

Association has established a forest practices code for Aboriginal forest lands, incorporating traditional knowledge in forest management. In Quebec and New Brunswick, woodlot organizations have developed environmental codes of practice.

## **BUILDING A STRONGER KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS**

**M**any policy and program initiatives of governments and interested parties in forest issues depend on developing a sounder and more integrated understanding of forests. This understanding is acquired through research on forest issues in government, academic, private sector, and institutional settings. A number of initiatives have been the focus of research in the sustainable development of forests.

### **Domestic Criteria and Indicators**

The CCFM guided the development of domestic criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of Canadian forests. This process included the assistance of a steering committee that coordinated consultations among governments, academia, industry, the Aboriginal community, environmental organizations, and other interest groups.

After two years of meetings and workshops, the participants released a scientifically based framework in October 1995. *Defining Sustainable Forest Management: A Canadian Approach to Criteria and Indicators* outlines six criteria and eighty-three indicators. It also provides a common understanding of what is meant by sustainable forest management in the Canadian context. Collectively, the criteria and indicators describe the state of forests and demonstrate progress toward sustainable management. They also identify elements of the forest ecosystem and Canada's social and economic systems that need to be enhanced.