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# news release

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## **CANADA AND RUSSIA TO ESTABLISH MODEL FOREST PROJECT**

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Natural Resources Minister Anne McLellan today announced that Russia and Canada will work together to establish a model forest in Russia. Russia is the second partner in the International Model Forests Program.

Gaining interest worldwide, Canada's International Model Forests Program -- a \$10-million initiative -- is based on the success of the Canadian model forest network. Its purpose is to promote among developed and developing countries the sharing of concepts and technology related to the implementation of sustainable forest management and pave the way for additional partnerships.

"Canada welcomes the opportunity to have Russia as its partner in the International Model Forests Program. Co-operation between countries on difficult sustainable development issues is the key to their resolution. I am certain that this program will be a successful example that we can bring to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) when it reviews international forests issues in 1995," Mr. Ouellet said.

"Together, Canada and Russia account for almost 35 percent of the world's forests. It is essential that we share our knowledge and expertise to co-operate and preserve the world's forests for future generations. The International Model Forests Program enables nations to work together toward this important goal," Ms. McLellan said.

A Russian delegation, headed by the Chairman of the Russian Federal Forest Service, is visiting Canada this week to view several Canadian model forest sites. The delegation is developing a proposal for the Russian site, to be located in the eastern Siberian territory of Khabarovsk, approximately 500 km north of Vladivostock.