

PART IV

FOLLOW-UP TO 1995

CSD SECTORAL ISSUES

On 13 November 1995, in Jakarta, Indonesia, delegates to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity expressed their confidence in Canada by selecting Montreal as home to the Permanent Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Conservation of Biological Diversity

After several years of work, the federal, provincial, and territorial governments released the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in November 1995. The strategy was discussed extensively in last year's Report of Canada to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Governments are pursuing its implementation in cooperation with stakeholders and the public.

For example, the Quebec government has developed a biodiversity strategy that describes more than 200 actions to be implemented over the next four years. The British Columbia government has issued a Biodiversity Guidebook to support the biodiversity objectives of the B.C. Forest Practices Code.

Engaging Canadians

Governments and nongovernmental organizations are addressing gaps in information and public understanding. Early in 1995, eight national conservation organizations formed the Canadian Coalition for Biodiversity. It is raising public awareness and has already produced information and education materials.

Encouraging personal action is a focus of programs such as the British Columbia government's Backyard Biodiversity Program. Organizations such as the Evergreen Foundation and the Canadian Wildlife Federation have expanded schoolyard and community naturalization and education programs.

Protecting Species at Risk

In 1995, Canadian governments agreed on the need for a strengthened, better coordinated approach to endangered species conservation. The federal government held public consultations on a national approach to this issue. The federal Environment Minister then released a "plain language" version of a possible Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act for further public comments.