

collaboration with the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. This program will provide a better basis for assessing the interactions of the environment and the economy and will improve the ability of governments, business, and nongovernmental organizations to measure Canada's environmental performance and, in conjunction with economic performance, to report on progress toward sustainable development. Provincial/territorial reports on the state of the environment were initially published in 1991 by British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, Yukon, and Nova Scotia. In Ontario, the Office of the Environmental Commissioner has published annual reports since 1994 that examine all provincial government activities, or the lack thereof, under the Environmental Bill of Rights. Reports are also published by nongovernmental organizations. For example, Wildlife Habitat Canada produces reports on the status of wildlife habitat in Canada.

A GLOBAL EFFORT

The integrity of ecosystems in Canada depends on cooperation with international partners. Our ecozones stretch south into the United States and north into other circumpolar nations. Species migrate across the North American continent by land, water, and air. For example, marine fish and salmon migrate through Canadian and American waters in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Air and water quality, like that of the health of migrating species, can be degraded. Long-range transport of pollutants originating in other countries is affecting many parts of Canada from the Arctic through to the southern areas. Illegal wildlife trade, climate change, and depletion of the ozone layer all pose threats to ecosystems important to Canada and require global solutions.

As with our domestic activities, there is evidence of movement toward an ecosystem approach in Canada's international partnerships. Through hundreds of initiatives, Canada is working with other countries to develop solutions and share best practices so that ecosystems of local and global importance are protected, conserved, and rehabilitated through joint actions. Some of these initiatives focus on shared ecosystems. For example, Canada is working in cooperation with the seven other circumpolar countries to protect the shared Arctic ecosystem through the Arctic Council, a high-level intergovernmental forum established in 1996. The council has established working groups to deliver the following programs: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment; Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna; Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment; Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response; and Sustainable Development. Through the latter group, the council is cooperating on projects as diverse as improving the health

North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Through the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Canada, the United States, and Mexico have recently classified and mapped the ecological regions of North America. The commission's programs to enhance the protection and conservation of North American ecosystems and biodiversity include developing strategies based on priority ecoregions, cooperating to protect marine and coastal area ecosystems, and supporting the conservation of migratory and transboundary species.