

Canada also provides an annual core contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Based in Kenya, UNEP focuses much of its work on environmental issues facing developing countries. Environment Canada also provided financial support to specific purpose funds managed by UNEP, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES), where Canada's contribution supports the participation of developing countries in the IPBES work program.

Canada supports multilateral organizations in advancing environmental research with developing country partners. For example, Canada's annual contribution to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research funds research and training in the Americas, while our contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Trust Fund provides travel support for developing country participation in the Trust Fund's meetings. By enabling their participation in these meetings, Canada is helping to build capacity within developing countries to make informed decisions regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### Canada's Contribution to the Pan American Health Organization

Canada has been an active member of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) since 1971, playing a leadership role in fostering good governance and advancing key program policy issues. Through PAHO, Canada advances multilateral and bilateral relations, provides technical assistance and supports capacity building in a number of areas.

PAHO is an international public health organization that works to improve health and living standards in the countries of the Americas. It is the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System, and serves as the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional office for the Americas. PAHO's mission is to lead strategic collaborative efforts among member states and other partners to promote equity in health, combat disease, and improve the quality of life and lengthen the lifespan of peoples of the Americas. Canada's assessed contribution to PAHO in support of this mission provides Canada with voting rights and allows Canada to advance priorities and influence global health issues.

### Canada's Contribution to the International Telecommunication Union

In 2014–2015, Canada contributed \$975,600 to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to support capacity building in development. The ITU is the UN specialized agency responsible for coordinating the global development of telecommunications. Its mandate is to enable the growth and sustained development of telecommunications and information networks and to facilitate universal access in the emerging information society and global economy.

ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and over 700 private-sector entities and academic institutions. As the global focal point for governments and the private sector, the ITU's main activities span three core sectors: radio communications, telecommunication standardization and telecommunication development. Industry Canada is Canada's official representative in the ITU, and Canada has served as an elected ITU governing council member since 1947.

In 2014, the ITU provided assistance for the installation of broadband wireless networks in seven African countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Lesotho, Mali, Rwanda and Swaziland), thereby providing free or low-cost digital access for schools and hospitals, and for underserved populations in rural and remote areas.

ITU also worked with 10 countries to implement mobile health projects to combat chronic diseases and their risk factors in the context of the joint

## PARKS CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURE CONSERVANCY

Ensuring environmental sustainability is one of the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals. Parks Canada's multilateral funding contributes to the achievement of this goal, as well as to the thematic priorities of Canada's international assistance, especially securing the future of children and youth and ensuring safety and stability.

In 2014–2015, Parks Canada's official development assistance was provided to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). While each of these organizations carries out its work globally, Canada's funding is earmarked for projects in less-developed countries.

UNESCO's World Heritage mission is to encourage international cooperation in the conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage. Parks Canada's multilateral funding contributes toward the work of the World Heritage Fund, intended to supplement national efforts for the conservation and management of world heritage sites when adequate resources cannot be secured at the national level. For example, in 2014–2015, the World Heritage Fund provided funding to Rwanda for the preparation of an inventory of sites related to the Rwandan Genocide that would be suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List. Should these sites be inscribed on the World Heritage List, they would constitute Rwanda's first World Heritage sites.

Environmental sustainability is an important aspect of global economic and social well-being, and as such contributes to the above-noted thematic priorities of Canada's international assistance. In 2014, Parks Canada, in collaboration with other Canadian and international organizations, was a lead organization of the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress program stream, "Inspiring a New Generation." As a result of Parks Canada's leadership and engagement with IUCN, this initiative is now gaining momentum within the IUCN and with external partners as a foundational approach for ensuring that current and future leaders across all sectors of society care about nature and take action to support its conservation.