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Dear Colleague,

We are embarking on an exciting new phase of the Ecosystems and Human Health (Ecohealth) program at IDRC. Last April, IDRC’s Board of Governors approved a new and challenging five-year mandate for the program.

IDRC’s Ecohealth program has supported research on health problems rooted in poverty and degraded environments since 1997. Researchers work across disciplines and sectors using an ecosystem approach to health - a systems-based research approach that considers both ecosystem and socio-economic dimensions of a health problem, including gender and social equity. Communities as well as decision-makers were engaged in both research and the application of its results.

**Implications for programming:**

The Ecohealth program will continue to support applied research and research capacity building activities in developing regions. Uptake and use of research findings remain a priority for the program. Policies and practices for better health and better environmental management should be informed by research so that they are adaptive in the face of existing and new challenges, for example climate change

For 2010-15, Ecohealth will focus on three main areas:

* Our program will now place an even stronger emphasis on building the field of ecohealth. We will support leading ecohealth research organizations in developing regions to generate stronger ecohealth evidence and foster more effective use of research results.
* We will also fund projects on how environmental and socio-economic changes affect emerging and re-emerging diseases. Discoveries will help improve disease prevention strategies and improve the lives of vulnerable people.
* We will support research on the links between health improvements and better agricultural practices with an aim to improve health and protect ecosystems.

**Other news:**

Earlier this year, we launched two open calls for proposals: [*Integrated Research Partnerships on Malaria in Africa*](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-158291-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html?utm_source=Ecohealth&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_content=English%2BIPMA&utm_campaign=LofIntroduction)(with IDRC’s Governance Equity and Health Program) and [*Ecohealth Emerging Infectious Diseases Research in South-East Asia*](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-158084-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html?utm_source=Ecohealth&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_content=English%2BEcoEID&utm_campaign=LofIntroduction) (with the Global Health Research Initiative, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Australian Agency for International Development). Together with our partners, we look forward to supporting innovative and impactful research through these calls that will foster the use of research results for improved practices and policies to help communities improve their health and well-being and protect their ecosystems.

A new IDRC book, *Ecohealth Research in Practice*, will be published with Springer in early 2011. Through case studies, the book illustrates how different researchers used ecosystem approaches to health to make a difference in the health of people around the world.

Watch our [website](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-3314-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html?utm_source=Ecohealth&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_content=English%2BMainsite&utm_campaign=LofIntroduction) for more information on these and other important developments. Our new electronic bulletin, *Ecohealth News,\** is published three times a year. It includes useful information on funding opportunities, resources and events related to ecohealth research. If you do not wish to receive *Ecohealth News* please send a note to [ecohealth@idrc.ca](mailto:ecohealth@idrc.ca) with “unsubscribe” in the subject line.

Visit [IDRC’s website](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-1-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html?utm_source=Ecohealth&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_content=English%2BMainsite&utm_campaign=LofIntroduction) to learn about celebrating our 40th anniversary or browse the [*Lasting Impacts*](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-149607-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html) mini-sites for stories on how IDRC-funded research projects continue to make a difference long after their end dates.

This is an exciting time for us, and I hope you will continue to follow us with interest.

Best regards

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\*Privacy disclaimer: Your contact information will remain confidential. IDRC does not share personal information with any other parties.