

International Development Research Centre

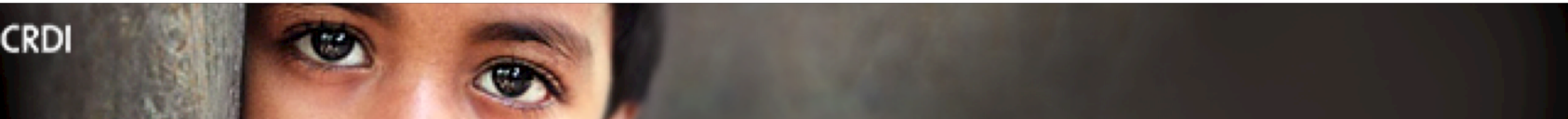
Science for humanity

**“The emerging information society:
A low carbon society?”**



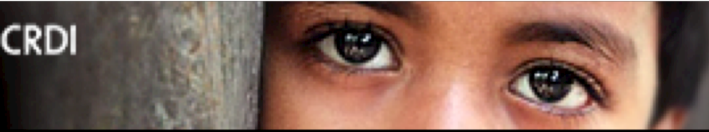
Delphine Larrousse, Program Officer
IDRC Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office, Montevideo, Uruguay
COP15, December 2009
www.idrc.ca/lacro





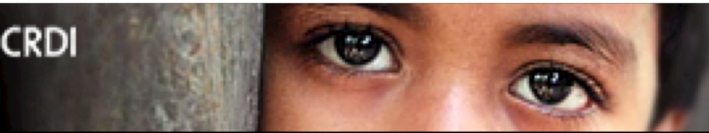
Agenda

- Introduction to IDRC
- Role of ICTs in Climate Change
- Research Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Challenges and Conclusions



IDRC's Mandate

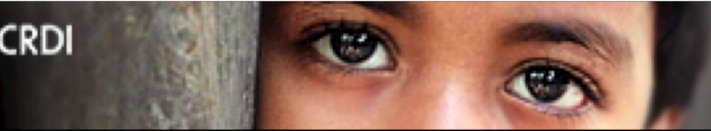
- The *IDRC Act* (1970) mandates the Centre
“... to initiate, encourage, support, and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific, technical, and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions ...”



IDRC's Mission

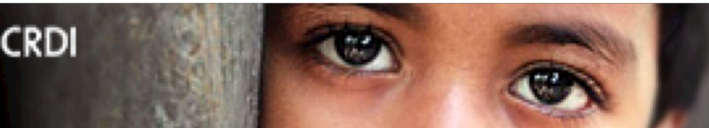
Empowerment through Knowledge





IDRC Offices

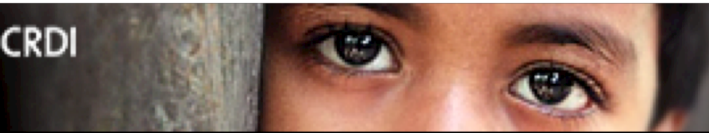




Guiding Principles

- Peoples of developing regions must be able to control their own knowledge-based development
- IDRC takes its lead from Southern researchers
- Development research grant-making is the core of our activities





Program Areas

Environment and
Natural Resource
Management

Information and
Communication
Technologies for
Development

Innovation, Policy
and Science

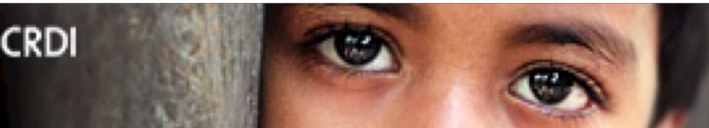
Social and
Economic Policy

Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) in the Americas

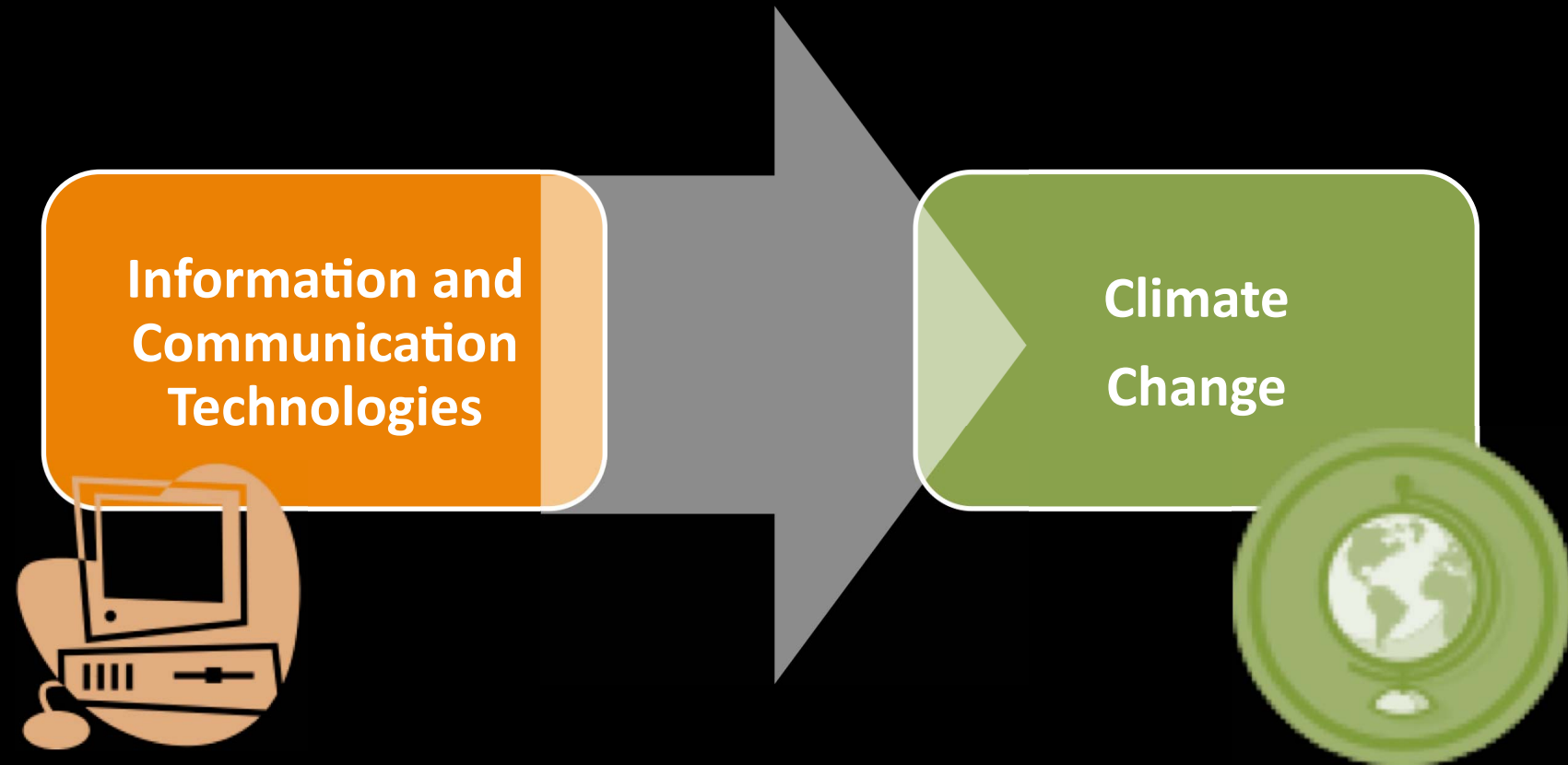
- Support, through applied research, the development of solid ICT initiatives, sound public policies and the development of appropriate technologies that respond to the needs of those most affected by the region's inequity



- Better understand both the positive and negative impact that the adoption and use of ICTs can have in development, in particular among low-income communities and disenfranchised women and girls



ICTs and Climate Change



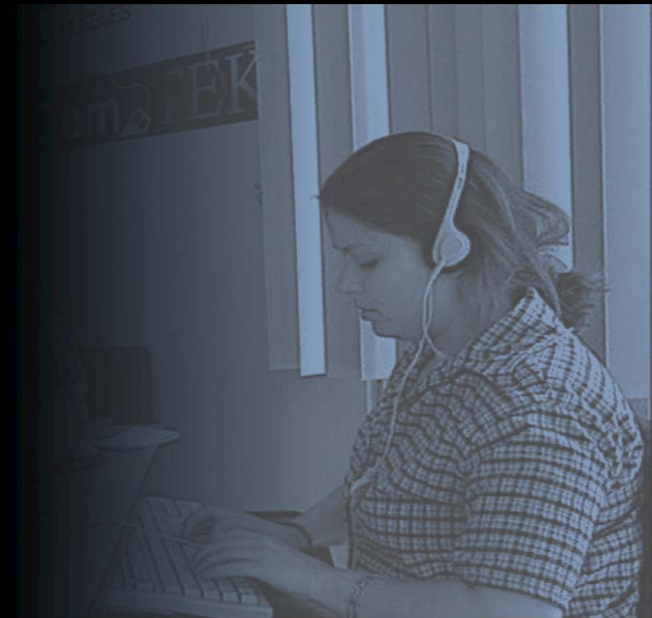
Role of ICTs in Climate Change (I)

- Information sharing
- Early warning systems
- Disaster preparedness/mitigation
- Remote monitoring, measurements

One of the IDRC's goals is to develop research-based knowledge on the relationship between ICTs and Climate Change.

Role of ICTs in Climate Change (II)

- Awareness raising in climate issues
- Implementation of telework
- “Smart” technologies, energy-efficient products
- Shift from products to services



Some IDRC Projects (I)

Africa

- Knowledge Sharing for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa
<http://idris.idrc.ca> (Project Number 104955)

Asia

- Strengthening Resilience in Tsunami-affected Communities (India and Sri Lanka)
<http://idris.idrc.ca> (Project Nr 103594)
- Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Information Dissemination
<http://idris.idrc.ca> (Project 103553)

Multiple regions

- Climate Change, Innovation and ICTs
<http://idris.idrc.ca> (Project Number 105937)

Some IDRC Projects (II)

Central America

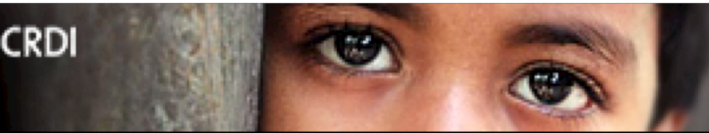
- Applying ICT for Disaster Mitigation in Central America
<http://idris.idrc.ca> (Project Number 104410)

The Caribbean Region

- Enhancing the Effectiveness of ICT Applications and Tools for Disaster Management
<http://idris.idrc.ca> (Project Number 103827)
- Potential of ICTs to help Women Farmers in the Caribbean meet the Challenge of Climate Change
<http://idris.idrc.ca> (Project Number 105664)

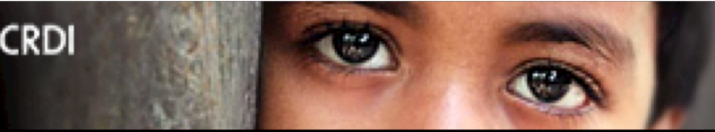
Latin America

- Telework and the Disabled
<http://idris.idrc.ca> (Project Number 104417)
- Telework and Climate Change



Telework

- Telework is the use of ICTs to work from remote locations, from home or telecenters. It can be applied to a variety of activities and jobs from places located far away from the usual “workplace”.
- The daily commute to a central workplace is replaced by telecommunications links.



Project in Latin America: “Telework and Climate Change”

General Objective:

- Analyze and develop research-based knowledge on the relationship between Telework and Climate Change, evaluating the potential impacts of the implementation of telework in metropolises of Latin America

Case studies in Latin America

Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Impact of teleworking on environmental conditions
- Pro and contras of telework
- Potential telework activities / Job positions

Mexico City

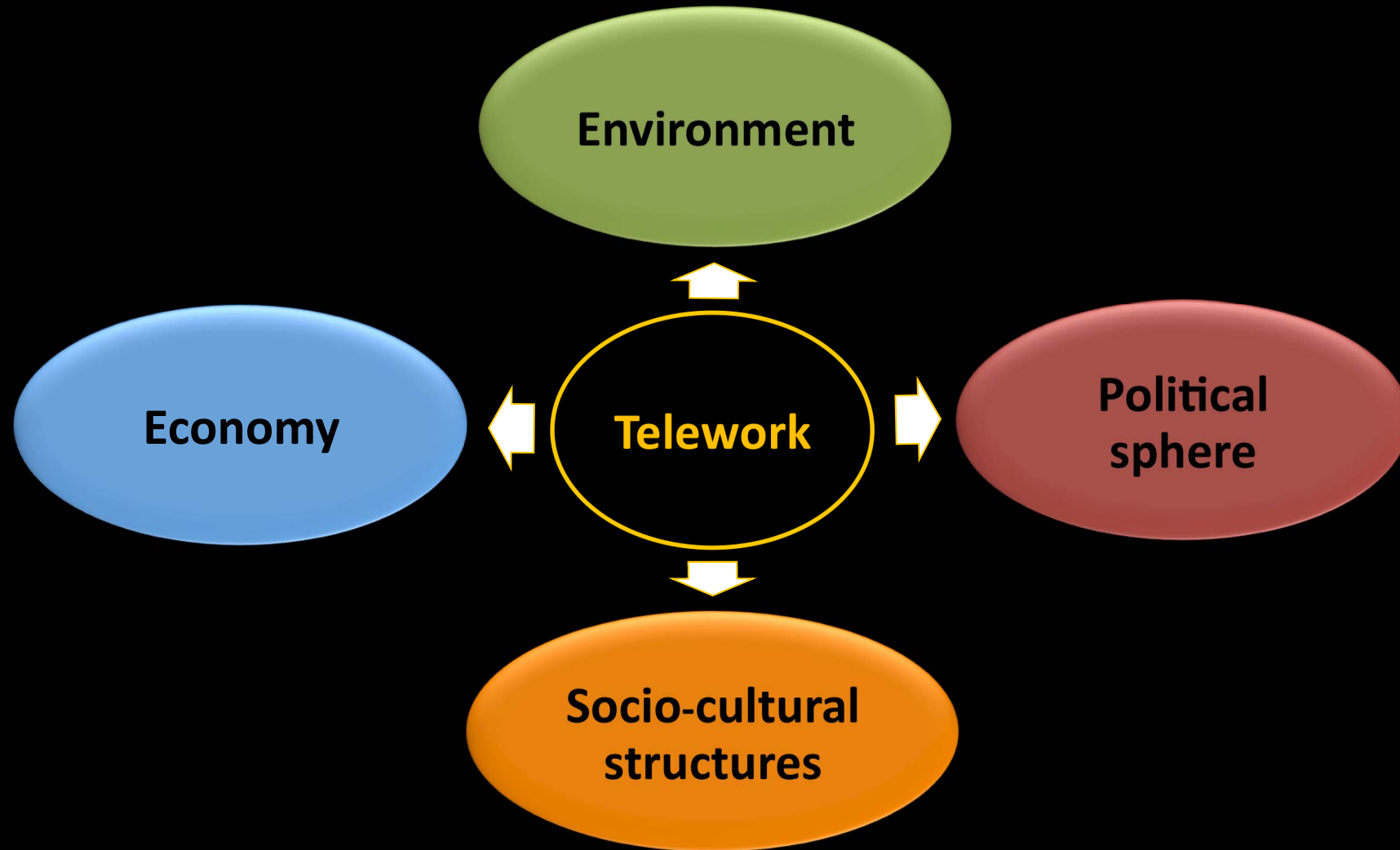
- Relation between telework and climate change
- Benefits for workers and employers

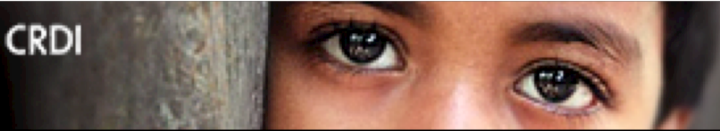
Lima, Peru

- Relation between centres of work, transport, gender and contamination
- Potential of telework to reduce greenhouse effect gases

Public Policy and legislative models

- Investigation of telework legislations in different countries
- Suggestion of 3 models

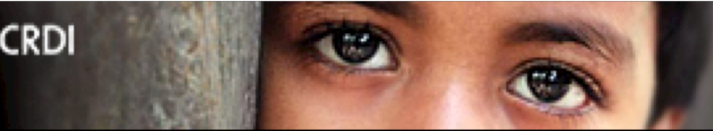




Telework and Climate Change

Environment

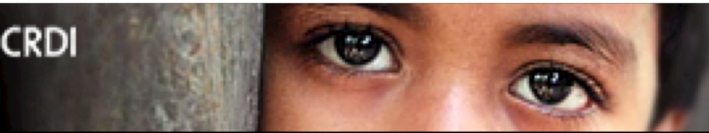
- Transport /traffic reduction
- Lower carbon emissions
- Less air pollution
- Diminution of energy consumption
- Awareness raising



Socio-cultural impacts

**Socio-cultural
structures**

- Family structures
- Social inclusion (Gender, Disabled, Youth, etc.)
- Time, organization
- Education, migration
- Digital divide

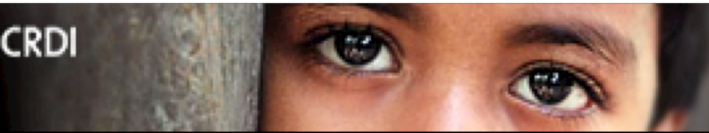


Economic impacts



Economy

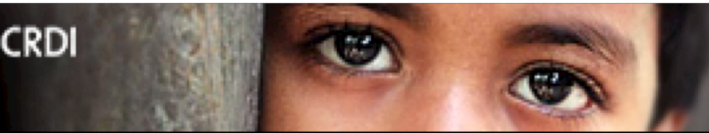
- Reduction of costs
- New business organization
- More work opportunities incl. for the more vulnerable
- Needs for infrastructure
- Consumption changes
- City planning/decentralization
- Equity issues



Political changes

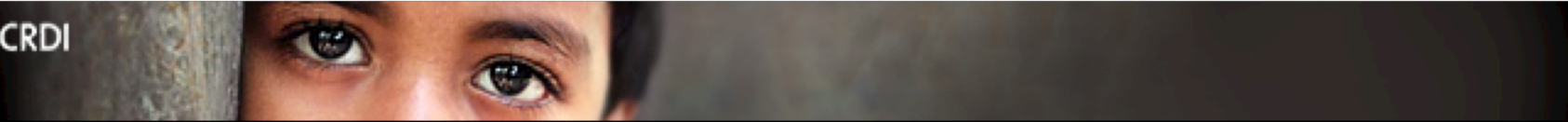
Political
sphere

- Regulations
- Legislative models
- Incentive
- Consider new needs of both teleworkers and employers



Challenges - Conclusions

- Potential of ICTs in Climate Change
- Need for research
- Impact analysis – Costs/Benefits of Telework
- Environmental positive impacts vs negative socio-cultural/economical costs?
- Importance of cultural/local contexts
- More -or less- equity?
- Resistance of employees/employers



Thank you!



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