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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN

KEY TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

NAIROBI, KENYA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, accompanied by the Canadian High Commissioner, Miss A. Raynell Andreychuk, today visited a joint Canadian International Agency (CIDA) - CARE Canada Integrated Rural Development Project near Kisumu, on Lake Victoria.

Mr. Clark echoed remarks made earlier in the day in a speech at a United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) luncheon, where he noted the central role of environmental preservation in economic development, and the decisive place of women in Africa's agriculture. The two sites visited today reflect Mr. Clark's themes: enhancing the economic skills of women in Africa and halting environmental degradation through water management and reforestation.

At the Osare Women's Group site, Mr. Clark toured a fishing project, as well as witnessed a demonstration of fishing and boat construction. The women's group which markets its products and produce, creates local employment and is also generating needed income from the local fresh water fishery. Mr. Clark participated in a tree-planting ceremony with the Honourable H.J. Kosgey, Minister of Culture and Social Services.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

The Soko Komino Well and Agroforestry Project provides the major source of water for an estimated population of 2,000 persons and their livestock, as well as irrigation for the nearby tree nursery which now consists of some 2,000 seedlings of different species. Mr. Clark toured both the well site and nursery and addressed a gathering including the Honourable Dr. R.T. Ouko, Minister of Industry; the Honourable Ndolo Ayah, Minister of Research, Science and Technology; the Honourable Andrew Omanga, Minister of Planning and National Development, Kenyan dignitaries and project members.

Thekisumu Rural Development Project is funded by CIDA in the amount of \$9.4 million over the next five years as part of Canada's support for Kenya's district focus and rural development policy. CARE Kenya is involved as the executing agency.