

An aerial photograph of a coastline, showing green land on the left and blue water on the right. The text is overlaid on the image.

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

North American Regional Action Plan on Mercury

**Binational Toxics Strategy
Mercury Workgroup
Wednesday May 17, 2006
Toronto Ontario**



**Three Countries.
One Environment.**

North American Regional Action Plan on Mercury

- Phase 1 November 1998
- Phase 2 June 2000
 - consists of 6 major action items for consideration
 - emissions from major sources
 - products and uses
 - waste management
 - monitoring and science
 - communications
 - reporting/auditing



Successful initiatives to date

- Air emissions inventory for Mexico
- Monitoring of ambient air levels and wet deposition
- Assessment of mercury use in jewelry, Mexico
- Ongoing reductions in use and emissions
- Public awareness
- Linkages with other initiatives
- Coordination role



Air Monitoring in Mexico

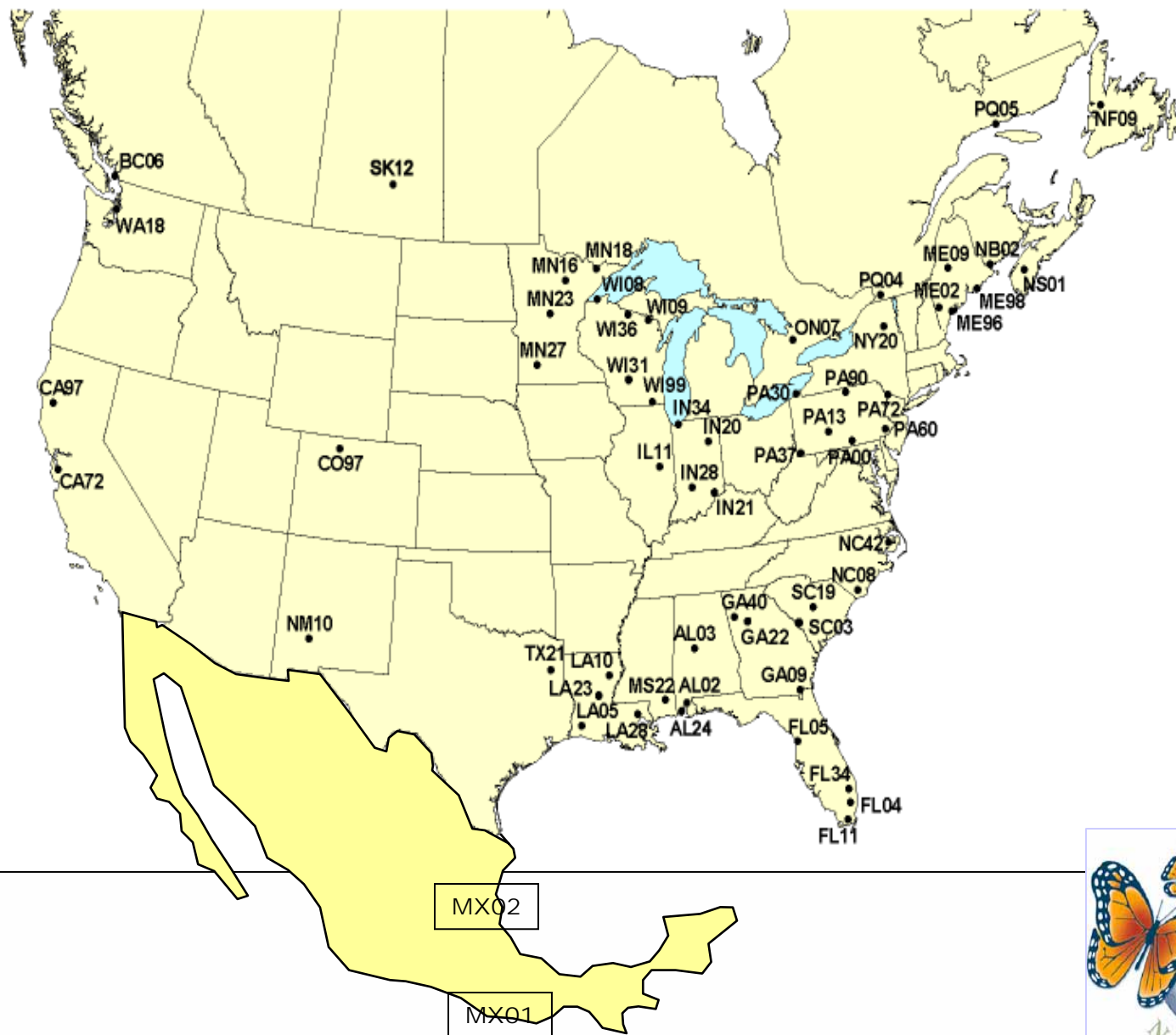
- preliminary assessment in Zacatecas
 - Spanish silver amalgamation site (1550- 1850)
 - Extremely high Hg in air following rainfall events
- assessment in Mexico city
- ambient levels in Puerto Angel and Huejutla
 - coincident with 2 MDN sites



Wet Deposition Monitoring in Mexico

- Two MDN monitors installed
 - two year sampling, currently terminated
- First continental Hg monitoring network
 - capacity building initiative
- Lessons learned
 - Infrastructure development necessary
 - Partnership benefits need clarification
 - Commitment at the policy level

National Atmospheric Deposition Program Mercury Deposition Network



Reassessing Our Direction

- Global community concern
 - UNEP Global Mercury Initiative
- Promotion of the “Partnerships” program
 - “Establishment of partnerships as one approach to reducing the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury to the environment
 - <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/partnerships/>
- Promote linkages with other regional initiatives
 - Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy
 - New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers



Partnership Initiatives

- Global Partnership for Mercury Reductions in the Chlor-alkali Sector
 - USEPA sponsored workshop in Mexico on Best Available Practices
- Global Partnership for Mercury Reductions in Products
 - CEC-Americas Workshop to Reduce Mercury Use in Products”,
 - Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, February 21-23, 2006



Continuing Efforts

- *CEC/USEPA/Health Care Without Harm:*

"Promoting Alternatives to Mercury in Health Care"

raising awareness and facilitating change. Fall 2006

- Global Partnership for Mercury Management in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

- Global Partnership for Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research



CEC Hg NARAP OBJECTIVE

*Approach levels attributable to
natural emissions*

[http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/pollutants_ health/smoc/smoc-rap.cfm?varlan=english](http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/pollutants_health/smoc/smoc-rap.cfm?varlan=english)

