

Canada has committed to adopting an even faster schedule for eliminating these chemicals, promising to phase out CFCs completely by 1997.

- The Montreal Protocol Secretariat is located in Montreal.

SUSTAINING THE WORLD'S FORESTS

Forestry is vital to our economy. Canada is endowed with approximately 10 per cent of the world's forests, and the export value of our forest products is higher than that of any other country. Each year, forestry generates over \$44 billion in economic activity and accounts for 1 of every 15 Canadian jobs.

Forests are also essential to environmental quality; they play a key role in the planetary recycling of carbon, nitrogen and oxygen and help stem global warming by acting as "carbon sinks." Forests influence temperature and rainfall, regulate the quality and quantity of freshwater systems and are responsible for a large portion of world economic activity. As home to innumerable plant and animal species, loss of forests is a major cause of reduction in biological diversity.

The world's forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, about 17 million hectares of forest are lost annually, mostly in tropical regions. Over three decades, this is equal to an area the size of India.

- Recognizing the seriousness of international deforestation, Prime Minister Mulroney joined with others at the 1990 G-7 Summit held in Houston to call for an instrument to promote sustainable development and conservation of the world's forests. Because of its importance for Canada's economy, Canada favours the development of an international instrument on forestry through the United Nations process. Multilateral efforts are now under way to bring forward a global statement of principles for the conservation and sustainable development of the world's forests. Canada will ensure that this safeguards our national interest as well as the world's forests, while helping promote Canadian competitiveness in this vital sector.
- Canada is taking part in international initiatives to promote sustainable forestry practices. Our international aid agency, the Canadian International Development Agency, has long been one of the leading supporters of international forestry programs such as the Tropical Forestry Action Program, which has succeeded in more than doubling the amount of foreign assistance to sustainable forest management in developing countries.
- At home, the Canadian federal and provincial governments are forging partnerships with industry to manage our forest resources in a way that maintains their future productivity and capacity for regeneration.