news release

IMPLEMENTATION OF CANADA-MEXICO
MODEL FOREST PROJECTS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Natural Resources
Minister Anne McLellan today announced the twinning of two model
forest projects in Mexico with the Canadian Model Forest network.
The twinning is part of Canada's International Model Forests
Program announced by Canada at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro
in June 1992. Mexico was the first to join Canada as a partner
in this program, followed by Russia.

"International forest issues are an environmental foreign policy
priority for Canada. The twinning of projects between Canada and
Mexico is a clear indication that co-operation between countries
on difficult sustainable development issues is key to their
resolution," Mr. Ouellet said.

"The search for models of sustainable forest management is a
common goal of many countries. By working together on the
definition of practical, working level approaches to sustainable
forest management, both our countries will benefit," Ms. McLellan
added.

The Calakmul Model Forest, with an area of approximately 600 000
ha, is located in the southwest of Campeche State and includes
the largest remaining area of tropical rainforest in Mexico.
This project will be twinned with the Eastern Ontario Model
Forest, which stretches from Ottawa to Cornwall and Brockville.
The Forêt habitée project in the Lower Saint Lawrence region of
Quebec will also provide technical expertise to the twinning.
The three sites share common interest in the relationship between
agriculture and forestry, conservation of wildlife habitat, and
development of rural economy.

The second project is a 105 000 ha model forest located in the
state of Chihuahua, in the northern part of the Western Sierra
Madre Mountains. This project will be twinned with the Foothills
Forest located in west-central Alberta, adjacent to Jasper
National Park. Both of these model forests share a mountainous
terrain covered with forests of pine, a critical focus on