

**The SAMAB Cooperative Reserve** is one of 669 Biosphere Reserves in 120 countries that are part of the Man and Biosphere Program (MAB). MAB was launched in 1970 with the intent of establishing protected areas, Biosphere Reserves, representing the biogeographical diversity of the world so genetic resources could be protected and research and monitoring implemented. The mission of the world network of Biosphere reserves has broadened over the years and now has three main objectives: minimize the loss of biodiversity, increase awareness of how cultural diversity and biological diversity affect each other, and promote environmental sustainability. In the United States these unique areas work voluntarily together while remaining under the management and control of the respective landowners. Almost all Biosphere Reserves in the U.S. include a protected area such as a unit of the National Park system, and involve communities in the area that can work cooperatively for sustainable development

**Biosphere designation:**

- Biosphere Reserve designation is highly selective and not easy to obtain. It provides world wide recognition and a sense of pride.
- The acknowledged commitment to sustainability can strengthen interactions in the landscape of the biosphere reserves and make a positive difference in consultations, such as on state/federal issues (e.g. bats, T&E species) related to potential impacts.
- Avenues for pursuing funding, sharing data and publicizing research, conservation resources, and economic development activities through SAMAB and MAB are expanded.
- Biosphere Reserve management builds on each partner's existing goals, activities, and programs (research and education, protection of resources, interaction with community to achieve sustainable development) and comes with little or no additional cost.
- Potential exists to assist developing countries with resource conservation and to learn from biosphere reserves from around the world.
- The opportunity to bring partners voluntarily together in support of the Biosphere Reserve, and to bring the Biosphere Reserve in to support the community is significant.
- There is a shared focus to help facilitate actions at the landscape level for adaptation to climate change, mitigate effects of land use fragmentation, aggressively manage non-native species, reduce deposition of contaminants, address wildfire, and conserve migratory birds, T&E species and pollinator habitats.

## SAMAB Biosphere Reserve Units

**Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory**

*[www.srs.fs.usda.gov/coweeta/](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/coweeta/)*

**Grandfather Mountain State Park**

*[www.grandfather.com](http://www.grandfather.com)*

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

*[www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)*

**Mount Mitchell State Park**

*[www.ncparks.gov/mount-mitchell-state-park](http://www.ncparks.gov/mount-mitchell-state-park)*

**Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park**

*[www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/](http://www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/)*

**Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB)**

**Cooperative**

*[www.samab.org](http://www.samab.org)*

More information on Biosphere Reserves, including the Southern Appalachian Cooperative of Biosphere Reserves is at:  
*<http://www.georgewright.org/mab>*

# Biosphere Reserves

of the SAMAB Cooperative

The Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) Cooperative is a collaborative group of land management agencies that work together to promote communication on key issues important to the Southern Appalachians with a focus on decision making to foster sustainability.

