

CIDA has also contributed to building marine affairs institutions in a number of countries. Examples are the Malaysian Institute of Marine Affairs and the Philippines Institute of Marine Affairs. In both cases, national centres of excellence are joint ventures between CIDA and the respective governments. In order to respond to Chapter 17 commitments of Agenda 21, CIDA has updated its oceans, marine affairs, and fisheries database to include Canadian ocean capacity and to improve information/ data with national and international development communities.

Working with Small Island Developing States

Canada and small island developing states share a common and deep interest in the conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans resources. These states have been an important focus of Canada's international oceans-related cooperation.

Through CIDA, Canada is supporting Commonwealth Caribbean island states by funding a regional fisheries assessment and management program. This program is geared toward management, conservation, and sustainable exploitation of their fishery and oceans resources.

Canada has largely directed its bilateral assistance program in the South Pacific toward groups involved in oceans resources management. The Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project is aimed at strengthening key regional organizations in oceans resource development and management.

NEXT STEPS

The coming years will be active for Canada as it delivers its oceans programs. With the Oceans Act coming into force in January 1997, the OMS process will commence. This will facilitate a collaborative effort toward oceans policy development in Canada. The establishment of marine protected areas will likely be a key activity of this process. Pursuing an integrated