

Building Up Scientific Capacity and Capability

At the national level, Canada recognizes conservation as a priority and promotes resource management as the key to sustainable development. Solutions to problems, both domestic and international, must be based on sound science, consultation, co-operation, and agreement. Success will depend on ecosystem and biodiversity research and monitoring capabilities, and on building partnerships to bring diverse interests together.

The ecosystem approach provides a frame of reference for sustainable development. It demands a mix of scientific expertise and management skills. Canada faces a major challenge in adjusting the makeup and size of its scientific work force to meet expanding needs with limited resources. It is committed to participate in the training of new scientists and to update the skills of its current workforce, including the training of managers to lead multidisciplinary teams and establish collaborative arrangements. Canada also ensures that scientific knowledge is shared and harmonized through partnerships with all orders of government and with NGOs, academia, industry, and international agencies.

Canada recognizes the importance of a multinational approach for advancing the sustainable development agenda and the necessity for international collaboration. As a member of the newly created Inter-American Institute for Global Research, Canada will be in a position to engage in important global research, which no country can undertake on its own. Canadian expertise is sought by individual countries as well as by international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. The federal government supports Canada's commitments to international environmental endeavours such as the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund, which is essential to introduce alternatives to ozone-depleting substances in developing countries, and the IISD. Canada also co-chairs Working Group III of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change.

Canada's resource heritage must be managed in a way that does not compromise future generations. Resources can and will be used to produce economic and other benefits—but within the natural limits.