

- to promote greater public understanding of the need to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources sustainably
- to maintain or develop incentives and legislation that support these goals
- to work with other countries to achieve the objectives of the Biodiversity Convention

Within each of the goals there are strategic directions for each government to pursue according to its capability. Examples include the further establishment and management of networks of protected areas and enhanced research efforts. The Strategy recognizes the need to integrate conservation and sustainable use approaches to manage biodiversity properly. It builds on Canada's existing base of policies, programs, and initiatives that address biodiversity. From activities to protect wetlands and wildlife to strategies promoting sustainable forestry and agriculture and industry codes of practice, Canada has already developed a number of instruments to conserve biodiversity. The Strategy will enhance and complement these existing efforts.

Some provinces are developing individual strategies. Quebec and British Columbia, for example, will complete biodiversity strategies in 1995 and 1996 respectively. They will include action plans involving government departments and stakeholders.

### **Support for International Biodiversity Activities**

Canada has also been active internationally in support of the Biodiversity Convention. It has co-sponsored workshops and symposia in Costa Rica and Côte d'Ivoire. Canada has participated in and hosted meetings of the UNEP Expert Panels and played active roles in the two meetings of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Most recently, Canada sponsored the development of the technology trade show that took place at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has undertaken to examine its policies and programming in light of Canada's Convention obligations and is currently considering programming options that would enhance the ability of its developing-country partners to conserve and use their biological resources sustainably and to implement sustainable development. CIDA has also initiated a revision of its environmental assessment guidelines to include assessment of project impacts on biological diversity.

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is supporting interdisciplinary research that focuses on conservation of land-based and aquatic biodiversity.

### **Protected Areas**

In 1992, ministers responsible for parks, wildlife, forestry, and the environment made a commitment to complete Canada's networks of protected areas by the year 2000. They are working to meet this commitment. For example, through a process of public consultation,