

DEVELOPMENT

Major Agreement

Arrangement on Model Forests

Major Interlocutors

Canada:

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

DFAIT

Department of Natural Resources - Canadian Forest Service

Mexico:

Ministry of External Affairs (SRE)

National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT)

Ministry of the Environment (SEMARNAP)

Extent and Mechanisms of Cooperation

There is no government-to-government aid programme with Mexico; however the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is active in Mexico through various programs.

The **Canada Fund** administered by the Canadian Embassy in Mexico has over the past several years oscillated between \$300,000 and \$500,000 per annum. The Fund typically supports some 20 to 30 small development-related projects per annum, all implemented by local Non-Governmental Organisations. Quite apart from its primary purpose of benefitting the poorest of the poor in Mexico, it has allowed Canada to play an important role in the development of a non-governmental human rights movement in Mexico and, at a critical moment in modern Mexican history, has given the Mission unparalleled access to rural, impoverished, indigenous Mexico.

Through CIDA's Partnership Branch, a number of **Canadian NGO's** are active in Mexico and receive substantial funding from CIDA. Notable among these is the Québec-based Development and Peace, which typically spends about \$1 million per annum in Mexico, generally speaking on small rural development programmes in Mexico's most impoverished states.

The commercial section of the Canadian Embassy in Mexico also administers a successful **CIDA INC.** programme. This has allowed many small to medium sized Canadian firms gain a foothold in Mexican markets, notably in the area of environmental technology.

International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) has development activities in Mexico which are handled out of its regional office in Montevideo (Uruguay). Over the years, IDRC has financed a wide variety of projects in Mexico in the areas