

Council and the Indian Environmental Partnership Program. Forest management, biological diversity and the prevention of marine pollution have been identified as areas of concern for indigenous people.

- The creation of sustainable development/conservation strategies that focus on indigenous issues through a variety of avenues. In Canada for example, federal departments are developing sustainable development strategies for their programs and services, as required by legislation. Departments are working in cooperation with Aboriginal people, as part of this process. Furthermore, environmental co-management and related environmental programs have become a significant feature of comprehensive land claims settlements and of self-government negotiations.
- A role for indigenous people as stakeholders when reviewing the progress achieved since UNCED and development of strong linkages among related international plans of action which have acknowledged a role for indigenous communities in the areas of sustainable development and conservation. The Biodiversity Convention, Habitat and the World Food Summit are a few examples.
- The exploration of roles for traditional knowledge of indigenous people in sustainable development programs and policies. This work will continue within Canada and will draw upon work from other States and international fora.

International Cooperation

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the role of developing countries in the international community grows ever more important. Encouraging international cooperation to advance the global sustainable development agenda therefore requires an effective development cooperation program that promotes sustainable development in the developing world by addressing environmental, economic, political and social issues in an integrated manner.

Enormous disparities in wealth threaten to undermine the prospects for sustainable development in many regions of the developing world. Asia, for example, has been home to the world's fastest growing economy for more than two decades – yet it continues to house half the world's poor. If economic growth and resource consumption in the developing world continue to increase as projected, the productive and absorptive capacities of the global ecosystem will soon be overwhelmed. Actions must be taken to ensure the environmental sustainability of all future development before it is too late.

Canada supports the following initiatives: