DRAFT: 25 February 2005

Vision

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Ecological Observatory (MAREO) observes, investigates, predicts, and communicates regional environmental change of ecological and socioeconomic significance. The observatory addresses large-scale patterns of connectedness in the linked natural and human landscapes, ecosystems, and populations that extend from the Appalachian Mountains through watersheds and estuaries to the sea. MAREO advances the vision of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) and is a leader in its development.

Mission

The mission of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ecological Observatory (MAREO) is to collect, integrate, interpret, and distribute primary and secondary environmental data related to the region, and to utilize these data in support of the goals of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) of which MAREO is a part. MAREO data sets, information systems, and modeling related to important regional and national environmental issues will be used within the framework of NEON to inform local, regional, and national decision makers, identify and forecast natural and anthropogenic environmental threats, and examine environmental impacts and vulnerabilities to multiple stresses on regional and national scales.

Goals

The goals of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ecological Observatory are to:

- Support the goals of NEON with regionally based observations, research, modeling, and analysis
- Provide local, regional, and national decision and policy makers with environmental information and knowledge in a more timely and usable manner, hence shortening the decision-making cycle and improving policy development
- Establish dynamic communication and collaboration within a network of national, regional, state, and local partners
- Conduct interdisciplinary distance collaboration and learning through the application, support, and development of emerging technologies
- Attract the best in environmental research, technical support, and scientific leadership to promote collaboration, outreach, and education in a way that raises the stature and productivity of the federal, state, and university personnel addressing environmental concerns
- Transfer regional-scale techniques and methodologies to support national and global environmental planning