

Management of Canada's water resources requires continuing arrangements within all jurisdictions. Federal-provincial agreements under the Canada Water Act provide for water basin management programs and include agreements for joint study of water management in specific areas. Arrangements may be made to co-ordinate federal and provincial water quality monitoring programs and to exchange data.

Many other formal and informal federal-provincial programs are related to specific aspects of renewable resources and the environment such as fisheries, forest and wildlife management, hydrometric data gathering, flood damage assistance and flood control, forest pest control and weather forecasting.

Specific non-recurring joint programs are developed from time to time. An example is the Canada/Ontario study to determine Great Lakes shoreline damage resulting from high water levels and to provide the basis for recommendations on long-term remedial and protective measures.

1.6.2 International programs

Canada takes part in two distinct types of multilateral programs — those primarily environmental and those which focus primarily on resource conservation and management, mainly of the aquatic environment. For example, Canada belongs to a 17-member international council for exploration of the sea which encourages and co-ordinates studies of marine environment with particular reference to living resources of the sea, primarily in the North Sea and North Atlantic. Canada is also a member of 10 international fisheries commissions established under formal conventions. These commissions investigate specific living marine resources in defined areas.

Canada participates in the international hydrological program set up under UNESCO to facilitate a better scientific understanding of hydrological phenomena, and provided the chairman of the intergovernmental council for the program during the biennium 1975-77. Canada also participates in the operational hydrological program set up under World Meteorological Organization auspices. These two international programs are closely co-ordinated.

In 1974 the World Health Organization designated the inland waters directorate's principal research laboratory, the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (CCIW), as its international collaboration centre for surface and groundwater quality; and CCIW continued to act as lead institute in the lake eutrophication measurement program for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Canada played a leading role in the United Nations water conference in Argentina in March 1977, a policy conference on co-ordinated water management at the national level. Canada also took part in the UN conference on growth of desert lands in Nairobi in August 1977; this examined the extent of desert encroachment on other land and sought ways to restore affected areas.

Canada has also been active in the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), a specialized agency of the UN, particularly on the marine environment protection committee. In October 1973, IMCO sponsored an international conference on marine pollution which drafted an agreement regulating intentional and negligent discharges of oil and other harmful substances by ships and other equipment. The international convention on dumping of wastes at sea, formulated in accordance with a recommendation of the Stockholm UN conference and opened for signature in December 1972, has been signed and ratified by Canada. Canada has been an active member in meetings concerning that convention.

Canada was deeply involved in preparations for the third UN conference on the law of the sea. The procedural session opened in New York in December 1973 and substantive sessions took place in Caracas in 1974, Geneva in 1975 and New York in the summer of 1976. Among issues dealt with were sovereign rights over resources of the continental shelf, rights concerning management and conservation of living resources in coastal waters, rights of coastal states to protect their marine environment, rights to control scientific research in zones of maritime jurisdiction, and rights of all states to the disposition of seabed riches beyond national jurisdiction for the benefit of all mankind.

Among broad multilateral environmental organizations, the United Nations Environment Program has a governing council composed of representatives from