

## A MORE STRATEGIC FOCUS

As noted in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report, healthy ecosystems are essential to long-term, meaningful development. They underpin multiple aspects of human health, economic livelihood, biodiversity, security, science and culture. Millennium Development Goal 7—to ensure environmental sustainability—underlines the fact that environmental degradation has impacts worldwide, many of which are most severe in the poorest developing countries. Country-driven, community-based approaches to the management of natural resources and ecosystems are an essential element for poverty reduction. Without adequate water, land and other resources to live on and off, the cycle of poverty can be impossible to break. Yet, improved environmental outcomes will only be achieved if strengthening environmentally targeted investment is an essential component of better and more equitable development.

Canada has well-established and wide-ranging expertise in the research, development and deployment of environmentally sound technologies, including clean energy. Canada is also a leader in environmental know-how, including areas in environmental science and natural resource management such as dryland agriculture, soil conservation, watershed management, and sustainable forest management. As such, Canada will invest in environmentally sound technology as well as active adaptive management in developing countries.

Improvements will continue to be made to integrate environmental factors into all aspects of analysis, programming and decision making related to the full range of development assistance. To this end, the Government will take steps to further integrate environmental analysis and Strategic Environmental Assessment with all aspects of its development work and will continue to comply with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* for all international development projects.

Specific areas of environmental programming and Canadian initiatives will include the following:

- **Reducing the impact of climate change.** In 2005, Canada is hosting an historic meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. Based on specific country circumstances and needs, Canada



A wind pump provides farmers in Niore, Mali, with water for their gardens.

will help set low-income developing countries on a path to a low-carbon future that provides social, economic and ecosystem benefits locally and globally.

As the climate changes and its impacts grow, Canada will work with developing country partners to protect their livelihoods and reduce vulnerability through two types of measures. Adaptation will be addressed through capacity building and incorporating climate impact assessments into decision making processes and emergency preparedness. Mitigation measures will include those that promote low-carbon economic growth through sustainable community development, sustainable energy systems, and better land-use management.

In addition, there may be increasing opportunities for participation in the emerging international carbon emissions market, especially the Clean Development