

options. One example is the Palliser Triangle in Saskatchewan, chosen because the region is sensitive to environmental stress (drought and erosion). The region contains a variety of landforms, soil types, and land uses, and is undergoing marked changes as agriculture moves to larger units.

The United Nations Man and the Biosphere Programme in Canada

The United Nations Man and the Biosphere Programme was initiated in 1971 and has a network of over 300 biosphere reserves in 76 countries; 6 are in Canada. Local participation is fundamental to operating a reserve. A variety of public forums discuss ecosystem issues and larger issues of the biosphere. In the long term, Canada plans to have a reserve in each of its 15 ecozones (see map on page 45) to serve as models for sustainable development and protection of biological diversity.

Testing Research Findings Through Pilot Projects

The Canada–Nova Scotia Agreement on Sustainable Economic Development is a four-year, \$15 million agreement signed in 1991. One of the Agreement's goals is to achieve sustainable development in Nova Scotia while taking full advantage of the business and economic opportunities associated with conservation and protection of the environment. Over 150 projects worth \$7 million have been approved. The range of projects include improved integrated planning, waste reduction and re-use, and development of new services and products for the environmental market.

Supporting Aboriginal Land Use Initiatives

With Aboriginal people gaining effective control of larger areas of land, they are using different approaches to resource management. They draw on their traditional ecological knowledge, non-Aboriginal knowledge, and information technology. For example, the Traditional Dene Environmental Knowledge Pilot Project in Hay River, Northwest Territories, has been a major contributor to methods of documenting knowledge (including non-Aboriginal science), community participation, training, and partnering with other institutions.

Many Aboriginal governments are developing and using geographic information systems to plan and manage lands and resources. These systems are particularly helpful as tools to integrate traditional and spiritual values into land use decisions.

Strengthening Technological Capacity

Technological capacity related to land use planning is improving through initiatives such as the RADARSAT satellite and tracking system. After completion in 1995, this will be used for such resource and environmental management as monitoring crop conditions, conducting mineral exploration, and detecting forest fires. Two command stations have been built, one in Montreal and one in Saskatoon.