

consultation on technical and scientific information under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and a meeting of like-minded states that Canada hosted in St. John's, Newfoundland. Canada has played a leading role at the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, including tabling a draft convention during the first substantive session in July 1993. Canada continues to work toward internationally binding rules to govern these fisheries.

(f) Forests

Canada has been working to build support for internationally accepted criteria for sustainable forest management, ideally embodied in a global forest convention. A standard set of rules would permit a more accurate measure of the sustainability of forest management practices.

Canada's National Forest Strategy sets out forest-related priorities for the next five years and provides the framework for effective implementation of the Guiding Principles on Forests, adopted at UNCED. Canada has developed a Model Forest Network consisting of 10 sites across Canada, in which sustainability issues such as wildlife habitat, biodiversity, watersheds, recreation, fisheries and economic uses can be addressed in major forest eco-regions.

The Model Forest Network is being matched by the International Model Forest Program. Mexico has agreed to be our first partner. It has identified two sites and committed itself to matching the Canadian contribution. Russia will be our second partner, with a site in the Eastern territory of Khabarovsk. Discussions are under way with a third potential partner state. A network connecting the domestic and international sites will provide a channel to share information, experience and technology, providing an opportunity to define sustainable forest management better.

Provinces play a key role in this sector and are sharing their experience. For example, the Government of British Columbia will co-operate with Malaysia to organize a school of forestry there with funding from the federal government.

Future Directions

The major challenge ahead is to build on the progress made to date to resolve existing environmental problems, integrate the environment into decision making to avoid the emergence of new problems, and develop policies that contribute to economic prosperity and government efficiency.

No one nation, government, major group or individual alone can make sustainable development a practical reality. All partners must continue their co-operative efforts to develop and implement action plans to achieve economic and social development that respects the environment.