

AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**BETWEEN****THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA****AND****THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA****PREAMBLE**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA:**

CONVINCED of the importance of the conservation, protection and enhancement of the environment in their territories and the essential role of cooperation in these areas in achieving sustainable development for the well-being of present and future generations;

REAFFIRMING the sovereign right of States to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies and their responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING the *Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment* of 1972 and the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* of 1992;

ACKNOWLEDGING the growing economic, environmental and social links between their countries through the creation of a free trade area;

RECALLING that Canada and Costa Rica share a commitment to pursue policies which promote sustainable development, and that sound environmental management is an essential element of sustainable development;

NOTING the existence of differences in their respective natural endowments, climatic and geographical conditions, and technological and infrastructural capabilities;

FURTHER NOTING the existence of differences in their respective socio-economic conditions and legal systems;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of transparency and public participation in the development of environmental laws and policies;

RECOGNIZING that it is inappropriate to relax environmental laws in order to encourage trade;

EXPRESSING their shared desire to support and build on international environmental agreements through cooperation between the Parties;

HAVE AGREED as follows: