

Private Members' Business

opment of forests and contribute to depletion of forest capital.

According to experts, demand for wood products from a rapidly growing population, unbridled settling of forest areas, cutting of firewood and industrial development cause the loss of 17 million hectares of tropical rainforests each year. Some 32 hectares of rainforests are destroyed every minute. On a global level, the annual loss of tropical rainforests is equal to three times the area of Nova Scotia.

As regards public assistance for international development, Canada has taken various initiatives to assist in the preservation of these precious forest resources. Since its creation in 1968, the Canadian International Development Agency, which administers 75 per cent of the Official Development Assistance Program, has recognized the importance of forestry in development matters, by supporting numerous programs and projects related to forests.

Throughout the years, developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbeans received CIDA assistance to make an inventory of their forest resources and set up forestry institutions.

Lately, forestry activities of CIDA took a broader dimension, thanks to a better understanding of the diversified function of forests as a source of food, lumber and firewood and for soil conservation and climate regulation. In most cases, the local people participate in those projects. CIDA spends about \$100 million a year in the forestry area.

Because forestry has a global dimension, world cooperation is essential in order to take up the challenges developing tropical countries are facing. Canada takes an active part in this area.

In 1985, the forestry and conservation sector of CIDA cooperated closely with the World Resources Institute, UN organizations and the World Bank in order to develop and implement the tropical forest plan, which is the most important international cooperation initiative to this day in forestry.

That plan is a framework for action with an emphasis on a coordinated approach through which many donor countries can cooperate in order to solve the tropical forest crisis. Both that framework and the CIDA program concentrate on a better use of the land, promote

the development of an environmentally sound forest industry, a more efficient use of firewood, the conservation of tropical forest ecosystems and help institutions set up sustainable forest development programs.

Because it involves an international effort, the program can mobilize more resources than any individual country acting on its own. Since the program began, the influx of financial resources to the forestry sector increased by 17 per cent.

From the beginning, Canada has closely participated to the activities undertaken under the program and has provided leadership to expert teams from Canada and from across the world in Peru, Guyana, Zaire and Rwanda, in order to study the needs of these countries in the forestry sector.

Mr. Speaker, the people's participation is essential to forest conservation and management. The local population will take part in tree planting, pruning and cutting activities and can also support forestry institutions and their staff either by teaching or studying in these institutions.

For example, community participation is ensuring the success of the broad-leaf forests development project that CIDA is implementing in Honduras. In the forest villages of the north coast of the country, local populations are replanting trees on small lots in order to create a supply of firewood and are learning new methods of soil conservation to increase their agricultural production. These methods contribute to higher living standards. The project is therefore a success since it addresses at the same time the problems of degradation of tropical forests, forest management and rural poverty.

In another Latin American country, Peru, CIDA has contributed to the implementation of a graduate program in forestry at *La Molina* University located in the capital, Lima. Part of that institutional reinforcement program included the training of seven Peruvian students in Canada. To protect the ecosystem that the rainforest represents, it is necessary, among other things, to create national and regional reserves by improving planning and management as well as genetic resources conservation.

In Brazil, in the tropical rain forests of the Amazon, CIDA plans to provide technical equipment and training as part of a conservation project. A region will be chosen where the forest is managed by the population and