



A Model Region for Sustainable Development

Supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the
Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region

• Acknowledgments

The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) team and community would like to acknowledge that the project has been conducted on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw, Qualicum, Snaw-naw-as, Tseshaht, Hupacasth, Ditidaht, and K'ómoks First Nations. We are sincerely thankful and privileged to have the opportunity to learn and share knowledge on these traditional territories.

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Introduction

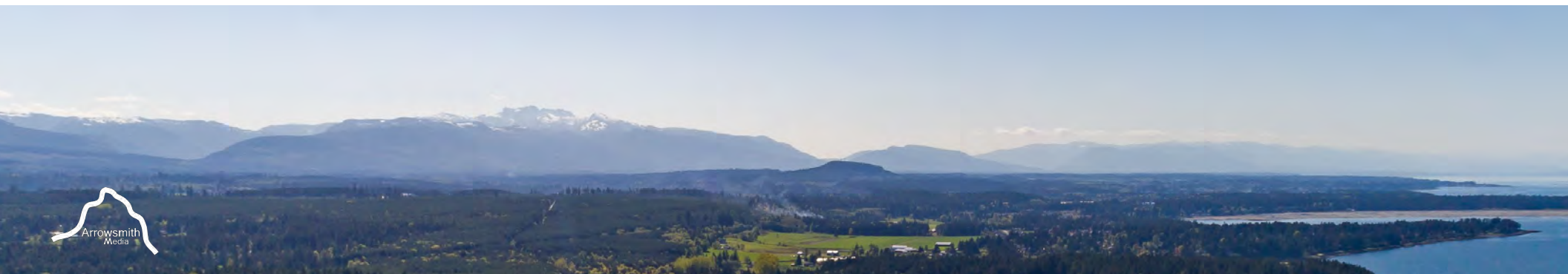
The MABR and MABRRI

The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) is one of 19 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Biosphere Reserves in Canada, and one of 738 worldwide. Biosphere Reserves aim to promote sustainable use and solutions to conservation of biodiversity, as well as strengthen connections to nature.

The MABR is located on eastern Vancouver Island, ranging from Nanoose Bay to Qualicum Bay, reaching nearly 1200 square kilometers. The MABR overlaps with the traditional territories of seven Indigenous Nations: Snuneymuxw, Qualicum, Snaw-naw-as, Tseshaht, Hupacasth, Ditidaht, and K'ómoks. Ranging from the peak of Mount Arrowsmith at 1817 meters, to 300 meters down into the Salish Sea, the MABR has some of the most diverse topography to be found in a Canadian Biosphere Reserve.

Further elevating the relationships between people and nature, is the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI). Established in 2014 as an entity of Vancouver Island University (VIU), MABRRI is the research and education arm of the MABR. MABRRI is a centre for collaborative research, innovation, and knowledge sharing, focusing on a variety of projects that promote sustainable development while addressing issues of local relevance.

Acting as models for a more sustainable future, Biosphere Reserves connect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole, aligning with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (UNESCO, 2019). The MABR is a perfect candidate to implement the SDGs on a regional level, as the building blocks for positive change are already in place.



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Adopted in 2015 by the United Nations (UN) as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals aim to transform the world by 2030. The SDGs hold significant importance as they call all world nations - regardless of their economic status - to action to achieve a more sustainable future for all, while leaving no one behind. The SDGs are interconnected, global in nature, universally applicable, and balance the three pillars of sustainability: social and cultural, economic, and environmental. They incorporate a holistic approach to sustainable development, aiming to address a wide range of issues including: ending poverty and hunger, addressing climate change, reducing inequalities, and protecting and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems. Each Goal has a list of targets and indicators associated with it, which act as measurement tools to help track the achievement of the Goals (United Nations, 2022-a). The SDGs are ambitious, and therefore require a bottom-up approach to be successful.

Although the SDGs were developed for nations, their achievement requires collaboration, partnerships, and creative solutions from all levels, including the local level (United Nations, 2016). A need for further support from all levels has been emphasized by the UN as progress towards the SDGs is not occurring at the rate needed to achieve them by 2030. Therefore, in 2020, the UN announced the Decade of Action to urge more drastic action on global, national, and community levels (United Nations, 2021). However, 2020 also saw the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, vastly impacting sustainable development through a decline in global health, an increase in food insecurity and violence, and a growing call for transparency from governments. Both the Decade of Action and COVID-19 have emphasized the importance and urgency for collaboration to achieve the SDGs at all levels.



• Promoting the SDGs in the MABR Project

Through regional and national partnerships and its role as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the MABR is situated to make meaningful local contributions to the SDGs. This project aims to highlight how the SDGs are supported and implemented within the MABR. Through a bottom-up approach this project worked towards two main objectives: 1) promote awareness of the 17 SDGs in the MABR, and 2) determine how organizations within the MABR are currently contributing to the SDGs.

Raising awareness of the SDGs within the region was done through a social media campaign, the creation of a series of short videos, hosting a symposium, and presenting to the public. These strategies aimed to increase awareness of the SDGs, while promoting local initiatives that contribute to the SDGs. Our hope is that this project will initiate a positive momentum for the SDGs within the MABR community that will continue into the future.

As the SDGs were developed with the three pillars of sustainability as a foundation, the pillars have been used as a guide in this report to break down the Goals further into three themed sections: 1) social and cultural, 2) economic, and 3) environmental. In utilizing these themes, along with the SDG targets, and indicators, it is apparent that SDG advancement is being made in multiple, often overlapping realms in the MABR.

• Methodology



Preliminary Data Collection

A preliminary review of websites and resources of community groups in the MABR was conducted to make the initial connection between organizations and the SDGs. Data was gathered on 55 community groups, including non-profits, charities, non-government organizations, and businesses.



Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were used to collect more detailed information from 11 groups. Interview questions were developed based on the preliminary data collection to allow for a stronger connection to be made between the groups' work and the SDGs.



Survey

Following the interviews, data was collected from nine groups through an online qualitative survey. The survey consisted of nine questions, primarily focused on gaining information on the organization, its work, and how that work might align with the SDGs.



Data Analysis

Qualitative analysis for the project was conducted using NVivo software. Data from the website reviews, interviews, and survey was coded in NVivo. Using the SDGs as nodes and SDG clusters as sub-nodes, data was coded to associated SDGs. SDG clusters were created by grouping similarly themed targets together under each of the SDGs. Once coded, each SDG was analyzed to determine the level of contribution by the number of groups.

Note: Due to limited capacity and funding, the team was not able to interview or collect survey data on every social entity within the Biosphere Region. Therefore, this study is not a holistic review of the entire MABR; there may be many more connections to the SDGs within the region.

How the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region is contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals

The MABR strives to develop local and national partnerships between community members, stakeholders, and organizations to collectively create innovative ways to achieve the balance between humans and nature, which addresses SDG 17. SDG 17 aims to strengthen the means of SDG implementation and revitalize partnerships for sustainable development (United Nations, 2022-q). SDG 17 ties all of the Goals together by recognizing that sustainable development relies on collaborative efforts. The MABR has numerous partnerships and is constantly working on creating more. In addition, the MABR further contributes to SDG 17 by fostering and sharing local, Indigenous, and scientific knowledge to explore new ways of living that solve global challenges (United Nations, 2022-p).

Central to the MABR's mission is to work with diverse communities and organizations to develop and implement policies, practices, and initiatives that promote environmental, economic, social, and cultural sustainability. The MABR embraces and shares different worldviews and ways of knowing, ensuring the mission has meaning for individuals from all backgrounds and walks of life. Working to develop and implement policies and practices for sustainable development, while promoting inclusive and participatory decision-making, the MABR addresses SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11, and SDG 16. Through the MABR's mandate, and in alignment with the fifth function of Biosphere Reserves, upholding a focus on conservation of biological and cultural diversity and reconciliation makes further connections to the SDGs. Specifically these core commitments align with SDGs 11, 13, 14, and 15. As well, knowledge sharing is a key objective within the MABR, directly linked to SDG 17.

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves have four objectives:

- 1) Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources;
- 2) Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere;
- 3) Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development and capacity building; and
- 4) Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.

And in Canada, Biosphere Reserves have a fifth objective:

- 5) Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Unique to the MABR is its Roundtable governance structure. Through diverse representation, the MABR Roundtable models how people with different interests and mandates can work together in a respectful, collaborative, and effective way. Members have collectively developed a Culture of Engagement that ensures that everyone feels comfortable, engaged, and eager to return. The structure of the MABR Roundtable supports SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 16, and SDG 17.

As the MABR engages in a number of initiatives, it further supports several SDGs. Collaborating with community groups and residents within the region, the MABR has provided numerous educational and knowledge sharing opportunities. Some of these initiatives include: booths at local markets; presentations to classes and groups; hosting and presenting at conferences; supporting the International Journal for UNESCO Biosphere Reserves; and distributing a newsletter. All of these initiatives support SDG 4 and SDG 17. To further support SDG 4, SDG 14, and SDG 15, the MABR runs a Youth Program and hosts an annual BioBlitz. Both programs educate the local community on biodiversity and local ecosystems. Additionally, through the Amazing Places program, the MABR aligns with SDG 8, as the program promotes sustainable tourism.

MABRRI acts as the research and education arm of the MABR. MABRRI strives to provide education and employment opportunities for students and local community members through citizen science programs and outreach initiatives. Collaborative research projects focusing on various topics, including wetlands, fish habitat, plant phenology, youth education, and community development are at the core of MABRRI's work. Through these initiatives, MABRRI works to elevate the relationship between people and nature on Vancouver Island and within the MABR. MABRRI's work aligns with a number of SDGs, most prominent being SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, and SDG 17.

The contributions listed above show how the MABR as an organization contributes to the SDGs. The following sections will highlight how further connections can be made to the SDGs by the organizations within the MABR. The intent of this report is to summarize how the organizations and community groups within the MABR are contributing to the SDGs.



Social and Cultural Goals

The SDGs within the social and cultural pillar of sustainability focus on leaving no one behind in the pursuit of a sustainable future. This includes maintaining and improving social equity and quality of life with concepts such as equality, cohesion, and reciprocity. A future with these characteristics can be encouraged and supported by laws, shared values, and meaningful action taken at all levels, including the local level.

This section highlights work and effort being done by organizations and businesses in the MABR that supports the SDGs that speak to social and cultural sustainability.

1 NO POVERTY



The purpose of SDG 1 is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, with topics under SDG 1 speaking to access to housing and basic services, implementing social protection systems, and building resilience of vulnerable populations.

More than 10% of the world's population **lives in extreme poverty**, surviving on less than \$1.90 USD (\$2.53 CAD) per day (United Nations, 2022-a).

In British Columbia, **117,000 households** need help to afford their current accommodation.

In **2017, 6,860 people** (at least) **experienced homelessness** in BC (BC Rental Housing Coalition, 2017, 2-4).

Many groups in the MABR work toward eradicating poverty. Some groups provide immediate aid to those in need through initiatives such as care packages filled with various necessary items such as food, hygiene products, and clothes. Others offer aid in working toward long-term solutions such as affordable accommodation and helping to elevate vulnerable populations in society, with the goal of lifting them out of poverty all together.

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing affordable, sustainable, and secure housing within the MABR (Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society, personal communication, December 2, 2020). They offer shared housing, community living, and urban densification initiatives (Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society, personal communication, December 2, 2020). This works toward Target 1.2, as housing forms an important part of people's living conditions and substantially contributes to their chance for success. It can mitigate or exacerbate the impact of poverty on people's lives.

Aligning with Target 1.4, Society of Organized Services (SOS) provides accommodation assistance with the help of BC Housing (Society of Organized Services, 2016-a). SOS also offers a Homeless Prevention Program, which helps individuals with health concerns, employment, and health skills (Society of Organized Services, 2016-a). This is an essential step towards the eradication of poverty, as skill development can reduce unemployment and improve standards of living.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 1

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society
City of Parksville
Faire Living
Manna Homeless Society

Oceanside Building Learning Together
Forward House
Society of Organized Services

Target 1.2: By 2030, to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2 intends to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. To achieve this, SDG 2 aims to increase access to safe, nutritious food, address malnutrition, and increase agricultural productivity while focussing on sustainable and resilient food systems.

In 2020, up to **811 million** people suffered from hunger and **30%** of the global population were **food-insecure** (United Nations, 2022-c).

In Canada alone, **1 in 8** households **struggle to put food on the table**.

Another **4 million** Canadians **live with food insecurity** (Canada without poverty, 2017).

Many groups interviewed indicated they are helping address food insecurity within the MABR through initiatives such as handing out food to individuals in need, offering food programs, increasing access to garden spaces, and implementing policies allowing residents to keep poultry on their properties. The use of many services and initiatives addressing food insecurity increased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oceanside Building Learning Together is an organization working toward Target 2.1 by distributing food to the local community (Oceanside Building Learning Together Society, personal communication, January 11, 2021). They offer snacks at all of their programming for the children and adults in attendance. They also host Saturday Breakfast Clubs where breakfast is served along with educational services provided (Oceanside Building Learning Together Society, personal communication, January 11, 2021).

Organizations within the MABR also contribute towards the advancement of research towards foodway and environmental protection, meeting Target 2.4. An organization that works toward this is Morningstar Farm. Morningstar Farm has implemented numerous sustainable farming practices onto their farm, including acknowledging the circular energy/nutrient cycles, reusing their cow's manure to fertilize the pastures, and creating buffer zones around waterways (Morningstar Farm, personal communication, January 19, 2021).

Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 2

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society
City of Parksville
Forward House
Manna Homeless Society

Oceanside Building Learning Together
Realm Food Co.
Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach Sunrise
Society of Organized Services

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by addressing topics such as maternal mortality rates, epidemics, substance abuse, and access to health-care services. There are many variables that can impact health, such as socioeconomic status, employment, ethnicity, physical capability, and discrimination (Government of Canada, 2020-a). Addressing health and well-being is important as good health perpetuates individual and societal prosperity and happiness.

Deaths in Canada from **mental health-related issues** have been **on the rise** since 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2021).

Statistics from 2019 show **284,082** deaths in Canada related to **mental and behavioural disorders** (Statistics Canada, 2021).

Many groups within the MABR promote healthy lifestyles, as well as mental health and well-being. As there are many ways to work toward good health and well-being, these groups each have individual and unique approaches for contributing to this Goal. Some groups contribute by providing new opportunities for accessible recreation such as e-bikes and stand up paddle board rentals. Others provide immediate medical attention to vulnerable community members, focusing on those experiencing homelessness and addiction. As well, other groups focus on global outreach.

Manna Homeless Society offers care packages with basic medical supplies to anyone in need (Manna Homeless Society, personal communication, December 8, 2020). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Manna Homeless Society offered weekly basic medical services from a nurse practitioner to community members. These services included wound care, foot care, medical reviews, and recommendations for further follow-ups. Naloxone kits and demonstrations were also provided prior to the pandemic, however, lack of social distancing capabilities led to a temporary suspension of the program (Manna Homeless Society, personal communication, December 8, 2020). This crucial care addresses Target 3.5.

Aligning with Target 3.d, both the Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach Sunrise and the Tumaini Fund provide health services to regions outside of the MABR (Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach, 2020). The Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach Sunrise offers the Polio Plus program, which helps aid in the eradication of Polio everywhere. The Club has taken trips to help with the fight against Polio in Africa (Rotary Club of Qualicum Beach, 2020). The Tumaini Fund works primarily in the Kagera region of Tanzania. They provide regular health care and check-ups for children to help decrease the amount of preventable mortality in children (Tumaini Fund Canada, n.d.). The Tumaini Fund also provides assistance for individuals who are suffering from AIDS, such as funding doctor visits and providing education to help stop the spread of the disease (Tumaini Fund Canada, n.d.).

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 3

Arrowsmith Naturalists
Adventures Sea Kayaking
BC Parks Foundation
City of Parksville
Ducks Unlimited Oceanside

Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest
Heaven on Earth Natural Foods
Leo Consulting Inc.
Oceanside Building Learning Together
Take Off Adventure Rentals

Target 3.5: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Throughout the last decade, there has been an incline in education enrollment, especially with young girls. However, more than half of all children worldwide are not meeting grade-level proficiency standards (United Nations, 2022-e). The gap is most visible when comparing Indigenous proficiency standards to non-Indigenous students. Indigenous students are often below national proficiency levels in all subjects, and need extra support (Statistics Canada, 2016; Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia, 2019-11).

Education creates upward momentum in an individual's socioeconomic status and is key to escaping poverty (United Nations, 2022-e).

There are community groups that are dedicated to improving the education quality for all ages within the MABR. Many groups interviewed aid and bolster employment skill sets within the population. Through this process, students are able to gain valuable, unique hands-on experience (Knobloch, N. A., 2003). Students who have taken the experiential learning classes with these local groups have been inspired to seek education programs in the fields that they were exposed to (Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, personal communication, January 18, 2021).

Oceanside Building Learning Together (OBLT) provides free early education programming such as Strong Start programming (Oceanside Building Learning Together Society, personal communication, January 11, 2021). They have persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that local community members still have access to their programming. OBLT also provides educational services to the families who are unable to come to their main building in Parksville through the use of their WOW bus. The WOW bus is a converted school bus with books and other educational materials that drives to the communities surrounding Parksville and provides a place for families to learn together (Oceanside Building Learning Together Society, personal communication, January 11, 2021). These actions connect to Target 4.1.

Supported by federal wage subsidy programs, the Qualicum Beach Museum hires local students within MABR and surrounding areas to gain practical museum experience which aligns with Target 4.4 (Qualicum Beach Museum, personal communication, January 19, 2021). During their employment, the students assist with the development of curated exhibits and receive hands-on experience with local artifacts. Each summer, students are also able to take on a project of their own for the Museum (Qualicum Beach Museum, personal communication, January 19, 2021).

Target 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

Target 4.4: By 2030, to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 4

Arrowsmith Naturalists
Art by MONK
Ducks Unlimited Oceanside
Free Spirit Spheres
Hamilton Marsh Committee
Manna Homeless Society

Morningstar Farm
Mosaic Forest Management
Mulberry Bush Bookstore
Oceanside Building Learning Together
Parksville Qualicum Fish and

Game Association
Qualicum Beach Museum
Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers
Realm Food Co.
Tumaini Fund Canada

5 GENDER EQUALITY



SDG 5 focuses on achieving gender equality by empowering all women and girls. Gender equality has been on the rise over the past decade, with more women and girls having possibilities for equal education and work experiences. However, inequalities still exist and further work needs to be done to achieve a truly equal society (United Nations, 2022-f).

1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 report **experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner** within a 12-month period (United Nations, 2022-f).

Organizations in the MABR that actively work toward gender equality support women in ways such as addressing childcare needs, developing programs to support working women, and working to eradicate and protect women from domestic violence.

Aligning with Target 5.2, Haven House addresses violence and discrimination against women and children within the MABR (Haven Society, n.a). They offer numerous programs such as a transition house, daily drop-in services including counseling, community victim services, and the PEACE program (Haven Society, n.a). All of these programs are provided to help elevate women within the local community.

Ducks Unlimited Oceanside empowers women to gain positions of power within their organization and half of the current membership of the Oceanside organization are women (Ducks Unlimited Oceanside, personal communication, December 14, 2020). As emphasized in Target 5.5, in order for women to be fully equal, they must have the opportunity to have a seat at the table, in all realms of society.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 5

City of Parkville
Ducks Unlimited Oceanside

Free Spirit Spheres
Haven Society

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11 intends to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. This is essential because the areas in which we live, work, and play greatly impact our emotional and physical health.

81% of Canadians live in urban areas such as cities, therefore understanding how to create **safe, resilient, and sustainable cities** is paramount (Government of Canada, 2019- e).

Alignments to SDG 11 can be seen through the actions of municipalities within the MABR. Connecting to Target 11.4, the City of Parkville has recently been given the title of the second most resilient community in British Columbia (Briones, 2021). This ranking is a direct reflection on all the hard work that the City of Parkville community is doing to create a sustainable, safe, and inclusive future for all. The City of Parkville has a Jack James Thunderbird Totem Lifecycle Restoration Program that offers insight into the cultural history of the MABR. This program conducted restoration efforts on the Jack James Thunderbird Totem Pole located in the community park (City of Parkville, n.d.-b). The restoration of the Totem Pole is a step towards fostering healthy relationships between the City of Parkville and local Indigenous Peoples. The City of Parkville also provided land for the Parkville Museum & Archives which preserves the settler history of the area. The Parkville Museum & Archives contains municipally designated heritage sites, the Parkville Heritage United Church and the Duncan McMillan Log House. Other initiatives by the City of Parkville to preserve local history include a restoration and relocation of the historic railway water tower, maintenance of a living WWI monument, a memorial cenotaph, and a historical walking route.

In addition to the municipalities' efforts, community members are also taking action. Members of the Friends of Qualicum Beach Forests are currently helping save the St. Andrews Lodge (Friends of Qualicum Beach Forests, personal communication, December 9, 2020). The Lodge has been a long standing part of the history of Qualicum Beach. It was slated for demolition, however, after a great show of public support the building is going to be saved, and the property turned into a park. The park will preserve a local piece of Qualicum Beach history, and provide a new green space for members of the community to visit (Friends of Qualicum Beach Forests, personal communication, December 9, 2020). This effort connects to Target 11.7.

Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Target 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 11

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society
Arrowsmith Naturalists
City of Parkville
Free Spirit Spheres
Friends of Foster Park

Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society
Parkville Qualicum Fish and Game Association
Take Off Adventure Rentals

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



The purpose of SDG 16 is to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. Conflict, civil unrest, insecurity, and limited access to justice are great threats to sustainable development. While most Canadians have indicated they are satisfied with their feelings of safety, there is still crime and people are exposed to harassment and discrimination (United Nations, 2020-p; Government of Canada, 2018-i). Internationally, people need to come together to support a sustainable future for a peaceful, inclusive society.

Worldwide data acquired from 2005 to 2017 suggests that nearly **8 in 10 children between the ages of 1 to 14 years have been exposed to domestic violence in 81 countries** (United Nations, 2022-p).

Parksville was recently ranked **33rd out of 237** in crime rated communities across Canada. The highest spike in offenses was from petty crime (Logan, 2019).

Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Organizations within the MABR aim to promote a community that is peaceful and inclusive. An aspect of inclusivity, and SDG 16, is ensuring that information is transparent and accessible to the public. Several organizations mentioned how they share their data and information in order to be transparent and inclusive. Other organizations, such as the Sources Community Resource Centre and Haven Society, are doing work to address safety and peace in the MABR.

The Sources Community Resource Centre offers support for victims of violence and abuse, including intervention to help individuals who have been sexually abused. Support may be in the form of doctor visits, counseling, and anything else these victims may need (Sources Community Resource Centre, 2021). As set out in Target 16.1, providing support to individuals who have faced violence and abuse is paramount. These supports and services may be what the individual needs in order to break the cycle of violence.

The Haven Society has various programs and initiatives to combat violence and abuse within the MABR. These programs include the PEACE program, their Outreach Program, Community Victim Services, as well as two transition houses. The transitional houses are located in Parksville and Nanaimo, and the houses are often the first step for women and children to leave an abusive living situation. Their outreach programs offer victim services and counseling for vulnerable individuals within the MABR (Haven Society, n.d.). The Haven Society acts as a continued support for members of the community who are looking to put a stop to the abuse and violence they are experiencing in their daily lives. By offering support for women as well as children facing domestic violence, these actions support Target 16.2.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 16

Arrowsmith Naturalists
City of Parksville
Free Spirit Spheres
Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest

Haven Society
Mosaic Forest Management
Sources Community Resource Society



Economic Goals

The SDGs that fall within the economic pillar of sustainability focus on putting people back in the centre to ensure that no one is left behind in economic pursuits. These Goals can also complement those within the environmental pillar of sustainability as they look to strengthen and diversify the economy through environmentally sustainable and innovative approaches.

This section highlights work and efforts by organizations and businesses in the MABR supporting economically-focused SDGs.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8 aims to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. The creation of inclusive, sustainable jobs can promote economic growth and increase the standard of living within the community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic however, these numbers are likely to increase, as many people have lost their jobs (United Nations, 2020-i).

The **global unemployment rate** decreased from 6.4% to 5.6% between 2000 and 2018 (United Nations, 2022-i).

Meeting Target 8.6, the MABR contains numerous organizations that provide job opportunities to local community members, including youth. Some job opportunities are possible through the Canada Student Works Program, which offers a variety of summer work. These positions provide students with career enriching skills (Government of Canada, 2021-b). A few groups within the MABR that are using the program are Morningstar Farm, OBLT, and the Qualicum Beach Museum. The data collected for this report unanimously indicated that this program brought positive opportunities.

In addition to providing youth with employment opportunities, Morningstar Farm provides opportunities for persons with disabilities, widening accessibility within the region (Morningstar Farm, personal communication, January 19, 2021). This connects directly to Target 8.5.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 8

Arrowsmith Naturalists
City of Parksville
Clay and Green
Close To You Boutique
Ducks Unlimited Oceanside
Faire Living
Free Spirit Spheres
French Press Coffee Roasters
Friends of Qualicum Beach
Forest

Hamilton Marsh Committee
Inclusion Parksville
Little Mountain Soap and Body
Manna Homeless Society
Milner Gardens
Morningstar Farm
Mosaic Forest Management
Mulberry Bush Bookstore
Oceanside Building Learning

Together
Qualicum Beach Museum
Qualicum Beach
Streamkeepers
Soak Lifestyle Boutique
Take Off Adventure Rentals
Tigh-Na-Mara Resort
Tumaini Fund Canada

Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Target 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



The purpose of SDG 9 is to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. Successful solutions to the challenges highlighted throughout the SDGs requires innovation. Further, infrastructure is deeply embedded into modern society. Therefore, SDG 9 plays a vital role in addressing sustainable development.

More than half of the world's population is now online and almost the entire world population lives in an area covered by a mobile network, in 2019, **96.5% were covered by at least a 2G network** (United Nations, 2022-j).

Several groups in the MABR are pursuing or supporting the implementation of innovative and sustainable infrastructures. Some groups are using new and emerging technology and alternative energy systems. Further, groups in the MABR support SDG 9 through citizen science that contributes to environmental research. This contributes to development of new innovations, plans, and policies which can help protect the environment and infrastructure.

Mosaic Forest Management has taken a different approach to promoting infrastructure development within the MABR. As they are a resource management company, their largest infrastructure contribution is to shared roads, sort yards, and an investment in forestry and innovation (Mosaic Forest Management, personal communication, January 19, 2021). Mosaic creates some of the initial steps towards infrastructure development by creating roadways. This work connects to Target 9.1.

In alignment with Target 9.4, Riverside Shingle Products Ltd. have updated their company's infrastructure to be carbon neutral. They also only use locally harvested and milled wood when creating their shingles (Riverside Shingle Products, 2021). These shifts advocate for higher environmental standards, directly connecting to this target.

Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 9

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society
Free Spirit Spheres
Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society

Mosaic Forest Management
Riverside Shingle Products Ltd.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The focus of SDG 10 is to reduce inequality within and among countries. Inequalities can have significant individual and societal impacts: many individuals, including Canadians, face unequal access to education, employment, and healthcare (Government of Canada, 2020-d). These inequalities hinder populations from achieving and maintaining basic needs and quality of life.

Despite a positive change in **reducing some inequalities**, such as reducing the number of women who are left at home as caregivers, this remains a **pressing issue in which no country is immune** (United Nations, 2022-k).

Inequality remains a factor in the MABR. Some groups in the MABR try to address inequalities by promoting inclusivity in their operations and events. Other groups are currently trying to combat it through educational and career opportunities (Mosaic Forest Management, personal communication, January 19, 2021; Qualicum Beach Museum, personal communication, January 19, 2021).

The Inclusion Parksville Society and the Sources Community Resource Society have various programs to reduce inequality throughout the MABR and wider communities in which they serve. Both organizations have programming that includes helping homeless individuals with housing, food services, events, programming for individuals with disabilities and youth groups (Inclusion Parksville Society, 2020; Sources Community Resource Society 2021). This work aligns directly with Target 10.1.

Aligning with Target 10.2, the City of Parksville has a partnership with Accessible Oceanside Association to widen accessibility within city policy and initiatives. Examples of recent work to broaden accessibility are the implementation of an inclusive zip line in the park, an oceanfront boardwalk, increased accessible equipment within the Community Park, roadwork and sidewalk improvements, and the formation of an Accessibility Committee.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 10

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society
City of Parksville
Close To You Boutique
Faire Living
Inclusion Parksville

Mosaic Forest Management
Qualicum Beach Museum
Sources Community Resource Society

Target 10.1: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG 17 looks to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. It has been globally recognized that without proper partnerships or mobilization of funds, especially to developing Nations, the SDGs will not be achieved by 2030 (United Nations, 2022-q).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy is projected to contract sharply, by 3% experiencing its worst recession since the Great Depression (United Nations, 2022-q).

Partnership is paramount to sustainable development. Each group surveyed indicated an emphasis on partnerships, and reported sharing knowledge, technology, and resources to support the SDGs. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were motivations to create a roundtable for environmental groups within the MABR (Arrowsmith Naturalists, personal communication, December 2, 2020). In 2021, these motivations led to the formation of the Mid-Island Stewardship Caucus (MISC), which is a group of organizations in the MABR that connect, collaborate, and share resources and expertise (Stern, 2021). MISC has created an unified front for the environmental organizations within the MABR, with amplified partnerships, and widened scope for sustainable initiatives.

As set out in Target 17.14, the City of Parksville emphasizes partnerships in the achievement of sustainable economic vitality and growth. Sustainable economic growth is achieved in Parksville by the partnership of the Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce, the Parksville Downtown Business Association, Oceanside Development Construction Association, Oceanside Tourism, and all other local economic initiatives and stakeholders.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 17

Arrowsmith Naturalists
City of Parksville
Free Spirit Spheres

Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement
Society



Environmental Goals

The SDGs within the environmental pillar of sustainability recognize the importance of the natural environment and the actions that need to be made to support healthy human-nature relationships. They aim to improve human welfare through the protection of nature.

This section highlights work and efforts by organizations and businesses in the MABR that supports the SDGs that speak to environmental sustainability.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



The purpose of SDG 6 is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Water is essential for life, however, one in three people worldwide do not have access to clean drinking water, mostly in rural areas (United Nations, 2022-g).

Two thirds of all Indigenous communities in Canada have had a **boil water advisory** at some point in the past fourteen years, many of which do not have regular **access to clean drinking water** (Palmer, 2019, pp. 25).

Groups within the MABR support SDG 6 through actions that aim to improve water use efficiency, promote water education, and protect water-related ecosystems. Some of these activities include rainwater collection, treating greywater, working towards preserving local wetlands, monitoring streams, and implementing composting toilets.

The City of Parksville participates in the Team WaterSmart Program, which promotes education about sustainable water consumption (City of Parksville, personal communication, February 27, 2021). The City is also partnered with the Arrowsmith Water Service Joint Venture Agreement, which operates and maintains the Arrowsmith Dam and associated facilities. An additional water treatment plan aims to be developed to ensure water quality and availability, and annual water restrictions take place in the summer months to avoid water shortages. Rebate programs offered through the City of Parksville encourage rainwater capture and water-efficient toilets. The Community Splash Park captures the water used and funnels it into local irrigation systems. The City also annually tests the drinking water to ensure quality, and takes weekly bacteriological sampling at 16 sites throughout Parksville (City of Parksville, personal communication, February 27, 2021). This effort contributes to Target 6.5.

Many local groups are lobbying for the protection of ecologically important wetlands, marshes, streams, riparian zones, and estuaries, working to support Target 6.6. The Arrowsmith Naturalists, in partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, are working together to restore the Englishman River Estuary in Parksville. Efforts include removing invasive Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and water quality sampling from along the estuary (Arrowsmith Naturalists, personal communication, January 21, 2021).

Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 6

Affordable Housing Vancouver
Island Society
Arrowsmith Naturalists
Brown Property Preservation
Society
City of Parksville

Ducks Unlimited Oceanside
Free Spirit Spheres
Friends of French Creek
Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat
Enhancement Society

Morningstar Farm
Mosaic Forest Management
Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers
Tumaini Fund Canada

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7 focuses on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, which can be life changing. Renewable energy in Canada comes from wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, geothermal, ocean resources, biogas, and liquid biofuels. Of those listed, solar and wind energy are the fastest growing sources of electricity in Canada (Government of Canada, 2020-c).

13% of the world's population are currently living **without access to modern electricity** (United Nations, 2022-h).

Currently the **energy sector** accounts for **60%** of the **world's greenhouse gas emissions** (United Nations, 2022-h).

The **renewable energy sector** accounts for **16.3%** of Canada's energy (Government of Canada, 2020-c).

Several organizations in the MABR are attempting to support SDG 7. Some organizations are shifting to alternative energy systems, whereas others are promoting and providing education on more sustainable energy alternatives. With incentive rebates for renewable energy systems offered from the RDN, individuals can contribute to the Goal with solar hot water, photovoltaic, geoexchange, and wind energy (Regional District of Nanaimo, 2021).

By renting e-bikes, Take Off Adventure Rentals is introducing people to this mode of transportation that for many has replaced vehicles (Take Off Adventure Rentals, survey data, February 14, 2022). They have staff specifically trained to maintain their high quality bikes, and provide test rides, maintenance, and education. Take Off Adventure Rentals suggest exploratory and engaging routes, allowing clients the opportunity to experience the benefits of e-bikes (Take Off Adventure Rentals, survey data, February 14, 2022). By offering such services, they are contributing to Target 7.1.

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society (AHVIS) is focused on changing their operational practices to feature renewable energy technologies, contributing to Target 7.2. AHVIS aims to take a permaculture approach with passive-solar principles when designing the landscape at their affordable housing complex. The passive-solar principles include renewable energy such as solar panels, wind turbines, and geothermal solutions. (Affordable Housing Vancouver Island, personal communication, December 2, 2020).

Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 7

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society
Coombs Country Campground
Free Spirit Spheres

Morningstar Farm
Qualicum Beach Museum
Take Off Adventure Rentals

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12 aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Production and consumption has been a driving force in economic growth worldwide. However, this growth has come at a cost. SDG 12 promotes responsible consumption and production that is based on economic growth and is decoupled from environmental degradation. This shift needs to focus on resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles for all (United Nations, 2020-l).

Much of the **food produced worldwide is wasted**, with **13%** being wasted before even reaching retail markets and **17%** being wasted in households and retail (United Nations, 2022-l).

Many businesses in the MABR are contributing to SDG 12 by providing their customers access to more sustainable products. Businesses have expressed that they aim to source their products as locally as possible and ensure that the products they sell are high quality with a long lifespan. Going beyond their products, some businesses, such as Clay and Green, educate their customers about the availability of local, handmade, sustainably produced products (Clay and Green, personal communication, February 15, 2022). Further, other organizations support fair trade and promote sustainable tourism, which also contributes to SDG 12.

Linking directly to Target 12.1, Coyote's Coffee Corp. works with local coffee producers in South America to ensure their coffee beans are produced and harvested in a sustainable manner. Working directly with coffee farmers in developing countries allows them to have transparency throughout the entire coffee bean production line (Coyote's Coffee Corp., n.d.). Coyote's Coffee Corp. ensures they are able to sustainably change and monitor their entire coffee production line for their cafe.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) supports Target 12.2, ensuring responsible consumption and production by monitoring the commercial and recreational fisheries within the MABR (Government of Canada, 2020-f). The DFO acts as the ocean fisheries manager across the country and operates within the MABR, with officers who monitor individuals fishing to ensure sustainable harvesting (Government of Canada, 2020-f).

Target 12.1: Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.

Target 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 12

Clay and Green
Close To You Boutique
Coombs Country
Campground
Coyote's Coffee Corp.
Department of Fisheries and
Oceans

Faire Living
French Creek Seafood Ltd.
Friends of Qualicum Beach
Forest
Heaven on Earth Natural
Foods
Little Mountain Soap and

Body
Morningstar Farm
Petal and Kettle
Realm Food Co.
Soak Lifestyle Boutique
Take Off Adventure Rentals
Tigh-Na-Mara Resort

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13's objective is to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Climate change is undeniable and the impacts of it can be seen worldwide. In addition to climate change, the world is also experiencing major natural disasters such as floods, fires, and landslides (United Nations, 2022-m). The Canadian Government has promised to put resources into finding ways to combat the impacts of climate change (Government of Canada, 2020-g).



The **effects of climate change** have impacted **every nation** worldwide (United Nations, 2022-l).

2019 was the **second warmest year ever recorded**, in which carbon dioxide levels and other **greenhouse gas emissions increased and rose to new records** (United Nations, 2022-m).

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

The MABR is experiencing patterns of flooding and increased snowfall, which was previously unusual in the region (Briones, 2018; United Nations, 2022-m). The increase of these climate related events has impacted fish habitat, streamflow, wildfires, and precipitation in the MABR (Briones, 2018; United Nations, 2022-m). Therefore, the urgency is felt within the region and is made apparent by the actions taken by organizations in the MABR. Organizations are working to protect ecosystems that mitigate climate change impacts, reduce their emissions and pollution, educate the local community, and increase the community's resilience to future impacts.

Working toward Target 13.1, the Hamilton Marsh Committee is driven to protect the Marsh in part due to natural carbon sinking properties that marshes possess. Marshes are able to capture and store carbon (Hamilton Marsh Committee, personal communication, December 20, 2020). Forests also act as carbon sinks, as trees store carbon until fully decomposed.

Conducting activities directly with climate change in mind, as intended in Target 13.2, is Morningstar Farm. Morningstar Farm uses more efficient technology such as heat pumps, a heat exchanger, and electricity instead of fossil fuels. Through their permanent pastures they are building soil which helps with carbon sequestration and inhibiting soil erosion (Morningstar Farm, personal communication, January 19, 2021).

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 13

Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society
Arrowsmith Naturalists
City of Parksville
Coombs Country Campground
Ducks Unlimited Oceanside
Faire Livings
Free Spirit Spheres

Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest
Hamilton Marsh Committee
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society
Morningstar Farm
Mosaic Forest Management
Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The objective of SDG 14 is to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. The oceans drive many global systems and help make the Earth habitable for humankind. They are responsible for our rainwater, drinking water, climate, weather, coastlines, much of our food, and the air that we breathe. However, the coastal waters are deteriorating due to pollution and eutrophication (United Nations, 2022-n).



There are over 3 million people who depend on **marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihood** (United Nations, 2022-n).

Target 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

A portion of the Salish Sea falls within the MABR, and many people rely on the Salish Sea for their livelihood and recreation (Wild Pacific Halibut, 2018; Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism, n.d.). The interconnectedness of the Salish Sea to the community members through work and play provides incentive for groups in the area to protect it through initiatives such as fundraising efforts and restoration projects.

In alignment with Target 14.2 and partnership with The Nature Trust of BC, the Arrowsmith Naturalists are working to restore the Englishman River Estuary. Restoration work includes removal of invasive species and replanting of native species throughout the estuary (Arrowsmith Naturalists, personal communication, December 2, 2020).

In keeping with work toward Target 14.2, the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers conduct habitat restoration of the Little Qualicum River estuary after years of industrial use (Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, personal communication, January 18th, 2021). These actions help protect the waterways of the estuary by restoring them to their traditional ecosystems.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 10

Arrowsmith Naturalists
BC Parks Foundation
Ducks Unlimited Oceanside
Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest
Little Qualicum Hatchery
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society

Parksville Qualicum Fish and Game Association
Qualicum Beach Museum
Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers
Take Off Adventure Rentals

15 LIFE ON LAND



SDG 15's goal is to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and cease biodiversity loss. The ever-expanding reach of human activity is squeezing the remaining plants and animals into smaller spaces. Parallel to the acceleration of forest degradation has been a surge in biodiversity loss.

Between 2010 and 2015, the world lost over 3.3 million hectares of forest and the rate of loss continues (United Nations, 2022-o).

Of the 8,300 animal species known, 8% are now extinct and 22% are at risk, while plant biodiversity is also on the decline (United Nations, 2022-o).

All 18 environmentally based groups within the MABR that were interviewed for this report indicated an urgency to protect our land, environment, and animals. Conservation, planting programs, and minimum impact practices are just a few initiatives taking place in the MABR to protect the environment.

The removal of invasive species allows ecosystems to retain their original balance, without the pressure of being forced out. The most reported invasive species that the groups are fighting against within the MABR is English ivy. The Friends of Qualicum Beach Forests is considering lobbying local garden shops to stop selling English ivy due to the invasiveness of the species. The removal of invasive species may feel like a small impact, however, some invasive species such as English ivy can completely change and destroy an ecosystem (Friends of Qualicum Beach Forests, personal communication, December 9, 2020). This work is in alignment with Target 15.1.

As set out in Target 15.2, sustainable and regenerative forest management is another popular initiative within the MABR that pertains to environmental sustainability. Milner Gardens is currently managing the Milner Gardens & Woodlands property. This property is an entity of VIU, and conducts sustainable forestry practices. The gardens are open to the public to explore the grounds and connect with nature. They also provide environmental education programming to local schools (Milner Gardens & Woodlands, n/d). Managing land with the intention to save it from development and protecting biodiversity connects directly to Target 15.2.

Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

MABR Organizations Supporting SDG 15

Arrowsmith Naturalists
BC Parks Foundation
Brown Property Preservation Society
City of Parksville
Ducks Unlimited Oceanside
Englishman River Falls
Provincial Park
Free Spirit Spheres

Friends of Foster Park
Friends of French Creek
Conservation Society
Friends of Qualicum Beach Forest
Hamilton Marsh Committee
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society
Milner Gardens

Morningstar Farm
Mosaic Forest Management
North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre
Parksville Qualicum Fish and Game Association
Qualicum Beach Museum
Qualicum Beach
Streamkeepers

Conclusion

Throughout this project, the research team was able to connect with many different entities, all of which shared valuable information regarding how they are currently contributing to the SDGs. In conducting the research, it was found that all 17 of the Goals are currently being contributed to by the 65 groups who were reviewed.

Of the 17 SDGs, the Goal with the most contributions is Goal 15, with a total of 18 groups. The large number of contributions to this Goal may be due to the social climate of the MABR, and Vancouver Island. Across the Island, people are very impassioned about protecting the environment. The Qualicum Beach Museum has records dating back to the early 1900's of environmental groups being active within the MABR (Qualicum Beach Museum, personal communication, January 19, 2021). Throughout this project, we can see the legacy of environmentalism within the MABR by the sheer volume of environmental groups in operation. Following behind is Goal 8, with a total of 13 groups. This goal may be ranked second because businesses and organizations place high value on the creation of well-paid quality jobs, as well as resource efficiency in consumption and production. In contrast, only two groups were found to contribute to Goal 5, and Goal 7 only had three. This may be because Goals 5 and 7 often require significant amounts of money, time, and input to achieve. These factors may make it difficult for more groups to successfully contribute to these Goals. Organizations involved in the project were optimistic for the future development of these Goals within the MABR.

Advancement and achievement of the SDGs requires a bottom-up approach, as meaningful change requires collective and cohesive community effort. As reflected in this report, this is evident in the MABR. This is of significant impact because Biosphere Reserves are considered model regions for sustainable development that work to promote the conservation of biological and cultural diversity, as well as economic and social development. In advancing each of the SDGs on a community level, the MABR demonstrates continuous and innovative ways to achieve a balance between humans and nature. Going forward, the hope is that each component of this project will bring even further awareness of the SDGs to the MABR. As such great engagement can already be seen from the members of the MABR, it is hoped that this legacy will continue forward.

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