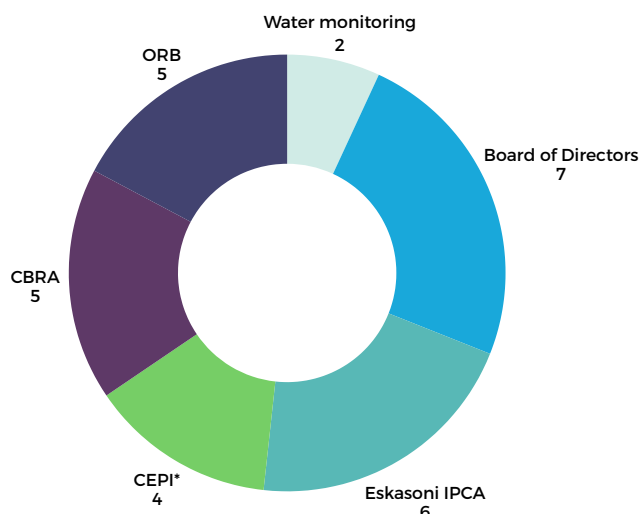


## Theme 1:

## Governance and Management

- Strong coordination and oversight were maintained through bi-annual stakeholder meetings, including Indigenous organizations, NGOs, academia, and government partners.
- Regular Board of Directors reporting ensured transparency and increased awareness of project progress among leadership and partners.
- Active participation in the Eskasoni Watershed Protection Committee (EFWC IPCA) supported collaboration and contributed to progress toward designating ~332 hectares as an IPCA.
- Inclusive communication practices were used, including integration of Mi'kmaw language and ongoing use of digital communication strategies.
- We presented at the Eskasoni IPCA community meeting, keeping community members informed.



Number of meetings attended



## Theme 2:

## Research (hydrological monitoring)

- Numerical groundwater modeling from Reid Dauphine's thesis revealed that ~60% of pumping water comes from streamflow infiltration, while the local recharge into the fractured rock around the wells accounted for the remaining 40%. His work modeled three different fault shapes and provided improved understanding of groundwater-surface water interactions.
- Preliminary results from Julia Gillette's thesis has shown the snow pack appears to be sufficient to recharge the aquifer after the drought we experienced in summer 2025. Further refining of the computer models will continue.
- The wetland model includes snow depth projections and groundwater recharge but needs further calibration, with forest and well models still to be developed but expected to be completed as planned by the end completion of Julia's thesis.
- Academic contributions included theses, conference presentations, and ongoing model refinement, strengthening scientific outputs.



## Theme 3:

### Documentation and prioritization

- Developed mapping tools (GIS) to identify priority conservation areas based on land ownership and ecological value.
- Integrated Mi'kmaq and non-Indigenous knowledge, identifying key indicators such as cultural significance, climate threats, and habitat degradation.
- Emphasized a Two-Eyed Seeing approach, involving Mi'kmaw youth and community participation in monitoring and data collection.
- Expanded outreach through communications, events, and citizen science, increasing public awareness and engagement in biodiversity conservation.
- To assist with outreach, the BLBRA hired a youth intern to for the summer. Adryan Jones was able to gain knowledge regarding biodiversity within the Biosphere and Canada's efforts to conserve and protect biodiversity for years to come.
- We also hired a facilitator who was able to expand two citizen science initiatives as well as present at schools in multiple communities.



## Theme 4: Knowledge Transfer

**National Gathering:** The agenda for the biospheres was varied with presentations about sustainability, biodiversity, OECMs and IPCAs, reconciliation and the Atlantic tourism initiative. These meetings allow for us to meet colleagues and compare and contrast how we have achieved our goals and how we see things evolving in the future. It also gives us the chance to connect with our colleagues at CCUNESCO.



Atlantic Biospheres continued to meet throughout the year to discuss conservation, climate and forests, sustainable communities, tourism, reconciliation, engagement as well as outreach and communication strategies.

We also had a chance to discuss plans for funds awarded to the Atlantic biospheres for a joint project that we hope will link the 3 groups and afford opportunities to highlight significant locations to Mi'kmaq culture. We also worked collaboratively with the Atlantic biospheres on joint funding applications as well as letters to government agencies.



Colette Mesher

