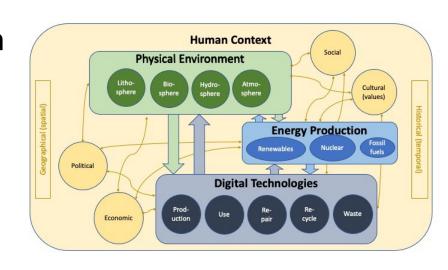# Emerging Trends

- Global emphasis on lowering carbon emissions to reduce the impact of "climate change" has obscured the very wide-ranging positive and negative impacts that the use of digital tech has on the environment when considered holistically

- DESC emphasizes the importance of evaluating comprehensively and holistically (positively and negatively) the impacts of digital tech

  - On the lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere

  - In the context of human political, social, economic and cultural factors, and

  - Considered both geographically (over space) and historically (through time)

Challenges and actionable items

Poline Bala: "*The indigenous people are often the last to be connected to digital technology … If you listen to many of the indigenous people in Sarawak, they are not necessarily against development, but they do wish to avoid the dark side of digital technologies*

Carlos Álvarez Pereira: "*We don't know yet if digitalization can contribute to Life with a capital L and to the perpetuation, in particular, of the human species on earth…. As you know well, we have created a number of existential challenges*"

WSIS FORUM 2022
Starting on 15 March
Final week 30 May – 3 June

DESC

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Announcements and commitments

- Partnership between DESC and the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF)
  - Some 6000 people in China were able to watch the session through the CBCGDF's media services (including Baidu and MicroBlog).

- Commitment to develop a report by 2025 outlining a novel holistic framework for evaluating the positive and negative impacts of digital tech on the environment and illustrating this with case-studies

- Pledge to develop an environmental toolkit for UN (ITU-led) Partner2Connect partners and interventions

- Regular reporting to WSIS Annual Forums in 2023, 2024 and 2025