

In 1992, following an intensive process of consultation with its partners, CIDA released its Policy for Environmental Sustainability. This policy is an important element of CIDA's framework for sustainable development and is an integral part of meeting the agency's mandate to promote sustainable development.

The main thrusts of the policy are to integrate environmental considerations into decision making and programming, to give a high priority to helping developing countries improve their capacity to deal with environmental issues and concerns, and to work closely with Canadian and international partners to help them address the challenge of integrating environmental considerations into their activities. The policy encourages developing countries to work together with CIDA to implement comprehensive national programs that promote environmental sustainability.

In 1992, Canada estimated that during the previous five years CIDA had committed \$1.32 billion to environment and development programming directly relevant to Agenda 21.

One example of Canada's commitment was the decision to expand the mandate of the IDRC to be a lead organization in the implementation of Agenda 21, with a particular focus on sustainable and equitable development. The IDRC's annual funding of \$115 million is now directed to six core themes of Agenda 21: integrating environmental, social and economic policies; technology and the environment; food systems under stress; information and communication; health and the environment; and biodiversity.

Multilateral Development Assistance Organizations and Funding Mechanisms

Canada fully supports reform of international organizations and development assistance programming to ensure the incorporation of sustainable development principles. To that end, we attach considerable importance to donor co-ordination and participate actively in consultative mechanisms to ensure that the donor community can contribute in the most effective way to sustainable development.

Canada has pressed international organizations to better reflect sustainable development considerations in their operations. We have urged the International Monetary Fund to factor environmental considerations into the design of its macro-economic program. We have used the replenishment negotiations and annual meetings of the regional development banks and the World Bank to persuade those institutions to better integrate environmental and social factors into their analysis and operations.

The International Development Association (IDA), part of the World Bank, provides highly concessional financing for the world's poorest nations. Canada is an active participant in IDA and committed \$829 million to the replenishment that concluded