

- Canadian exports to Central America in 1999 were worth \$335.2 million and included machinery, newsprint, foodstuffs, and telecommunications equipment. Canadian imports in 1999 totalled \$470.4 million and included coffee, bananas and other fruit, vegetables, and seafood.

### **Development co-operation**

- Canada has provided \$1.2 billion in development support to the Central American region since 1967, with an annual average of \$65 million between 1996 and 1999.
- CIDA's programs concentrate on four priority areas: (1) democratic development, good governance and human rights; (2) basic human needs and poverty reduction; (3) sustainable management of natural resources; and (4) provision of infrastructure services, with a particular emphasis on water and energy.
- Regional projects in Central America include the Regional Energy Project, which is helping implement electrical energy reforms, and the Gender Equality Fund, which promotes the full participation of women in the development of their societies.
- Several CIDA projects focus specifically on natural resources and environmental issues. These include the Hardwood Forest Development Project and the Support to Sustainable Natural Resource Management Project in Honduras as well as the completed Arenal Conservation and Development Project in Costa Rica. Environmental Management Funds, the result of a conversion of Canadian Official Development Assistance debt, exist for Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Costa Rica. These funds support projects promoting the sound management of natural resources, environmental protection and sustainable development.
- Canada has also supported the Central American Commission for Environment and Development and continues to contribute to the environmental work being done by many Canadian NGOs and their Central American counterparts.
- CIDA programs focus on countries most affected by poverty. These include Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador.
- Through a debt-for-development program for selected Latin American countries, Canada has forgiven about \$84 million owed by Central American countries since 1992. In 1999 Canada also contributed \$8 million to the Central America Emergency Trust Fund of the World Bank to help relieve multilateral debt obligations.