

PART III, SECTION I

CONSERVATION OF

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Introduction

Two of the main objectives of Chapter 15 of Agenda 21 are the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. In addition, this chapter supports the Convention on Biological Diversity, the primary international initiative addressing the issue of declining biodiversity. The Convention shares the same objectives as Chapter 15 and adds a third, the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

In Canada, management of biological resources is primarily a provincial government responsibility. The federal government, industries, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also actively involved.

Canadian Biodiversity Strategy

The main focus of national activity following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) has been the development of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy will provide the framework for Canada's approach to biodiversity issues.

The Biodiversity Working Group, composed of one representative from each provincial and territorial government and from several federal departments, is preparing the Strategy. It has received ongoing input from an advisory group representing national organizations in sectors such as business and conservation. By involving key stakeholders, governments are trying to develop a high degree of support for the directions that are expected to be set in the Strategy.

The Strategy is being built around five goals:

- to conserve biodiversity and use biological resources sustainably
- to improve Canada's understanding of ecosystems and increase Canada's resource management capacity