

This was followed in 1997 by the publication *Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Canada, Technical Report 1997*. This report describes Canada's capacity to measure sustainable forest management and outlines the data available for the six criteria. It led to a better understanding of Canada's strengths and weaknesses with respect to its capacity to measure forest sustainability.

A Dynamic Process to Measure Canada's Progress

The pursuit of sustainable forest management is a dynamic and evolving process. C&I are based on the best information available, and, as such, they are subject to continual revision and improvement. For example, several years have passed since the CCFM C&I framework was developed, and during that period, the capacities of information systems have increased, the approaches to forest inventories have changed, and the availability of data for some indicators has improved. Also, advances in science have increased Canada's understanding of systems and have influenced its concept of "sustainable forest management" and its ability to measure its progress toward that objective.

The CCFM has used the experience and knowledge gained from the preparation of Canada's first report to develop and approve an implementation plan for reporting in 2000. In addition, the CCFM has approved a review of the 83 indicators currently included in the C&I framework. The review is expected to result in recommendations as to which indicators will be retained for future reporting at the national level.

A task force charged with preparing the implementation plan has identified a core set of indicators, which it derived from the original 83 indicators by conserving indicators consistent with those found in other C&I processes, by combining similar indicators, and by focusing on indicators applicable at the national level. (In fact, nearly 70 indicators from the original framework will be reported on in 2000.)

To carry out the implementation plan and facilitate the production of the 2000 report, the task force established working Internet and file transfer protocol (FTP) sites. By providing templates for data submission and compilation, these sites have served to standardize the submission of data and information. And by linking the 75 technical contacts across Canada who are responsible for providing the information for the report with the 22 writers who are compiling the national perspectives for the indicators, the sites have stimulated discussion regarding definitions and reporting strategies and have promoted the sharing of information and ideas. The working Web site will also be used to identify sources of information and to archive information for future reporting.