

International Model Forests

Since Canada committed at UNCED to provide initial funding to expand its network of model forests, international interest in the concept continues to grow. More than twenty-five countries are considering joining the network, which presently comprises ten sites in Canada, two in Mexico, and one in Russia. In addition, three adaptive management areas in the United States are exploring linkages with the Model Forest Program. Model forests have proven to be an effective means for sharing information among natural resource managers and the many individuals and groups that have an interest and a stake in the health and productivity of forests.

Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators

Canada continues to cooperate closely with other international efforts to develop criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, especially those covering boreal and temperate forests outside Europe. As host of the Liaison Office for the Montreal Process, Canada provides the support and impetus for implementation, at the national level, of the criteria and indicators that the twelve member countries endorsed in 1995.

The group meets regularly and is now discussing the challenges associated with implementation. At its eighth meeting in June 1996, Canada presented an overview of the member countries' assessments of their capability to report on the Montreal Process criteria and indicators, including key findings and issues. Following discussions, participants decided they would make a progress report available at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) in February 1997 and present a first approximation report at the eleventh World Forestry Congress in October 1997.

Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

Canada actively participates in the discussions of the IPF, which has a mandate to report to the United Nations Commission on