

Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), environmental impact assessments are also required for projects funded by DFAIT: for example, capital projects supported by export credits, foreign aid, and technical assistance. A Projects Outside Canada Regulation will be developed to provide the flexibility needed to meet foreign and international trade policy requirements. For export credits, the necessary Crown Corporation Regulation that will apply to the Export Development Corporation (EDC) has been postponed until international guidelines are developed.

DFAIT's overall environmental management responsibilities are outlined in the Canadian Code of Environmental Stewardship. The priorities are: a.) developing a departmental sustainable development strategy; and b.) implementing environmental management plans at missions abroad, including "green" procurement, waste reduction, and energy conservation programs.

The Office of the Coordinator for Environmental Assessment and Stewardship (JEN) (5 FTEs and an operating budget of \$70,000) coordinates the DFAIT environmental management plan. Branches are responsible for environmental impact assessments of projects and new policy and program initiatives. Headquarters Administrative Services Division (SBA) is responsible for the environmental management of the Pearson Building and other DFAIT occupied premises in Canada. The Physical Resources Bureau (SRD) is responsible for environmental impact assessments of Headquarters-funded property projects at missions and for functional guidance to missions on their environmental management responsibilities. Missions are responsible for the environmental management of DFAIT properties abroad. The Office of the Inspector General (SIX) is responsible for reviews of DFAIT's environmental management program.

A committee of senior managers and employee representatives will monitor and report on DFAIT's environmental management program. The Committee will be chaired by the Ambassador for the Environment, the Hon. John Fraser, and will include Branch Assistant Deputy Ministers.

Conclusion

While DFAIT has long been at the forefront of Canada's international environmental efforts, it is relatively new to environmental management and applying sustainable development considerations to the day to day management of departmental resources. For example, DFAIT does not yet have a comprehensive sustainable development strategy. Adoption of DFAIT'S first environmental management plan is an essential step towards meeting evolving Canadian legislative requirements and the government's strong commitment to the greening of federal government operations. Due diligence and continuous improvement will be needed to respond to scrutiny by the public, ministers, and the proposed Office of the Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development.