

Through the Investment Cooperation Program (INC), managed by DFATD, Canada provides support to Canadian businesses that are making sustainable investments in developing countries. In 2013–2014, INC helped 32 Canadian companies do business in 16 developing countries. For example, INC helped fund community-transition programming associated with the closure of a mine in Mongolia. This resulted in the development of an economic transition plan, the training of local artisanal miners and community-based natural resource monitors, activities to strengthen the capacity of local communities to manage their mining legacy, and work with leading-edge programs in Mongolia to build the capacity of small-scale miners to participate in environmental monitoring.

Several other new initiatives supported by DFATD in 2013–2014 promoted business development and the financial sector. For example, in Colombia, two new projects are helping small-scale producers scale up agricultural production and develop new value chains for their products, while also improving financial literacy and increasing producers' access to agricultural credit and crop insurance. In Vietnam, Canada's support to business license reform contributed to estimated savings for businesses of US\$15 million per year in compliance costs in targeted areas.

## MANAGING THE WORLD'S FOREST RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER



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Achieving sustainable economic growth while at the same time managing forest resources is demanding due to complex challenges presented by poverty and increasing pressures to develop the land. Since 2009, Natural Resources Canada, through the African Model Forest Network, has supported improved conservation and sustainable management of forest resources in francophone Africa, including in the Congo Basin and Mediterranean region (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia). The Model Forest Network features an integrated approach and participatory management of natural resources that has been promoted by Canada for more than 20 years. This initiative is a follow-up to the commitment to take action in stabilizing financial markets and support sustainable forest management made by Canada to the 2008 Francophonie Summit in Québec.

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE



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Because people are at the core of sustainable economic growth, developing countries need to create opportunities that allow the poor, particularly women and youth, to reach their potential by developing new skills, expanding knowledge, and breaking down the barriers that limit opportunity.

In 2013–2014, with Canada's support, significant progress has been achieved in increasing individuals' skills for employment. In Bangladesh, stipends were made available to 17,776 students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, including 4,364 women, to attend technical and vocation education and training programs; and local employers are becoming more involved in identifying the skills needed for various emerging industries.

In Colombia, 2,211 young people (1,263 women and 948 men) received technical and vocational training in 11 areas such as agribusiness, waste management and food marketing; and 39 youth-led business plans were approved.

In 2013, DFATD supported a new initiative to address youth unemployment in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. This contribution to the Canadian organization Digital Opportunity Trust, along with other donors, will increase incomes of male and female youth in selected areas by improving their employment readiness and giving them the skills they need to run small businesses.

And also in 2013, the IDRC partnered with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to launch Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women, a five-year research program. This initiative aims to generate new evidence on women's participation in labour markets, entrepreneurship, the care economy, and how gender equality affects growth in low-income countries.