

share their experiences, expertise, and information and help each other achieve their own suites of local-level indicators. As of March 31, 1999, each model forest had developed a set of indicators. Although some sites are in the process of refining their initial master set of local-level indicators, several are beginning to develop protocols for monitoring and reporting the indicators.

Canada's Science and Technology Community Gets Involved

In 1997, participants at the National Forest Science and Technology Forum agreed that more and better information was needed to measure and report on progress toward sustainable forest management. The forest science and technology community met later that same year to draft an action plan to ensure that Canada's forest policies and practices integrate environmental, social, and economic values. The resulting *National Forest Science and Technology Course of Action (1998–2003)* was incorporated into the National Forest Strategy to meet the need for the sustainable development of the forest, the forest industry, and forest-based communities and to advance C&I for sustainable forest management.

September 1998 saw the creation of a forest industry research agency coalition (FORCAST) intended to facilitate the sharing and development of new technologies. (To date, 10 federal, provincial, and territorial governments and 13 nongovernmental stakeholder organizations have joined the private, nonprofit entity.) The *National Forest Science and Technology Course of Action* was distributed to the forest science community in February 1999, and FORCAST began championing its implementation.

As a forest nation, Canada is also participating in international efforts to build a common vision of sustainable forest management and is sharing its expertise in forest science and technology with developing nations.

Improving Canada's Knowledge of Its Forests: New Data Collection Systems

In establishing and reporting on the C&I framework, Canada has faced challenges in developing new approaches to data collection and management (particularly for nontimber values), in developing tools to measure social values, and in expanding its knowledge of forest ecosystems. With respect to new approaches to data collection and management, a number of initiatives have evolved in response to measuring sustainable forest management.

A new National Forest Inventory is being proposed that will be consistent nationally, provide change and trend estimates, be