

Recommendation No. 12

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada, working with the provinces and territories, consider the necessity of legislation to conserve biological diversity within Canada, and take immediate steps to develop an integrated legislative approach to the protection of endangered species, habitat, ecosystems and biodiversity in Canada.

The Committee was told that the preservation of biodiversity and impacts upon endangered species have not been expressly included as factors to be considered in environmental assessments under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, which has been passed by Parliament but is not yet proclaimed. Stewart Elgie suggested to the Committee that all federal environmental assessments should consider the effects of projects on biodiversity in general, and endangered, threatened and vulnerable species in particular. The members of the Committee are concerned that Canada's commitments under the Biodiversity Convention may have implications for the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and its application. Indeed, the Committee expects that Canada's new obligations are being considered in the context of environmental assessment decisions under the existing regime, the *Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP) Guidelines Order*.

Recommendation No. 13

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that its environmental assessments take full account of Canada's obligations under the Biodiversity Convention.

The Committee heard about, and has discussed above, the importance of preserving biodiversity by setting aside 12% of the eco-regions of Canada. Biodiversity should become an important criterion in the selection and management of Canada's national parks, according to Stewart Elgie, to implement paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 8 of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, which deal with the concept of setting aside protected areas where special measures need to be taken to protect biological diversity. Some members of the Committee felt it important to cast this suggestion in the light of the Committee's continued commitment to all the purposes of Canada's national parks, such as their important role in the education, enjoyment and recreation of Canadians.

Recommendation No. 14

The Committee recommends that the policies of Parks Canada and the regulations promulgated under the *National Parks Act* fully reflect and fulfill Canada's obligations under the Biodiversity Convention.