

Edward Island there are only 26 square kilometres and one national park.

In Newfoundland there are 2,300 square kilometres and two national parks. In Yukon there are 32,000 square kilometres with two national parks. The Northwest Territories has 3.2 national parks with 74,000 square kilometres, again that is Wood Buffalo included. In all Canada there are only 182,000 square kilometres in our 34 national parks. If we look at the add ons in provincial and territorial parks, there are 1,160 of those parks comprising 138,000 square kilometres.

Interestingly enough, in all of our great country, in terms of wilderness areas, there are only 43 comprising 8,680 square kilometres. We still have no national sanctuaries for grizzly bears, for cougars, or for a lot of the large carnivores. We have no natural sanctuary set aside for many of raptors. As many members of this House would know, some of our most remarkable species, such as some of our falcons, have become extinct at the hands of DDT and other perhaps unintended efforts of mankind.

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In terms of areas of provinces and territories, the total in Canada is 9,922,000 square kilometres so the total area protected is 6.3 per cent of our country. But if you look at the total area of reserves with no logging, mining, or hunting it drops precipitously to 254,000 square kilometers, only 2.6 per cent of Canada.

That is really what this debate is all about. As I said earlier, the international scientific consensus is that we are still going to continue to lose thousands, if not tens of thousands, of species per year until we take this kind of collective planetary action.

The debate here today has to be about what has been recommended by scientists to government, that if we do not take the opportunity to complete our national parks system by the year 2000 we will have foregone the opportunity.

And on the issue of 12 per cent, there is increasing and growing pressure coming from mining companies, logging companies and from other resource extraction interests to try to make sure that there are no further parks; national, provincial, territorial, or ecological re-

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serves, yet 96 per cent of Canadians want serious action taken. As you will find from my remarks this morning, many of these national parks and ecological systems can be obtained at almost no cost. It requires government leadership and some durability of will. It does not require a lot of money.

Let me quote for a moment from *Our Common Future*, the famous Brundtland report, the World Commission on Environmental Development. From chapter 6 called "Species and Ecosystems: Resources for Development" we find:

1. Conservation of living natural resources—plants, animals and micro-organisms and the non-living elements of the environment on which they depend—is crucial for development. Today, the conservation of wild living resources is on the agenda of governments; nearly 4 per cent of Earth's land area is managed explicitly to conserve species and ecosystems, and all but a small handful of countries have national parks. The challenge facing nations today is no longer deciding whether conservation is a good idea, but rather how it can be implemented in the national interest and within the means available in each country.

2. Species and their genetic materials promise to play an expanding role in development, and a powerful economic rationale is emerging to bolster the ethical, aesthetic, and scientific cases for preserving them. The genetic variability and germplasm material of species make contributions to agriculture, medicine, and industry worth many billions of dollars per year.

3. Yet scientists have intensively investigated only one in every 100 of Earth's plant species, and a far smaller proportion of animal species. If nations can ensure the survival of species, the world can look forward to new and improved foods, new drugs and medicines, and new raw materials for industry. This—the scope for species to make a fast-growing contribution to human welfare in myriad forms—is a major justification for expanded efforts to safeguard Earth's millions of species.

4. Equally important are the vital life processes carried out by nature, including stabilization of climate, protection of watersheds and soil, preservation of nurseries and breeding grounds, and so on. Conserving these processes cannot be divorced from conserving the individual species within natural ecosystems. Managing species and ecosystems together is clearly the most rational way to approach the problem. Numerous examples of workable solutions to local problems are available.

As I am often reminded, some of the poorest countries on the globe are light years ahead of Canada. We have 2.6 per cent of our land protected seriously as wilderness. Tanzania, which is a poor country, has 17 per cent of its land set aside and, of course, a great deal of the pressure that has been exerted for that has come from communities such as Canada.