

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has created a checklist that addresses some of the sectoral issues raised by Agenda 21 and has encouraged its members to consider this list and its revised sustainable development policy as they develop local strategies.

International

A cornerstone of Canada's foreign policy is global progress on sustainable development issues. Canada is well positioned to participate in the resolution of these issues through activity in many key intergovernmental organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system.

We have helped develop many international agreements with sustainable development objectives, inside and outside the UNCED context. An example is the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS). It commits the eight arctic circumpolar states to a program of environmental protection and sustainable development that includes the indigenous peoples of the region.

(a) The Convention on Biological Diversity

Canadian governments undertook to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Biodiversity Convention) well before ratification. As the various orders of government have different responsibilities over natural resources, their ministers co-operated to endorse a follow-up plan. This includes the preparation of a Canadian Biodiversity Strategy by November 1994.

The development of this strategy is a co-operative effort by governments, with advice provided by the Biodiversity Convention Advisory Group, which consists of representatives from a variety of sectors including environment, parks and wildlife, forestry, fisheries, agriculture, mining, biotechnology, law, academia, business, labour and indigenous people.

Federal, provincial and territorial governments, through the CCME, the Canadian Parks Ministers' Council, and the Wildlife Ministers' Council of Canada, have developed a joint commitment to complete Canada's network of protected areas. They are co-operating to expand park systems and to protect special spaces and species, with a goal to set aside 12 percent of the country as protected space.

(b) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Canadian governments and representatives of major groups, particularly industry, have been pursuing the domestic implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the quick-start agenda on climate change announced at UNCED. Canada has ratified the convention and is committed to adopting measures

The Government of New Brunswick has launched a number of new water management programs:

- *the Watershed Protection Program, to control land use activities and establish buffers along watercourses;*

- *the Groundwater Protection Program, to protect aquifers for municipal drinking water through a process of controlling land use activities within municipal well fields; and*

- *the River Classification Program, to establish water quality standards in rivers and lakes and address the sustainability of land use activities within watersheds.*