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CANADA'S MODEL FORESTS GO INTERNATIONAL: AGREEMENT REACHED WITH MEXICO

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty and Natural Resources Minister-designate Barbara Sparrow today announced an agreement with the Government of Mexico to establish two model forests. The Mexican sites will be located in a temperate forest region in the state of Chihuahua, and in a tropical forest region in the state of Campeche.

This joint Canada-Mexico initiative represents the first phase of the \$10-million International Model Forest Program announced at the June 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

"Canada is delighted to have Mexico as its first international partner in the model forest program," said Mr. Beatty. "This announcement demonstrates that our Earth Summit commitments to promote international co-operation on this critical sustainable development issue are very much alive."

"This international initiative underlines Canadian leadership in global efforts to define and implement standards of sustainable forest management," said Ms. Sparrow. "It will only be through co-operative action and the sharing of expertise, through initiatives such as the model forests, that we can succeed in preserving the world's forests for future generations," she added.

The International Model Forest Program, launched under the auspices of the Green Plan International Partnerships Program, will support model forests in three countries as the first step in creating a global network of model forests. In the case of Mexico, Canada will contribute \$3 million for the establishment of two model forests, with matching funding from the Mexican government.