

Other ways to co-operate with developing countries are being put in place. The World Bank, working with UNEP and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is creating a Global Environment Facility (GEF). This Facility will provide resources to deal with problems such as protecting the ozone layer, biodiversity and international waters and combatting global warming. Canada supports the GEF concept and has been involved in its planning from the start.

Political change in Central and Eastern Europe has led to new initiatives on the environment. The Environmental Protection Centre for Central and Eastern Europe has recently been established in Budapest as a source of information and assistance to address the region's critical environmental problems. Canada is a founding member of the Centre and contributes financially to its activities and projects.

### **Bilateral Partnerships**

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Geography dictates that our single most important environmental partner is the United States. Both Canada and the United States have established institutions and mechanisms to minimize the detrimental effects we have on our shared environment.

Co-operation on acid rain, as mentioned above, is one example. Improving water quality in the Great Lakes is another. The International Joint Commission (IJC), the first of many Canadian-American bilateral organizations to be formed, was established in 1912 to deal mainly with the conservation and development of water resources around the Great Lakes. The IJC developed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, signed by both countries in 1972 and expanded twice since then. Based on the idea that improving water quality requires that the whole ecosystem of the region be considered, the Agreement commits Canada and the U.S. to a range of measures to restore and maintain ecosystem integrity in and around the Great Lakes.

Another area of Canada-U.S. environmental co-operation is in the protection of migratory bird populations. Since early in this century, bird habitats have been altered by agricultural activities and urbanization in both countries. Efforts to protect bird habitats have given rise to the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds, established between the United States and Canada in 1916 and recently extended to include Mexico. The 1986 North American Waterfowl Management Plan went a step further by bringing together governments and private interests to help manage and protect approximately 2.5 million hectares of waterfowl habitat.

Joint efforts in dealing with common resource management and environmental problems will continue. For example, between 50 and 60 per cent of the smog in the Windsor-Quebec City corridor comes from U.S. sources. The Canadian government is working with the United States on an agreement to address this problem through improvements to the Transboundary Air Quality Agreement.