



Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network Strategic Plan 2018-2019

Vision

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network contributes to strengthening sustainable community development, celebrating the interconnectedness of nature, livelihood, wellbeing and culture, for this and future generations.

Mission

To implement the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme to improve the relationships between people and their environments.

Mandate

Biosphere Reserves are important ecosystems that are internationally recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), where communities are encouraged to combine conservation of biodiversity with sustainable development. Biosphere reserve organizations provide logistic support through facilitation of education and training, monitoring and research. They are nominated by communities within a shared landscape to demonstrate how to achieve sustainable livelihoods, vibrant culture and robust economies based on a healthy environment. The mandate of biosphere reserves is to achieve the objectives of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program for biosphere reserves by implementing applicable areas of the Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2026).

Who We Are

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve is a member of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which contains 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve covers an 2700 sq. km area of Eastern Ontario, located on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. It is located at the intersection of the Frontenac Arch and the St. Lawrence River Valley, which together form one of the great crossroads of the continent. The Arch connects the Canadian Shield boreal forest to the forests of the Adirondack and Appalachian Mountains. The river valley is a route from the Great Lakes forest heartland of the continent to the forests of

the Atlantic Coast. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere is at the centre of that intersection, where five forest regions merge, creating significant biodiversity, earning it the UNESCO biosphere reserve designation.

How We Operate

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network (FABN) administrates the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (FABR). The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network is a non-profit corporation, with a board of directors and working groups comprised of committed volunteers, and representatives of organizations, governments and agencies with similar goals and interests. Its responsibility is to ensure the implementation of the UNESCO MAB program objectives for the biosphere reserve.

At present there are four staff: an Executive Director, an Administrative Assistant, and two part-time Program Managers.

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network has been recently challenged by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO), to address the following recommendations, by June 2019:

Establish a new strategic plan that identifies new strategic partners and inclusive governance and management arrangements. Indicate how this plan will improve the financial stability of the biosphere reserve.

Demonstrate ongoing relationships with Indigenous partners, and the sharing of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing in projects and governance of the biosphere reserve.

Demonstrate activities of the biosphere reserve with specific partners in education and research.

Demonstrate effective communication and engagement of strategic partners.

Ensure administrative records are current and accessible.

The Strategic Plan 2018-2019 will align the organization's activities with the Lima Action Plan, address the CCUNESCO recommendations, and form the framework for a new Strategic Plan from 2019-2026.

Tracking FABN Progress Against the Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025):

Lima Action Plan Outcome 2016-2025	FABR progress
A1.1 Promote BRs as sites that actively contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	
A1.2 Promote BRs as sites that actively contribute to implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets	
A1.3 Establish alliances at local, regional, international levels for biodiversity conservation and benefits to local people, taking into consideration the rights of indigenous people	
A1.4 Use BRs as priority sites/ observatories for climate change research, monitoring, mitigation and adaptation, including in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 Paris Agreement	
A1.5 Promote green/sustainable/ social economy initiatives inside BRs	
A1.6 Undertake research and ensure the long-term conservation of the socio-ecological systems of BRs including restoration and appropriate management of degraded ecosystems	
A2.2 Ensure processes for selecting, designing, planning, and nominating BRs are open and participatory, involving all concerned stakeholders, taking into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures, and based on sound science.	
A2.3 Ensure processes for implementing, managing, monitoring and periodic review of BRs are open and participatory and take into account local and indigenous practices, traditions and cultures	
A2.4 Ensure that BRs have clear communication plans and mechanisms to implement these	
A3.1 Recognise BRs in legislation, policies and/or programmes at national and/or subnational levels	
A4.1 Establish partnerships with universities/ research institutions to undertake research, especially UNESCO Chairs and Centres	
A4.2 Establish partnerships with educational and training institutions, especially UNESCO Chairs, Centres and Associated schools, to undertake education, training and capacity building activities aimed at BR stakeholders, including managers and rights holders, taking into account the SDGs	
A4.3 Provide adequate research infrastructure in each BR	

A4.4 Identify, and disseminate good practices for sustainable development, and identify and eliminate unsustainable practices in BRs	
A4.5 Encourage managers, local communities and other BR stakeholders to collaborate in designing and implementing projects that inform the management and sustainable development of their BR	
A5.1 Develop a business plan for each BR including, generation of revenues and effective partnerships with potential funders	
A5.2 Implement the BR business plan to produce revenues	
A6.1. Implement an effective periodic review process as defined in the Statutory Framework	
A6.2 Apply adaptive management processes in BRs	
A7.1 Identify ecosystem services and facilitate their long-term provision, including those contributing to health and wellbeing	
A7.2 Implement mechanisms for the equitable payment for ecosystem services (PES)	
A7.3 Implement programmes to preserve, maintain and promote species and varieties of economic and/or cultural value and that underpin the provision of ecosystem services	
B6.1 Create and implement twinning arrangements between BRs in different countries	
B7.1. Establish an international network of scientists/knowledge holders working in and with BRs, that engages with national and other international networks of scientists/knowledge holders	
B7.2. Develop a joint research and knowledge exchange agenda for the international network	
C3.2 Promote partnerships to raise funds from external entities with objectives that are compatible with those of the MAB Programme	
C5.1. Create opportunities for projects and activities funded by national and regional funding agencies	
C6.2 Create opportunities for entrepreneurs and social enterprises in BRs, including training, incentives and public procurement	
C7.2. Use the brand in products and services in line with national guidelines	
C8.1 Encourage joint promotion and marketing of BR products and services among BRs and beyond	
D1.1 Implement the open access policy adopted by the International Coordinating Council (ICC) in 2014	

D2.2 Implement the communication action plan	
D3.1 Use social media and other novel information and communication technologies	

The Lima Action Plan places strong emphasis on thriving societies in harmony with the biosphere for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, both within biosphere reserves and beyond, through the global dissemination of the models of sustainability developed in biosphere reserves. See appendix for complete list of UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Conserve Biodiversity

Work towards restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of the region through collaboration with a wide range of partners including Indigenous Peoples, and communication with the public and decision-makers. Measure changes in ecosystem health at the landscape scale; identify potential threats, and key opportunities for environmental protection at the local and regional level.

Goal 2: Promote Sustainable Development

Facilitate public dialogue and practical initiatives at the community level, through education and demonstrations of sustainability initiatives in the private and public sectors. Build capacity for sustainability planning and implementation through partnerships, including partnerships with Indigenous Peoples. Demonstrate ongoing relationships with Indigenous partners, and the sharing of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing in projects and governance of the biosphere reserve. To achieve and exceed the minimum standards of engagement, by developing an engagement plan and process.

Goal 3: Build a Culture of Sustainability through Education

Enhance local environmental awareness and skills through learning opportunities for all ages, focused on our natural and cultural resources, sustainability issues, and Indigenous ways of knowing, and enable public participation in conservation and sustainable development activities.

Goal 4: Maintain and Build Organizational Capacity and Presence

Strengthen the organization's capacity to fulfill its mandate, manage programs effectively, and establish alliances within and outside the community, including with Indigenous Peoples to share information, ways of knowing and expertise, and enhance local presence.

Action Plan for Achieving Strategic Goals

Actions	Lima Action Plan Link	Timing	Responsibility
1. CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY			
1.1 Prepare “State of the Biosphere” report to measure the health of the BR	A1.1, A1.4, A4.4	Dec 2018	ED
1.2 Develop new research partnerships related to the conservation of biodiversity	A1.2, A1.3, A1.6, A4.1, A4.2, A4.3, A7.1, A7.2, A7.3	Ongoing	ED, board, PMs
1.3 Involve the community in conservation projects and ensure respect and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous ways of knowing	A2.2, A2.3, A4.2, A4.5	Ongoing	ED, PMs
2. PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
2.1 Prepare “State of the Biosphere” report to provide a benchmark against which to measure success of future projects	A1.1, A1.4, A4.4	Dec 2018	ED
2.2 Develop new research partnerships related to implementation	A1.5, A4.1, A4.2, A4.3, A7.1, A7.2, A7.3	Ongoing	ED

of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Lima Action Plan			
2.3 Work with community partners to identify local priority initiatives relating to sustainable development	A1.1, A2.2, A1.6, A4.2, A4.5	Ongoing	ED, PMs
3. BUILD A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH EDUCATION			
3.1 Develop new strategic partnerships with schools, college, universities and other education providers in the BR region	A1.3, A4.1, A4.2	Ongoing	ED, board, PMs
3.2 Build educational programming for children, youth and adults that includes Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing	A1.3, A4.2	Ongoing	ED, PMs
3.3 Develop climate change mitigation and adaptation educational programs, for civil society,	A1.4, A4.1	June 2019	ED, PMs

government sectors and Indigenous Peoples and organizations.			
4. MAINTAIN AND BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND PRESENCE			
4.1a Develop interim strategic plan to address CCUNESCO recommendations for maintaining UNESCO designation, including a review of how we work with organizations and communities outside the boundaries of the FABR.	All	June 2018	ED, board, PMs
4.1b Develop 5 year strategic plan for the FABN, including a critical review of the current FABR boundaries, identification of new partners, and engagement of existing partners, including the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Foundation.	All	June 2019	ED, board, PMs
4.2 Develop communications	A2.4, A4.5, C6.2, D1.1,	Ongoing	ED, board

strategy that measurably engages partners, including Indigenous Peoples, and ensures administrative records are current and accessible.	C7.2, C8.1, D2.2, D4.1		
4.3 Reduce annual expenses and develop fundraising strategy for long-term financial sustainability.	A5.1, A5.2, C3.2, C5.1	June 2019	ED, board
4.4 Participate in Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA), World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), and EuroMAB activities.	A1.3, A4.2, B6.1, B7.1, B7.2, C8.1	Ongoing	ED, board, PMs

Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development:

Goal	Description
1: No poverty	End extreme poverty in all forms by 2030
2: Zero hunger	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3: Good health and well-being	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4: Quality education	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5: Gender equality	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6: Clean water and sanitation	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7: Affordable and clean energy	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8: Decent work and economic growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10: Reduced inequalities	Reduce inequality within and among countries
11: Sustainable cities and communities	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12: Responsible consumption and production	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13: Climate action	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14: Life below water	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15: Life on land	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and half biodiversity loss
16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

17: Partnerships for the goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Glossary of Terms

BR: Biosphere Reserve

CCUNESCO: Canadian Commission for UNESCO

UNFCCC: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

FABN: Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network

FABR: Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve

ICC: International Coordinating Council

MAB: Man and the Biosphere Programme

MEA: Multilateral Environmental Agreement

PES: Payment for Ecosystem Services

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

WNBR: World Network of Biosphere Reserve