

addressed in current arrangements, maintaining the status quo is not an option, and further action is required to improve the state of the world's forests.

Experts also agreed that the IFF process should end at IFF 4 with a clear decision on new future international arrangements and mechanisms and that such arrangements and mechanisms should provide a permanent action-oriented approach to the global forest policy dialogue, one that has the necessary legal authority and level of commitment.

SUMMARY

Canada is blessed with one of the largest forest covers of any country on earth, and Canadians cherish this important natural resource. Little more than 130 years have passed since Canada became a country. In this brief span of time, forestry in Canada has undergone changes that are as far-reaching as those experienced by society at large and has become a leader in promoting sustainable forest management.

For the past two decades, Canadians have been reassessing their views of forests and forest practices. In some cases, the debate has evoked deep emotions. Nevertheless, over a relatively short period of time, the conflicts regarding forest development and preservation have translated into a widespread dialogue involving communities, governments, and a range of interest groups at local, provincial, and national levels. The basis for this dialogue is the consensus that forests have multiple values and that solutions can only be found through new partnerships that strive to recognize differences in needs and personal values.

Today, Canada serves as a model for the practical application of sustainable forest management. Provincial governments play a particularly important role in implementing Canada's commitments regarding sustainable forest management. Initiatives range from establishing new models of public and community involvement to integrating forest management and land use planning and introducing legislation that stipulates the preservation of ecosystem values.

For its part, the forest industry has made sweeping changes in the way it operates. Examples include new forms of ecosystem management, silvicultural programs, community involvement, and efficient engineering and processing techniques. Professional and industry associations have developed codes of ethics, forest principles, and standards of practice. Many private forest owners have also adopted codes of practice.