

- (c) the losses to wildfire, insects and disease be reduced wherever possible; and
 - (d) future forest resource development agreements be linked to prompt regeneration and protection of all deforested areas, whether harvested commercially or depleted naturally.
13. Given that vigorously growing trees are an effective means for extracting CO₂ from the atmosphere, the Committee recommends that the federal government take the lead in establishing federal-provincial-municipal programs to encourage development of tree plantations on otherwise unused lands, dedicated to sequestering atmospheric carbon as an intermediate-term strategy for reducing CO₂ levels in the atmosphere.
 14. Given the interconnectedness of the global environment and the necessity of assisting the developing world in protecting our common environmental heritage, the Committee recommends that the federal government, through its own agencies and through Canada's membership in multilateral organizations, advocate programs to reduce deforestation and to encourage reforestation and the planting of forests in developing countries. Support for these activities by the federal government must not reduce current and planned Canadian support for other development assistance programs.
 15. The Committee recommends that the Minister of Environment have the responsibility and authority to develop policies, programs and regulations that span the full range of activities of the federal government, analogous to the Minister of Finance for financial and economic affairs, and that the Environment Minister report to Parliament annually on the environmental impact of all federal activities.
 16. The Committee recommends that the Auditor General, working in conjunction with the Departments of Environment and Finance, establish an environmental audit function to assure that all federal departments and agencies have implemented environmental assessment processes, and to monitor the effectiveness of environmental programs. Specifically, the Auditor General should monitor the progress of all federal departments and agencies in setting and attaining targets for greenhouse gas emissions.
 17. The Committee recommends that all federal departments and agencies, as part of their budget submissions, report on the direct and indirect impacts of their operations on global warming, and set annual targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.