



Canada's Contribution to Multilateral Environmental Organizations

Canada recognizes the significance of international cooperation on environmental issues, and environmental sustainability is an essential element for global economic and social well-being. For developing countries that depend on ecosystem goods and services for their livelihood, environmental changes caused by the overexploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation harm their most vulnerable populations. As a result, efforts to preserve and improve the environment in developing countries lead to enhanced fulfillment of basic needs, improved living standards, and a safer, more prosperous future.

Environment Canada's international engagement and ODA programs contribute to sustainable development. For example, more than 95 percent of the mercury deposited in Canada comes from foreign sources, and this disproportionately impacts Canada's North and northern communities. Canada's work with developing countries to tackle their environment challenges increases the well-being of Canadians and the environment.

Support to various multilateral organizations was provided to assist developing countries in improving environmental conditions, and therefore, improving the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in these countries. Canada provides annual support to the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montréal Protocol, which works to ensure that the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances does not adversely affect the economies of developing countries. Environment Canada provided funds for Canada's annual core contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Based in Kenya, an important part of the UNEP's work focuses on environmental issues facing developing countries.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Increasing environmental sustainability is one of Canada's crosscutting themes for international development and a Millennium Development Goal. Canada assesses all of its development assistance activities for potential risks and opportunities with respect to environmental sustainability, and works with its partner countries to ensure that they have the capacity to do the same. This includes enhancing partners' abilities to manage natural resources and address issues such as desertification and climate change.

For example, in 2013–2014, Parks Canada provided more than \$2 million, in the context of the broader Fast-Start Program, to Kenya, Chile, Colombia and Mexico to establish and manage national parks and other protected areas in their respective countries and to support climate-change adaptation efforts.

Financial support was provided to specific-purpose funds managed by the UNEP, such as support to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a global agreement negotiated under the auspices of UNEP to reduce mercury emissions and releases to the environment, UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership Programme, as well as the UNEP Global Environment Monitoring System Water Programme.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, Environment Canada is a member of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, which implements projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America to promote poverty reduction through environmentally sustainable initiatives. The Group on Earth Observations, which was launched in response to calls for action by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, is also supported. Another important annual contribution is to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), as well as voluntary contributions to WMO-managed trust funds, which support developing countries in strengthening their national meteorological and hydrological services, ensuring citizens receive important information about climate.

Canada provided a contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Trust Fund, where the focus was on climate-change-related support to developing countries in undertaking mitigation, adaptation, and reporting actions, as well as support to Peru in their preparations to hold the Conference of the Parties presidency and host that body's biannual meeting in 2014.

Moreover, through bilateral agreements with Peru, Colombia, Chile, and Panama, Environment Canada engages in technical cooperation and capacity building on environmental issues that directly affect the environment and well-being of developing-country citizens. This includes support for the implementation of Canada's bilateral environment agreements with Colombia, Chile and Peru, as well as capacity-building initiatives on key environmental issues, such as the development of effective strategies for the management of the coastal blue carbon ecosystems in Panama and Colombia.

Canada's Contribution to the Pan American Health Organization

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is an international public health organization that works to improve health and living standards of peoples living in the Americas. It is the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System, and serves as the regional office for the Americas of the World Health Organization. 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 has been an active member of 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.