

Forests without Borders

The Institute continued to develop and implement its new *Forests without Borders* (FwB) program during 2008–2009. Legal and administrative activity has commenced to officially register Forest without Borders as a non-profit charitable program operated by the Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada. The Institute's existing Forestry Awareness in Canada Trust (FACT) charity will have its mandate expanded to include developmental aid as part of its business and become *Forests without Borders*. *Forests without Borders* will work with existing non-government organizations to deliver the skills, knowledge and tools that enable poverty stricken communities around the world to effectively meet their challenges related to restoring their forests and the many benefits people obtain from their forests. The scarcity of resources such as fuel (wood) and water results in a cascade of problems that undermines human security and health. Several CIF/IFC members, of their own volition have established altruistic forestry-related programs in different parts of the world for a number of decades, and these members have been approached and have agreed to bring their projects under the auspices of *Forests without Borders*.

An initial mission statement, as well as goals and objectives for the program have been developed in consultation with a number of interested members in several Sections.

Mission

Helping to improve the natural and human condition in communities locally and around the world.

Goal

To help communities achieve long-term sustainable use of their basic natural resources.

Objectives

- To restore, repair and sustain damaged local ecosystems through afforestation and the promotion and use of good forestry practices
- To ensure a safe and dependable supply of fresh water for all community inhabitants
- To guarantee a sustainable supply of wood fibre for basic human needs (heating and cooking)
- To help people improve their understanding of the value and ecological processes of forests

Forest without Borders works on the premise that CIF/IFC members possess knowledge in forest ecosystems, facilitation and consensus-building and managing small businesses, allowing *Forests without Borders* to enable Institute members to help communities to reduce poverty, restore ecosystems and increase their understanding of the sustainable use of forests and water.

New web pages for the program were developed during 2008–2009 and can be viewed at: www.cif-ifc.org/forests_without_borders.

Fundraising for *Forests without Borders* began late in 2008–2009 with several Sections holding specific special events and activities. The sale of arts and crafts obtained in different parts of the world was undertaken, as well as several tree-planting events. While direct donations, international arts and craft sales and special events (e.g., silent auctions) will undoubtedly be central to fundraising, the direct sale of World Clean Air Forest – Clean Air Tree Kits has been determined to be a legitimate and potentially effective means for future endeavors.