

tools. Last year alone, 13 projects were funded for a total of \$422 000. In 1994/95, \$460 000 will be spent on developing a carbon budget model; on studying the interaction between forest productivity, vegetation, and climate; and on examining peatland carbon sequestration, litter decomposition, and forest decline, to name a few of these projects.

Challenges and Next Steps

The shift to forest ecosystem management presents new challenges and opportunities. These include implementing ecosystem management, changing the traditional approach to how research is conducted, and how the concept is put into practice. Assessing the impact of new policies, legislation, and guidelines that promote greater sustainable forest management will be the next step in measuring progress toward achieving UNCED commitments, including aspects related to participatory decision making.

While significant strides have been made in recent years to improve the way the public is involved, we have not yet fully reached truly meaningful consultations in all cases. However, we have learned along the way that embarking on such processes entails clearly defining objectives, setting timelines, and delineating roles and responsibilities. We have also learned that teamwork functions more smoothly when members understand how information is to be used and how decisions can affect other sectors.

The challenges faced by industry and communities dependent on the forest sector in adjusting to changes brought about by a move away from traditional forest practices are daunting as well. Coping with potential new costs associated with restructuring, diminishing investment dollars, and job loss are but a few of the major preoccupations.

On the international front, Canada recognized the importance of moving forward on harmonizing criteria and indicators for all types of forests worldwide and is looking forward to eventually participating in such an exercise. It also sees the need to ensure that activities promoting greater sustainable forest management complement initiatives undertaken within the context of the conventions on biological diversity, climate change, and desertification.

Domestically, the forest sector will continue to monitor its performance as it moves into the next century. A second independent evaluation of the implementation of its national forest strategy, scheduled for the end of the strategy's five-year term in 1997, will determine the degree to which Canada has achieved its goals in this regard. Internationally, Canada intends to remain active in worldwide efforts to implement UNCED forest commitments.