

"..We strongly urge all governments and appropriate national and international bodies: To take urgent action to consolidate and enlarge national systems of well-managed protected areas with buffer zones and corridors, so that by the year 2000 they safeguard the full representative range of land, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems of each country and allow these ecosystems space to adapt to climate change"

## **GREEN PLAN COMMITMENT**

Within the Canadian national context, the federal government's concern for the pristine areas agenda has been clearly enunciated in the 1990 Green Plan. Here the federal government formally committed itself to complete Canada's terrestrial national parks system, within a specified time frame. "Completion" of the national park system requires that there be at least one national park established in each of the federally-identified 39 natural regions in Canada. Under the Green Plan, five national parks will be established by 1996, with agreements for the remaining 13 parks being achieved by 2000. As well, the Green Plan calls for the establishment of three new marine parks by 1996, and an additional three by the year 2000.

## **NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEMS PLANNING: THE BASIS FOR REPRESENTATIVE NATURAL REGIONS PRESERVATION**

This concept of systems completion was first delineated in the National Parks Systems Plan which was developed in the early 1970's. Since then, this has guided the Canadian Parks Service in the expansion of the national parks system. The intent of the Systems Plan was to protect an outstanding representative sample of each of Canada's landscapes and natural phenomena. To guide the development of a finite, representative system, the systems plan divided Canada into 39 distinct National Park terrestrial natural regions - based on landscape physiography - and established the goal of representing each natural region in the national park system. This approach developed by the Canadian Parks Service has since been emulated by other provincial and territorial governments throughout Canada in developing their own protected areas plans for their jurisdictions. As well, the National Parks Systems Plan provided the natural regions representative framework upon which the Endangered Spaces Program has been developed.