



Mission

To encourage wise use of the area's natural resources and promote environmentally sound economic development; and to foster and support integrated environmental research, education and training, especially in relationship to national and global changes and their effects upon the region.

Vision

SAMAB will concentrate its efforts with the primary goal of promoting effective social action through understanding of sustainability as an integrated process of development involving all levels of social and governmental organization in an environment defined by natural, social, built and economic concerns.

Goals

1. Promote communication on key issues important to SAMAB members that are focused on sustainable decision making in the Southern Appalachians by leveraging efforts with others.
2. Promote information sharing and education about key issues with local governmental officials and individuals interested in promoting sustainability and land conservation.
3. Promote coordination among biosphere reserve units.

Southern Appalachian Vitality Index

Southern Appalachian Vitality Index Browse Map View Downloads

The Southern Appalachian Vitality Index provides a regional report through the perspectives of the natural, social, built, and economic environments. The Index categorizes the interwoven nature of humans and the environment, designed to assist local governments, interest groups, and the public manage and enhance healthy growth in the region.

Natural Environment

From the pristine streams to towering mountain ranges, this analysis of Southern Appalachian natural resources reports on the stability of biological resources, topography, geology, climate, water quality, and air quality.

Human Environment

Generations of localized craft, music, art, heritage, and spiritual values are reported elements that define residents of the Southern Appalachians. This study observes the region through a lens focused on our population, human health, education, and culture.

Built Environment

Looking at the region's status on land use, housing, transportation, water supply, energy, and natural resources, hazards, and risks, this analysis covers the places we work, shop, play, travel, and live. Through careful planning, these uses can be sustained to maximize their environmental aspects in order to ensure a lasting and productive community.

Economic Environment

A look at the region's standing on income and poverty, employment, agriculture, forestry, and tourism is essential to promoting a locally healthy and resilient economy.





