

# IDRC SUPPORT TO SOUTH AFRICA

## IDRC Missions

At the request of the democratic movement, IDRC has sponsored four Missions examining the policy areas of **Economic Analysis, Urban Planning, Science and Technology**, and the **Environment**. Each Mission has published policy recommendations after assessing existing policies and interviewing key players in government, national and local institutions, academia, the business community, and the democratic movement.

## A Chronology

**1988 - 1990** – IDRC is banned from operating in South Africa because of its anti-apartheid policy towards South Africa and support for the Mass Democratic Movement. The Centre supports the research of anti-apartheid researchers in exile and develops projects for South Africa through work in other southern African states.

**Feb. 2, 1990** – Nelson Mandela is released from prison after serving 27 years for his anti-apartheid activities. President F.W. de Klerk lifts the State of Emergency and legalizes anti-apartheid organizations. IDRC staff are now able to obtain government-issued visas to visit the Republic.

**June 1990** – African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela visits Canada and requests assistance in formulating a post-apartheid economic policy for South Africa. The Department of External Affairs identifies IDRC as the organization to co-ordinate this assistance.

**Aug. 1991** – IDRC publishes "Economic Analysis and Policy Formulation for a Post-Apartheid South Africa", the first Mission Report.

**Early 1992** – Based on a decision taken by the Centre's Board of Directors, IDRC establishes a formal presence in South Africa by opening its regional office for Southern Africa, based in Johannesburg.

**Sept. 1992** – IDRC publishes "Cities in Transition: Towards an Urban Policy for a Democratic South Africa", the second Mission Report.

**July 1993** – IDRC publishes "Towards a Science and Technology Policy for a Democratic South Africa", the third Mission Report.

**April 27, 1994** – South Africans elect their country's first democratic government with Nelson Mandela as President.

## WHAT IS IDRC?

Through funding of scientific research in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, the **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** helps communities in the developing world find solutions to problems related to health, technology, food, social and economic policy, information and communication, and the environment. Created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970, IDRC supports research projects that address the challenges of sustainable and equitable development.

### Science in ACTION

is a brochure series profiling IDRC projects worldwide. IDRC-funded research uses science and technology to help identify practical, appropriate solutions to problems in developing countries.

### For more information on IDRC, contact:

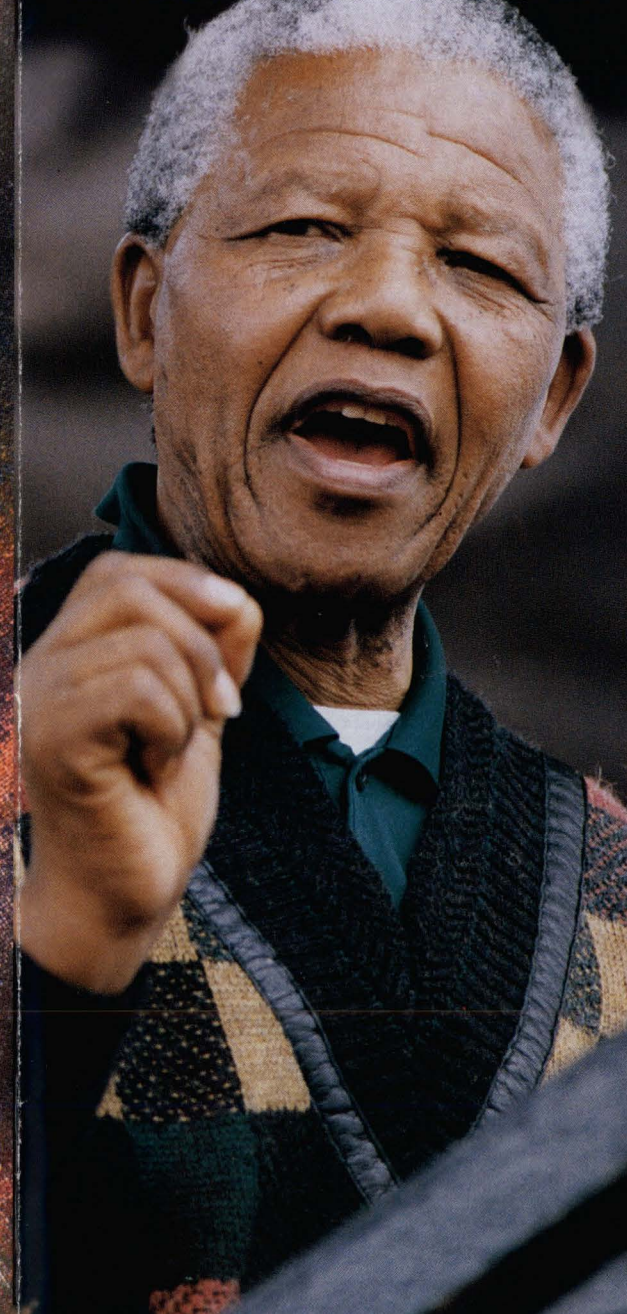
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# BUILDING FOR DEMOCRACY



science in action



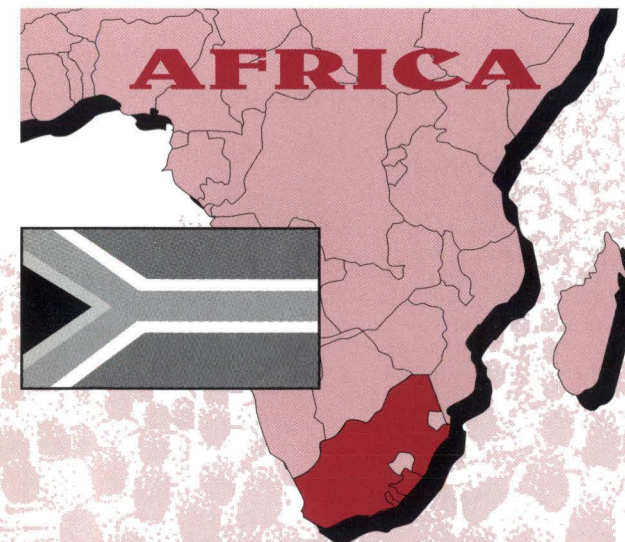
# BUILDING FOR DEMOCRACY

*Following South Africa's first-ever free and fair elections, the country is on the road to rebuilding itself into a non-racial, democratic country. While the task ahead will not be easy, support in key areas can help South Africa become a role model for emerging democracies.*


## IDRC AND SOUTH AFRICA


Since 1988, IDRC has supported research activities for South Africa aimed at eliminating racial discrimination and ensuring a non-racial, democratic future for the country. Through its office in Johannesburg, IDRC funds innovative research, provides financial and technical support to the democratic movement, and assists in the building of a post-apartheid South Africa.


**IDRC sponsors a broad range of research and policy-making activities in South Africa:**




### THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN SOUTH AFRICA

 Poverty is the greatest single burden for the people of South Africa, with 46% unemployment, 8 million people without proper housing and one-third of the population illiterate. The black majority must be provided with basic needs such as proper nutrition, water, jobs, health care, education, transportation, electricity, sanitation, telecommunications, and access to social services.

 Building the economy will be essential to a secure future. Profound socio-economic restructuring will be needed to create a new system which aims to meet the needs of all South Africans.

 The education and training system under apartheid was fragmented and unequal. The challenge now is to create an educational system that enables people to realize their full potential and participate actively in decision-making and institution building.

 Promoting democracy at all levels of governance will involve eliminating corruption, strengthening legal and institutional frameworks, and reinforcing the concept of accountability and openness in government.

#### Democratic Governance

- Providing financial and technical assistance to the democratic movement during pre-election negotiations and Constitutional talks; promoting democratization at national, regional, local, and sectoral levels.

#### Economic restructuring

- Partially funding the creation of the Macroeconomics Research Group (MERG), which has formulated post-apartheid economic policies; developing and implementing a national industrial strategy.

#### Environment

- Formulating a national environmental and sustainable development plan of action; developing a national program in which military resources will be converted to serve environmental protection purposes.

#### Education

- Establishing, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Centre for Education Policy Development (CEPD) to develop policies aimed at restructuring apartheid education and training systems.

#### Gender Equality

- Ensuring that women's issues, needs, and perspectives are included in the Constitutional talks.

#### Science & Technology

- Assessing existing performance and identifying new, more effective directions for science policy.

#### Building a New Civil Service

- CIDA and IDRC are helping build professional competence in this key area.

#### Land Reform and Rural Development

- Developing rural land ownership policies which respect residents' rights and guarantee protection of the environment.

