

- Within the World Climate Research Programme, Canadian scientists participate in several large-scale international climate studies. As a member of the World Meteorological Organization, Canada maintains a monitoring network that contributes to the Global Climate Observing System and the World Weather Watch. Environment Canada maintains the World Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Data Centre.
- Environment Canada manages a centre at the National Water Research Institute to support the Global Environment Monitoring System for water (GEMS/Water) under the United Nations Environment Programme.
- Canada hosts the Canadian Biodiversity Information Network, a national node in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing-house Mechanism, a global system of Internet-based databases that, among other things, helps build capacity to achieve convention goals, including the sustainable use of biodiversity.

### **GEMS/Water**

*The Global Environment Monitoring System for water (GEMS/Water) participates in global water assessments undertaken by the United Nations and carries out research into regional and global freshwater quality. More than one hundred countries now participate in the GEMS/Water network, contributing data from their national monitoring programs to help build a global database for rivers, lakes, and groundwater. GEMS/Water also addresses the development of technical capacity in participating countries through UN-sponsored training courses in the field of water resources management.*

## **Partnerships with Developing Countries**

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is the primary agency for delivering Canada's development assistance program and the technical cooperation program with economies in transition. Recognizing the value of the Information Highway in supporting its development goals, CIDA is realigning its way of doing business to place the creation, transfer, and management of knowledge at the centre of its activities.

For example, CIDA

- established the new \$100-million Canada Climate Change Development Fund under the federal budget in 2000 to help developing countries in the areas of greenhouse gas emission reductions, carbon sequestration, adaptation, and core capacity building for climate change
- co-funds an initiative called Bellanet to help international development organizations use information and communication technologies to work together more effectively