

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

A. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

1. RESPONSIBILITY

Develop a departmental sustainable development strategy outlining how DFAIT policies, programs, and resources will be used to enhance sustainable development both domestically and globally.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

JEN is accountable for coordinating development and implementation of the DFAIT sustainable development strategy, in consultation with AGE and other divisions.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

The agenda of the Government is based on an integrated approach to economic, environmental, social, and foreign policy. Sustainable development is being promoted as an integral component of decision-making throughout all levels of society.

The new Office of the Commissioner for Sustainable Development will report annually to Parliament. The reports will focus on how successfully departmental programs and spending are supporting the shift to sustainable development, most notably whether environmental considerations are being integrated into departmental decision making.

All ministers are required to table in Parliament in early 1997 sustainable development strategies with "concrete sustainable development goals and objectives and action plans for achieving them". The plans are to be "updated on a best efforts basis at a minimum every three years".

The sustainable development strategies are intended to provide benchmarks against which departmental progress towards sustainable development can be measured.

The Auditor General's Act will be amended to authorize receipt of petitions from the public on environmental concerns about federal government programs.

4. PRIORITIES

Implement DFAIT's Environmental Management Plan (JEN/Branches).

Review with all branches the new requirement for a departmental sustainable development strategy, and seek their input (JEN/Branches).