

Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network: CVNHP Grantee Toolkit



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme

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Questions? Contact CABN Coordinator Katie Darr kdarr@lcbp.org

A Note from CABN Leaders

As the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network celebrates 33 years as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, we're reflecting on how far we have come while keeping our core objective in focus: to protect and celebrate the rich natural, cultural, and historical heritage that uniquely characterizes our biosphere. We recognize the essential role that biosphere regions play in piloting and implementing sustainable development strategies to improve human connections to nature and thereby safeguard our biophysical and cultural heritage, which is imperative to planetary survival and health. Our community is at the center of our sustainable development efforts to educate, support, and promote healthy and thriving ecosystems. Inclusive community engagement and education are the cornerstones of our bioregional approach and allow us to share ideas and resources across our network of networks.

We believe that bioregional collaboration is the key to addressing the world's most pressing sustainable development issues including climate change and biodiversity loss. Bioregionalism shifts the focus beyond political boundaries to encompass our shared ecology, landscapes, waters, and cultural identity. We also believe that through connecting, supporting and promoting our bioregional partners who are dedicated to enhancing ecosystem services, conserving biodiversity, and building healthy and equitable societies we can inspire a positive future together.

With our bioregional, partner-driven approach, we have demonstrated that innovative sustainable development solutions should not be restricted by geographic or political borders. Instead, they should be leveraged on a bioregional scale to connect people and organizations across generations, cultures, sectors, and geographic boundaries. We do not stand in isolation. Nor should our solutions to address critical sustainable development issues. Through our thriving Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network, we are grateful to be connected to local and international partners who are committed to improving the relationship between people and their environment. We welcome you to the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network and thank you for joining us in building a sustainable future together.

Sincerely,

Katie Darr, CABN Coordinator
Jim Brangan, CABN Co-Chair
Kelly Cerialo, CABN Co-Chair

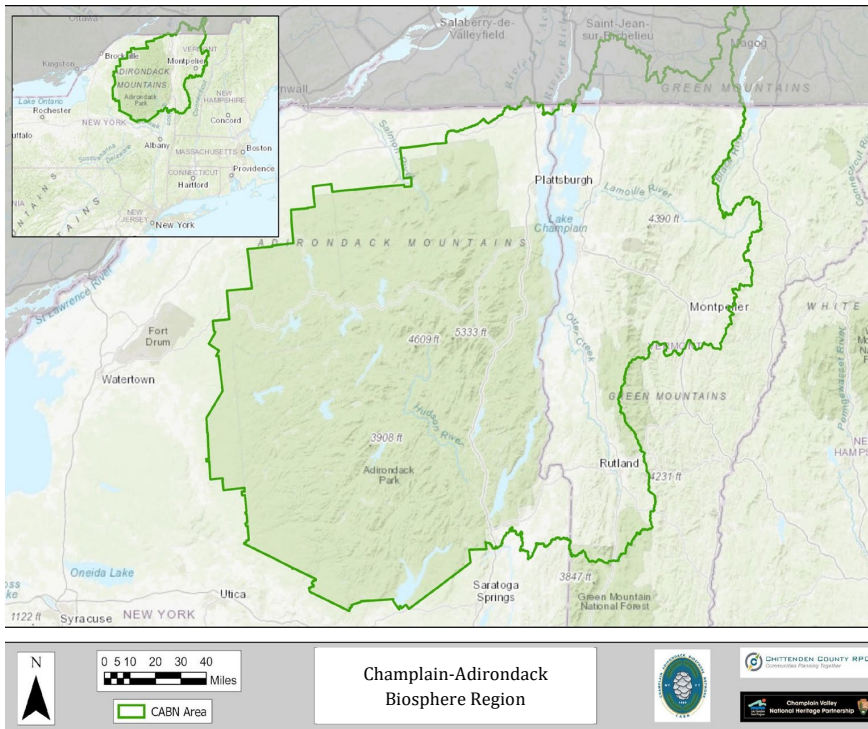
Background on Biosphere Regions

- [UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program](#) (MAB) aims to enhance the relationship between people and their environments by focusing on four strategic objectives:
 1. Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster 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, sharing of traditional ecological knowledge, education, and capacity building.
 4. Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.
- **Sustainable Development Goals:** Central to the strategic objectives of the MAB program and the mission, vision, and value proposition of CABN are the United Nations [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).
- **Learning Places for Sustainable Development:** Biosphere regions are learning places for sustainable development. They connect people across disciplines, cultures, and borders to advance culture, nature, and the economy. They promote local and regional actions to achieve sustainable development goals.
- **Biosphere's Three Functions:** The three functions of a biosphere region are:
 1. Conservation of biodiversity and cultural diversity
 2. Economic development that is socio-culturally and environmentally sustainable
 3. Logistic support underpinning development through research, monitoring, education, and training
- **World Network of Biosphere Reserves:** There are 738 biosphere reserves in 134 countries, including 28 biosphere regions in the United States Biosphere Network.

Biosphere naming conventions

- ***Biosphere Reserve***
 - Area recognized by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program
- ***Biosphere Region***
 - In 2020, the US Biosphere Network adopted the term "region" instead of reserve"
- ***Biosphere Network***
 - Collaborative of partners working to achieve the mission of the biosphere region

Overview of the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Region



- Awarded biosphere reserve designation in 1989
- Total surface area: 9,859,504 acres (3,990,000 ha; 15,405 sq mi)
- Geographic features include the entirety of the Adirondack Park, the Lake Champlain Basin, Mount Mansfield, and a portion of the Green Mountain National Forest

Overview of the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network

- **CABN Mission:** To serve as a collaborative network in the Champlain-Adirondack region that empowers citizens to build a thriving, equitable and resilient society that conserves biological diversity and promotes sustainable uses of natural resources in the face of a warming climate and other environmental changes.
- **CABN Vision:** Inspire a positive future for the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Region by celebrating and connecting people and nature.
- **CABN Value Proposition:** The Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network is an internationally recognized network that connects people and organizations working to build harmonious relationships between people and the environment.

Key Messages

The key messages outlined below help to ensure we are communicating consistent messages to our audiences. These key messages are meant to serve as a guide to communication efforts – not as a script. You are encouraged to provide additional relevant, contextual detail in order to ensure that messages are engaging and credible to each audience.

These messages have been crafted to ensure consistent messaging with the U.S. Biosphere Network and World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Consistent messaging helps to reduce contradicting communication and broader confusion around the purpose and value of Biosphere Regions.

Key Message	Supporting Points
<p>We are a partnership of communities and organizations working to build harmonious relationships between people and nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) is a voluntary, internationally recognized partnership of local, state, and federal agencies, tribal governments, conservation nonprofits, universities, working lands, community groups, and the private sector working to build harmonious relationships between people and nature.● We collaborate to conserve nature and maintain the benefits of healthy lands and waters for our biosphere region's quality of life.● We facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices at the regional, national, and international scales through membership in the U.S. Biosphere Network and World Network of Biosphere Reserves.● The Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Network (CABN) provides a critical network for communication and coordination between communities and organizations within our own biosphere region and beyond.

<p>Biosphere regions are voluntary, collaborative, and nonregulatory.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biosphere regions remain under the jurisdiction of their local, state, and federal governments. ● Through its designation, the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Region is internationally recognized for its unique beauty, culture, and economic value. ● Communities and organizations within the CABN can build on this recognition to support economic development and conservation goals.
<p>We collaborate to advance a number of goals to ensure that people and nature within our Biosphere Region prosper.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We connect communities and organizations who are working to build harmonious relationships between people and nature. ● We work in a cross-boundary capacity to better steward the lands, waters, and rich biodiversity of our biosphere region. ● We use scientific, indigenous, and local knowledge to model climate change resilience and sustainable development both locally and globally. ● We strengthen the connections between our communities and the biosphere region in which they live, work, and play.
<p>Our biosphere region celebrates our communities and incredible environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Originally recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Program in 1989, our official biosphere region status is evidence of the ecological and cultural significance of the Champlain-Adirondack region. ● From the towering peaks of the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains to the shores of Lake Champlain and all of the working landscapes in between, our Biosphere Region celebrates the connections between our incredible natural spaces and the communities who live, work, and play within them.

<p>Healthy lands and waters support healthy communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our livelihoods and quality of life depend on healthy lands, air, and water. The benefits of productive soils for farming, clean water for drinking and fisheries and wildlife, opportunities for outdoor recreation, natural systems for flood control and carbon sequestration, and other important resources all derive from a healthy environment. Our cultural history and spiritual well-being also depend on conserving natural and cultural landscapes. ● Being a biosphere region helps our communities grow sustainably.
<p>We must work together to meet the moment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The science is clear: climate change and global biodiversity loss will continue to threaten our quality of life for the foreseeable future. While that statement is daunting, we choose to see this moment as one of opportunity rather than one of despair. We understand that in order to meet these challenges head on, we must work together to find bold, innovative, and equitable solutions that strengthen the resiliency of our communities and our shared environment. ● From rising temperatures to intensifying precipitation, we understand intimately what a changing climate looks and feels like. We know, too, that not all of our communities feel these changes equally. With an identity and industries built on a cold weather climate, our biosphere region is an apt place to explore and support solutions to climate change and efforts to promote environmental justice.

Additional Resources

- CABN Color Logo available [here](#)
- CABN Webpage
<https://champlainvalleynhp.org/heritage/champlain-adirondack-biosphere-reserve/>
- CABN Fact Sheet
https://champlainvalleynhp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CABN-Factsheet_2023.pdf
- CABN Film- *Connected, A Journey Through the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere*
https://vimeo.com/582630910?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=59837356
- CABN Social Media
 - Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/champlainadirondackbiospherenetwork>
 - Instagram https://www.instagram.com/champlainadirondack_biosphere/
 - LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/champlain-adirondack-biosphere-network/?viewAsMember=true>
 - When posting about CABN on social media, consider using the following hashtags:
 - #cabn #unesco #mab #biosphere #sustainablespotlight #sdgs #sustainabledevelopment #itsaboutlife #adks #greenmountains #lakechamplain #usbn #proudtoshare
- United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- US Biosphere Network webpage
<https://largelandscapes.org/biosphere-network/>