

perspective. While governments have taken various steps toward this goal, two continuing elements have been common goals and policies, and a structure and process that enable government agencies and the public to participate effectively in decision making.

For example, British Columbia set up the independent Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE) in 1992 to advise government on the development of a broad provincial land use strategy. To this end, CORE developed a provincial Land Use Charter that sets out principles of sustainability to guide natural resource planning and management. This charter was adopted in principle by the provincial government in 1993.

Other parts of British Columbia are subject to Land and Resource Management Planning, an interagency planning process that involves the public, key stakeholders, and Aboriginal and local governments working with provincial resource managers to prepare resource management objectives, strategies, and guidelines for approval by government.

Five provinces have developed provincial land use policies and implementation strategies: British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec. In the Northwest Territories and Yukon, regional land use planning processes are being put in place through the implementation of land claims agreements with Aboriginal people.

Five provinces have legislation that provides for regional planning across municipal boundaries: Alberta, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec. Traditionally, the focus of such plans is on regional issues, e.g., industrial land use, open space, and infrastructure issues. As this planning is being reviewed, sustainability is becoming a focus. For example, regional planning in Quebec is being revised to incorporate sustainable development considerations.

Integrated Resource Management Planning

Many integrated resource and land management planning efforts are under way at the provincial level, including strategies for wildlife, parks and protected areas, and forestry.

For example, Ontario and Alberta have structured approaches to resource land planning. The approaches offer a framework that permits the inclusion of additional issues in the planning process.

Federal and provincial governments are utilizing an ecosystem framework to provide a road map to more detailed information in various resource databases. This ecological framework will help in the assessment of current land use and resource management practices across Canada. For example, there are currently ten large-scale environmental studies, funded by Environment Canada's Eco-Research Program, focusing on a cross-disciplinary approach to ecosystem management and providing a series of sustainable development models on which to develop, test, and recommend management

Environment Canada's State of the Environment Directorate maintains the National Conservation Areas Data Base. Over 13 500 sites with some degree of protection are computer-linked to the World Conservation Union's framework of terrestrial and marine protected areas.