



ECCC PROJECT SUMMARY

- 2023 / 2024 -

Yours to **explore**
Yours to **enjoy**
Yours to **nurture**

YOUR
BRAS
D'OR
BIOSPHERE REGION

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ABOUT US

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere (BLB) gained international recognition and designation as Canada's 16th Biosphere Reserve through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in June 2011 and this designation was recertified in June 2022. Biosphere Reserve sites are recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme as ecologically significant regions that promote sustainability and conservation by engaging all community stakeholders and relaying sound science. They are areas of the world that are deemed to demonstrate a "balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere."

The BLB covers 3,566 square kilometers, including the Bras d'Or Lake and the surrounding watershed area.

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region Association (BLBRA) is an organization led by a board of volunteers who supports and initiates activities within the Biosphere.



We envision all things thriving in the special place that is the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere.

Our mission is to improve balance in the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere by encouraging community capacity building, conservation efforts, and sustainable development.

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. We are privileged to share this special space.



KI'LEWEY
PITU'PA'Q
BIOSPHERE REGION

Ki'lewey mili-ala'sin
Ki'lewey wlapessin
Ki'lewey wli-anko'tmn



EFWC

ABOUT OUR PROJECT

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region (NS) includes an expansive watershed that provides water for important ecosystems (page 3) and has a variety of land uses related to property ownership (pages 8-14).

The initial 3-years of the project focused on collecting hydrological data and modeling to better understand hydrological processes in the area within and adjacent to the proposed Eskasoni First Nation IPCA, identify areas that could make up a potential buffer zone adjacent to the IPCA and identify other areas within the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere buffer zone that could satisfy the international guidance and standards for areas to qualify and be reported as OECMs.

THEMES

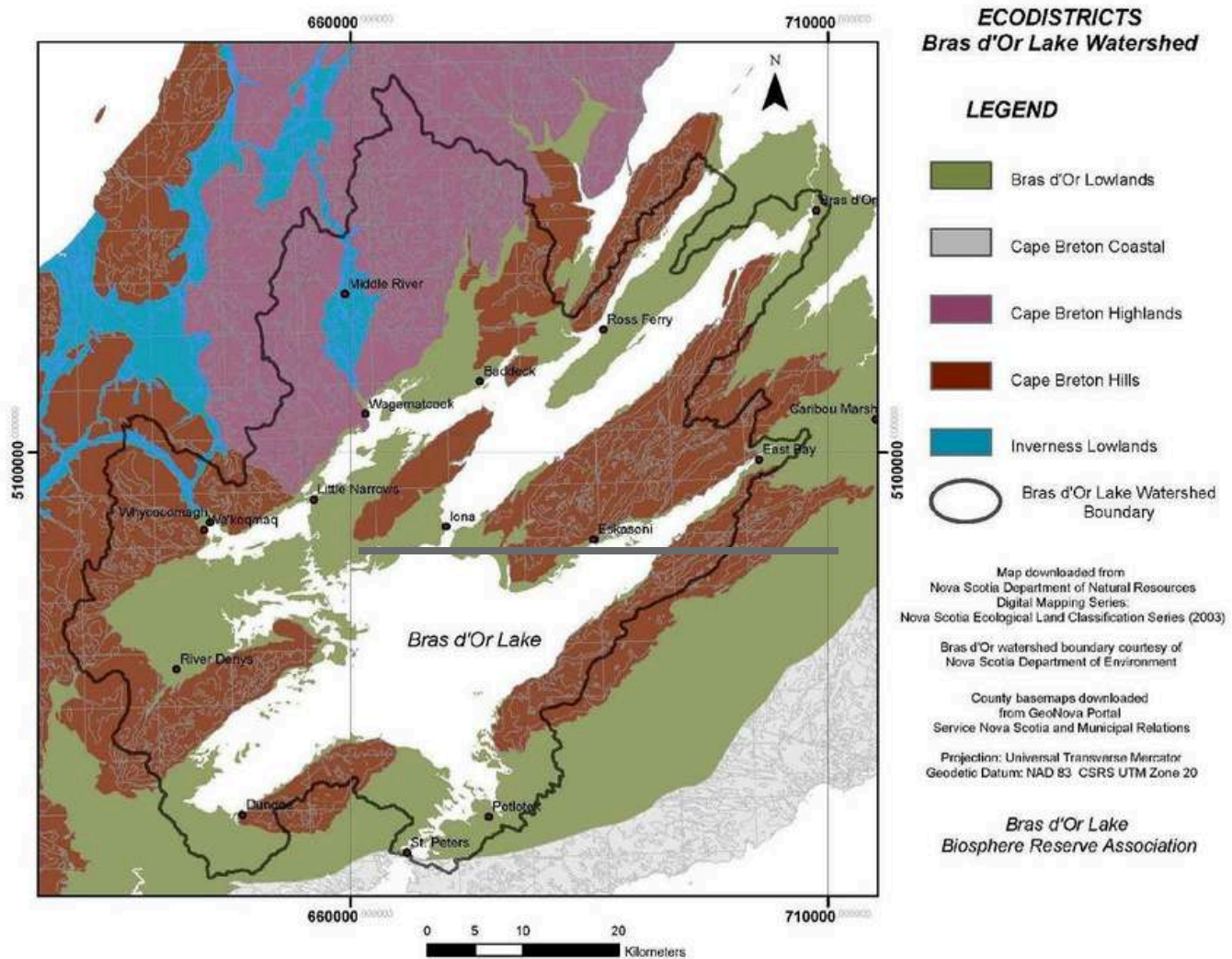
1. Governance/ Management
2. Research
3. Documentation and prioritization
4. Knowledge Transfer



**VOTRE
BRAS
D'OR**
BIOSPHERE REGION

À vous d'explorer
À vous de profiter
À vous de nourrir

ECODISTRICTS WITHIN THE BIOSPHERE



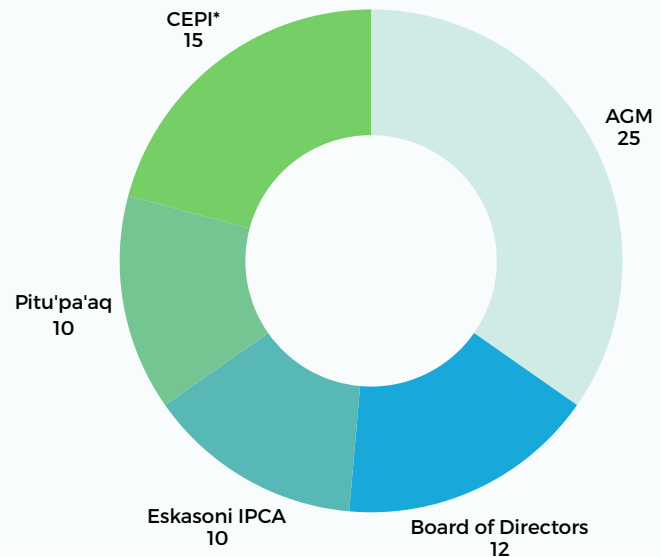
DO
BHRAS
D'OR
BIOSPHERE REGION

Leat airson **Rannsachadh**
Leat airson **tlachd fhaighinn**
Leat airson **àrach**



PROGRESS

Meetings organized and/or attended

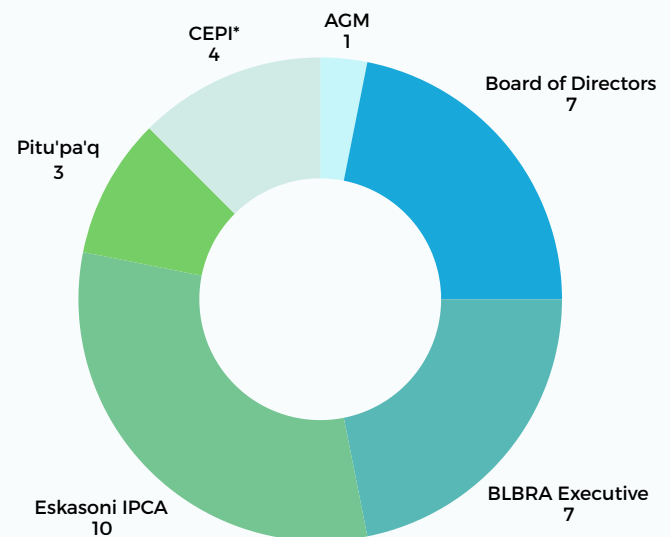


Theme 1:

Governance and Management Activities:

- Organize and attend meetings related to protection of habitat and biodiversity
- Regular reporting to the BLBRA Board of Directors
- Collaborate with the Eskasoni First Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area team
- Report and communicate throughout the project

Average number of people at each meeting



Number of meetings and target audiences

Outcomes

Networking, collaborating and knowledge sharing with BLBRA BoDs, CBRA, other Biospheres, municipalities & First Nations



*CEPI = Bras d'Or Lakes Environmental Planning Initiative

PROGRESS



Theme 2: Research (hydrological monitoring)

Activities:

- Focus on community-led (Eskasoni First Nation) research priorities
- Groundwater monitoring
- Streamflow monitoring
- Water sampling
- Numerical modeling
- Publications
- Engagement and knowledge exchange with youth



Outcomes

Master's Student & undergraduate student research, engagement with 8 Mi'kmaw youth, Etuaptmumk (Two-eyed seeing) based knowledge exchange, weather station installed, water samples collected and analyzed and loggers deployed, presentations to partners and Board of Director's





Theme 3: Documentation & Prioritization

Activities:

- Attended training on Decision Support Tool and its application
- Development of a series of maps to illustrate land ownership (public and private) in the Biosphere
- Presentation of information to a variety of audiences (see maps below)
- Feedback incorporated into future planning



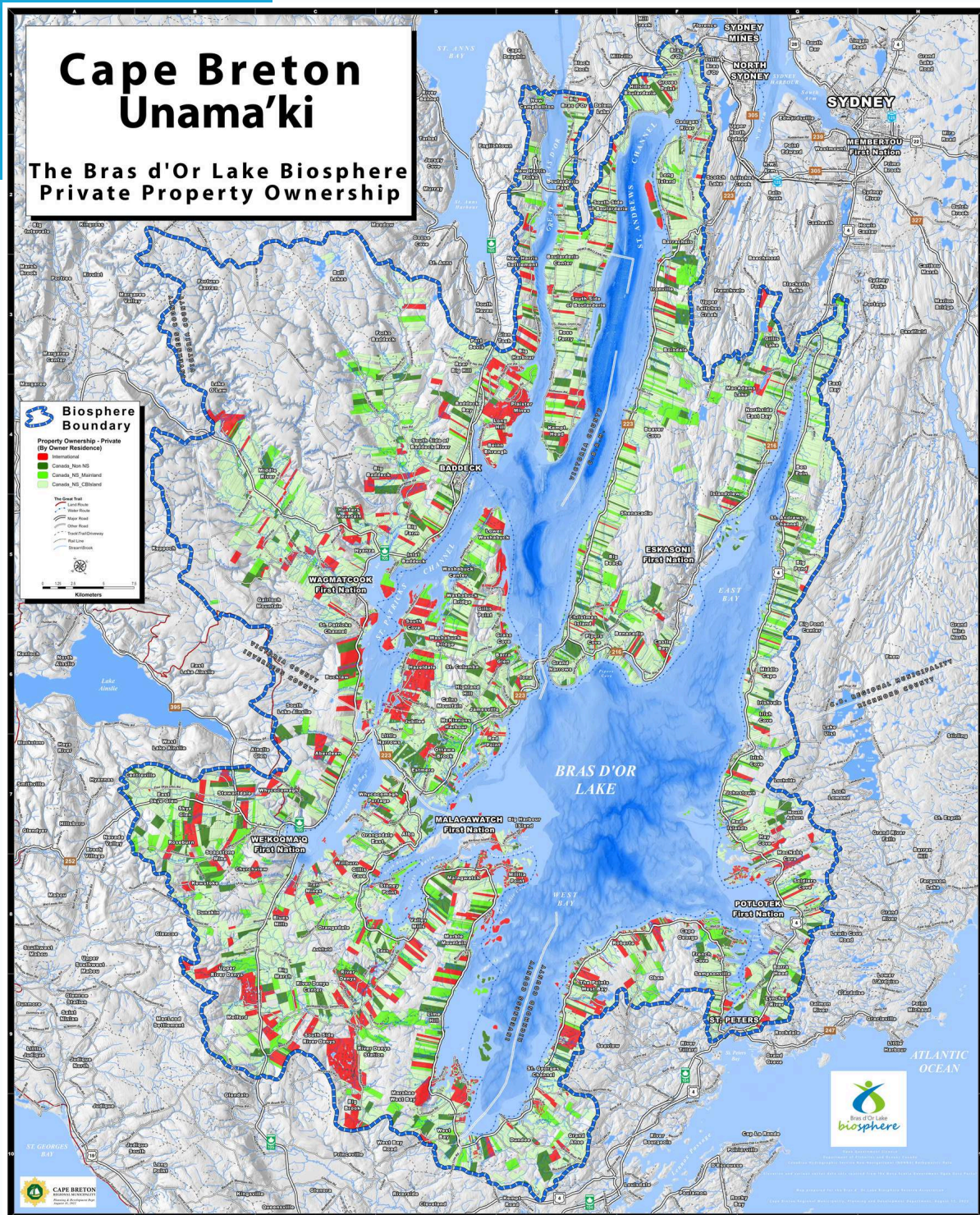
Outcomes

Increased awareness of biodiversity assessment methodologies, review of the Decision Support tool, communication and collaboration with partners to increase awareness about the decision support tool and the potential areas of interest for protection





Private Property Ownership

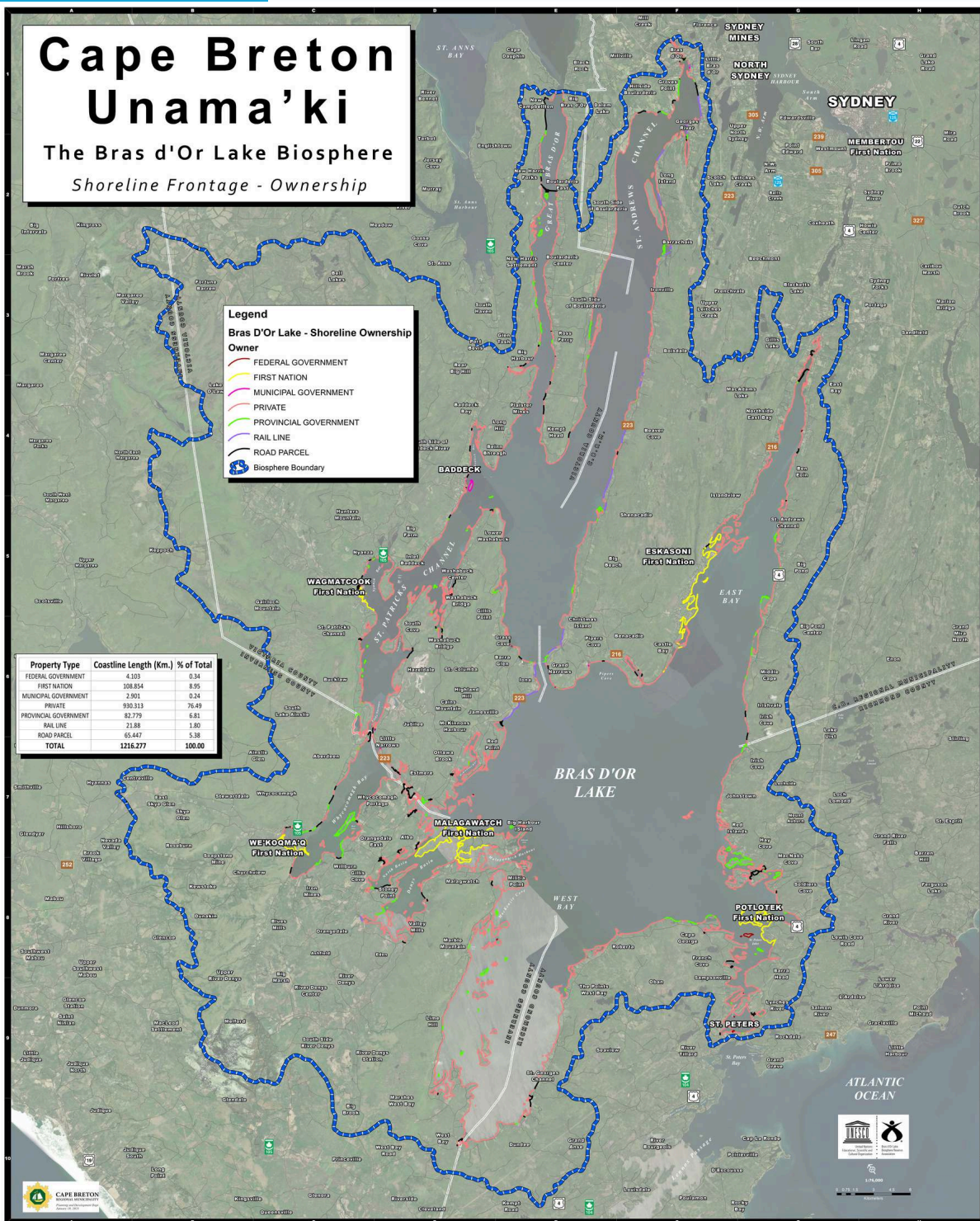




Shoreline Frontage Ownership

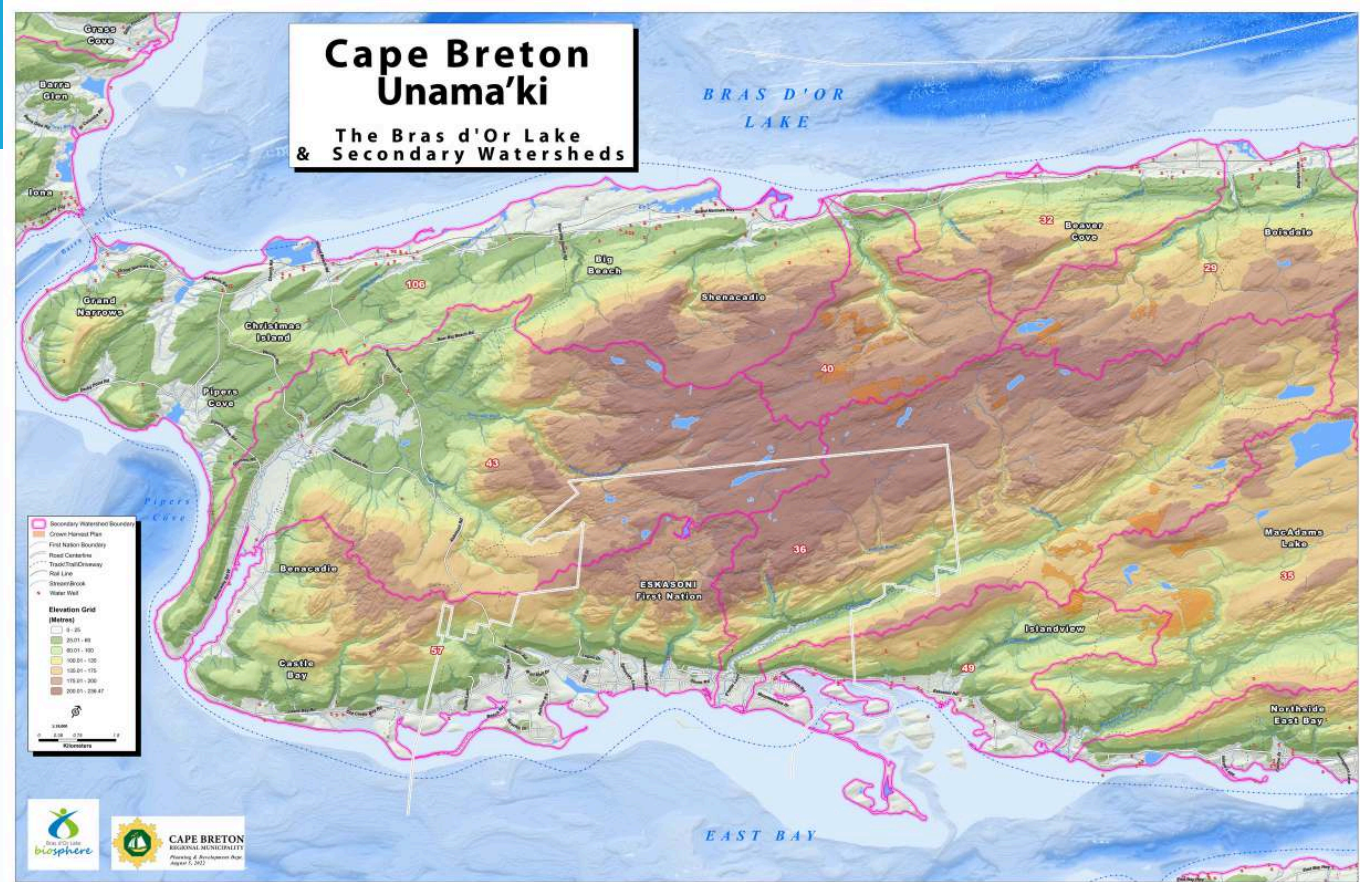
Cape Breton Unama'ki

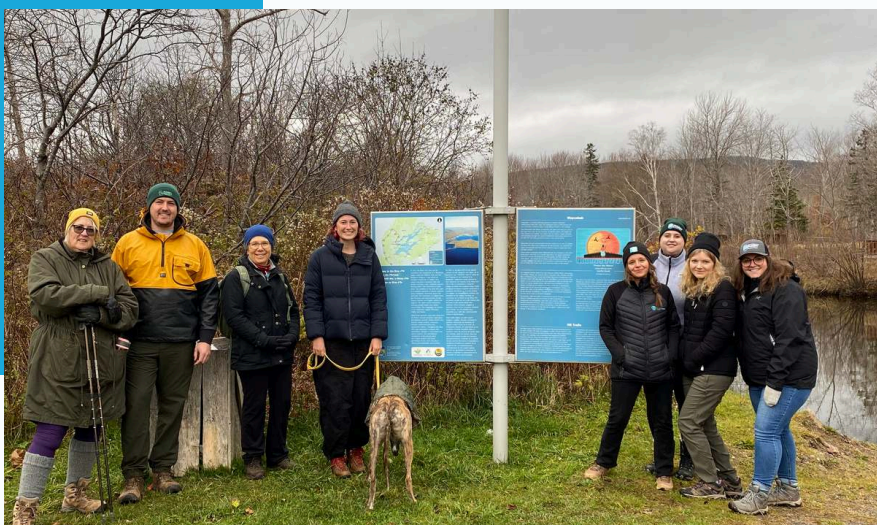
The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere
Shoreline Frontage - Ownership





Secondary Watersheds - Eskasoni



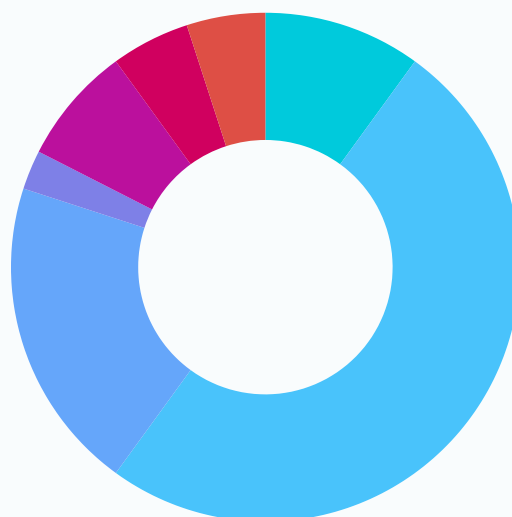
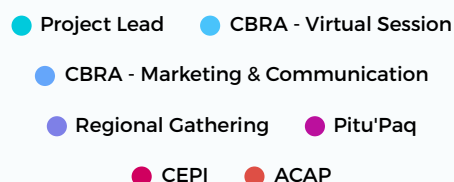


Theme 4: Knowledge Transfer

Activities:

- Attended 4 ECCC project lead meetings
- Regional gathering hosted by BLBRA from November 13-16, 2023
- Attended 19 CBRA virtual sessions
- CBRA Annual gathering Nov 2 - 6th

Summary of National and Regional Meetings Attended



Outcomes

Meaningful communication and troubleshooting with CBRA National representatives, increased communication at the Atlantic Regional Biosphere level, increased capacity in the Biosphere through the Mentorship Program and increased awareness of the project through regular communications





Atlantic Biosphere Regional gathering, Fall 2024

Theme 4: Knowledge Transfer (Continued)

Activities:

- Virtual engagement- 27 session including topics/themes on biodiversity, capacity building, fundraising, governance, OECMs, and marketing/communication
- In person engagement with CCUNESCO representatives
- Collaboration with sister biosphere regarding mentorship and twinning opportunities
- Social media and website updates related to International and National Biosphere information

 **Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region Association**
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 Happy International Day for Biosphere Reserves! 

November 3, 2023 is the International Day for Biosphere Regions. It isn't just a day to celebrate—it's a day to connect, collaborate, and contribute to a more sustainable future. Read more about this day by clicking the picture below.



BLBRA.CA
Nov 3 – International Day for Biosphere Regions
HAPPY INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOSPHERE REGIONS! "The International Day for Biosp...



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Ki'lewey **mili-ala'sin**
Ki'lewey **wlapesin**
Ki'lewey **wli-anko'tmn**

A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s :

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:

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Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

With support from:



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**



Fred Baechler, Chief Hydrogeologist exp.



CAPE BRETON
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY



THE MUNICIPALITY
OF THE COUNTY OF
RICHMOND
LA MUNICIPALITÉ
DU COMTÉ DE



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