

Support for the building of regional capacity and institutions has figured prominently in CIDA support. The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)–Canada Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology Project, which extended from 1983 to 1998, helped southeast Asian nations to increase fish production for export and supported institution building through the provision of training, education, and technical assistance. Since 1984, the ASEAN–Canada Cooperative Programme on Marine Science has been supporting regional cooperation in marine environmental research, including the establishment of environmental criteria, pollution monitoring, and Red Tide studies. In the Caribbean, CIDA supports the CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Fisheries Resource Assessment and Management Programme to help Commonwealth Caribbean countries achieve the capacity for scientific assessment and management of their fisheries resources. The Canada–South Pacific Ocean Development Program focuses on strengthening regional opportunities. These are examples of CIDA's special attention to the unique needs of Small Island Developing States, both in terms of direct assistance and in promoting regional cooperation.

CIDA's recently published Strategy for Ocean Management and Development calls for a focus on five main areas of support that reflect the priority needs of developing countries in this era:

- establishment of a framework for sustainable ocean development, an ocean policy, and related law
- development of knowledge bases in fisheries and marine science
- management of the uses of the ocean and coordination and management of coastal zones, shipping, and environment
- fisheries management and development
- aquaculture/mariculture development.

Canada has worked closely with a number of developing countries through the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the Université du Québec à Rimouski, at Rimouski, Quebec.

CANADA'S NEXT STEPS

For Canada, the coming years will mean an increasing focus on its oceans. Delivery on a number of oceans programs and continued emphasis on public education and awareness, as well as further progress in meeting international commitments, will be key to achieving its vision for healthy, safe, and productive oceans for the benefit of present and future generations.

Domestically, Canada will move from pilot Marine Protected Areas to the designation of Marine Protected Areas with enforceable regulations. It will continue to pursue an integrated approach to the planning and management of oceans activities and will develop guidelines, criteria, and