TABLE OF CONTENT

Foreword by the Chair.................................................................................................................... p. 3
Introduction ..................................................................................................................................... p. 4
National and international activities ............................................................................................. p. 6
   EuroMAB 2013 .......................................................................................................................... p. 6
   SSHRC Partnership Development Grant Project ......................................................................... p. 7
   Collection - Learning from Each Other .................................................................................... p. 8
   Participation onto International Coordination Council of MAB ............................................ p. 9
Summary of Canadian Biosphere Reserves’ activities ............................................................... p. 10
Foreword by the Chair

Canada’s Biosphere Reserves are living laboratories of how sustainable development can be implemented in our communities. As their national resource and coordinating centre, Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) continued its work in 2012-2013 to provide training and support for biosphere reserves, their staff, and key volunteers. We are – together with local communities, First Nations, industry partners and diverse agencies – involved in a multitude of projects and activities related to sustainable development from coast to coast. In 2011, an inventory identified more than 430 projects conducted by Canadian Biosphere Reserves, in the last decade.

CBRA’s 16 BRs across the country, aim to inspire initiatives elsewhere around the world and to empower Biosphere Reserve’s leadership within their regions towards becoming models of sustainable communities. As an example, the hosting of EuroMAB international meeting this year in Frontenac Arch BR, first time outside Europe, demonstrates Canadian leadership and will be an amazing occasion to showcase our value.

This is one of the national projects in which CBRA and its members had been involved this year, for which we recognize the precious partnership between the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the University of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO that allows us to considerably increase our expertise in the field of sustainable development and strengthen the capacity of Canada’s Biosphere Reserves to share knowledge at multiple scales.

Unfortunately, I have to say, that times are not easy again this year for Canadian BRs. Our economical context is difficult since our main partner, the Government of Canada, did not renew the agreement that made us able to focus on our main mission rather than on fundraising. However, thanks to our people, key volunteers and partners, we achieved to put together, locally and nationally, a good number of projects that are reflected in this annual report.

For this reason and for the essential work achieved since numerous years with a high level of quality and determination, I would sincerely like to salute my dedicated friends, colleagues and volunteers across Canada for their hard work, commitment and for sharing our vision of creating vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities across Canada.

Jean-Philippe L. Messier,
Chair of CBRA’s Board of Directors,
Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve
Introduction

**MISSION: CBRA supports Canadian Biosphere Reserves in the achievement of their mandates and demonstrates their collective value nationally and internationally.**

The Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association (CBRA) is a national resource and coordinating centre that provides training and support for the biosphere reserves in Canada, their staff and key volunteers. Canada’s 16 Biosphere Reserves (BR) go beyond theory to real-world practice. As laboratories of sustainable development, they are models of successful initiatives and processes throughout the country.

CBRA’s main functions are capacity building, training, and support for research and education related to sustainable development. CBRA advances a powerful framework for consensus-building that is emulated around the world as an effective approach for creating sustainable communities rooted in the principles of conservation and responsible economic development.

Canada’s Biosphere Reserves – together with local communities, First Nations, industry partners, and diverse agencies – are involved in more than 200 projects and activities related to sustainable development. CBRA represents the Biosphere Reserves (BR) on national and international committees such as the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, International Coordination Council of MAB and Steering Committee of EuroMAB.

Canada’s first biosphere reserve, Mont Saint-Hilaire, was designated in 1978. In 1980, Canada’s National Committee for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) created a working group to facilitate the development of new BR in Canada. From then, CBRA became a unique structure, present only in Canada, that had focused on Canadian BRs capacity building and networking. The association members are representatives of the 16 BRs in Canada and associate members from Parks Canada, Environment Canada, Canadian Commission for UNESCO and Canada MAB committee.

Designated by UNESCO through the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), BR are sites of excellence for testing innovative approaches based on scientific knowledge and collaborative, multi-level governance. There are currently 620 UNESCO-designated sites in 120 countries worldwide.
Biosphere reserves across Canada
National and international activities

In the last year, Canadian biosphere reserves had taken part in 4 main projects with a national or international perspective. We are part of a network of sites of excellency and those activities are essential to maintain cohesion with the MAB global agenda, to express Canadian leadership and to take part into the world network of Biosphere reserves’ strategic decisions.

1) EuroMAB 2013

Held in Brockville, Frontenac Arch Biosphere in Ontario, the EuroMAB 2013 meeting is organised outside EuroMAB for the first time. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere, in collaboration with Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO MAB secretariat had put together an organizing committee that had meet every two weeks over a year to prepare the event.

The EuroMAB Network consists of all Member States of Europe and North America, which participate in the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme and in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) of UNESCO. The Europe and North America region is presented here using the United Nations own definition. EuroMAB members include the national MAB committees of 52 countries, almost to half of the WNBR sites, scientists and experts.

In Canada, Biosphere Reserves are known for their role in catalyzing dialogue, cooperation and capacity building beyond biodiversity conservation to also shape education, science, culture and the economy. As such, the theme of EuroMAB 2013, "Engaging our Communities" highlights the essential contributions of a variety of groups in implementing MAB objectives, including local populations and organizations, academia, different levels of governments, and the private sector. The perspectives of such various groups will undeniably enrich the discussions at the event.

Following the EuroMAB 2011 in Sweden, the 2013 meeting will put together around 200 participants from over 30 countries and will identify and suggest emerging priorities for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, beyond the Madrid Action Plan (2008-2013). The World Network of Biosphere Reserves is unique in allowing local practical experience to shape the international agenda and to experiment new promising approaches.
2) SSHRC - Partnership Development Grant Project 2012-2013 summary

The Partnership Development Project, directed by Dr Maureen Reed of University of Saskatchewan and supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, entered and completed its second year in 2012 - 2013. This 3-year participatory action research project involves Canadian biosphere reserves practitioners, academic researchers, and governing bodies. The country-wide project attempts to strengthen a community of practice by identifying, sharing and reflecting on good practices, thereby helping biosphere reserves to advance sustainable development in Canada.

In Year 1, a project inventory was created and biosphere reserves practitioners gathered in three clusters (Education, Land Management and Sustainable Tourism) to identify and share good practices. Working in small groups, BR practitioners had the opportunity to share, compare and evaluate their work for the first time ever. This partnership experience was also an opportunity to critically reflect on lessons learned. At the end of Year 1, a Collection of Good Practice case study was compiled. In the wake of this great achievement, in Year 2, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO undertook to translate and formally publish the Collection. The publication launch will be at EuroMAB 2013 Conference in Brockville in October 2013.

The main challenge of Year 2 was to create meaningful transferable initiatives within each cluster that would strengthen networking among BRs, meet their needs or demonstrate their shared orientations, and showcase the BRs at the national and international levels. The Education cluster has created a showcase video and an education tool kit – “Biosphere in a Box”. Another outcome will be an Education post-event at EuroMAB 2013. The Land Management cluster is organising a professional training on facilitation to be presented at the EuroMAB conference. Facilitation is an aspect of land management that has been identified has a key factor and for which skills are essential. The Sustainable Tourism cluster has raised financial support to develop and promote Sustainable Tourism in Ontario, reflected on a development model for BRs Sustainable Tourism program and organised a tour in Frontenac Arch BR for EuroMAB 2013 participants and a post-event symposium. Each of these activities has helped break down the isolation of Canadian biosphere reserves, enhanced the capacity of biosphere reserves individually and as a network, and has strengthened the practice of ‘learning from each other’.

On the research part, academics are examining the effects of the partnership involving Canadian BR practitioners, academic researchers, and governing bodies. Through partnership, identification and evaluation of best practice, and collective learning, researchers have identified key factors and actions that have contributed to learning and to the building of a community of practice. Additionally, learning outcomes, as described by the practitioners themselves, are being documented. The work of the partnership has been presented at academic conferences and is now being written up for peer-reviewed publications. It will also be showcased at the EuroMAB 2013 Conference.
3) Collection - Learning from Each Other: Proven Good Practices in Canadian Biosphere Reserves

With over 35 years of experience in Canada, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (BRs) are pioneers in mobilizing efforts and partnerships to help shape a sustainable future for their regions. This year, Canadian Biosphere Reserves developed a collection of proven good practices to provide concrete examples of initiatives BRs have steered and which have strong potential to inspire other regions interested in transforming sustainability ideals into real-world initiatives. Biosphere Reserves, both geographic areas and convener organizations, are dedicated to achieving three functions: conservation, sustainable development, and providing support for research, demonstration, and learning.

This publication is one of the outputs of a partnership development grant awarded in 2011 by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association and Dr. Maureen Reed at the School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan. This community-based research partnership, started in 2011, also involved researchers and students from across Canada, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and its advisory MAB committee in order to strengthen networking and social learning strategies in Canadian Biosphere Reserves.

In 2011, an inventory identified more than 430 projects conducted by Canadian Biosphere Reserves, in the last decade. Participants then identified three broad themes of interest from this inventory: land management and ecosystem services, sustainable tourism and charters, and education. While activities and contributions of Biosphere Reserves cover a broad spectrum of subjects, these three themes were selected as they provide good opportunities to facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience across the national network. Practitioners then set to work in small groups to document and reflect on their good practices. Working in small groups, practitioners were able to engage in open dialogue about their efforts, considering both their commonalities and their unique characteristics. The partnership also provided opportunities to evaluate their efforts, to consider possible improvements and to celebrate their successes.

Brilliantly edited by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the collection includes twenty proven, good practices; six in land management and ecosystem services, three in sustainable tourism and charters, and 11 in education. Some sections provide readers with a summary of success factors. We invite you to read these stories and to contact BRs practitioners if you have questions or would like to put some of these ideas into practice in your own regions.
4) Participation into International Coordination Council of MAB

The MAB governing body, the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, usually referred to as the MAB Council or ICC, consists of 34 Member States elected by UNESCO’s biennial General Conference.

The role of the Council is to guide and supervise the MAB Programme, to review the progress made in the implementation of the Programme, to assess priorities among projects and MAB activities in general and to coordinate the international cooperation of Member States participating in the MAB Programme. It is as well the MAB ICC that decides upon new biosphere reserves and takes note of recommendations on periodic review reports of biosphere reserves.

CBRA’s Chair took part of the 25th Session in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. CBRA could express its positions/contributions on all item considered as the relevant items for our work in Canada. The final report of the Chair had been distributed among CBRA’s members. Key suggested orientations and positions expressed in this document have been prepared prior to the ICC session under the coordination of the Canadian commission for UNESCO, in collaboration and upon consultation with CBRA and the Canadian MAB Committee.
Local activities

The following pages are a summary of our member’s annual plans. It describes the main activities and projects that had been undertaken by every member and their partners across the country. The text had been put in this report in the language used currently by the BR.

**BRAS D’OR BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

Bras d’Or Lake is a unique estuarine ecosystem in eastern Nova Scotia where cold (artic) and warm water species thrive within a few kilometres. The region is home to Mi’kmaq First Nations and descendants of French, Scottish and English settlers and later newcomers, and sustains vibrant communities scattered over highlands, river valleys and along 1,100 kilometres of coastline with barrier beaches, rocky headlands, lagoons and wetlands. Major activities in Bras d’Or include:

- **Strategic Planning:** Two strategic planning sessions were held in the Fall of 2012. This generated a list of priorities which was honed down to 3: Education, Marketing and creating an Asset Database.

- **The Web-based atlas** (asset database) is now on-line and available to the world.

- **The Science Curriculum project** is a joint effort between the Department of Education and the Bras d’Or Biosphere to develop a teaching manual using the BR as its focus – to teach about habitats. The working group has finished Phase I – collection of the content for the manual and are moving onto Phase II - editing the material that has been collected and working with the Department of Education. First Nations input has been a central part of this initiative.

- **“Walking Trail around the biosphere”** is a new ongoing project headed by a steering committee and an advisory group.

- **Hiring of a consultant** to develop a master plan for signage around the biosphere.

For more info, consult Bras d’Or Biosphere Reserve’s website: [http://blbra.ca](http://blbra.ca)
This BR on Vancouver Island’s western shore encompasses eight communities and districts. Its vision for sustainability calls for a healthy ecosystem featuring vibrant cultures and a diversified economy. Projects include:

**Research:**
- Creation of an archive and library with a searchable database to house documents, books, etc. related to the BR.
- Maintenance of the Sydney Inlet Research Cabin.
- Publication of Vital Signs, a document measuring regional health, using statistics, stories and suggestions for community engagement
- Participation in the CBRA SSHRC project on best practices in biosphere reserves.

**Community Involvement/Community Support:**
- Approximately 50 volunteers were engaged through community-led advisory committees.
- Initiation of strategies to support local community organizations and not-for-profit societies.
- Convocation of the Eat West Coast Network, a community hub on food security.
- Support of communities and community organizations through the endowment with grants, event funding, and scholarships.
- Publication of a Community Organization Directory.
- Helping organize and support a visit by BC Minister of Advanced Education to discuss “higher” education as part of regional economic diversification. To support the idea of the BR region becoming an “education destination,” an Education Asset Inventory for the region has been created.

**Governance/Administration:**
- Join of the Community Foundations of Canada.
- Development of a three-year business plan.
- Update and revision of by-laws and policies.
- Lead of a board self-assessment.
- Development of a Fund Development Plan.

For more info, consult Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve’s annual report:
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve’s (GBBR) shoreline ecosystem stretches over 200 km from the French River down to the Severn River. With a large number of parks and conservation areas, the BR attracts over 1 million visitors each year. Achievements, projects and activities include:

- **The Biosphere Charter program**: marketing opportunity for local businesses to show their commitment to biosphere values, and receive training in best-practices, lowering their operating costs and their eco-impact. Sustainable tourism workshops helped to create experiential packages for marketing with partners.

- With the **Parry Sound Community Garden** partners, there are 50 garden plots, with donations of fresh produce to local food banks.

- **The Lessons-in-a-Backpack program**: teachers’ training to use their school yards to teach education for sustainability. *Kids in the Biosphere* activities were offered this year to 8 summer camps and cottage associations.

- **Jobs and the Economy**
  Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve has been successful in:

  - Leveraging community contributions tenfold, bringing $500,000 into the local economy with grants, research, internships and conferences.
  - 4 full-time positions have been created as well as 3 part-time positions.
  - Working with 7 municipalities, several First Nations communities and the business community, our support includes 250 members.

For more info, consult Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve’s website: [http://www.gbbr.ca](http://www.gbbr.ca)
Located on the Bay of Fundy’s north shore, this BR is dominated by the world’s highest tides, red clay shorelines, and unique terrestrial and marine ecosystems. New Brunswick’s Acadian cultural heritage and maritime economy has influenced the development of the region’s rural and urban communities. Highlights include:

- **Trails and Amazing Places**: 47 trails and 50 Amazing Places identified and promoted on in the website, via brochures, a Google Earth application, and through QR codes on signs at each Amazing Place. The project was a finalist for the ACOA Tourism Technology Atlantic Award 2012.

- **The Changing Climate of the Fundy Biosphere Reserve**: project exploring the effects of the changing climate on the people of the Fundy biosphere reserve.

- **Incorporating Climate Change Knowledge into the New Brunswick Education Curriculum**: Ongoing creation of a resource that will contain lesson plans and additional resources to use within the classroom.

- **Amazing Species and Fundy Formations – Working with Mount Allison University Students**: For a second year, FBR collaborated with students in the Conservation Biology class at Mount Allison University to produce species advocate reports for species of the FBR.

- **Charter and Membership**: Launch of a newsletter and a workshop entitled Networking With and Within the FBR: How Can We Work Together? Wherein partners, supporters, and members came together to brainstorm on how to collectively use the UNESCO designation more effectively.

- **Moose in the Fundy Biosphere Reserve**: Participation in the third consecutive year of aerial moose surveys in the FBR.

- **Ethical Viewing of Shorebirds**: project that aims to inform residents and visitors of the FBR about the beautiful mudflat ecosystem of the FBR, and the wildlife that make those mudflats their home. Extensive online and brochure resources were created to educate locals and visitors about properly surveying shorebirds and their habitats.

RÉSERVE DE LA BIOSPHÈRE DU MONT-SAINT-HILAIRE

Située sur la plaine du Saint-Laurent à 30 km de Montréal, Mont-Saint-Hilaire fut la première RB désignée au Canada en 1978 et fête cette année son 35e anniversaire. Elle est fière d’abriter des forêts anciennes, des sommets rocheux couvert d’écosystèmes rares et en son centre, un lac datant de l’ère glaciaire. Voici les projets en cours en lien avec les 3 missions d’une RB :

Conservation de la biodiversité
- Des activités de suivi des écosystèmes forestiers exceptionnels et d’espèces en péril et des activités pour en assurer leur conservation à long terme ont été réalisées avec la participation des citoyens et des propriétaires des terrains qui abritent une diversité remarquable.
- La Ville de Mont-Saint-Hilaire a fait désigner à perpétuité « Réserve Naturelle en milieu privé » plusieurs de ses propriétés. Un inventaire des milieux humides a été réalisé sur le territoire de la RB. Plus de 160 milieux humides ont ainsi pu être recensé et un guide sur « Les milieux humides de nos forêts » a été produit.

Développement durable
- La mise en ligne de « Réseau Nature » (www.reseaunature.ca) a permis de présenter 65 projets inspirants de développement durable qui permettent la création d’un réseau de nature à l’échelle d’un territoire. Trois guides d’information ont également été réalisés pour augmenter la valeur écologique des terres marginales, des terres agricoles et des infrastructures cyclables.
- Des travaux d’aménagement ont été effectués dans plusieurs secteurs de l’aire centrale, de transition et de coopération de la RBMSH. Un bassin de rétention des eaux de ruissellement a été remis à l’état naturel, un sentier a été aménagé dans un quartier afin de permettre aux résidents du coin d’accéder à un milieu naturel, des aménagements sont prévus pour améliorer l’aire d’accueil et d’accès, etc.

Éducation et recherche
- Plus de 1 000 personnes ont participé à des activités bénévoles ou éducatives en lien l’environnement et le DD. Des projets de science citoyenne, de restauration et de découverte des milieux naturels ainsi que la vulgarisation de recherches scientifiques ont été réalisés.
- 30 panneaux illustrés ont été ajoutés, parlant de la flore et de la faune de la montagne.
- Recherches scientifiques de l’Université McGill sur le territoire de la RB.

En plus des projets susmentionnés, les responsables de la RBMSH ont participés aux projets conjoints des RB canadiennes sur les thèmes de l’éducation et des services écologiques ainsi qu’à la gestion de l’ACRB.

For more info, consult Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve’s annual report: http://www.centrenature.qc.ca/informations/quiSommesNous.html
Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve is located in central Saskatchewan and anchored by a core area that includes a saltwater lake and rare mixed prairie lands, in a highly grazed and cultivated landscape. The primary economic activities are agricultural, grain, and livestock production. The 2012-13 projects include:

- **Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP):**
  The Redberry Lake Watershed AEGP reached 41 producers to take part in 82 Beneficial Management Practice projects. The AEGP program potentially brought over $25 785 000 back to producers living in RLBR.

- **Sustainable Future Planning in RLBR area:**
  Development of the final draft for a comprehensive framework that will guide growth and development over the next 25+ years.

- **Land and Infrastructure Resiliency Assessment (LIRA):**
  A “LIRA Partnerships Learning Event with Rural Team Saskatchewan and AAFC” was held in RLBR to showcase the tangible application of the tools, and methodology of the LIRA project.

- **Close ties to Universities and Researchers:**
  Signed MOU with School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS), Un of Sask. to expand the scope of research and education projects in environment and sustainability sectors.

- **Education and Awareness on a Local Level:**
  - Field day Grade 7, Hafford Central School.
  - Kid’s Club: 6 events with about 60 attending kids ages 5-14.
  - 300 visitors at Research & Education Centre throughout summer.
  - Family Winter Program: snow shoeing, BBQ and nature quiz.

- **Surveying changes in RLBR:**
  - Prairie and Parkland Marsh Monitoring Program:
  - Important Bird Area site visit, monitoring and report
  - Water level data collection

- **International Delegations from Japan and Germany:**
  Three members of the Japanese MAB Committee visited RLBR to learn how local environmental knowledge is formed and used to make decisions. A delegation of the German Rhoen BR also visited RLBR for an official unveiling and release of the joint brochure ‘Partners in the World Network.’

- **Promoting Sustainable Tourism:**
  - RLBR became a member of Canada Nature Escapes Cooperative
  - Development of RLBR Visitor Guide and distribution to the five visitors reception centres at the Saskatchewan border.

- **Community Farmer’s Market:**
  Once a month from May-October in Hafford, 25 vendors, approx. 500 visitors.

For more info, consult Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve’s annual report:
http://redberrylake.ca/whoweare/reportsreviews.php
This Biosphere Reserve encompasses the entire area of southwest Nova Scotia, and is home to the Mi’kmaq First Nations and Acadian, English, Scottish and other communities. Dominated by agricultural and maritime economies, it seeks to promote balanced conservation of natural and cultural heritage sites with sustainable resource development. Current initiatives include:

**Cultural and Natural Resource presentation:**
- **SNBRA UNESCO/MAB/Canada Review:** On Feb 15/13 a report on the status of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SNBRA) and its activities was submitted to UNESCO/MAB/Canada in response to the periodic review in 2011.
- **Video Vignette series:** Through the efforts of SNBRA Tourism Committee, Destination Southwest Nova and Nova Scotia Tourism Agency (NSTA), ten special video vignettes featuring “Champions of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve” were completed in November 2012.
- **Smart phone ‘Map App’:** SNBRA is currently collaborating with the Atlantic Geomatic Research Group (AGRG) of the Nova Scotia Community College (Middleton Campus) on a community mapping project to produce a smart phone and website ‘app’ that will facilitate mobile visitor access to multi-theme digital information about towns, attractions, and services throughout the region.
- **Tourism guide publication:** A double page spread of UNESCO sites, including the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, will be featured in the 2013 edition of the Nova Scotia “Doers and Dreamers’ tourist information guide.

**Science and sustainable resource management:**
- In October 2012 the Province of Nova Scotia stated that it was negotiating with the Bowater Mersey/Resolute Paper Company for the purchase of Company assets. At the invitation of the Premier of Nova Scotia, SNBRA submitted a proposal regarding disposition of this land recommending for it to be managed in a coordinated fashion by a professional forester, with the input of environmental management specialists.
- In October 2012 the SNBRA Chairman was invited to serve on a provincial government advisory group on the topic of ‘community forests’. Terms of reference for this advisory group include a mandate to explore the concept of community forests and prepare a report recommending relevant strategies for the Gov’t of Nova Scotia.
- Subsequently SNBRA has contributed to the ‘Environmental Requirements and Benefits” section of an “Expression of Interest” proposal by the Western Nova Scotia Working Community Forest Group (WNSWCF) for management of former Bowater/Resolute lands.
- **Planning:** The board has begun the development of an action plan to help the organization address current challenges and plan a path towards a successful future.

For more info, consult Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve’s website: [http://www.swnovabiosphere.ca](http://www.swnovabiosphere.ca)
Cette RB est située sur la rive nord du fleuve Saint-Laurent au Québec, et s’étend jusqu’aux monts Groulx. L’équipe de la RMBMU a réussi à développer de nombreux partenariats avec des entreprises locales œuvrant dans le domaine des ressources naturelles locales (production d’hydroélectricité et d’aluminium, industrie forestière et industrie minière, pêche commerciale, navigation, tourisme). En lien direct avec ces partenariats, un dialogue a pu ainsi être établi entre les Premières Nations et les responsables communautaires dans la région de Baie-Comeau. Selon les quatre axes d’intervention de la RMBMU, les principales activités de l’année 2012 sont les suivantes:

**Appliquer la durabilité**
- Accompagnement de plusieurs PME en démarche de développement durable.
- Poursuite de l’accompagnement de la ville de Baie-Comeau dans l’application interne du DD et au sein de la démarche citoyenne Ma ville Ma voix.
- Participation à la mise en place de Fonds Aluminerie de Baie-Comeau pour les collectivités durables.

**Créer de la fierté**
- Mandataire régional pour la démarche BNQ 21000
- Inventaire des GES pour la MRC Manicouagan

**Générer du savoir**
- Publications de bandes-dessinés “DD veut savoir”
- Corvée estivale des monts Groulx

**Accentuer le réseautage**
- Participation au Sommet des Peuples RIO + 2
- Participation à l’organisation d’une formation ICI on recycle
- Participation à l’élaboration d’une vidéo éducative dans le cadre du partenariat avec SSHRC

Pour de plus amples informations, consultez le rapport annuel de la RMBMU : [http://www.rmbu.com](http://www.rmbu.com)
Waterton Biosphere Reserve is located in the southwestern corner of Alberta. It is a beautiful and ecologically diverse area, where the Canadian Rocky Mountains abruptly meet the prairie grasslands, creating a rich mosaic of habitats. The region is also home to many vibrant communities and WBR residents are actively involved with ranching, farming, tourism and recreation, wind energy, mining, the oil and gas industry, and other natural resource-related activities. Highlights from 2012 include:

**Reducing conflicts with large carnivores**
- deadstock pickup program expanded to four municipalities with over 100 participating livestock producers.
- attractant reduction projects implemented on more than 20 ranches.
- enhanced livestock predator compensation program developed and proposed to government
- collaboration facilitated between the community members and grizzly and wolf researchers.
- meetings and tours hosted to raise awareness and improve the knowledge of community.

**Providing outdoor education opportunities for youth**
- curriculum-linked wetland ecosystem field day held for 90 students from Cardston Elementary School.
- discussion on ranch stewardship presented to Lethbridge College students as part of the Land Care Program.

**Celebrating connections to the WBR**
- digital storytelling workshop hosted for WBR residents resulting in stories that reflect the diverse experiences and unique relationships people have with the land in southwestern Alberta.

**Building community relationships**
- efforts continued to build constituency for conservation and sustainability and formalize zonation within the WBR in order to meet requirements of the Man and the Biosphere Programme.

For more info, consult Waterton Biosphere Reserve’s website: http://www.watertonbiosphere.com
Anchored by the Riding Mountain National Park, this Biosphere Reserve, about 250 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg, encompasses boreal and deciduous forests, mixed grass and rough fescue prairies, and aspen parkland. The economy consists of grain, forage crop and livestock, hunting, and ecotourism. Current activities include:

- **Charitable Tax Status** now achieved, the main focus is to move forward with the Fund Development project in researching funding opportunities, determining potential projects and refining the list of potential funders for these projects.
- **At the Farm Gate Program** featuring food markets and workshops to stimulate local food production and networks as well as sustainable tourism initiatives.
- **Bovine Tuberculosis Stakeholders Advisory Committee** that works with municipalities affected by the infectious disease carried by both wildlife and domestic animals.
- **Promotion of the Water Stewardship Educational Package** “Living by the Water’s Edge”, designed for users of lands adjacent to area waterways, in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds.
- **Caching Riding Mountain Program** based on geocaching and GPS technology to guide people to sites in the area. Three GPS Events and numerous GPS education programs were hosted, presenting education programs for over 1000 students and adults on topics relating to native and invasive species, cultural and geological history and pre-history of the region, water stewardship and human impact on ecosystems.

For more info, consult Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve’s website: [http://rmbr.ca](http://rmbr.ca)
The Long Point peninsula is a coastal ecosystem on the north shore of Ontario’s Lake Erie with long beaches, undisturbed sand dunes, grassy ridges, wet meadows, woodlands, marshes, ponds, and coldwater streams. The Long Point staff and volunteers work with residents and cottage owners to ensure that activities are in balance with the rare and delicate ecosystem. Current programs at the BR include:

- **Long Point Causeway Improvement Project:** The first 3 of 11 ecopassages have been installed on the Long Point Causeway thanks to support from Environment Canada’s Habitat Stewardship Program, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Program and many private donations. This project is a collaboration of over 12 organizations and agencies.

- **Long Point Biosphere Forest Corridor Project:** Since 2001, over 1.5 million trees have been planted to link forest blocks and to buffer riparian areas. This project is a partnership between the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and the LPBR Foundation, with funding and support from Ontario Power Generation’s Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Program.

- **Explore Norfolk Trails – www.norfolktrails.ca:** With Funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the LPBR Foundation has partnered with the three other Ontario BR to advance Sustainable Tourism. The LPBR Foundation also re-inventoried 4 biodiversity monitoring plots thanks to financial support from Environment Canada’s Science Horizons Internship Program.

- **Restoration of the Crown Marsh:** The LPBR Foundation, in partnership and with logistic support from the Long Point Waterfowlers’, received funding from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund to remove invasive Phragmites and create habitat ponds in the Crown Marsh at the base of the Long Point Peninsula.

For more info, consult Long Point Biosphere Reserve’s website: [http://www.longpointbiosphere.ca](http://www.longpointbiosphere.ca)
MOUNT ARROWSMITH BIOSPHERE RESERVE

This BR in British Columbia encompasses the Moriarty and Mount Arrowsmith watersheds and the Strait of Georgia shoreline and seabed. The local economy is evolving rapidly from one based on logging, mining, agricultural production and commercial fishing, to one increasingly influenced by tourism and a steadily growing seniors community. 2012-13 activities include:

- **Relationships**: The Directors, liaisons and members of the MABR are humbled by the commitment from Vancouver Island University and the City of Parksville in particular. The MABR is pleased to report the continued operation, with professionalism and seamless cooperation at the core of the Board of Directors.

- **Strategy and action plan**: The MABR “ALIVE” campaign is in full force with several activities from the Strategy and Action Plan currently underway including but not exclusive to: reviewing the current governance structure; implementing a new membership structure to one based on organizations, local governments and stakeholder groups; formalizing internal procedures, meetings, committees and reporting; conducting stakeholder consultations; and engaging new Board members to diversify social, cultural and environmental interests.

- **Engagement and UNESCO**: The MABR provided input to Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) on a video project related to Best Practices outcomes of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

- **Northwest Bay Ecological Survey**: A study of the marine diversity was initiated in the summer of 2013.

- **Health of the Biosphere Reserve**: With information from MABR’s 2011-2012 GLOCHAMOST contribution, Dr. Craig Stephen of the University of Calgary and, Centre for Coastal Health and Joy Wade are working with veterinary students on rotation from U Calgary to determine whether or not it is possible to devise methods to measure the “health” of the MABR and if possible to develop a tool which can be used on an ongoing basis.

For more info, consult Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve’s annual report:

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE RESERVE

This BR extends along the length of the Niagara Escarpment, from the Niagara Falls in southern Ontario up to Tobermory at the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula. It is home to three distinct forest zones and includes ancient cedars and a variety of localized ecosystems. Current projects and activities include:

- **Periodic Review:** The 10-year Review of the NEBR provided a unique opportunity to document and evaluate how the objectives and values of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) are being applied in the NEBR and to ensure that the BR is meeting the required criteria to merit continued designation, and to provide learning and reflective opportunities. The final Periodic Review Report identifies the main conclusion of the reviewers is that “the Niagara Escarpment BR definitely merits continued membership in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.” The reviewers have provided a number of recommendations to pursue based on the findings of the Review. The recommendations are classified under the categories of Governance, Awareness Building and Zonation. The Final Periodic Review Report has been submitted to the UNESCO for final review and approvals.

- **Forest biodiversity monitoring:** The NEC, in partnership with the University of Waterloo Department of Environment and Resource Studies, completed the inventory of the Cabot Head Nature Reserve plot, on the Bruce Peninsula, County of Bruce.

- **Re-inventory of the NEC:** A project to re-sample a representative subset of data points, originally inventoried in the Inventory of the NEBR was initiated in 2011 (second field season was completed in the summer of 2012). The project aims to determine if vegetation communities along the NEBR have changed since they were last surveyed in 1979-81.

- **Conservation and stewardship plan for the Bruce Peninsula:** In September 2012, the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association (BPBA) initiated a project to develop a Community Conservation and Stewardship Plan for the Bruce Peninsula.

- **Dark Skies Community:** The BPBA, as part of its Learning Community Initiative, has formed a Dark Sky Committee, which has developed a program to actively engage community members in efforts to preserve the wonders and benefits of the dark night sky on the Bruce Peninsula.

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere celebrated its 10th anniversary in the fall of 2012. Now into its second decade, an important driver for the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network (FABN) is to integrate the several programs and to take an entrepreneurial approach to become financially self-sustaining.

**FAB Local Flavours:** Nine years on, the 130 member FAB Local Flavours network of farm producers and food outlets is one of Canada’s largest local foods organizations. Local Flavours spans an area double the size of the Biosphere itself. FAB Local Flavours connects producers, retailers and consumers, builds a food identity for the region, expands the local economy, and strives for best land-use practices.

**FAB Experiences:** FAB Experiences is a web-based itinerary-building program, launched in June 2013. It is a mechanism to integrate our several programs of local food, arts, heritage, education and conservation, and is in part a sustainable tourism initiative.

**FAB Arts:** With a database of nearly 700 artists, artisans and galleries, FAB Arts is building a community that helps identify the culture and character of this region to create a sense of place and values, and contributes to a creative economy.

**FAB Trails; Biosphere Trails Council:** FABN completed a regional trails strategy in spring 2012, with the participation of dozens of individuals from several government ministries and area organizations. Hundreds of trails are mapped and can be downloaded from the frontenacarchbiosphere.ca site.

**FAB Conservation:** FABN facilitates discussions and conservation work amongst some 25 conservation organizations, landowner groups across the region. The initiative is designed to build capacity and communication to aid conservation efforts in this exceptionally bio-diverse region.

**Queen’s University Studies:** Begun in the fall of 2009, FAB is the focus of a five-year study measuring and reporting on metrics of sustainability—a key ingredient in producing a “State of the Biosphere Report”.

**Biosphere Nature Camp:** Held each summer at Landon Bay on Parks Canada-owned property, operated by the Barbara Heck Foundation, this day camp for six to eleven year olds, brings together week long programs of nature study, crafts, trail hikes and other outdoor adventures.

**EuroMAB hosting:** The Frontenac Arch Biosphere, in collaboration with CBRA and UNESCO organised EuroMAB 2013 conference for the first time in North America!

For more info, consult Niagara Falls Biosphere Reserve’s website: [http://www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca](http://www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca)
**RÉSERVE DE LA BIOSPHÈRE DE CHARLEVOIX**

Située au nord-est de la ville de Québec, dans la région de Charlevoix au Québec, cette RB est bordée au sud par les eaux salées et les marées du fleuve Saint-Laurent. Elle abrite une végétation d’une richesse exceptionnelle, allant des érables que l’on trouve à basse altitude à la toundra dans le Parc national des Grands Jardins. L’économie de la région repose principalement sur le tourisme et le secteur forestier, ainsi que sur un réseau en pleine expansion de petits producteurs locaux mettant en marché des produits du terroir. Voici un aperçu des activités 2012-13:

**EuroMAB:** La stratégie de la RBC était fondé sur la venue de l’EuroMAB chez nous pour mobiliser les citoyens de tout Charlevoix au travail des Réserves de biosphère dans la région Europe/Amérique et ainsi présenter la diversité des rôles et valoriser le titre obtenu il y a plus de vingt ans. La première moitié de l’année fut donc orientée vers la préparation de cet événement et le financement de la réserve par un programme de partenariat. Malheureusement, l’insuffisance de fonds a forcé l’abandon du projet.

**Collaboration avec les comités de bassin versant** afin de promouvoir la collaboration et l’approche de développement durable en impliquant des entreprises, des corps publics et les citoyens à recherche des compromis et de solutions pratiques dans le respect des personnes et de la diversité d’opinions.

**Collaboration avec la municipalité** dans la révision des schémas d’aménagement, afin d’y introduire des notions de développement durable et de précaution en matière d’aménagement.

La RBC a également maintenu plusieurs participations à différents conseils d’administration et comités de travail, notamment l’appui à la création d’un « géoparc » et d’une réserve de ciel étoilé au sein de la RB.

Pour de plus amples informations, consultez le site web de la RMC:
RÉSERVE DE LA BIOSPHERE DU LAC-SAINT-PIERRE

Située le long du fleuve Saint-Laurent, entre Montréal et la ville de Québec, la Réserve mondiale de la biosphère du Lac-Saint-Pierre est traversée par une voie navigable tout en étant une étape majeure pour les oiseaux migrateurs, le tout dans une région industrielle. Ses principales activités sont les suivantes :

- **Services conseils**: de façon à combler le retrait unilatéral du fédéral dans le financement des RB du Canada, la RBLSP a su développer un service conseil en accompagnement d’entreprise désirant cheminer dans le concept du DD. La RBLSP a accompagné les entreprises dans le programme ICI on recycle, ainsi que l’Hôtel Montfort dans l’établissement de son complexe hôtelier sous la norme Performance du programme Destin’action en tourisme durable.

- **Entente avec le MDDEFP**: Suite à la problématique de la Perchaude au Lac Saint-Pierre, la RBLSP a su s’imposer comme un partenaire essentiel du gouvernement du Québec dans la mise en œuvre des mesures et des actions de la Stratégie d’intervention pour l’avenir du Lac Saint-Pierre promue par le MDDEFP. L’adoption de la démarche des trois axes d’intervention d’une RB soit la recherche-monitoring, la conservation de la biodiversité et le développement économique durable relié à la biodiversité par le gouvernement québécois est sans aucun doute le fait saillant de l’année 2012. La démarche globale s’est soldée en 2013 par une entente financière avec le MDDEFP en lien avec le mandat spécifique de développement économique durable du Lac-St-Pierre. Nul doute que cette entente permettra la relance des activités.

Pour de plus amples informations, consultez le site web de la RBLSP :
http://www.biospherelac-st-pierre.qc.ca