

## PART III: GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ON INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

### Background

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), at its 11<sup>th</sup> session, re-affirmed the importance of indicators for sustainable development and encouraged further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level, including integration of gender aspects, on a voluntary basis, in line with national conditions and priorities.

### Questions

1. Do you have a national programme or initiative to develop and/or use indicators for sustainable development?

Yes

No (Please describe your plans to develop such a programme or initiative).

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If yes:

- (i) When was it established?

- There are several programmes in Canada, listed below, which use indicators for sustainable development to measure Canada's performance.
- The first such program was The National Environmental Indicators Program, which was conceived in 1992 (**see footnote<sup>1</sup>**) as a partial response by Environment Canada to Agenda 21 (Chapter 40, par. 40.7).

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#### <sup>1</sup> A brief history

The process of identifying and developing indicators has been evolving since Environment Canada's State of the Environment Directorate (SOED) began focusing work in this area in 1988–89. Impetus was provided by the G7 at their 1989 Economic Summit in Paris. This Group requested the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to begin development of environmental indicators in the context of integrated environmental and economic decision-making. Canada took up the challenge and in Canada's Green Plan (1990), made a government-wide commitment to develop a preliminary national set of environmental indicators and initiate stakeholder consultations by mid-1991. A comprehensive set was to be developed with regular reporting beginning in 1993.

A Report on Canada's Progress Towards a National Set of Environmental Indicators (SOE Report 91-1), presenting 43 preliminary indicators in eighteen issue areas, was released in April 1991 to widespread stakeholder and media interest. The preliminary environmental indicator set has been serving as the basis for ongoing consultations on indicator development with federal, provincial and territorial departments and agencies, environmental and other non-government organisations and private sector stakeholders.

- In 2000 the Government of Canada funded the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy to develop a small set of Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators ([http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/programs/Current\\_Programs/SDIndicators/index.html](http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/programs/Current_Programs/SDIndicators/index.html)).
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(ii) What is the name of the programme or initiative?

There are several sector based programs on SD indicators in Canada. Each is housed in the department or agency accountable for that sector.

- Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators, recently developed by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy and intended to be reported by Statistics Canada.
  - National Environmental Indicators Program – in Environment Canada - produces the National Environmental Indicator Series, most recently in the form of an indicators report entitled *Environmental Signals: Canada's National Environmental Indicator Series 2003* (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/soer-ree/English/default.cfm>).
  - Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Canada – developed by Canadian Council of Forest Ministers ([http://www.ccfm.org/ci/2000\\_e.html](http://www.ccfm.org/ci/2000_e.html)). - these are indicators on forestry which are compatible with the international process known as the Montreal Process for Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests.
  - Energy/Energy consumption - developed by The Office of Energy Efficiency — [http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/neud/dpa/all\\_sectors.cfm](http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/neud/dpa/all_sectors.cfm)).
  - Agri-Environmental Indicator Series – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (<http://www.agr.gc.ca/policy/environment/pdfs/aei/fullreport.pdf>), measure progress on sustainable agriculture;
  - Sustainable Transportation Indicators – Transport Canada (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/sd/strategy97/menu.htm>);
  - Climate Change – Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (<http://www.ccme.ca/>), Climate Change Indicators Project
  - Natural Capital Accounts - being developed by Statistics Canada to complement the System of National Accounts
  - Health – Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics Canada produce health indicators in cooperation with the provinces.
  - State of the Parks reports of Parks Canada, Canadian Heritage (e.g., the 1997 report at [http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/rpts/etat-state/SOP\\_e.pdf](http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/rpts/etat-state/SOP_e.pdf)).
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(iii) What are the specific areas of sustainable development for which your country is developing or monitoring indicators?

Environment, Forestry, Agriculture, Climate Change, Energy/Energy consumption, Transportation, Environment and Economy, Health (including Children's Health and the Environment)

(iv) Have you developed a set of indicators of sustainable development in your country?

- Yes – in process  
 No

If yes, please describe the status:

- agreed set of indicators  
 draft set of indicators  
 other – in some sectors there is an agreed upon set – e.g., Forest sector; in other sectors there is a draft set – National Environmental Indicator Series; Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators; in other cases there is an agreed upon set that is under revision – e.g. Agri-Environmental Indicators.
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2. Is there an established coordinating mechanism in the country at the national level for indicators for sustainable development?

- National Commission/Council on Sustainable Development  
 Steering Committee  
 Inter-agency/Ministerial Working Group  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 None

3. Do you participate in any regional or international programmes on indicators of sustainable development?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please provide the names of these programmes:

International:

- North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) – Children’s Health and the Environment Indicators (<http://www.cec.org/news/details/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=2534>)
- North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation – State of the Environment Reporting ([http://www.cec.org/pubs\\_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=6290](http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=6290))
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – Environmental Indicators Program
- Global Environment Outlook (GEO) – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) State of Environment Program (<http://www.unep.org/geo/geo3/>)

- Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forestry – Montreal Process for Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests <sup>2</sup>
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity – Experts Working Group on Biodiversity Indicators

Regional:

- State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) (<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/solec/intro.html>)
- Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Ecosystem Indicators (<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/cppl/gbpsei/>)
- State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report for the Mackenzie River Basin
- State of the Gulf of Maine Project

4. What are the 3 most difficult problem areas in the establishment of indicators of sustainable development in your country? Please indicate the order of priority.

- Training in methodologies relating to indicators of sustainable development
- Communication with other agencies responsible for indicators
- ① Basic data and/or statistics – quality and quantity
- ③ Human resources
- Financial resources
- Information management system, including equipment
- ② Monitoring mechanisms
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please provide the name of a contact person responsible for indicators of sustainable development.

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<sup>2</sup> **The Montreal Process** is another Criteria and Indicators process the Government of Canada took part in to develop Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests, agreed to by 12 countries in February 1995 with more countries signing on recently.