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International Development Research Centre

CRDI
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

IDRC in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report to the Board of Governors
October 17-18, 2002

Federico Burone - Regional Director

October 2002
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i. Executive Summary

The Corporate Program Areas and Regional Dimension of the Corporate Strategy and Program Framework (CSPF) 2000-2005 continue meeting Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) needs.

The economic crises of the last two decades have precipitated social and political crises in the region, revealing a considerable level of fragility and a volatility of development in the region. The apparent stability of democracy in various LAC countries has begun to be called into question. There are clear signs that the political systems in LAC are still fragile and clearly vulnerable.

The integration of regional trade blocs continues to represent a challenge to the region. Regulatory international issues (competitiveness, environment, connectivity, energy) are raising attention in the agenda of regional blocs. Government leverage to negotiate and protect basic rights is not homogenous in the region and is being affected by these processes. Many of LAC countries are experiencing a deepening of social inequalities which particularly affect women, indigenous peoples and youth, that inevitably frustrate the efforts for social integration, for example in terms of exercising rights and citizenship. Empirical evidence shows that in LAC countries, as well as in other developing regions, women represent a group holding the lesser amount of economic, political and cultural assets. The recognition of indigenous rights is starting to be a critical issue, as there are demands for more inclusive social development and democracy. Civil society participation in the monitoring and assessment of policy processes needs to be improved. Progress toward improved social accountability on these programs at local, regional and hemispheric levels provides an opportunity to improve governance. IDRC has been working to ensure that the research it funds incorporates these principles. Gender in LAC has been acknowledged mostly by the different Program Initiatives (PIs), with specific projects addressing the topic or incorporated within the projects' activities in the region.

The financial and institutional instability, the debt burden and the non-sustainable use of natural resources (which represent a strong asset for the region), are major factors impeding the region's sustainable development. The Centre is supporting a substantial body of research related to biodiversity, ecosystem health and participatory approaches to the management of the environment and natural resources. We are proposing to focus on expanding knowledge networks or strategically select and build new ones to ensure research programs effectively bridge local, national and international policy and development needs.

IDRC is playing a very valuable role in strengthening Canada's presence in LAC, as a specialized member of the foreign affairs family, in a context of greater hemispheric integration. This role is not only valuable to Canada, but it is also valued by small and medium-sized LAC countries that need a counterbalance to other hemispheric powers. The Centre is partnering on the implementation of the agenda agreed during the Summit of the Americas held in Quebec in 2001. The consolidation of the ICA is a clear achievement. The Institute is supporting regional networks that will assist in bringing players together. Chile, Mexico and especially Brazil are the countries selected by the Canadian National Research Council (NRC) as part of the Summit commitments to focus on
scientific cooperation agreements in the region and to coordinate the launch of the forum on public-sector Research and Development (R&D) funding at central and provincial levels in 2003 supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). The Centre is monitoring these processes in the region.

In the implementation of the CSPF, programming has increased in the Andean region and in Central America. Both the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) and the Trade, Employment and Competitiveness Program Initiative (TEC) have been actively exploring a strategy and should advance in supporting research and capacity-building activities on connectivity and competition policies in the Caribbean.

The research environment in the region, adversely affected by political and economic instability, has suffered significant erosion in its institutional structure especially over the last three years. In LAC the volatile nature of research systems continues to be a self-evident characteristic of a developing region. The proactive attitude and institutional capacities to link research with government agendas is increasing, although there are still serious difficulties. In addition, there has been a rapid increase in the rate of migration from the region and from the community of qualified researchers (the so-called brain drain). The main challenge for researchers and research institutions is to build networks that support decision making in public policies and development in Science and Technology (S&T) areas. IDRC intervention in LAC should continue increasing its focus on these mechanisms for knowledge development and policy influence within the three program areas.

IDRC's model of intervention at the regional level has facilitated the conclusion of recent partnerships with other donors (e.g. Italy in bilateral cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) and urban governance; Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) in the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) Network). The Center has developed a partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that will respond to increase and consolidate capacities to improve stakeholder agreement and project preparation participatory research in key areas for development. The coordination of partnerships with donors, agencies active in international development, and private-sector foundations and organizations that are repositioning themselves in LAC, will be one of the priorities that will require more active corporate participation.

In implementing the CSPF 2000-2005 IDRC is consolidating in LAC a stock of capital for the Centre on the management of trans-national knowledge generation and on the international division of responsibilities in regional networks. Regional capacities for connectivity and the use of ICTs in knowledge and information exchange facilitate the work with hybrid and integrated research networks. The main operational outcome perceived at this phase is that the CSPF is a very robust tool to foster knowledge production models that enhance the perception by local and international stakeholders of research as a public good, rather than only as a market good.
1. Regional Overview

Fragility of democracy and governance

1.1 The race to participate in the global economy has come to the fore, and the competitive environment has increased pressure on LAC governments to reduce public expenditure, which, in turn, has stimulated debate on the effectiveness of alternative and complementary forms of delivering public goods. The private sector and civil society organizations have become increasingly active in protecting their interests in this debate, assuming responsibility for areas such as education, health, and the decentralization of the provision of various essential services. The International Financing Institutions (IFIs) have launched new credit programs in which they have tried to co-ordinate these actors in projects designed to meet the demand for essential services in peri-urban slums in LAC. Progress toward improved social accountability on these programs provides an opportunity to improve governance. The challenge continues to focus on the identification of policies to counteract inequity in the design of these alternative models, which operate in areas with little institutional development. The Governance, Equity and Health initiative (GEH) in the health sector and the Environmental Management Secretariat (EMS) in the urban management field are addressing these issues in LAC.

1.2 In addition to the economic crises of the last two decades, a number of factors have precipitated social and political crises in the region, revealing a considerable level of fragility. Most recently this has been demonstrated in Argentina, which exemplifies the volatility of development in the region. As a result of these crises, the apparent stability of democracy in various LAC countries (e.g. Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, and now Peru) has begun to be called into question. There are clear signs that the political systems in LAC are still fragile and clearly vulnerable. They are encountering obstacles to consolidate the rule of law, transparent governance, the adoption of effective institutional and legal systems, the recognition and empowerment of the participation of civil society, and, in some cases, to consolidate the respect for human rights. Although the agenda of social and economic development in the region is being implemented as regards democracy and respect for human rights and also recourse to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, there are still internal and some cross-border conflicts, which are finally eroding these efforts to promote political dialogue. As recognized in the Inter-American Democratic Chapter of the Hemispheric Summit of Quebec (2001), civil society participation in the monitoring and assessment of policy processes needs to be

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1 The Corruption Perception Index (CPI), which measures the perception of bribery in the public sector, shows the highest incremental rate in Paraguay, Argentina, Guatemala and Venezuela (CPI 2002).
improved. The Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Program Initiative (PBR) is providing relevant support on these issues to regional networks and to research on policy dialogues in Central American countries.

1.3 The recognition of indigenous rights is starting to be a critical issue, as there are demands for more inclusive social development and democracy. The Indigenous Action Summit (Dominica 2002) discussed the lack of knowledge on how to link indigenous rights with governance on indigenous issues. More specifically, how to remove barriers, foster community engagement, facilitate economic development, build-in accountability and enhance capacity for nation-rebuilding processes, which are accompanied by a lack of understanding on how these issues affect non-indigenous people.

Natural resources management and social vulnerability

1.4 Efforts toward democratization and planning of intervention procedures in the use of natural resources have been accompanied by strong economic and financial reforms implemented by countries in LAC. The implementation of reforms or structural adjustment programs in response to social and financial crises, designed to attract and keep external investors, seems to be very far indeed from the creation of an acceptable model. For example, the 90s in the region were characterized by a continued marked deregulation and by the beginning of a wave of direct foreign investment. These direct investments in the region rose from US $31,000 million to US $74,000 million between 1996 and 1999, primarily as a result of certain countries' privatization programs, initially focusing on industrial and natural resources exploitation and then on the services sector. In contrast to this increase in direct foreign investment, it is also important to highlight that the foreign debt of the region rose to over US $700 billion in 1999, which means that approximately 8% of the GNP, or 42% of export revenue from goods and services, are going out on debt servicing.

1.5 The resurgence of financial crises, with disastrous social consequences in LAC, has occurred at a time when IFIs are in the process of reviewing their crisis response strategies, and when the international community has become more "conservative" regarding development assistance. The Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the United Nations (UN) Conference on Financing for Development (held in March 2002), gives a clear picture of alternatives to respond to the volatility of development in LAC. Development assistance in LAC will focus on programs designed to improve mechanisms that guarantee repayment from debtor countries.

1.6 This financial and institutional instability and the debt burden are increasing the non-sustainable use of natural resources (which represent a strong asset for the
region), and represent the major factors impeding the minimum conditions required to establish the region's sustainable development and a sound territorial balance.

1.7 Lack of access to more scarce resources is fostering internal migration processes. As the migration to urban areas increases so does the vulnerability of these areas. More than 70% of the poorer population in LAC lives in or around urban areas. Planning of basic services delivery and environmental and health risk management is a pressing challenge.

**Hemispheric integration and social equity**

1.8 The integration of regional trade blocs continues to represent a challenge to the region (North American Free Trade Agreement - NAFTA, Caribbean Community Secretariat - CARICOM, San José Group, Andean Pact and Mercosur). Internal disparities and the transition to the development of new institutions to manage regional markets and trade agreements are demanding important social changes (relationships, values). Regulatory international issues (competitiveness, environment, connectivity, energy) are being included in the agenda of regional blocs. Canada, the United States and the European Union (EU) are the external countries or groups that are considered to be leading the dialogue directed at increasing political and economic relations and the trade balance in LAC. The project to create an inter-American free trade area (Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)) is resulting in both competition and a toughening of demands from the EU to sub-regional blocs. Government leverage to negotiate and protect basic rights is not homogenous in the region and is affected by these processes. The poorest economies are stimulating investment to compete, but the volatility of the rules to participate in global markets is leading to case-by-case negotiations with investors and eroding regional agreements and local regulations.

1.9 It is important to be aware that there is a broader analysis to be carried out in which gender exclusion, as well as that of other vulnerable groups, should be considered. There is an urgent need to address these social inequalities in an alternative development model, in which social policies are not subordinated to economic ones. Empirical evidence shows that in LAC countries, as well as in other developing regions, women represent a group holding the lesser amount of economic, political and cultural assets. Not only is there a lack of opportunity for women's labour in urban markets (economic exclusion), but there is also insufficient government concern for the provision of public goods, healthcare and basic services (political exclusion) and fewer opportunities for education (cultural exclusion). Likewise, many of our countries are experiencing a deepening of social inequalities which particularly affect women, indigenous peoples and youth, that inevitably frustrate the efforts for social integration, for example in terms of exercising rights and
citizenship. However, gender advocacy is reinforcing the need to restore and strengthen the notion of "public space" to increase social participation. In this context, social policies are conceived as part of the hemispheric political process that will have to promote the inclusion of gender inequalities in the political agendas of each country.

Canada and hemispheric integration

1.10 A key factor for development that emerged in the Summit of the Americas’ preparatory events, parallel activities and the final Quebec declaration, was the need to address the widening gulf in access to resources for the production and use of knowledge in LAC. In order to bridge this gap, cooperation is required to support training activities and connectivity between researchers and institutions. Moreover, there is recognition of the need to consider developing strategic research systems and generating original ideas in view of the challenges, thereby enabling the transfer of models that operate in different social, economic and political contexts. Mexico, Chile and especially Brazil are the countries selected by the NRC to focus on scientific cooperation agreements in the region and to coordinate the launch of the forum on public-sector R&D funding at central and provincial levels in 2003 supported by DFAIT.

Excerpt from the Final Declarations of the Summit of the Americas 2001

"Promote the popularization of science and technology necessary to advance the establishment and consolidation of a scientific culture in the region; and stimulate the development of science and technology for regional connectivity through information and communications technologies essential for building knowledge-based societies".

Research Environment

1.11 The research environment in the region, adversely affected by political and economic instability, has suffered significant erosion in its institutional structure especially over the last three years. Although LAC countries have their own idiosyncratic national scientific research systems, the financial crisis affecting the region has exacerbated structural weaknesses in most countries. Public expenditure in S&T has decreased more than 30% in this period. Not only has it been difficult to secure adequate funding, but the sustainability of policies has also been eroded as countries have become reliant on IFIs for the implementation of S&T programs, which focus mainly on technology development and technology adaptation. Redundancy and duplication among universities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) integrated into the research systems can easily be verified. In 2000 LAC had more than 1,000
been a rapid increase in the rate of migration from the region (the so-called brain drain) and from the community of qualified researchers. Argentina, Peru, Colombia, and Uruguay have more recently been among the most affected countries.

1.12 The increased privatization of the academic and research community is guiding research communities toward a process of knowledge development essentially led by the market. As a consequence, local knowledge systems are being biased toward market demands. A more effective governance and social accountability of research centres in LAC demand new institutional models to better integrate private investment within national development strategies. Biotechnology, agroforestry and strategies for energy production and delivery are among the key sectors of private investment in knowledge systems in the region.

1.13 In LAC the volatile nature of research systems continues to be a self-evident characteristic of a developing region. Countries that seem to have a more predictable program scenario, with fewer apparent risks regarding the implementation of medium- and long-term research for development projects, reveal the need to continue scrutinizing the outcomes of structural weaknesses, as clearly demonstrated of late. NGOs with a research mandate are playing a relevant role in managing and facilitating participatory and multi-disciplinary research networks in most of LAC countries. Strengthened capacity building is a clear need in most LAC NGOs to bridge knowledge development and significant policy making. There is a relevant challenge in keeping institutions’ flexibility while their capacity in producing research outcomes mature.

### Active Projects in the LAC Region by Type of Institution

![Diagram showing distribution of active projects by type of institution](chart)

* EMS and MPRI figures were not included in this chart
1.14 At the same time the transfer of responsibilities for policy information processes, notably through the use of private consultants, is accelerating apace. Agreement among stakeholders, transparency in decision making and cost effective use of public resources are frequently concerned by this process. Some development cooperation interventions have even aggravated this bias in national research systems and undermined institutional consolidation and sustainability. The Central American region is a case in point. An excess of cooperation activities in the region, caused by the need to act on commitments made by donors in the Plan of Central America Reconstruction, has begun to impede appropriate programming by several cooperation agencies. The overabundance of projects, and the increasing employment of qualified personnel as consultants is compromising medium- and long-term commitments in most activities involving local research communities.

1.15 The proactive attitude and institutional capacities to link research with government agendas is increasing, although there are still serious difficulties in most of LAC countries. The advance towards the dismantling of conventional cultural boundaries among scientific disciplines and with policy-makers in networking within hybrid groups is unsound. This situation is the most serious challenge for researchers and research institutions to build networks that support decision making in public policies and development in S&T areas. To evolve from the current context, support to new mechanisms linking mainly South-South institutions through regional networking need to be strengthen and encouraged.
2. Centre Programming in the Region

This section analyses specific aspects of achievements and lessons learned during the application of the CSPF in the region. IDRC has made important advances in focusing its activities on peacebuilding and conflict management, and on increasing research attention on the complex problems of urban and peri-urban management and local development in order to promote community-based approaches linked to policy in LAC. At the same time, the implementation of the ICA program has commenced and an agenda tailored to address activities in the management of public goods in LAC has been put into place.

2.1 Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM)

2.1.1 Research oriented towards improving the processes of decision-making and planning resource uses, and the strengthening of social participation in the management of environment and natural resources are carried out in LAC by the Managing Natural Resources (Latin America and the Caribbean) Program Initiative (Minga), the Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI), Ecoplata, the EMS and the IMFNS. SUB emphasis is on supporting research on the relationship between local management of biodiversity and global policy initiatives and processes for equity in access to these resources. Improving ecosystem management for human health and socio-economically sound development in LAC is delivered through Ecohealth and the Cities Feeding People (CFP) Program Initiative.

2.1.2 Minga has made progress in the systematization of (a) effective multi-stakeholder processes to provide adaptive coping capacity in complex socio-ecological systems (e.g., strengthening institutions and rights, participatory watershed management in Ecuador) and (b) multi-stakeholder research oriented towards improving the processes of decision-making and planning resource uses, and the strengthening of social participation in the management of environment and natural resources are carried out in LAC by the Managing Natural Resources (Latin America and the Caribbean) Program Initiative (Minga), the Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI), Ecoplata, the EMS and the IMFNS. SUB emphasis is on supporting research on the relationship between local management of biodiversity and global policy initiatives and processes for equity in access to these resources. Improving ecosystem management for human health and socio-economically sound development in LAC is delivered through Ecohealth and the Cities Feeding People (CFP) Program Initiative.

Research on mining and development: scaling up its influence in LAC

During the current CSPF mining has been an area of research in the Ecosystems Approach to Human Health (Ecohealth) Program Initiative (as one environmental stressor affecting human health) and in Minga (as an economic activity affecting livelihoods and the environment, and engendering conflict over access to natural resources). MPRI as a corporate project has facilitated communication, networking and consultation among diverse stakeholders of the mining sector, and supported research in the areas of partnerships for local development and the co-management of mining impacts in LAC.

Research networks in mining supported by IDRC have enabled the Centre to make a meaningful contribution to several influential processes and organizations acting in LAC in the field: the World Bank includes IDRC’s outcomes to coordinate multi-stakeholder consultation to review its policy on funding for mining (Extractive Industries Review); the IFC is doing the same with regards to its social and environmental safeguard policies; IDRC influenced the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to support the Regional Multi-stakeholder Working Group on Artisan and Small Scale Mining and to develop a program to contribute in the implementation of a collectively built ten year vision for the transformation of the activity; the industry-led Global Mining Initiative (GMI) funded the multi-stakeholder Mining Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project and will start implementing it through the International Council for Metals and the Environment (ICMM) in partnership with MPRI; the World Summit on Sustainable Development is including mining on its agenda for the first time; and international networks of civil society organizations are working together on advocacy, and most of the IDRC research institutions and universities supported in LAC are involved.
processes to empower marginalized communities and enhance livelihoods (e.g., promoting sustainable rural development). Minga is also focusing on the improvement of managing wider (regional/national/international) issues in natural resources (e.g., scaling-up participatory approaches to natural resource management), taking into consideration local experience and lessons learned. Its primary focus is on the Andean countries, especially Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, which are some of the poorest countries, exposing relevant resource conflicts in the region (access and use of land, water, etc.) and offering potential for cross-site learning and regional collaboration. Recently, Minga has begun activities in marginalised areas in Central America and the Caribbean (e.g., participatory management of hillsides and coastal fishing regions). It is also initiating a project co-funded by CIDA (CAD5,000,000), designed to improve local capacity and knowledge-based decisions on the sustainable management of natural resources in Honduras.

2.1.3 **The EMS has been promoting research for policy change in urban management and the improvement of governance in small and medium-sized cities in LAC.** With the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the IADB and Environment Canada, applying a coordinating mechanism for the delivery of its services in the Mercocities Network (grouping municipalities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the Central American Municipal Federation (grouping municipalities in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Panama), the Secretariat has made substantial progress in creating a regional network where governments (including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mayors Forum), research centres and international organizations all participate. The new agreements with Italy, the IADB and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will allow for an increase in the dissemination of findings and the level of regional intervention.

2.1.4 **IMFNS focuses on the promotion of participative governance processes in forest areas under multiple use.** It has recently begun to review lessons learned, which were included in Canada's report to the Rio+10 summit in Johannesburg. The Secretariat is active in Chile (Chiloé), Mexico (Campeche, Central Mexico) and Argentina (Chaco, Patagonia).

2.1.5 **SUB emphasis in LAC is on:** (a) the promotion of research networks developing new methodologies and information on medicinal plants (e.g., Traditional Medicine for the Islands - TRAMIL), (b) enhancing understanding and viability of farmer-led participatory plant breeding processes (e.g., introducing participatory plant breeding for corn and beans in Cuba, maize land races in Mexico), and (c) improving knowledge and use of crops that were neglected by science-based researchers (e.g., uncultivated foods in rural communities in Mexico). Central American and Caribbean countries have been the traditional foci of SUB programming. Emerging issues are being addressed with several concept notes under development with research partners (Peru, Ecuador, Brazil). This will allow for more fully engaged research processes in the Amazon region, focusing on: enhancing biodiversity-based livelihoods; access and benefit sharing; and social and gender analysis.
2.1.6 Ecohealth's primary focus in LAC is on trans-disciplinary research, through participatory analysis, paying particular attention to the gender component. Focusing on ecosystem management for the control of dengue, malaria and chagas and environmental stress produced by intensive agriculture, urbanisation and the impact of mining on human health, Ecohealth has a strong presence in the Andean region, Brazil and Mexico, and has reinforced program implementation in Central America and the Caribbean (‘Ecohealth and tropical diseases in Central America and the Caribbean (CAC): Institutional Assessment’, ‘Training Workshop, Small Grants Research Studies and Regional CAC Request of Proposals’). In addition, it is concerned with the development of partnerships in the international arena—joint funding and programming with the PanAmerican Health Organization (PAHO), UNEP and United Nations Foundation (UNF).

2.1.7 CFP continues to place emphasis in LAC on the transfer of technology and research findings to municipal governments in small urban areas (e.g., promoting best practices in forums attended by mayors), expanding networking for training (supporting training activities in the urban agriculture network—AGUILA-LAC—and managing the AGROPOLIS competitive awards program). CFP also analyzes health hazards in the context of urban food production. Its operational remit includes the Andean countries, Central America and the Caribbean (Cuba and Haiti).

2.2 Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D)

2.2.1 This area is covered in LAC by the PanAmericas corporate project and the ICA. PanAmericas' focus is on learning and evaluation, influencing internet policy and disseminating research results of global activities. The Corporate Project's emphasis is on the promotion of collaborative approaches to high-quality action research that provides understanding and evidence of the role ICTs can play in social transformation and development, and analyzing alternative development models to influence more mainstream approaches. PanAmericas has been intent on creating regional networks of partners, although most of these networks have revolved around countries of the Andean region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICA Work Plan 2002-2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Institute is implementing an operational plan that will allow it to become a self-sustainable hemispheric entity within three years, reporting back to the Summit of the Americas in 2004. The recent recruitment of a new program officer for the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) will facilitate the coordination of ICA's activities. As well as assisting in the implementation of ICA's agenda, the program officer will contribute regional intelligence on a developing area experiencing dynamic national and international changes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ICA workplan includes:

- A bi-polar virtual network to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and best practices;
- to provide awards and rewards for successful initiatives;
- research to identify costs of access and coverage issues as well as business models;
- consolidate strategic partnerships;
- a communications strategy to highlight simple and powerful ideas; and
- integrate and transfer proven models.
2.2.2 On May 9, 2002 the ICA's Hemispheric Advisory Board held its first meeting in Washington, D.C. ICA Board members provided valuable regional intelligence and feedback, and assisted in the establishment of the proper network of contacts throughout the region. A hemispheric process of consultations has commenced in order to gather input from key participants in the region and define the ICA constituency. The first regional seminar focused on the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), Bolivia and Chile, and was held at the same time as the Annual Meeting of the IADB in Fortaleza, Brazil, in March 2002. The Fortaleza meeting gathered 25 relevant stakeholders active in ICT for development within the private sector, the government sector, civil society organizations and the applied research sector of Mercosur countries, Bolivia and Chile, as well as Dot.org-USAID. Additional consultations are being planned in the Caribbean, the Andean region and Central America. The ICA will concentrate on regional networks that will assist in bringing players together.

2.3 Social and Economic Equity (SEE)

2.3.1 The SEE program area has already consolidated its profile and regional tailoring in LAC. The focus of TEC is on monitoring the effects of and potential improvement in the World Trade Organization's agenda on the development of national and international policy pertaining to the management of economic globalization. Governance, Equity and Health (GEH) has also defined a strategic framework for its work in LAC. It focuses on knowledge development in existing regional networks to improve the provision of health care. Lessons learned in this

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**Mercosur Economic Research Network**

Mercosur, the Mercosur Economic Research Network, is a consortium of nine top research centres of the four core member countries of the regional bloc. It was created thanks to proactive programming and seed funding provided by IDRC, where there was no mechanism available for institutional cooperation but only the will of researchers to join efforts to inform the regional integration process.

In its first three years of existence, Mercosur has produced three major studies on priority issues in the regional integration agenda (intra-regional non-tariff barriers, policies towards foreign direct investment, and macroeconomic policies) collaborated with the Inter-American Development Bank to produce the only independent assessment of achievement and pending tasks at Mercosur's tenth anniversary advised Mercosur's official "Social and Economic Consultative Forum" (the formal civil society forum) on strategies to foster productive complementarities among countries and on negotiations with the European Union toward a free trade agreement co-organized a seminar (September 2001) that has been recognized by DFAIT and Mercosur diplomats as a significant contribution to unblock dialogue between Canada and the regional grouping, stalled by diplomatic disputes between Canada and Brazil published four books, four policy briefs and maintained two specialized, highly visible websites (on investment information and general interest information) established mechanisms for the implementation of regional research initiatives, anticipating in at least two years the Mercosur governments' acknowledgement of the need to rely on regional analysis to deepen economic integration raised complementary funding in an amount equal to IDRC's original contribution, allowing it to expand the research-for-policy agenda.
phase will allow for the subsequent review of other areas related to the management of public goods in LAC. The Research for International Tobacco Control (RITC) Secretariat, based in Ottawa, has initiated a series of exploratory activities to widen its remit in LAC. Thanks to analysis coordinated with the regional office, a regional profile has been developed, which includes institutional and normative knowledge development and current data on health management regarding tobacco consumption in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Uruguay.

2.3.2 TEC has devoted most of its efforts to developing research policies and capacities in institutions whose work relates to the World Trade Organization (WTO) agenda in LAC. Within this framework, TEC has implemented three regional networks and a training program for policy makers and trade policy analysts (in Central America and the Andean countries) through intensive one- to two-week programs. In addition, it has begun actively disseminating research findings through the publication of several papers, five books in Spanish/Portuguese, a ‘manual’ in Spanish and two books in English, concerning regional integration and various aspects of trade policy strategy from the perspective of LAC countries. This material has been complemented by the publication and dissemination of various policy briefs and forums (real and virtual), based on more basic research, with the aim of presenting it in less technical formats/language in order to engage key decision makers. Emphasis is on improving ongoing and event-based interactions with IFIs on trade policy issues (e.g., teleconferences with the World Bank (WB) group responsible for reporting on regional trade agreements, to discuss drafts and provide input from the Southern perspective). The TEC Program Initiative’s regional strategy has no formal country exclusions. It is relatively less active in the Caribbean, but this is in the process of being redressed. TEC is relatively more active in the Southern Cone (including Brazil), Central America and the Andean region. Ongoing explorations focus on Trade in Health Services; the Environment and Natural Resource Management and the FTAA process and Competition Policy from the International Dimension.

2.3.3 The PBR Program Initiative supports research, policy development and research capacity-building on

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**PBR’s strategic approach in LAC**

PBR focusses on structural adjustments to land, education, security and fiscal policy reforms. Supported projects together with Minga on the management of communal lands allowed PBR to facilitate law negotiations processes, consolidate participation within the Mixed Commission on Land in Guatemala and helped to coordinate actions with CIDA (in the field of education), the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) (on human security) the World Bank and the IADB (in the land/rural development issue).

Through a competitive grants mechanism PBR is covering priorities and selecting high quality and strategically selected projects on durable solutions to land-based conflicts, options to enhancing democratic participation, and regulatory of small arms ant the implementation of the Treaty of Democratic Security. The call is also providing PBR with a cost-effective and low risk approach to select preliminary proposals and develop ideas and to gather relevant information and intelligence for further development of regional research projects.
peace-building and conflict resolution. The Program Initiative works in LAC primarily in Central America; more recently, the potential for developing activities in Colombia is being examined.

2.3.4 The Peru Consortium for International Development (CIES) is a Corporate Project, supported by IDRC and CIDA. CIES's aim is to promote development in Peru. The CIES comprises a group of 30 local institutions, and uses an annual competitive call as its mechanism to promote research, with funds being allocated to the development of research networks. CIES has provided support to create research networks on trade, macroeconomics, labour and poverty. Canada's Central Bank has collaborated with the macroeconomic network. Research findings are disseminated through publishing material (in 2001–2002 this included 17 publications and five books), actively promoting reports on the web site, organizing forums and meetings, and the provision of training courses by CIES partners. The Consortium has proved to be an effective tool in improving decision-making processes within the different government departments with which it interacts in Peru. The CIES has initiated an institutionalization process.

2.4 Research on Knowledge Systems

2.4.1 RoKS is addressing a key issue to understand the research environment and institutional partnerships in LAC. As a result of the RoKS research competition on "Public and Private Sector Support to Research: Changing Roles and Policy Responses", three LAC researchers were offered awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Research</th>
<th>Recipient Institution / Principal Researcher</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research, Development &amp; Innovation Activities in Argentina in the 1990s: Changing Roles of the Public and Private Sectors and Policy Issues</td>
<td>Centro de Investigación para la Transformación (CENIT) / D. Chudnovsky</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public-Private Research and Development and Innovativeness: Overview and Impacts</td>
<td>Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE) / J. Kuramoto</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5 Gender in LAC

2.5.1 Gender in LAC has been acknowledged mostly by the different PIs, with specific projects addressing the topic or incorporated within the projects' activities in the region. Most of the Program Initiatives have conducted internal workshops and seminars in order to update professional staff and strengthen the capacity of team members to address and integrate gender issues into projects as well as to develop a
vision on gender and the main specific area of research (Minga, PanAmericas, Ecohealth or TEC). This complements the Gender Unit competition project "Gender, Globalization and Land Tenure", which is supporting cutting-edge research that will contribute to knowledge gaps on the role of gender in natural resource management. Within this framework, the project "Facing the Global Market-New Strategies by Women in extractive activities in the Amazon Forest of Bolivia, Brazil and Peru" is being implemented.

2.5.2 Explorations on gender issues:
IDRC has been engaged in some exploratory activities related to gender in LAC. The aim of these explorations is to help identify potential strategic entry points that can guide future work in cutting edge areas. The explorations also help establish distinct, and at the same time inter-related, sets of issues which can provide a window of opportunity for the Centre to support empirical, policy relevant research addressing key gender issues. In this sense, PBR is funding several gender-specific projects such as "Integration of a Gender Focus in Security & Peacebuilding Studies" and "Gendering Peacebuilding Processes in Colombia". The recently approved "Gender Equity and Peacebuilding" project will also explore the international academic and policy discourse in the area of gender and peacebuilding to define niches for future programming. Likewise, LACRO's Internships have encouraged a study on "Policies on tobacco control in Latin America and the Caribbean" which has highlighted the demand for research applied to policies on tobacco consumption and its effects on women. A recently approved Internship study will shed light on indigenous rights and mining, in which the gender perspective is an important component. The study will explore the effect of the increasing presence of indigenous women as decision makers in basic livelihood issues such as the protection in small scale mining activities of water resources used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy impacts of projects in the region led by women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognition should be given at the regional level to the relevant contributions made by IDRC Projects led by women in the areas of TEC and EMS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Latin America Trade Network (LATN) is led by a woman and has as its main goal to conduct policy-oriented research on emerging issues in international trade relations. Results emerging from the LATN are being disseminated to a large audience of policymakers, researchers and civil society organizations and at national and international conferences. The leader has been key in positioning the gender presence at these international events. Her work was recognized by the Government of Argentina with an appointment to a senior position in the Ministry of Finance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The case of the Environmental Management Secretariat, projects related to public-private partnerships, which are mainly led by women, later allowed women leaders in Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil to chair participatory governmental-related processes or committees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.6 Consolidation in Programming and Regional Coverage

2.6.1 The Corporate Program Areas and Regional Dimension of the CSPF 2000-2005 will be able to continue meeting LAC needs. Greater emphasis should be placed on the complementarity of the three Program Areas and the examination of synergies of initiatives undertaken in the region. Critical aspects within these areas in LAC continue to be:

- conducting research on how to improve decision-making processes, governance and policies designed to strengthen institutions and democracies;
- improving capacities of local research centres to facilitate urban planning and management;
- promoting the role of research centres in evaluating and legitimizing measures adopted to mitigate the effects of, or to participate in, economic globalization;
- identifying and promoting networks concerning institutional alternatives, and policies for the integrated management of fragile ecosystems and water resources;
- identifying and evaluating mechanisms for public-private partnerships in order to reduce the digital divide.

2.6.2 A recent consultation process organized in LAC validated the relevance of IDRC's agenda in supporting knowledge development in order to improve the management of public goods (GEH) in areas such as health and education. The current focus on health is appropriate, and it will allow lessons to be learned and advances to be made in the education sector at a later date. Both of these are areas in which the IADB is instigating major structural reform and in which IDRC could play an important role.

2.6.3 In LAC the Centre is supporting a substantial body of research related to biodiversity, ecosystem health and participatory approaches to the management of the environment and natural resources. This work has demonstrated the importance of local ecological and managerial knowledge, such as science, and of socially inclusive participatory decision-making process for the sustainable use of equitable access to natural and institutional resources in the region. Environmental governance and sustainable use of the region's vast ecological diversity and natural resources continue to be among the more pressing issues in the region. Trends towards increased openness and the growing importance of international agreements, both within LAC and between LAC and other regions, are intensifying the effect of dynamic stresses and increasing demands for adaptative local management capacities and regional cooperation. We should focus on expanding knowledge networks or strategically select and build new ones to ensure research programs effectively bridge local, national and international policy and development needs.

2.6.4 During the implementation of the CSPF, programming has increased in the Andean region and in Central America. Both the ICA and TEC have been actively exploring a strategy and should advance in supporting research and capacity-building activities on connectivity and competition policies in the Caribbean. In the period under
consideration, discussions have been held on developing a corporate strategy to conduct research on Cuba as a model of a transition economy. To date this issue is pending for IDRC, as research has not been formally initiated in this field.

2.6.5 Within the current CSPF, IDRC is consolidating in LAC a stock of capital for the Centre on the management of trans-national knowledge generation and on the international division of responsibilities in regional networks. Regional capacities for connectivity and the use of ICTs in knowledge and information exchange facilitate the work with hybrid and integrated research networks. Thus, IDRC has been achieving its mandate to support "post-academic" (unidisciplinary) research and to foster knowledge production models that enhance the perception of research as a public good, rather than only as a market good.

2.6.6 Though a small organization, IDRC has been able to maintain regional visibility by working with regional networks with strong local links and high impact. While focusing our work only on a few strategically chosen countries may create the impression of greater impact per dollar spent, for several reasons this strategy may not be optimal in LAC in the current context. First, at least in two of the four main sub-regions (Andean region and Southern Cone) of Latin American countries are undergoing major transformations with as yet uncertain outcomes. Therefore, the risk of making mistakes in the 'strategic' choice of countries is higher than usual. Second, there is the risk of alienating trusted partners with whom IDRC would like to collaborate in the future, particularly in those countries that will not be the focus of our work. After seeing their work positively evaluated in many instances, these partners may see IDRC as embarking on yet another revision of strategies, from uncertain premises and toward hard-to-predict results. Third, it has been shown in various instances in the last few years that IDRC can play a very valuable role in strengthening Canada's presence in LAC, as a specialized member of the foreign affairs family, in a context of greater hemispheric integration. This role is not only valuable to Canada, but it is also valued by small and medium-sized LAC countries that need a countervalance to other hemispheric powers. A focus on a few (presumably poorest or otherwise 'strategic') countries, to the relative detriment of regional networks, could undermine this contribution by making IDRC look more like the typical bilateral development agency and less like a constructive international organization with a distinct Canadian 'personality'. For these reasons, we propose to continue a strategy of differential emphases as a more suitable alternative to country focus within the CSPF.
3. The Way Forward

3.1 During the period under consideration, the CSPF has proved a suitable tool to respond to the demands for knowledge in LAC. Moreover, in the course of its activities, the Centre has gradually become more flexible, adapting to dynamic changes in the regional context.

3.2 **Strategic approach:** Over the next few years, the economic and financial crisis, with its concomitant social crisis, the crisis in the provision of energy and the increase in institutional vulnerability that currently affect many countries in LAC, will continue to have a major bearing on the Centre's allocation of resources, especially considering the need to program activities in view of the growing complexity of pressures, and the heterogeneity of situations that hinder equitable and sustainable development in LAC. Agencies that operate in LAC are beginning to be more receptive to appreciating the role research centres play in taking stock of social capital and in facilitating policy making choices in the context of liberalization and increasing risks. The coordination of partnerships with donors, agencies active in international development, and private-sector foundations and organizations that are repositioning themselves in LAC, will be one of the priorities that require more active corporate participation. One of the resulting measures is the proactive exploration of synergies in the implementation of the CSPF to monitor:

(i) the implementation of the agenda agreed during the Summit of the Americas held in Quebec in 2001;
(ii) the increased involvement of Canadian public- and private-sector players in key areas of regional development (mining, ICTs, urban infrastructure and services); and
(iii) the new regional strategy in LAC approved by the European Commission (2002-2006).

3.3 **Emerging issues:** In the foreseeable future, the social deficits will continue to pose crucial challenges to the countries of LAC. To its structural problems (epitomized by extreme levels of income concentration) one should add the effects of recurrent macroeconomic crises, such as those that more recently occurred in Ecuador or Argentina, which result—to a great extent—from the lack or inadequacy of domestic and international institutions to manage economic globalization. In this context, the improvement in the design and delivery of social services by the State, and the building of effective safety nets to cope with new risks and promote equity will continue to be a regional priority. IDRC should examine ways of building on previous work in this field to address these challenges, consolidating, strengthening and/or re-focusing programs to serve more effectively the knowledge needs emerging from this scenario.
3.4 It is anticipated that research on values, culture and social change and their role in governance at different levels in LAC will play a relevant role in the effectiveness of poverty reduction proposed intervention. Values and cultures integrate and divide (globalization versus identity), influencing what is valued in a society; they shape the ends of development that are valuable to the poor. Research on these issues should include current debates about migration, diasporic communities, multiculturalism and heritage.

3.5 The weakness of institutional capacity to formulate, assess and implement economic and technological responses to climate change issues in LAC is being consolidated as a relevant impediment to implement sustainable development and risk reduction programs in the region. The support to national and regional research networks focuses on identifying and assessing costs and opportunities for benefits in implementing both market and regulatory mechanisms and in reducing community vulnerability to climate change related consequences, which could facilitate the appropriate use of available funds for development in this field in the region.

3.6 The use of genetically modified organisms and biotechnologies are also an important challenge to LAC countries' quest to actively participate in the global economy. Uncertainties about comprehensive policies to manage the context of this new evolutionary systems and this transformational science and technology is increasingly becoming a relevant issue in the region. The Regional Office has begun to examine the relevance of this issue in the region with a comparative study of the institutional frameworks of the two countries concerned (Argentina and Bolivia).

3.7 Devolving scientific networks to the South: IDRC will devolve some supported thematic research networks in LAC. This is Ecoplata’s case which reached operational maturity, attaining governmental and international

Ecoplata is a corporate project that aims to implement an integral coastal management program. The project is being carried out in partnership with UNDP, UNESCO, local and national government in Uruguay, and a group of Canadian institutions (Environment Canada, Acadia University, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dalhousie University).

The project has favoured the drafting of legislation, the interest of the private sector in supporting government activities, the implementation of an integrated monitoring program, the management of conflicts related to land use, the protection of artisan fishermen’s rights and the creation of an academic unit that specializes in the integrated management of the River Plate coastal region.

UNESCO chose Ecoplata as one of three examples of the application of Agenda 21 in integrated management of coastal zones that it presented at the Rio+10 summit. The governments of Argentina, Brazil and Nicaragua have requested advisory assistance from Ecoplata personnel on the development of similar models. IDRC is preparing the devolution of Ecoplata, transforming it into a foundation with a board of directors composed of government, private sector, academic and NGO representatives.
recognition and, which is now proposing to establish itself as a formal institution.

3.8 **Regional coverage:** The development agenda and research environments in the various sub-regions of the hemisphere are not the same, and not recognizing this fact would lead to inadequate programming choices. For practical purposes, the LAC region could be sub-divided into five groups of countries: the island states of the Caribbean, Central America, the Andean region, the Southern Cone, and the two largest Latin countries (i.e., Brazil and Mexico). (Brazil could alternatively, or for some purposes, be considered part of the Southern Cone and Mexico included in “Meso-America”, but the important fact to recognize is that they are in some sense in a league of their own). Democratization processes, stabilization and adjustment, incidence of poverty, the role of the State, and other key structural features differ from one category to the next, and they determine some common but also some different policy priorities. Similarly, research systems in these various sub-regions are unequally prepared to tackle the immediate tasks and unevenly integrated with policy making institutions and civil society. These differences must be recognized. They could imply, for example, that IDRC may decide to implement “funding-intensive” strategies in some sub-regions where research funding is scarce and institutional capacity building is a high priority (e.g., poorest countries of Central America) while intervening in other countries with targeted, innovative and highly visible initiatives, perhaps in the context of broader regional initiatives (e.g., in larger countries with more advanced research systems, through initiatives that tackle crucial but neglected issues through a lean but highly visible sub-regional network).
Annexes

Annex A Latin America and the Caribbean: Active Portfolio by Location of Research

The chart below shows IDRC’s active program spread in Latin America and the Caribbean (1) ranked by grant total. It details countries where the research supported by IDRC is taking place; a line for regional (multi-country) projects; IDRC’s total grant portfolio (internal and external funding combined) and the grant portfolio broken by Program Area; the total number of active projects; and the total number of partner (recipient) institutions in each country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Total IDRC Grant Portfolio</th>
<th>ENRM Grant Portfolio</th>
<th>ICT4D Grant Portfolio</th>
<th>SEE Grant Portfolio</th>
<th>Number of Projects</th>
<th>Number of Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Projects (2)</td>
<td>26,453,854</td>
<td>14,008,366</td>
<td>9,445,838</td>
<td>2,999,650</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perú (3)</td>
<td>4,699,445</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>209,500</td>
<td>4,209,945</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>1,433,240</td>
<td>1,299,640</td>
<td>139,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1,306,125</td>
<td>495,127</td>
<td>196,800</td>
<td>614,198</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>1,164,229</td>
<td>185,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>978,729</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>1,140,158</td>
<td>491,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>648,758</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>1,095,900</td>
<td>740,600</td>
<td></td>
<td>355,300</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1,062,050</td>
<td>1,062,050</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>1,006,850</td>
<td>362,900</td>
<td>380,750</td>
<td>263,200</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>967,200</td>
<td>182,400</td>
<td>683,100</td>
<td>101,700</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>941,845</td>
<td>637,245</td>
<td>139,600</td>
<td>165,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>753,300</td>
<td>66,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>686,900</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>481,358</td>
<td>66,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>414,958</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>465,550</td>
<td>276,800</td>
<td>153,750</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>460,062</td>
<td>460,062</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>429,200</td>
<td>429,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>313,800</td>
<td>313,800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Rep.</td>
<td>300,900</td>
<td>300,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>259,958</td>
<td>66,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>193,558</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALS** 44,741,024 21,424,290 11,649,838 11,666,896 130 100

% of Total 100% 48.00% 26.00% 26.00%

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(1) Active program spread (as shown in the chart) includes Research projects (Pls, Corporate Projects, and other activities such as those of former Pls) and Secretariat projects, and excludes RSPs and Awards. The information was extracted from EPlK on August 28, 2002.

(2) Regional projects include multicountry activities such as the Environmental Management Secretariat (EMS); the Mining Program Research Initiative (MPRI), the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), the Latin America Trade Network (LATN), PAN-LAC Small Grants, University for Peace Small Grants, Watertox LAC Network and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Potato Center (CIP) Regional Networks.

(3) Includes external funds: $3,333,345 (CIDA for CIES, SEE).
Annex B

Sample summaries of regional consultations/key informant interview discussions on regional presence and research priorities

Agenda setting

- Management of public goods/Governance Equity and Health regional consultation (April 2002)
- Participation in the annual meetings of the Board of the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO)
- Meeting with IADB Bank representatives to explore ways of collaboration on different thematic areas (Washington, October 2001)
- Planning Meeting of the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) involving a hemispheric process of consultations to gather input from key participants in the region (Fortaleza, Brazil, March, 2002)
- Ecohealth approach for the control of malaria, dengue and chagas. Multi-donor project to identify research priority issues (Guatemala, November 2001)
- Electronic forum on Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) to identify strategic issues (July 2000)
- Environment and Natural resources management meeting involving all programming initiatives and secretariats working in the region to develop closer collaboration (Montevideo, February 2000)

Emerging issues

- Regional consultation on trade in health services in Latin America and the Caribbean (April 2002)
- Environmental Management Secretariat (EMS) “Cities Forum”: electronic mechanism for queries on urban environmental management.
- LACRO Internships program involving young researchers from the region working on emerging issues.
- Electronic forum on water management in Cochabamba, Bolivia (February 2000), bringing together stakeholders involved in the use and management of water
Annexes

Advisory groups

• Environmental Management Secretariat (EMS) Advisory Group
• Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI) Advisory Group
• EcoPlata Program Steering Committee

Canadian presence in the region

• Policy workshop: Strengthening Canada-MERCOSUR relations (Ottawa, September 2001)
• Communication letters with approved project information to respective Canadian representatives.
• Collaborative agreement between CIDA and IDRC on work in Honduras: “Building Learning Systems for Honduran Development”

Dissemination

• LACRO Bulletin: “Compartimos”. Electronic newsletter with over 2,100 subscribers, distributed to the region scientific community, donors, policy makers.
• Participation of EMS in Tierramerica project: dissemination of project results in a network of regional newspapers.
Annexes

Annex C

Excerpts showing Canadian leadership in hemispheric integration from the
"One Year after the Quebec City Summit of the Americas
A Progress Report from the Chair"

✓ Adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter to reinforce Organization of American States (OAS) instruments for the active defence of representative democracy.

✓ FTAA negotiations are proceeding on schedule. The Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) has established methods and modalities so that market access negotiations. The TNC also produced guidelines, as requested by Ministers, for negotiating groups to refer to in taking into account the differences in the levels of development and size of economies within the negotiations.

✓ The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) is under way.

✓ Plan of Action to advance cooperation on labour.

✓ Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

✓ Cooperation on legal issues and connectivity.

✓ Ministers of Health and Environment met in Ottawa to explore ways of moving the environmental health agenda forward and to discuss concerns such as clean air and water, basic environmental sanitation and the health implications of natural disasters.

✓ Sectoral meetings have also been held in the field of education, local governance and agriculture.

✓ Gender-mainstreaming, in the ministerial processes and in the dialogue between indigenous peoples and OAS Member States on the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

✓ Five multilateral development banks, including the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, have made available over $US60 billion in loans and credits, which countries can draw upon to help them support the Summit initiatives.