



## How could becoming a biosphere reserve help the Bras d'Or Lake?

Biosphere reserve status brings world-wide recognition to places that are distinct ecosystems which showcase how people can work with their environment. The Bras d'Or Lake, and Cape Breton generally, would be recognized as a good place to live, work and visit - both nationally and internationally. This recognition would also encourage funding for research into sustainable rural and economic development.

It would advance additional biological and ecological studies that would support existing conservation priorities. It would promote "best practices" for cultural, social and ecological sustainability, in part by providing information from other biosphere reserves and elsewhere that could be applied within the Bras d'Or Lake watershed.



## What do you think?

The Board of Directors of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association invites your questions and comments on the idea of biosphere reserve status.

[Does it sound like a good idea?](#)

[Do you have questions or concerns?](#)

[Do you want more information?](#)

[Do you want to get involved?](#)

Please contact the Association at any of the following telephone numbers or email addresses:

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The  
*Bras d'Or Lake*  
Biosphere Reserve  
ASSOCIATION

## Securing the Future... of the Bras d'Or Lake



The Bras d'Or Lake as a World Biosphere Reserve





## What is a World Biosphere Reserve?

It is a special place that demonstrates how people can live in harmony with nature. It promotes sustainable economic development by balancing conservation of life forms with their use.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognizes biosphere reserves as part of its Man and the Biosphere program. There are over 450 biosphere reserves around the world and 13 in Canada, including one in South-western Nova Scotia.

This program places people and what they do as the key factor for the long-term, healthy development of communities.

## How does a site become a UNESCO biosphere reserve?

A comprehensive nomination document is sent to the Canadian *Man and the Biosphere* office in Ottawa which then forwards the application to UNESCO. The document includes detailed geographic information about the lake and its watershed and describes its social, cultural, and natural history. It will highlight the many ongoing activities that show that the area is already functioning as a biosphere reserve. The nomination document must also include evidence of broad support from government, major interest groups, and the general public.



## Who is working on this?

Members of a number of organizations have recognized the Bras d'Or Lake as a priceless asset to Cape Breton's way of life. Many of them have already taken action to preserve the Bras d'Or Lake as a healthy ecosystem.

Representatives of these organizations formed the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association to make sure their interests are voiced. Organizations represented on the Board of the Association are:

Bras d'Or Stewardship Society

Bras d'Or Preservation Foundation

Pitu'paq Partnership

Bras d'Or Institute for Ecosystem Research

Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission

Central Cape Breton Community Ventures

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources