

where activities such as picking Brazil nuts are done without cutting down trees.

In Southeast Asia, where certain type of forests are also threatened, the Centre for the Development of Tree Seeds ASEAN-CANADA, whose administrative headquarters are located in Thailand, helps increase the tree seeds supply required for the implementation of the reforestation programs of the Association of South East Asian Nations and for the protection of the gene pool.

Mr. Speaker, we have to face facts: there are industries which depend on the forest. The marketing of forest products is also an essential activity for many developing countries. The industry can prosper only if forests are protected and preserved, and populations will protect and preserve forests inasmuch as their commercial and economic value is recognized.

In North-East China for instance, a CIDA project seeks, within the framework of a comprehensive plan to integrate different aspects of forest management, to increase and make better use of scarce forestry resources. One of the goals is to improve tree planting and management methods, protect forests against insects and disease, and introduce better and more environment friendly harvesting techniques.

From an energy standpoint, statistics indicate that 80 per cent of all firewood collected in the Third World is used for cooking and heating, but this source of energy is becoming rapidly depleted.

In the hills of Nepal, where firewood is the sole source of energy for 94 per cent of the population, deforestation has led to serious shortages and massive erosion. CIDA is helping the Nepalese government increase supplies of firewood through the Karnali-Bheri integrated rural development project. Tree planting and soil conservation have helped to slow down deforestation and increase energy supplies in Nepalese mountain communities.

During that time, it was noted in Zaire that firewood shortages were due to the use of open fireplaces that let heat dissipate. Due to diminishing supplies of wood, a more efficient solution was required. That is why CIDA cooperates with the Centre for Energy and Wood Technologies to convince the population to consume 30 to 50 per cent less wood. So far, more than a hundred craftsmen have been trained to build ovens, on a

commercial basis, and approximately 900 housewives have been trained to build their own improved oven.

• (1730)

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, you will find that the Government of Canada is sparing no effort to contribute to the protection of tropical rain forests through our Official Development Assistance programs.

The problem of degradation and gradual disappearance of tropical rain forests must be addressed at its source that is by the people controlling this precious resource. It is in that perspective that Canada supports the efforts to reinforce the institutions of developing countries that are working at the conservation and management of forest resources, through various public education programs and the implementation of sustainable forest management.

The Canadian government's concerns are thus as great on the international level as they are on the domestic level in relation to our planet's forest resources.

[English]

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by complimenting my colleague for Northumberland and state that I welcome the opportunity to speak to this motion.

The hon. member has crafted a very skilful motion. It does incorporate the merging between the environment and the economy, and the financing that is necessary to save the rain forests, the policy which she is urging Canada to adopt.

This motion also gives me an opportunity to focus on the very important principle that has to be established at the outset; that our global environmental security is not possible without economic justice for the people who are involved.

I also want to point out that the concern about the rain forest extends far beyond the concern for trees. It is a timely motion as well because we have in our news today the trial of the murder of one Chico Mendez in Brazil. Chico Mendez's death was the worst kind of human rights violation. He does not have a life any more. He was an environmentalist working to try to maintain the integrity of the Brazilian rain forest.