



Strategic Plan for the Southern Appalachian Man And the Biosphere (SAMAB) Program

The SAMAB strategic plan lays out SAMAB's direction for the first decade of the new century. It is a product of agreement among Federal, state, and private partners that—despite their widely different missions and goals—work together to resolve serious regional problems and to encourage growth without jeopardizing the magnificent scenery and natural resources of the Southern Appalachian region.

The strategic plan provides an overall vision for the program, a clearly stated mission, and a listing of core values. It also describes goals, objectives, and strategies that provide the basis for development of annual work plans that give “legs” to the strategic plan. It also affords SAMAB partners some ideas to consider in their own organizations' planning.

Vision

SAMAB fosters a harmonious relationship between people and the Southern Appalachian environment.

Mission

SAMAB promotes environmental health, and stewardship and sustainable development of natural, cultural, and economic resources in the Southern Appalachians. It encourages community-based solutions to critical regional issues through cooperation among partners, information gathering and sharing, integrated assessments, and demonstration projects.

Goal 1. Discovery and Assessment: Understand and describe the status and dynamics of the natural, economic, and cultural resources of the Southern Appalachians and the benefits of ecosystem management and sustainable development.

Goal 2. Education and Outreach: Foster greater public awareness of the status and dynamics of natural, economic, and cultural resources in the region through innovative communication and education. Encourage use of this awareness to improve decision making throughout the region.

Goal 3. Demonstration and Application: Identify, prioritize and support opportunities for cooperative resource management, sustainable, ecologically sound economic development, and research needed to fill knowledge gaps.

Goal 4. Organizational Capacity: Develop and maintain a strong SAMAB organization that has the capacity to accomplish its mission.

The strategies to accomplish these goals and their associated objectives take as their starting point agency priorities, existing agency programs, gaps in research, resource managers' needs, and opportunities for synergy, improved efficiency, and more effective management. Because these strategies are the bridge between long-term strategic planning and building an implementation or work plan, they are the most dynamic component of this strategic plan. The plan is a living document, to be updated annually in response to changing agency and community needs.

We invite your contributions to the SAMAB Program. View the entire plan on our Web site at <http://samab.org>, call us at 865-974-4583, email samab@utk.edu, or send your thoughts to SAMAB Coordinating Office, 314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138.