

# SOUTHWEST NOVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

*We balance the conservation of nature and culture with sustainable community development*

The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve (**SNBR**) received official recognition under the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) Man and Biosphere (**MAB**) program. This international group recognizes the unique natural environment and culture of the southwest region of Nova Scotia. Biosphere Reserves are representative environments for promoting and demonstrating a balanced relationship between people and nature. Our association searches for and promotes solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with sustainable resource use. The SNBR is defined by the five most south-western counties:

### **Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne & Queens**

The five counties surround the 'core' area of the SNBR. The core includes Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and the Tobeatic Wilderness Area which are protected by legislation (see map below).



*The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve is a place where you can appreciate an extraordinarily diverse natural landscape, surrounded by the sea, That has and continues to shape local culture*

**Biosphere Reserves serve three functions:**

1. Conservation
2. Sustainable Development
3. Capacity Building

## *The Importance of a Biosphere Reserve.*

Our local governments, businesses and communities recognized the special qualities of our natural and cultural heritage, and joined together to help create our biosphere reserve. The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association seeks to balance the conservation of nature and cultural heritage with sustainable resource development to support prosperous local economies and healthy communities.

The unique climate of the SNBR is home to an extremely diverse collection of species. The most amphibians and reptiles east of Ontario can be found in the Biosphere Reserve. The SNBR is a hotspot for biodiversity and is home to 75% of Nova Scotia's species at risk. It encompasses many terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems including the Acadian Forest, rolling plains, drumlins and coastal cliffs. The core of the biosphere reserve is the largest protected wilderness area in the Maritimes. The surrounding counties are touched by the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Fundy which add to the distinct natural landscape.

The SNBR preserves and promotes the cultural integrity and heritage in the region. The rich culture of the region includes first nations (Mi'kmaq) land stewardship, the founding settlements of the first French and early British colonies as well as the Black Loyalists along the southwest shore region in Shelburne county. The SNBR includes Mi'kmaq, Acadian, English, Scottish and many other cultures. The result of this diversity is a unique mix of traditions, food, festivals and communities.

We encourage people of the communities within the SNBR to work together toward common goals in new and expanded partnerships. The time is right for people to foster and celebrate efforts within the SNBR while becoming an environmentally responsible society.



**Species at Risk**  
Piping Plover

**Species at Risk**  
Thread Leaf Sundew

**Cultural Traditions**

**NS Fishermen**

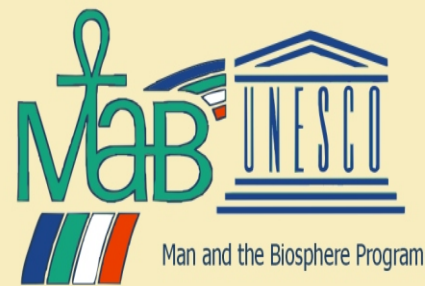
**Lupins**

**Local Heritage Celebrations**

**Tree in Keji National Park**



Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association



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