, education, health care, tourism, light manufacturing, and production of specialty agricultural products. The modern conservation movement in the United States has roots in the CABN. The Adirondack State Park is widely recognized as the 'Great Experiment' in conservation that provides a unique model where people and protected lands co-exist.

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