

An aerial photograph of a coastline, showing a green, forested landmass on the left and a deep blue ocean on the right. The land has a complex, irregular shape with many inlets and peninsulas. The water is a vibrant blue, and the overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the earth.

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Overview

Sound Management of Chemicals

Lindane Task Force Meeting
September 29 – 30
Guadalajara, Mexico



**Three Countries.
One Environment.**

A satellite-style map of North America, showing the continent illuminated with yellow and white lights against a dark blue background. The map is oriented vertically, with the top of the continent at the top of the frame. The lights represent major cities and population centers, with a dense concentration in the eastern United States and southern Canada. The surrounding oceans are dark blue, and the map shows the outlines of the continents.

In North America

- 400 million people
- Shared ecosystem
 - Transboundary flow of air, water, species
- Open economy
 - \$11 trillion goods/services
 - NAFTA – doubled trade since 1993

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

- Canada, Mexico, United States
 - created CEC to better protect our shared environment
- North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation
 - parallel agreement to NAFTA



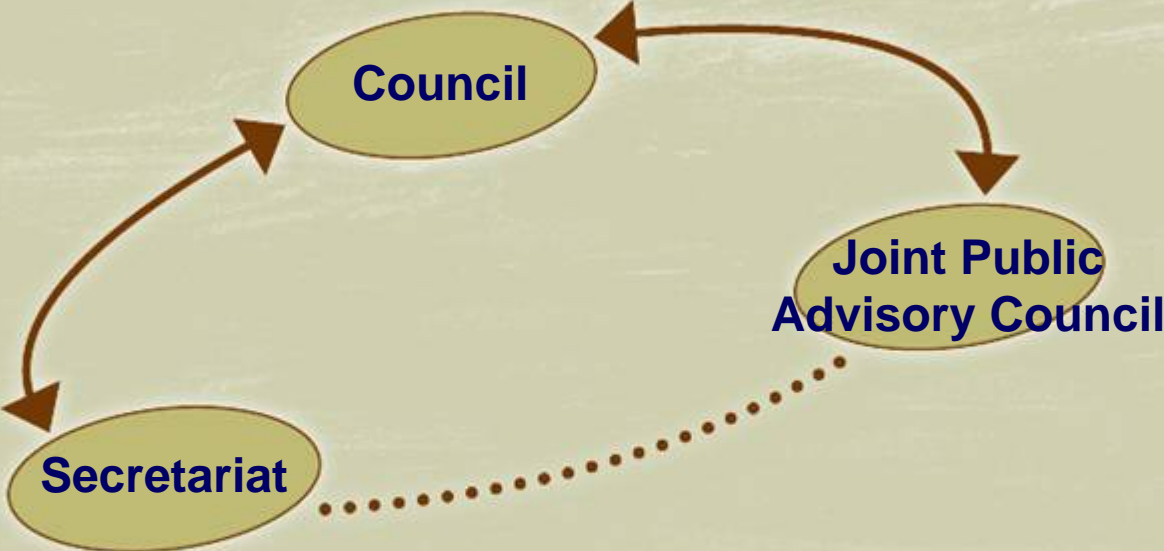
CEC Mission

Cooperation, public participation
to foster **conservation, protection,**
and **enhancement** of the
environment...

... in the context of increasing
economic and trade links



CEC Structure



Regional Cooperation



- Sound Management of Chemicals
- Children's health and the environment
 - Agenda for trinalational action
- Trade in environmentally-preferable goods and services
- North American Bird Conservation Initiative



❖ *Regional cooperation- full range of chemical substances of mutual concern*

❖ *Priority to management and control of persistent and toxic substances*

❖ *Decisions by consensus*

**RESOLUTION 95-05:
Sound Management of Chemicals**

The Sound Management of Chemicals Initiative

- Seeks to protect human health and the environment by reducing the release of toxic substances into the North American environment.
- Based on Council Resolution 95-05, which enables continental action on chemicals of mutual concern
- Linked to global initiatives such as Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.





Task Forces

Assessment

Monitoring

Technology

Capacity Building

Management Strategies & Policies

Guidelines/Regulation



Full Participation

Senior Scientific Experts

Indigenous Peoples

Environmental Groups

Industry Representatives

Academia

North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs)

NARAPs nearly completed:

▣ *PCBs*

- Virtual elimination of PCB in the environment
- Environmentally sound management and control of existing PCB' throughout their life cycles
- Safe phase-out and destruction of PCB

▣ *Chlordane*

- Phase out of registered uses
- Canada and USA worked closely with Mexico to provide available risk assessments for suitable alternatives to chlordane
- Three phase regulatory program specific to Mexico

▣ *DDT*

- Public education, with an emphasis on the health and environmental effects of DDT
- Testing of alternatives to DDT, including biological controls
- Strengthening public health measures



North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs)

NARAPs:

■ *Mercury*

- ▶ Addresses the reduction of emissions from human activity throughout North America
- ▶ Significantly reduce levels of Mercury in the environment to those attributable solely to naturally occurring sources
- ▶ Contains 85 individual action items

■ *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*

- ▶ to develop a baseline survey of the North American region, investigating the exposure of newborn children and infants to persistent toxic substances
- ▶ to provide Canada, Mexico and the United States with an agreed-upon course of action to increase the comparability, reliability, relevance and availability of data

■ *Dioxins, Furans and Hexachlorobenzene (1st Phase)*

- ▶ Provide a framework for information sharing and expert exchanges
- ▶ Define actions to reduce releases and exposure to the North American environment
- ▶ Develop and promote outreach and communication of environmental monitoring



North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs)

□ *Lindane*

Task Force, to develop a NARAP created in 2002, that will:

- ▶ Promote the development of a unified North American position on lindane
- ▶ Provide a mechanism for reducing or eliminating non-essential uses
- ▶ Reduce risk to environmental and human health on a trilateral scale

□ *Substance Selection Task Force*

- ▶ Process to identify priority substances for future collective action
- ▶ Credible and transparent manner to select substances
- ▶ Provides opportunities for public review at different stages in the process

□ *Lead*

- ▶ Draft NARAP Mutual Concern Document presented to Council at its recent meeting in June, 2003