



**BIOSPHERE**  
IN YOUR BACKYARD

# Celebrating the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere in 2024

Katie Darr

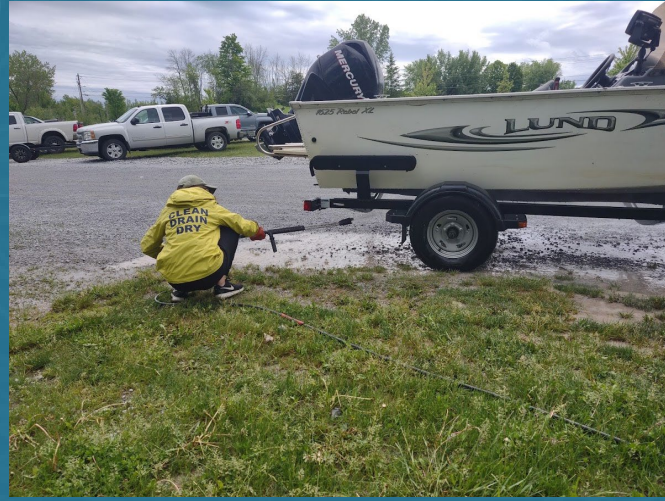
Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network Coordinator



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Man and  
the Biosphere  
Programme



# UNESCO's MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAM

- Launched in 1971 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
- Science-based program that aims to promote a balanced relationship between humans and the environment
- Participation is voluntary and cooperative
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves currently has 748 sites in 134 countries



# WHY ARE BIOSPHERE REGIONS IMPORTANT?



Flora



Fauna



Economic  
development



Human  
development



Research



Monitoring

- Biosphere regions are learning places for sustainable development
- Connect people across disciplines, cultures, and borders to advance culture, nature, and the economy
- Promote local and regional actions to achieve global sustainable development goals



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

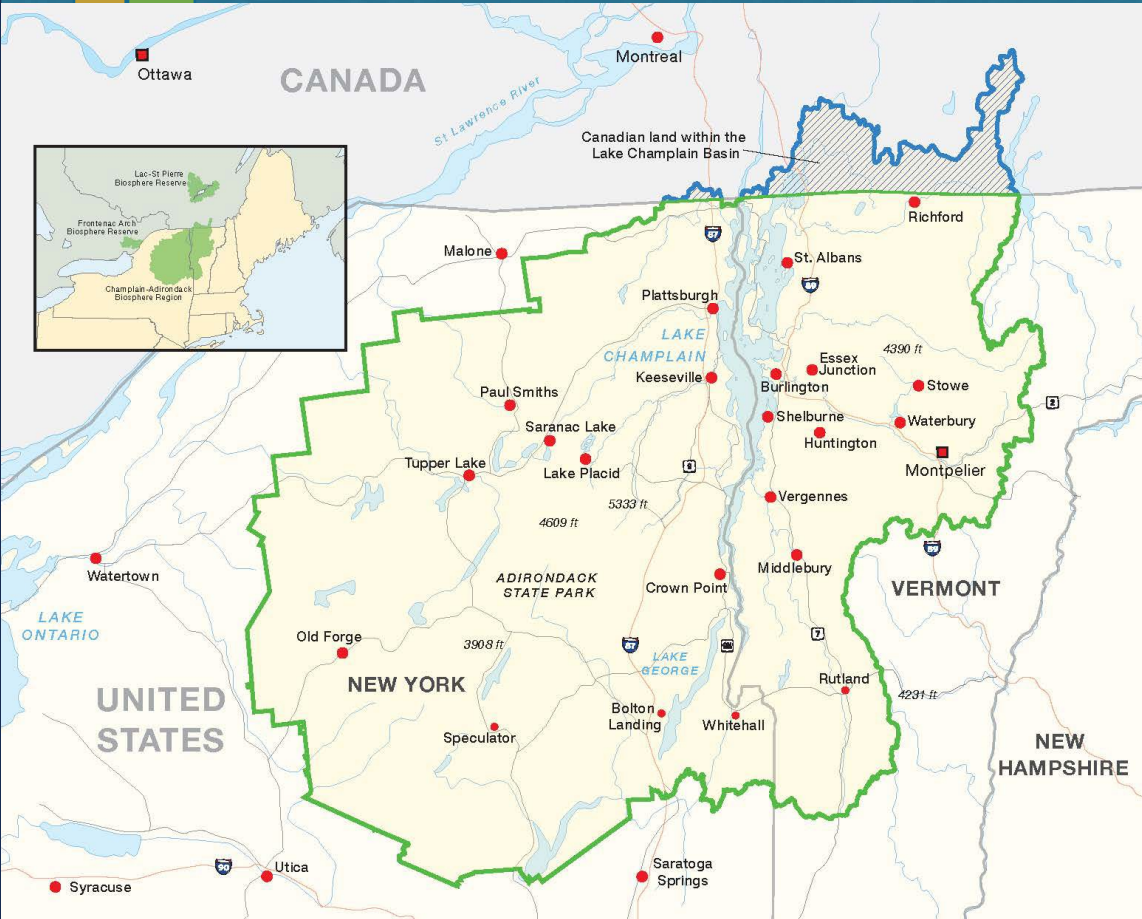


17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

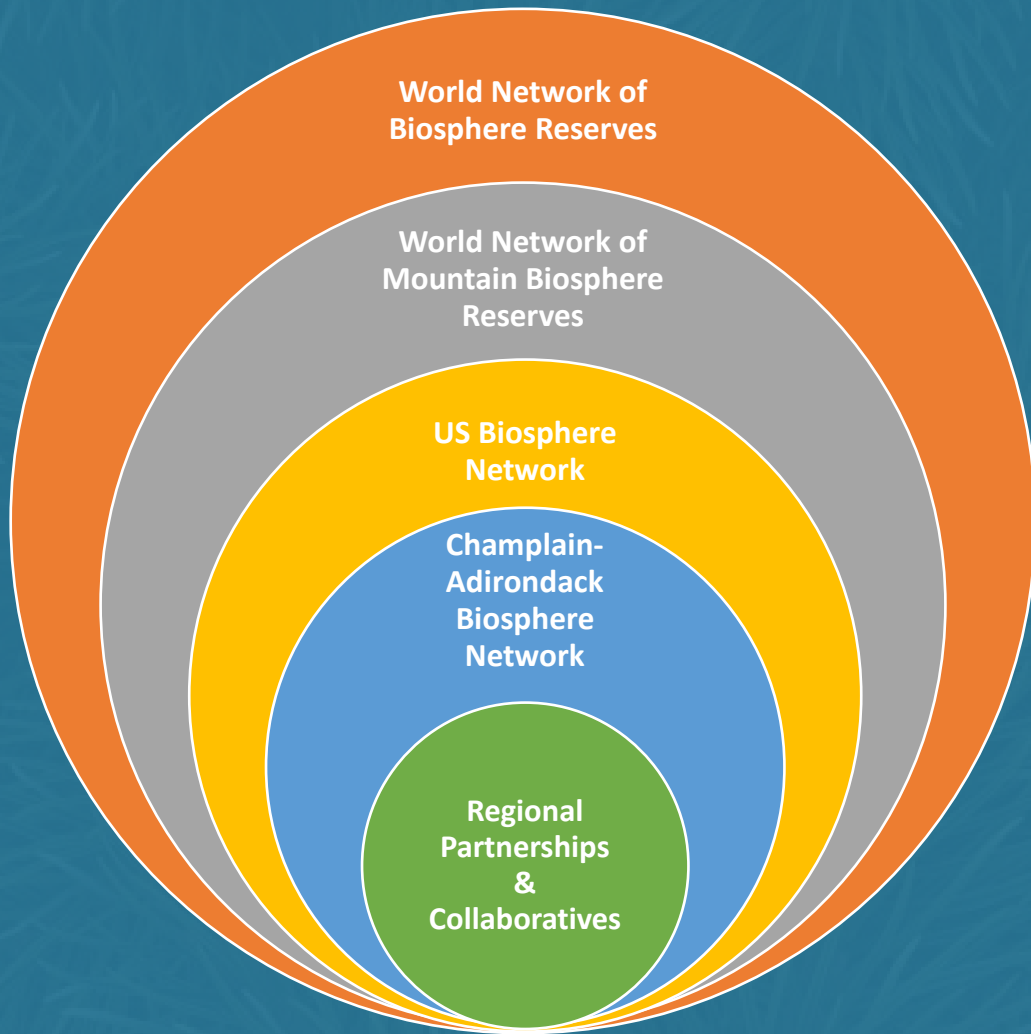
## OVERVIEW OF THE CHAMPLAIN-ADIRONDACK BIOSPHERE REGION



- Designated in 1989
- Boundaries established according to a 'bioregion' consisting of the Lake Champlain watershed, portions of the Green Mountain National Forest, and entirety of the Adirondack Park
- Total surface area (terrestrial and marine): 9,859,504 acres (3,990,000 ha)
- Governed by volunteer Steering Committee and Youth Board
- Twinning agreement with the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network

# 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.



**World Network of  
Biosphere Reserves**

**World Network of  
Mountain Biosphere  
Reserves**

**US Biosphere  
Network**

**Champlain-  
Adirondack  
Biosphere  
Network**

**Regional  
Partnerships  
&  
Collaboratives**



# CABN'S 3-5 YEAR OBJECTIVES

1. Marquee issue: 'Bioregional' approach for CABN in the face of global climate change
2. Inspire and empower youth leaders across the region to support the SDGs
3. Establish CABN as a Collaborative Network regionally and internationally
4. Create a bioregional version of Adirondack Common Ground Alliance
5. Establish CABN as an international tourism destination that promotes destination stewardship and responsible community-based tourism
6. Act as a smart conduit for grant money
7. Research aggregator and originator

# CABN 2023 Highlights: By the Numbers

- ✓ **3** - New CABN Steering Committee Members
- ✓ **10** - Projects awarded funding by the CVNHP
- ✓ **12** - Locations in the biosphere region featured the CABN traveling exhibit
- ✓ **\$9,776** – LCBP E&O grant supported traveling exhibit
- ✓ **\$23,000** - NAPECA Grant awarded to SUNY ESF Foundation to support a climate intern and initiate work on the *Atlas of Climate and Environmental Change in the Champlain-Adirondack and Frontenac Arch Biospheres*
- ✓ **\$25,000** – New funding from the UNESCO Venice Office/Aberdeen Charitable Foundation to continue support of the climate atlas
- ✓ **\$275,134** - CVNHP grant funds supporting CABN-focused projects in 2024

# CABN 2023 Highlights: Atlas of Climate and Environmental Change

The CABN-FABN Atlas of Climate and Environmental Change



This platform is intended to assemble and integrate the most current data and information on key climate and environmental parameters into an accessible format and provide a holistic view of the issues affecting this globally significant transboundary region.

Contents

Layers Legend Jobs

Active Scenario

- Point of Interest
- Transportation
- Land Use

Study Areas

CABN-FABN aol Make Active

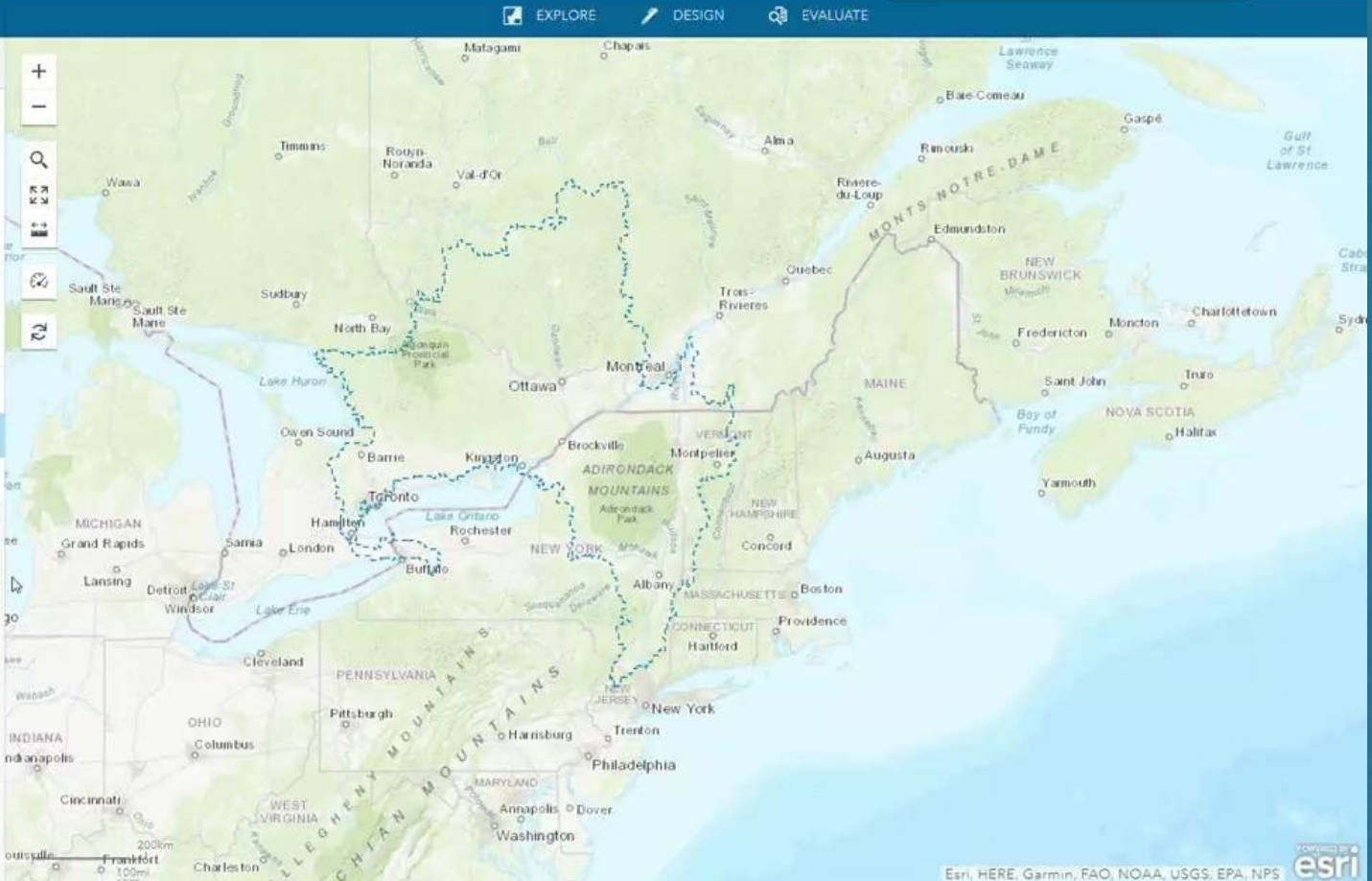
Data Layers

CABN-FABN Vulnerability

3D Layers

Basemap

Topographic



# Promoting sustainable development through UNESCO's programmes and sites: Project second-year cycle launched

On 6 September 2023, UNESCO and the abrdrn Charitable Foundation (aCF) launched the second-year cycle of their joint project 'Promoting sustainable development through UNESCO's programmes and sites' with the presentation of the 5 selected UNESCO designated sites from Europe and North America. The event also highlighted the progress achieved by the first-cycle sites. The meeting was hosted at the premises of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science for Culture in Europe, in Venice, Italy.



# CABN 2023 Highlights: World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves





# BIOSPHERE

IN YOUR BACKYARD

# Biosphere in Your Backyard Campaign

- **Why now?** 2024 marks 35 years since the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Region was recognized by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program. The Champlain Valley National Partnership selected the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere to be the focus of its Conservation & Community interpretive theme.
- **Campaign Goals:** To increase awareness of the biosphere region's international status; inspire people to connect responsibly with the unique natural and cultural resources of the biosphere region; and promote the projects, programs, and people working towards a sustainable future in the biosphere region in 2024.





# Biosphere in Your Backyard Campaign Pillars

## EXPLORE

Invite visitors and residents to get to know the biosphere region. Whether that be an exploration of our biosphere region's unique natural beauty, the innovative science being done in our region to support a sustainable future, or anything in between!

## ENRICH

A collective call to action to make a positive mark on the biosphere region. CABN's vision is cooperative, only by working together can we build a future that works for people and the environment.

## ENJOY

From the high peaks of the Adirondacks to the Green Mountains and all the wonderful, working landscapes in between, the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Region has something for everyone to enjoy.

# EMPOWERING YOUTH

- *What Are You Looking At?: Eco-Hands Across the Biosphere*  
Bixby Memorial Free Library
- *Empowering Youth for Climate Action in the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network*  
The Wild Center
- *Iron and Metal Arts in the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere*  
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum



The Wild Center

# CONNECTING PEOPLE & NATURE

- *Future Forest Reimagined through Man and the Biosphere Reserves*

Wildlands Network on behalf of CABN

- *Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Exhibit and Programs*

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

- *A CAB Fiber Lab: Mapping Community Values in the Biosphere*

Paul Smith's College- Adirondack Watershed Institute



Dr. Michale Glennon

# STORYTELLING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- *Showcasing Sustainable Agritourism in the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere*  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Essex County
- *Celebrating the Heritage of the CABN during Adirondack Water Week*  
Paul Smith's College- Adirondack Watershed Institute
- *Local Solutions in the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere*  
Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library
- *Bixby Archives "Biosphere Lens" Finding Aids and Accessibility Intern*  
Bixby Memorial Free Library



# 2024 & BEYOND

- Bioregionalism class between PSC and UVM
- Emerging Leaders Workshops in NY and VT
- Capturing Climate Change Phenology Project
- Bioblitz Competition
- Climate Atlas & Rural Planning
- Revisiting the CABN Strategic Plan
- Building & strengthening our networks
- Transboundary expansion



# Capturing Climate Change

## Time lapses of Earth powered by community science.

Used by organizations worldwide to monitor the environment and inspire stewardship.

[Explore chronologs →](#)

[Get a chronolog](#)



# THANK YOU

## CONTACT:

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CONNECT WITH US



Champlain Adirondack  
Biosphere Network



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Join us in building a sustainable future together!





# CONVENING PARTNERS

## REGIONAL PARTNERS

- Lake Champlain Basin Program
- Champlain-Valley National Heritage Partnership
- The Wild Center - Adirondack Youth Climate Summit
- ADK Action
- South Hero Land Trust
- Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
- University of Vermont
- State University of New York's School of Environment Science and Forestry
- Paul Smith's College

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- Twinning Agreement with Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network (Canada)
- Ledro Alps and Judicaria Biosphere Reserve (Italy)
- Tuscan Emilian Appenino Biosphere Reserve (Italy)
- Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve, Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve, Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa)
- East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine)
- Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve (Brazil)

# Criteria for Becoming a Biosphere Region

- Encompass a mosaic of ecological systems representative of major biogeographic regions, including a gradation of human interventions
- Be of significance for biological diversity conservation
- Provide an opportunity to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale
- Have an appropriate size to serve the three functions of biosphere regions

# What's in a name?

- 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