

**FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNCIL  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)**

**26–27 June 2007  
Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico**

**SUMMARY RECORD**

The Council held its fourteenth Regular Session on 26–27 June 2007, in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico. Juan Elvira Quesada, Secretary for the Environment and Natural Resources of México, chaired the meeting, Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and John Baird, Canadian Minister of the Environment, represented the United States and Canada, respectively. Adrián Vázquez, CEC Executive Director, represented the Secretariat. Nathalie Daoust, Council secretary, acted in that capacity for the session. Other delegates and special invitees were also in attendance (see **Annex A**).

**Item 1 Welcoming reception and official opening of the 14th Regular Session of the Council**

The Mayor of Morelia, Carlos Macouzet, spoke first and welcomed the gathering to the city of Morelia. He stressed the importance of public involvement on environmental issues and how the will of citizens can impact the work of an organization such as the CEC. He commended the Council for getting together and congratulated them in advance on the outcome of their meeting.

Adrián Vázquez, CEC Executive Director, noted how the CEC is a success story and how he hoped this meeting would represent yet again a new impulse for environmental cooperation on a North American scale.

Irene Henriques, the JPAC chair, underlined that the CEC had been created to facilitate cooperation among the three countries and that both public participation in this effort and the leadership of the three governments were key elements in achieving environmental results in North America.

In his opening remarks, Canada's Minister, John Baird, congratulated Mexico for its climate change plan and emphasized the importance of trilateral cooperation to improve air quality at the regional and continental level, noting that this issue is a priority for the Canadian government. He stressed that the three countries shared a tremendous responsibility to protect the North American environment and noted that the CEC is an important instrument in achieving this goal.

For the United States, Administrator Stephen L. Johnson remarked how the CEC is a catalyst for cooperative action and that the meeting would represent an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments made through the collaboration between federal, state, and local governments, and governments and environmental organizations, the private-sector, and all stakeholders. He also emphasized the CEC's role as a convener—bringing the right people together to protect the North American environment and species such as the vaquita porpoise and the Monarch butterfly. Likewise, the CEC provides a forum for the three countries to work towards a common goal. As such, he reiterated the commitment of his country to the CEC and to promoting a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable North America.

Secretary Juan Elvira Quesada officially opened the 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the CEC Council and noted the importance of the meeting in allowing cooperation among the three countries and interaction with civil society. He underlined the great achievements of the CEC in facilitating the reduction of the use of harmful chemicals. He also spoke of Mexico's interest in promoting the conservation of forests to complement the work of the CEC and as a means to combat the negative impacts of climate change.

Finally, Lazaro Cárdenas Batel, Governor of Michoacán, welcomed the honored guests and the public to his state. He commended the work of the CEC in building a trilateral partnership for sustainability. He stressed the importance of designing public policies at the national level to ensure success on a trilateral scale.

## **Item 2 Adoption of the agenda by Council and report from the Executive Director on accomplishments of the CEC**

As chair, Secretary Elvira Quesada welcomed the gathering and underlined that this session before the public had been designed to enrich the discussion and exchange of information. The Session Agenda was adopted by the Council as drafted. Secretary Elvira then turned to the Executive Director and invited him to provide his report on CEC achievements over the past year and address the Council on issues of interest (*as per Rule 5.3 of Council Rules of Procedure*). (The Council Session Agenda can be found in **Annex B** and the full Executive Director's report can be found as **Annex C**.)

## **Item 3 The CEC as a catalyst for achieving environmental results in North America**

### **Item 3.1 Improving access to environmental information**

#### **Item 3.1.1 Enhancing access to comparable pollutant data**

Cody Rice, program manager for environmental information, presented on progress the CEC has achieved in assembling a seamless North American picture of (2004) industrial pollutant data with the inclusion of data from Mexico. He also showed how a new *Google Earth* mapping tool had been developed by the CEC and national atlas officials allowing the public to view and access site-specific pollutant data from reporting facilities in Canada, Mexico and the United States. The presentation also highlighted how the CEC could use Google Earth to disseminate other map layers, such as ecoregions, population, etc. Both Canada and the United States commended Mexico for its mandatory reporting of pollutant releases and transfers, allowing the production of the first North American registry. Mexico has committed itself to continued efforts in improving its pollutant release and transfer register and incorporating additional data necessary for increased comparability. The Council also recognized the value of the Google Earth tool and supported expanding it to include more environmental data. (The accompanying slide presentation can be found in **Annex D**.)

#### **Item 3.1.2 Cooperating on air quality management**

Sue Stendebach, US representative to the North American Air Working Group, presented a proposed vision for North American air quality management collaboration. In her presentation, she reviewed the CEC's and Parties' past work in this area, outlined opportunities and challenges for further collaboration, and sought the Council's endorsement to develop an air quality management strategy by 2009. The Council acknowledged the need for the three countries to work together in reducing air emissions and their environmental impacts, and recognized that the CEC was in a unique position to assist the Parties with this shared goal. The Council directed the North American Air Working Group to work with the CEC to advance the objectives outlined in the proposed Vision for North American Air Quality Management and to develop a strategy to be completed in 2009. In developing the strategy, the US emphasized the importance of taking into consideration national efforts in air quality management. The US also mentioned the agreement reached with other G8 countries that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale required local strategies and stated that collaboration on greenhouse gases should be part of the CEC's air quality strategy. Canada highlighted the importance of ensuring the comparability of air pollution data and raised a number of related efforts that could inform the CEC strategy, including initiatives aimed at reducing emissions in the auto sector. The three Parties agreed with the need to focus on reducing air emissions from the auto sector. Mexico expressed its intent to host a forum on the development of sustainable transportation and noted the importance of ensuring that imported used vehicles comply with common standards. (The accompanying slide presentation can be found in **Annex E**.)

### **Item 3.2 Conserving North American biodiversity**

#### **Item 3.2.1 Protecting the vaquita**

Adrián Fernandez, Director of Mexico's *Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE)*, presented to Council a strategy for the protection and recovery of the vaquita, including a role for a proposed North American Conservation Action Plan (NACAP) to mobilize trilateral action. The Council agreed with the urgent action

required to help Mexico recover the species and adopted Council Resolution 07-13, instructing the Secretariat to initiate collaborative efforts to develop a NACAP to recover the vaquita and promote sustainable local livelihoods. Mexico stated its intention to invest US\$4 million to address this problem. (The accompanying slide presentation can be found in **Annex F.**)

### **Item 3.2.2 Protecting the Monarch butterfly**

Ernesto Enkerlin, Director of Mexico's *Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas* (Conanp), presented a proposal for a renewed, multi-party and comprehensive approach to protect the Monarch butterfly. Mexico noted the efforts it has carried out in the forestry sector by planting trees and fighting illegal logging as a means to protect the species. Recalling the migratory journey of the Monarch across the three countries, the Council expressed support for the initiative and adopted Council Resolution 07-09, directing the Secretariat to support ongoing trilateral Party and stakeholder cooperation to conserve the Monarch butterfly, develop a North American Monarch Conservation plan, and explore synergies with other CEC activities. (The accompanying slide presentation can be found in **Annex G.**)

### **Item 3.3 Supporting local and community-level environmental action**

The Executive Director was invited to present two initiatives under this rubric. First, he sought support for CEC's involvement in planning for a 2008 North American Indigenous Environmental Health Assembly. The Council strongly supported this endeavor and noted the importance of involving indigenous communities in the activities of the CEC and obtaining their valuable insights on environmental matters. Council Resolution 07-10 was adopted, instructing the Secretariat to facilitate and support the development of a North American indigenous environmental health assembly. Mexico stated its interest in hosting the Assembly in 2008.

The Executive Director then introduced a proposal for the CEC to support the participation of community-based organizations in CEC projects as part of the cooperative work program to be set forth in the 2008–2010 Operational Plan. The Council stressed the importance of establishing strong selection criteria and performance accountability to ensure strong project outcomes and enhance the relevance of the CEC to local communities.

#### **Item 3.3.1 Green building**

Evangelina Hirata of Mexico's *Consejo Nacional de Vivienda* (Conavi) and César Chávez Ortiz of Semarnat reported on input received at the recent Mexico City workshop on green building and presented a proposal to the Council for Mexico to develop and promote a consensus-based green building certification system. The Council agreed that this project offered a good opportunity for trilateral cooperation and involvement of stakeholders which could significantly impact the well-being of communities in Mexico. Council Resolution 07-11 was thus adopted, authorizing the use of CEC resources to fund a workshop on building capacity to develop a green building rating system in Mexico in 2007. (The accompanying slide presentation can be found in **Annex H.**)

### **Item 4 Report from the meeting of the senior trade and environment officials**

Enrique Lendo Fuentes, in his capacity as Trade and Environment Working Group co-chair, reported on the outcome of the meeting of the senior trade and environment officials, held on 26 June 2007. A review of current trade-related projects was discussed and great interest had been expressed for market-based initiatives to achieve sustainability. Exploring links between the CEC and the NAFTA Trade Commission was also proposed. Finally, he reported that another meeting of the senior trade and environment officials was contemplated for later in 2007. The Council recognized the central role of trade-related projects at the CEC and of working collaboratively with the trade officials. They agreed that economic competitiveness and sustainability work hand in hand. (The accompanying slide presentation can be found in **Annex I.**)

## **Item 5 Enhancing the relevance of the CEC**

Executive Director Vázquez presented a proposal for developing some of the informational foundation required to inform the strategic planning process of the CEC for 2010–2015. The proposal includes the development of a plan of work for reporting on the state of the environment in North America as well as a new effort to identify emerging trends which may significantly influence future environmental conditions in North America. In regards to the state of the environment reporting, Council Resolution 07-14 was adopted, which directs the CEC to engage resources toward the preparation of briefing papers on major North American environmental themes to be presented to the Council in 2008. The Council stressed the importance of setting clear indicators to measure common progress. Concerning the proposal to identify emerging trends, the Council adopted its Resolution 07-12, directing the Secretariat to compile and synthesize existing and ongoing assessments of long-term trend analysis in each of our three countries, and to begin work towards a 2008 North American Environmental Outlook Conference.

The Council also noted that the engagement of stakeholders in the three countries was important in enhancing the relevance of the CEC and encouraged efforts in this regard. Mexico suggested exploring further linkages with the academic sector. (The accompanying slide presentation can be found in **Annex J**.)

## **Item 6 Preparation for news conference**

Evan Lloyd, Director of Communications, explained the general conduct of the news conference. The Council approved the ministerial statement to be released at the event.

## **Item 7 Concluding remarks and signing of Council Resolutions**

Prior to signing the Council Resolutions, the Council members exchanged gifts and made a few closing remarks, acknowledging the success of the meeting and thanking Mexico for its hospitality. The Ministers proceeded to sign the Council Resolutions adopted during their session.

## **Item 8 Joint meeting with JPAC**

**Irene Henriques** expressed regrets on behalf of JPAC members who could not attend the meeting. She focused her intervention on the delays experienced in the Parties' response to citizen submissions and how it affected the credibility of the CEC and JPAC. She reminded the Council of the need for procedural justice and for ensuring a timely, open, accountable and effective process.

**Adriana Nelly Correa** addressed the topic of biodiversity conservation in North America. She reported on the results from the JPAC meeting of fall 2006 and highlighted some of the recommendations by JPAC in its advice 07-01. These include the need for more information to be collected on trade-related environment degradation, the promotion of market-based mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and the compilation of case studies and success stories to be disseminated.

**Jean-Guy Dépôt** spoke on the unintended consequences of trading goods which have been banned in one of the three NAFTA countries. He pointed out the need for Canada, Mexico and the United States to adopt simultaneously a program banning the sale of all new conventional two-stroke engines. He stressed how two-stroke engines are hazardous for the environment given they use a fuel mixture which is a persistent pollutant and which kills fishes and wildlife when released into the environment.

**Patricia McDonald**'s intervention focused on the need to increase public engagement in CEC activities. She made reference to the recent letter from the US National and Governmental Advisory Committees which set forth ways to increase the relevance of the CEC. She applauded the Council for its decision to support and fund local-level initiatives. She indicated this measure represented an important step in ensuring public engagement in CEC's work.

**Eduardo Rincón** spoke on increasing the involvement of rural communities in the work of the CEC. His

intervention addressed the importance of tackling environmental issues at the local level and helping citizens in rural areas to become the caretakers of their own environment. He encouraged the Council to explore ways to cooperate in assisting local communities by disseminating environmental information and designing other tools to improve the well-being of rural citizens.

**Dinker Desai** touched upon the topic of green building in North America. He reported on the results from the JPAC workshop, held in May 2007 in Seattle, Washington. He noted one of the recommendations to develop case studies and measure actual energy savings deriving from green building. He also pointed to the need to put forward financial incentives given that voluntary approaches were not yielding sufficient results. Finally, he underlined the need to design distinct building prototypes according to climate zones and to design affordable and simple technology in support of green building in Mexico.

The Council thanked the JPAC members for their interventions and assured them of the Council's attention to these matters. The Council concurred with the comment regarding the need to respond to citizen submissions in a timely manner and noted how the Council resolutions to protect the vaquita and the Monarch butterfly provided good examples of ensuring the conservation of biodiversity. The Council recognized the importance of public engagement and agreed that holding their session before the public had been highly beneficial.

### **Item 9 Council public meeting**

Following introductory remarks on the conduct of the session by the JPAC chair, Irene Henriques, two representatives from the public reported on the results of the public workshop and the networking session held the previous day. These reports were followed by statements by pre-selected presenters. (A summary of all interventions made during the public portion of the session, and responses from Council members, can be found in **Annex K**.)

**Decimocuarta Sesión Ordinaria del Consejo, 26-27 de junio de 2007 – Morelia**  
**Fourteenth Regular Session of the Council, 26-27 June 2007 – Morelia**  
**XIVe Session ordinaire du Conseil, 26-27 juin 2007 – Morelia**  
**(as of 18 June 2007)**

**Annex A: List of Participants**

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**Annexe B: Agenda**

**FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE CEC COUNCIL  
To be held on 26–27 June 2007, Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico**

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**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**TUESDAY, 26 JUNE**

**19:00–21:00 Welcoming reception and official opening of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the CEC Council (public) (Patio Central del Palacio Municipal – Centro Histórico)**

- Welcoming remarks by Carlos Macouzet Zamacona, Mayor of Morelia (2 min.)
- Remarks by Adrián Vázquez, CEC Executive Director (1 min.)
- Remarks by Irene Henriques, Chair of the CEC Joint Public Advisory Committee (2 min.)
- Remarks by John Baird, Environment Minister, Environment Canada (5 min.)
- Remarks by Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency (5 min.)

Item 1 Welcoming remarks and official opening of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Council, by Juan Elvira Quesada, Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Mexico (5 min.)

- Closing remarks by Lázaro Cárdenas Batel, Governor of the State of Michoacán (5 min.)

**WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE**

**7:30–8:30 Council private breakfast (Hotel Villa San José, Morelia)**

**9:00–10:35 Council session open to the public (1 h 35) (Salón Principal, Hotel Fiesta Inn)**

9:00–9:15 Item 2 Adoption of the agenda by Council  
Report from the Executive Director on accomplishments of the CEC

9:15–10:35 Item 3 The CEC as a catalyst for achieving environmental results in North America

9:15–9:45 Item 3.1 Improving access to environmental information  
Item 3.1.1 Enhancing access to comparable pollutant data (15 min.)

Item 3.1.2 Cooperating on air quality management (15 min.)

9:45–10:15 Item 3.2 Conserving North American biodiversity

Item 3.2.1 Protecting the vaquita (15 min.)

Item 3.2.2 Protecting the Monarch butterfly (15 min.)

10:15–10:35 Item 3.3 Supporting local and community-level environmental action (5 min.)

Item 3.3.1 Green building (15 min.)

**10:35–10:45 Break**

**10:45–12:00 Council in-camera session (1 h 15) (Salón Quinques)**

- 10:45–11:00 Item 4 Report from the senior trade and environment officials (15 min.)  
11:00–11:45 Item 5 Enhancing the relevance of the CEC (45 min.)  
11:45–11:50 Item 6 Preparation for news conference (5 min.)  
11:50–12:00 Item 7 Concluding remarks and signing of Council resolutions (10 min.)

**12:00–12:15 Break**

**12:15–13:45 Joint meeting with JPAC (1 h 30) (working lunch) (Salón Quinques)**

Item 8 Joint meeting with JPAC

**13:45–14:00 Break**

**14:00–15:30 Council public meeting (1 h 30) (Salón Principal)**

Item 9 Council public meeting

- Introduction on the conduct of the session by Irene Henriques, JPAC Chair (5 min.)
- Report on the JPAC's public workshop (5 min.)
- Report on the results of the networking session (5 min.)
- Statements by pre-selected presenters (9 pres. X 5 min. = 45 min.)
- Comments by Council members (30 minutes)

**15:30–15:45 Break**

**15:45–16:30 Closing news conference (with the public as observers) (45 min.) (Salón Principal)**

Item 10 Closing news conference

## **OBJECTIVES OF MEETING:**

- Review progress on directions and decisions from the 2006 Council Session as well as selected projects contained in the 2007–2009 Operational Plan
- Discuss proposals for new initiatives and provide direction for the development of the 2008–2010 Operational Plan

## **TUESDAY, 26 JUNE**

### **Item 1 Welcoming reception and official opening of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the CEC Council**

The master of ceremony, María de los Ángeles Pérez Torres, will invite the Mayor of Morelia to deliver welcoming remarks. She will then invite, in turn, the CEC Executive Director, the JPAC Chair, and the Canadian and US Council members to address the public. Finally, she will invite the Mexican Council member to say a few remarks and officially open the 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Council, and will turn to the Governor of the state of Michoacán for closing remarks. Following the welcoming reception, the Council members and participants will be transported to the Cathedral to view a lightshow with fireworks and music.

#### Session document(s):

- a) Final program for events open to the public C/07-00/PROG/rev.10

## **WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE**

### **Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and report from the Executive Director (15 min.)**

The Council shall adopt the agenda based on the provisional annotated agenda (*Rule 9.6 of Council Rules of Procedure*). The Chair will then invite the Executive Director to give his report (10 min.) on CEC accomplishments since the last Council Session.

#### Session document(s):

- a) Provisional annotated agenda C/07-00/AGEN/01/rev.11  
b) General program for the Council session and side events C/07-00/PROG/01/rev.10  
c) Presentation by the CEC Executive Director

### **Item 3 The CEC as a catalyst for achieving environmental results in North America**

During its 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, in June 2006, in Washington, DC, the Council identified specific areas of cooperation. This Council Session provides an opportunity to highlight progress in these areas and guide future CEC initiatives.

#### Session document(s):

- a) 2007–2009 Operational Plan  
b) 2005–2010 Strategic Plan

#### **Item 3.1 Improving access to environmental information**

##### **Item 3.1.1 Enhancing access to comparable pollutant data (15 min.)**

#### Context:

Following the publication of Mexico's first mandatory pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) report, considerable progress has been made by the CEC in assembling a seamless North American picture of (2004) industrial pollutant data. Most recently, a new *Google Earth* mapping tool has been developed by the CEC and national atlas officials that will allow the public to view and access site-specific pollutant data from reporting facilities in Canada, Mexico and the United States. This is an unprecedented development in terms of assembling key information on industrial releases and transfers, enhancing public access and fulfilling citizen's right-to-know. It represents a significant step forward in providing access to point-specific industrial pollutant data from reporting facilities in North America, to citizens in each of our three countries.

The Chair will invite Cody Rice of the CEC Secretariat to present to the Council and public, for the first time, the new *Google Earth* application for reporting facilities throughout North America (5 min.). The presentation will also highlight PRTR data maps and how the CEC may use Google Earth to disseminate other map layers, such as ecoregions, population, etc.

Discussion outline:

- The Chair will thank the officials who developed the new tool and will underline the fact that the demonstration just completed marks the North American premiere and first public presentation of the CEC's new Google Earth mapping tool, and point out that the public may now begin accessing this information.
- Canada and the United States may wish to congratulate Mexico on the publication of its first mandatory PRTR (RETC) data.
- Council members may wish to reiterate their continued support for collaboration to enhance the quality and comparability of PRTR information across North America.
- Council may commend the CEC and national atlas partners for the development of this new mapping tool as a product of the North American Environmental Atlas and express interest in Google Earth layers for visualizing other environmental data.
- Council expresses interest in the forthcoming release of *Taking Stock 2004* (August 2007), the first issue in that series containing findings based on matched trilateral PRTR data.

Session document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on enhancing access to comparable North American pollutant release and transfer sites
- b) Discussion notes on new *Google Earth* tool for searching PRTR reporting facilities and data.

**Item 3.1.2 Cooperating on air quality management (15 min.)**

Context:

Air is a resource shared among our countries. Air quality is affected by emissions at the local, regional and North American levels, as well as from outside North America. It is vital, therefore, that the Parties work collaboratively to develop efficient, effective North American-wide strategies to preserve and improve the quality of our shared airsheds.

Cooperation is important in developing data, information, and analyses to identify our shared North American needs and priorities and to coordinate policies, strategies, and programs to reduce emissions and their environmental impacts. We must also inform and engage the public, industry, and other stakeholders.

Sue Stendebach, US representative to the North American Air Working Group, will be invited to present the proposed vision for Council endorsement (5 min.).

Discussion outline:

- The Chair may wish to congratulate the officials of the three Parties who have collaborated on the development of this vision.
- Council members may wish to note the Parties' *track record* of cooperation on air quality initiatives— from the 1991 agreement between Canada and the United States on Air Quality (annex 1 - acid rain), to the air-quality monitoring and inventory work on Mexico's northern border with the United States, which preceded the CEC-supported development of Mexico's first national air emissions inventory.
- Council may wish to note that there is strong public interest in air quality at a local and regional level, and that CEC work in information development and analysis to help reduce emissions and their environmental impact will have significant traction with the public and stakeholders.
- The Council may wish to endorse the opportunities for collaboration to enhance air quality in North America and to work towards the objectives outlined in the proposed Vision for North American Air Quality Management.

Session document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on North American air quality management
- b) Discussion notes re: Cooperating on air quality management

c) Vision for North American Air Quality Management

**Item 3.2 Conserving North American biodiversity**

**Item 3.2.1 Protecting the vaquita (15 min.)**

Context:

Within the Baja to Bering (B2B) ecological region is the Gulf of California, home to the vaquita, the smallest living cetacean endemic to the Upper Gulf and the most endangered marine mammal in the world. Scientists estimated the total population of the vaquita to be less than 600 in 1997. With a bycatch of 39 animals/year—an estimate for only one of the area's three ports (Santa Clara)—current population size could now be between 300 and 400 animals.

The vaquita, as one of the 33 North American Species of Common Conservation Concern (SCCC), provides an ideal opportunity for the Council to merge ongoing North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN) monitoring and capacity building activities on artisanal fishing practices with the use of market mechanisms aimed at alleviating the fishing pressure on critical vaquita habitat.

Following up on a recommendation from the CEC's Biodiversity Conservation Working Group, Adrián Fernandez, Director of the *Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE)*, will present to Council a cooperative strategy for the protection and recovery of this endangered mammal (5 min.). The strategy includes a role for a proposed North American Conservation Action Plan (NACAP) to mobilize trilateral action in support of vaquita conservation, as part of a suite of conservation initiatives to be led by Mexico.

Discussion outline:

- a) The Chair may wish to respond to the presentation by underlining the urgency of the situation facing the vaquita and emphasizing the relation between the proposed NACAP and various Mexican initiatives to conserve this species.
- b) Canada and the United States may wish to comment on the opportunity for cross-border cooperation to assist in the protection of this species.
- c) Council may wish to instruct the Secretariat to develop a North American Conservation Action Plan (NACAP) to mobilize trilateral cooperative action to protect the vaquita porpoise.
- d) Canada will suggest that the Council direct the BCWG to update the list of Species of North American common conservation concern

Session document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on protecting the vaquita
- b) Proposal for a vaquita NACAP
- c) Discussion notes re: Protecting the vaquita
- d) Background note re: Updating the list of North American Species of common conservation concern
- e) Draft Council Resolution re: Collaborative actions to aid in the recovery of the vaquita and promote sustainable local livelihoods

**Item 3.2.2 Protecting the Monarch butterfly (15 min.)**

Context:

The Monarch butterfly is emblematic of the interdependence of North America's linked ecosystems and its multi-generational and international migration is an ecological phenomenon for which our three countries share conservation responsibility.

Numerous existing initiatives and projects have added to continent-wide understanding and action in support of Monarch conservation. Following recent consultation between the CEC's Biodiversity Conservation Working Group and the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, conservation management officials in Canada, Mexico and the United States have reached agreement on a renewed, multi-party and comprehensive approach to protect the Monarch butterfly.

The core of this new, comprehensive trilateral approach is the understanding that biological knowledge is not sufficient to protect the Monarch butterfly and its migratory process. Knowledge concerning social and



economic stressors and opportunities is crucial, together with capacity building and sustainable economic practices that reduce pressure on Monarch habitats.

The final results sought by this approach are healthy Monarch populations and habitats throughout the North American migration flyway, supported by a network of Monarch sister sites (Protected Areas, private lands, *ejidos*) and prosperous communities.

The Chair will invite Ernesto Enkerlin, Director of the *Comisión Nacional de Areas Nacionales Protegidas* (Conanp), to present this initiative (5 min.).

Discussion outline:

- The Chair may wish to comment upon how the proposed Monarch conservation plan complements existing initiatives within the *Foro Regional Mariposa Monarca*.
- Canada and the United States may wish to note the extent to which components of this approach support government, citizen, expert and consumer action across the territory of each Party.
- Council members may wish to remark upon the fact that adoption of this approach signals a renewed engagement on the part of the CEC in Monarch conservation, providing significant opportunities to communicate with the public, and to reinforce the importance and role of the CEC in protecting a species that is emblematic of North America's shared environment.

Session document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on protecting the Monarch butterfly
- b) Proposal for cooperation to conserve the Monarch butterfly and promote sustainable local livelihoods
- c) Discussion notes concerning Monarch butterfly conservation
- d) Draft Council Resolution re: Trinational cooperation to conserve the Monarch butterfly and promote sustainable local livelihoods

**Item 3.3 Supporting local and community-level environmental action (5 min.)**

The Executive Director will be invited to introduce and seek Council support for two initiatives that are being considered for 2008: CEC planning for a 2008 North American Indigenous Environmental Health Assembly, and a proposal to fund a limited number of community-based projects as part of the cooperative work program to be set forth in the 2008–2010 Operational Plan.

DISCUSSION OUTLINE:

- The Chair and Council may wish to acknowledge the utility of community-based projects to achieve CEC objectives and raise awareness and support for the CEC in communities and regions throughout North America.
- Council members may wish to indicate their support for the Secretariat to incorporate a limited number of such projects in the proposed 2008 cooperative work program of the CEC.
- Council may wish to express its support for the proposed 2008 North American Indigenous Environmental Health Assembly and for the continuing efforts of their officials and the CEC Secretariat to help organize this event.

Session document(s):

- a) Talking points for Executive Director Adrián Vázquez
- b) Criteria for identification, selection and management of funding for community-based sustainable initiatives as a component of the 2008 cooperative work program
- c) Background note: Examples of successful community-based initiatives under NAFEC
- d) Background note on supporting the North American Indigenous Environmental Health Assembly
- e) Draft Council Resolution and summary work plan re: Supporting development of a North American Indigenous Environmental Health Assembly

**Item 3.3.1 Green building (15 min.)**

Context:

The Secretariat's work on green building in North America reveals broad stakeholder support and significant potential for trilateral cooperation on the part of national and local governments and the private sector. This Council session presents a unique opportunity for Council members to share some of the prominent federal efforts in each of the three countries and lend support for building capacity in Mexico to develop a green building rating system.

The Chair will invite Evangelina Hirata (Conavi) and César Chávez Ortiz (Semarnat) to report on input received at the recent Mexico City workshop (10 min.). The presentation will also include a proposal for Mexico to develop and promote a consensus-based green building certification system, based on a broad consultation of stakeholders from each of the three countries.

Discussion outline:

- Presentation by Evangelina Hirata and César Chávez Ortiz, concerning the importance of a developing a voluntary Mexican green building rating system with wide acceptance. Mexico may wish to inform Council of the significance of this matter to various national planning and development initiatives.
- Council may resolve to authorize a workshop in Mexico in the fall of 2007 to review existing rating systems and facilitate the development of a rating system suited to the needs of Mexico.
- Discussion by Council on ideas for creating trilateral relationships between organizations involved in green building in North America, and ways to promote international trade in environmentally preferable products and proven-yet-underutilized technologies in the building industry.

Session document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on green building
- b) Discussion notes on the importance of developing a Mexican green building rating system
- c) Draft Council Resolution re: Building capacity for development of a green building rating system for Mexico

**Item 4 Report from the meeting of the senior trade and environment officials (15 min.)**

Under this item, the Mexican senior trade and environment officials (trade and environment working group co-chairs) will be invited to report on the outcome of the meeting of the senior trade and environment officials, held on 26 June 2007. The report will highlight discussions about focusing CEC work on projects that support both sustainability and competitiveness in North America, and elaborate on a newly identified trade goal for the CEC: to facilitate the development and use of environmentally friendly production processes and technologies that catalyze competitiveness through green innovation in North America. Two areas in which this competitiveness concept can be developed will be described. One is to support work the CEC may provide to certain NAFTA Free Trade Commission initiatives, such as a proposed initiative on consumer electronics, and a second is to enhance North American competitiveness by sharing information on noncompliant imports that threaten human health and the environment of North America.

Discussion outline:

- Co-chairs of the trade and environment group, Enrique Lendo Fuentes and Ken Smith will summarize the officials' review of various CEC projects related to promoting trade and sustaining the environment.

Session document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on the meeting of the senior trade and environment officials
- b) Draft agenda for the meeting of the senior trade and environment officials
- c) Discussion notes re: Meeting of the senior trade and environment officials

**Item 5 Enhancing the relevance of the CEC (45 min.)**

Context:

Within the next two years, the Secretariat and the Parties will begin work on the next CEC Strategic Plan covering 2010–2015. In this session, CEC Executive Director Adrián Vázquez will present a proposal for developing some of the informational base required to inform the strategic planning process. Required

information will address both the *current conditions* of the North American environment, as well as credible scenarios of possible *emerging trends* that will shape the environmental conditions of tomorrow.

In terms of current conditions, the NAAEC commits the CEC Secretariat to periodically report on the state of the environment in the territories of the Parties. The Secretariat has consulted Party experts responsible for national-level environmental reporting to develop a plan of work for reporting on the state of the environment in North America. A key aspect of this work is that it will not duplicate existing national or international reporting efforts, but will instead focus on shared resources and cross-boundary environmental issues at the North American scale. This activity will use a qualitative approach to synthesize accepted scientific knowledge on current conditions in a briefing-style format. This project will be designed to support the Parties' deliberations on priorities for the cooperative work program.

The Secretariat also proposes a new effort to identify emerging trends that will affect the North American environment. The intent is to convene scientific and other experts to identify pressures and drivers only now taking shape, but which may significantly influence future environmental conditions in North America. This effort is intended to marshal high-quality advice from environmental experts that would inform longer-range planning on the part of the CEC. Unlike the State of the Environment activity, the assembled expert opinions on emerging trends may reflect certain assumptions on the direction and magnitude of emerging trends, forces, societal responses, and impacts on future environmental conditions. While scenarios and any advice emerging from this process would clearly remain those of the assembled experts, this information would be submitted for the consideration of the Parties and JPAC, notably in the context of an Outlook conference possibly to be convened in association with the Council's 2008 annual session.

These initiatives are integral to development of the CEC's next strategic plan, as well as development of the cooperative work program. The Chair will invite the Executive Director to present an overview of this proposal (10 min.).

Discussion outline:

- This agenda item is intended to allow Council members an opportunity to exchange views on the future and priority focus of the CEC and associated initiatives including those itemized below.
- The Chair may invite his colleagues to comment upon enhancing the relevance of the CEC by clearly positioning the CEC's agenda in relation to both *current conditions* and *emerging trends* confronting the environment in North America.
- Council could direct the Secretariat to prepare issue scans on key environmental themes for presentation to Council in 2008.
- Council may adopt a resolution directing the Secretariat to collaborate with Party experts to assess current work in the area of emerging environmental trends facing North America with a view to informing the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan
- Council could announce a North American Environmental Outlook/Emerging Trends Forum for 2008.
- Council could endorse a process for the development of the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan incorporating the above elements as well as information developed through CEC's ongoing activities, including assessment of the environmental impacts and opportunities of increasing trade among the Parties.

Session document(s):

- a) Annotated presentation by Executive Director Adrián Vázquez
- b) Draft Council Resolution re: An environmental outlook: Emerging trends and their potential impact upon North America
- c) Draft Council Resolution re: Approval of use of the General Fund towards reporting on the state of the environment in North America

**Item 6 Preparation for news conference (5 min.)**

Under this item, the Council will confirm the Ministerial Statement to be released during the closing news conference. The Director of Communications will also be invited to explain the conduct of the closing news conference.

Session document(s):

- a) Draft Ministerial Statement

C/07-00/COMM/01

### **Item 7 Concluding remarks and signing of Council resolutions (10 min.)**

Under this item, the Chair of the session may wish to make final announcements, acknowledge the contribution of participants and make any other observations on the general conduct of the session. The Chair is also expected to invite his counterparts to make final statements. Council members may also use this opportunity to exchange gifts. They may also wish to identify CEC-related 2007–2008 events and opportunities in their countries they will endeavor to participate in and which may serve to raise awareness and support for the CEC among national audiences.

In addition, as host of the next Regular session of the Council, the Canadian Council member may wish to announce the proposed date and venue for the next regular session of the Council to be held in June 2008.

Council members will be invited to review and sign the resolutions adopted during their session. During the signing ceremony, a CEC photographer will be authorized access into the room in order to take pictures.

#### Session document(s):

- a) Draft Council Resolution re: Funding of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation for the Financial Year 2008

### **Item 8 Joint meeting with JPAC (1h30)**

Under this item, the Council will meet with JPAC. Following welcoming remarks by the Mexican Council member, JPAC will be invited to exchange views with Council members on any issue of interest. The JPAC chair may wish to present a brief report on the public workshop held the previous day and introduce Council to the conduct of the public meeting.

#### Session Document(s):

- a) JPAC Activity Report (since June 2006)
- b) JPAC discussion topics

### **Item 9 Council public meeting (1h30)**

In accordance with Rule 4.1 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Council shall hold a public meeting in the course of all annual regular sessions. The Mexican Council member, as Chair, will open the session and extend welcoming remarks. The JPAC Chair will provide an introduction on the conduct of the session, which she is expected to facilitate. The meeting will include the following presentations: i) a report on the JPAC public workshop held the previous day; ii) a report on the results of the networking session held the previous day, by a representative of the public; and iii) oral statements by pre-selected participants.

The above presentations will be followed by comments and concluding remarks from the Council members.

#### Session document(s):

- a) Format of public session
- b) List of registered speakers and summaries of interventions
- c) List of registered participants

C/07-00/PLAN/02/rev.1

### **Item 10 Closing news conference (45 min.)**

The news conference is held in the presence of the public and includes the following: a brief report by the Chair on proceedings, statements by the US and Canadian Council members, distribution of the Ministerial Statement, and exchanges with media representatives.



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“THREE COUNTRIES.  
ONE ENVIRONMENT.”

# Presentation of the Executive Director

Fourteenth Regular Session of the CEC Council  
Morelia, Mexico  
27 June 2007

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Re-orient  
**Information for  
decision-making**

**SOE**  
Vital signs &  
pressure

Recommendations  
Art. 13 reports

Ongoing Environmental  
Assessment of NAFTA

Align  
**Capacity Building  
to SOE**

Working Groups

Use market to promote  
improvements or  
mitigate adverse impacts  
**Trade and Environment**



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# Guiding Principles SOE

- **Continental-scale** view of North American environmental processes  
NOT country-to-country scorecards
- **Focus** on defining key issues/messages, cooperative agenda  
NOT about data for data's sake
- **On-going**, repeatable  
NOT one-off snapshot
- **Integrate** with CEC Information Needs  
Informs strategic planning
- **Geographic** and ecological basis  
Uses seamless North American Atlas framework



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# Primary Audience: Council

## Benefits

- Identify key environmental issues at North American scale
- Identify opportunities for cooperative action
- Track progress, success of cooperative actions
- North America in global context



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# Secondary Audience: Interested Public

## Benefits

- Reporting progress on cooperative actions in context
- Accessible and consistent information
- Compliment to national and global reporting



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# Strategic Plan

- We need to connect SP 2005-2010 with the SP 2010-2015.
- We need to make Ministers and Society demand the presence of the CEC beyond 2010.



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# Emerging Topics

What are the key **environmental issues** at the NA scale where CEC can significantly contribute?

What are the key **environmental concepts / findings** that CEC Council must understand?

What are the important **trade issues** that impact or may impact NA environment?



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# My Three Council Meetings

Resolution to explore  
emerging topics

Back-to-back  
symposium on NAFTA  
Experts opinions on  
new topics for  
Strategic Plan

Approval of new  
Strategic Plan  
2010-2015  
New ED appointed

2006

2007

2008



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"THREE COUNTRIES.  
ONE ENVIRONMENT."

**Enhancing Access to Comparable Pollutant Data:  
CEC's PRTR Mapping Tool for *Google Earth***

CEC Council, 14th Regular Session  
Morelia, Mexico  
June 27, 2007

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

# Council Support for PRTRs

- **95-08 Public Access to Environmental Information**
- **97-04 Promoting Comparability of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers**
- **00-07 Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers**
- **02-05 Action Plan to Enhance Comparability Among Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in North America**



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# North American PRTRs

	Facilities	Chemical Reports	Tonnes
Canada NPRI	3,500	16,000	1,800,000
US TRI	24,000	90,000	3,500,000
Mexico RETC	1,300	4,400	19,000
North American Total	29,000	110,000	5,300,000

**Note:** Canada and Mexico also have substantial facility-based reporting of greenhouse gases and criteria air pollutants.



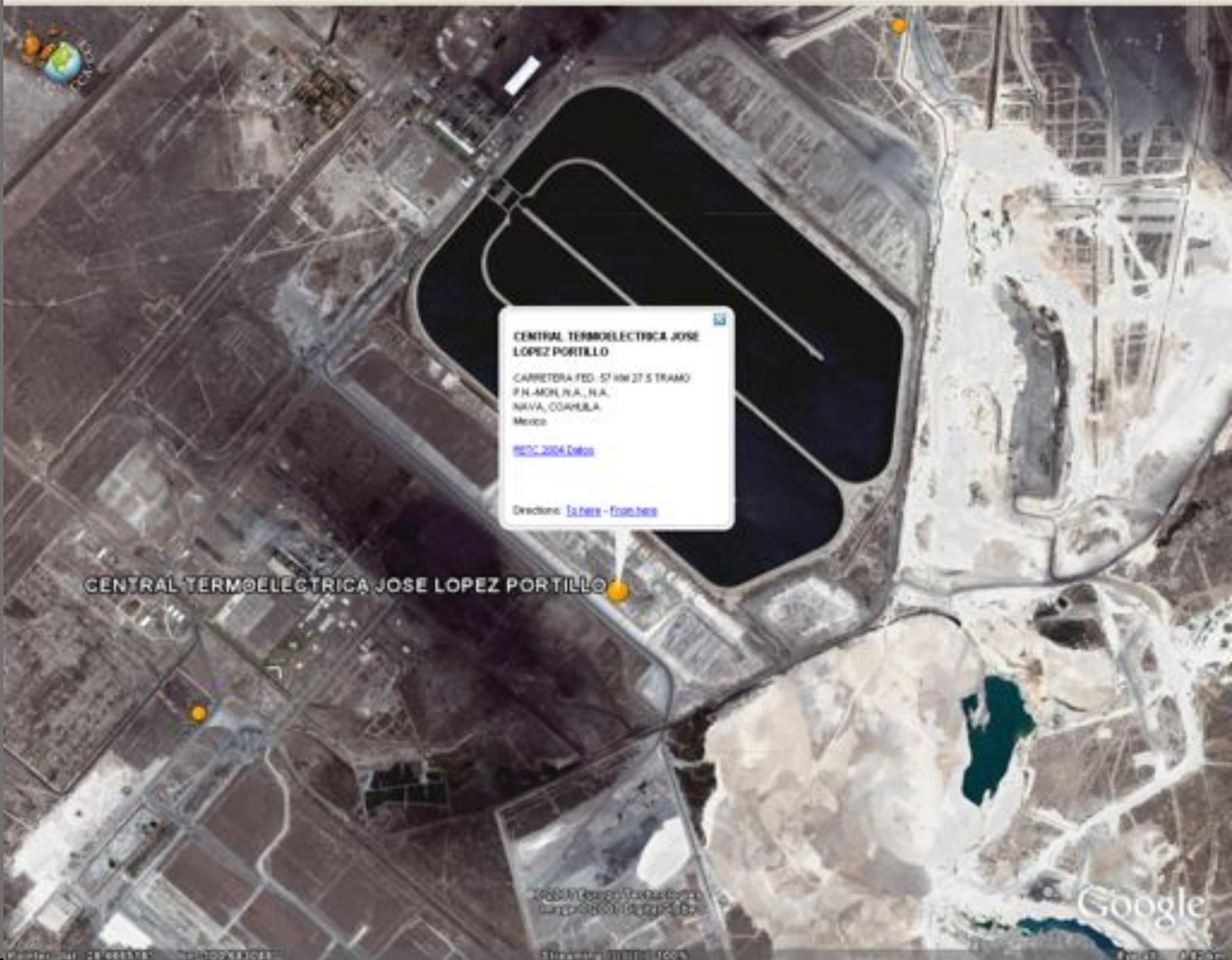




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P N. ADEL N.A., N.A.  
NAVA, COAHUILA  
Mexico  
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**RESUMEN DE EMISIONES DEL ESTABLECIMIENTO**

## CENTRAL TERMOELECTRICA JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO

SECTOR	GENERACION DE ENERGIA ELECTRICA
ACTIVIDAD PRINCIPAL	GENERACION DE ENERGIA ELECTRICA
ESTADO	COAHUILA
DELEGACION / MUNICIPIO	Nava
DOMICILIO	CARRETERA FED. 57 KM 27.5 TRAMO P.N.-MON
NUMERO EXTERIOR	N.A.
NUMERO INTERIOR	N.A.
COLONIA	N.A.
LOCALIDAD	NAVA
CODIGO POSTAL	26530
PARQUE, PUERTO INDUSTRIAL, U OTRO	NA
COORDENADA UTM X	2132412
COORDENADA UTM Y	1446802
LATITUD NORTE	28°28' 0"
LATITUD OESTE	100°41' 0"

Clave o número CAS	Contaminante	Descripción	Emisiones			Transferencias						
			Aire	Agua	Suelo	Reuso	Reciclado	Coprocesamiento	Tratamiento	Disposición final	Alcantarillado	Otros
10102-44-0		Óxido de nitrógeno	14 052 0000									
124-38-9		Óxido de carbono	7 804 320 0000									
57-12-5		Cianuro inorgánico/orgánico		0 0026								
7440-38-2		Arsénico		0 0004								
7440-43-9		Cadmio		0 0110								
SIC3		Cromo (compuestos)		0 0004								
SIC4		Mercurio (compuestos)		0 0004								
SIC5		Níquel (compuestos)		0 0674								
SIC6		Plomo (compuestos)		0 0183								

[Regresa al resultado](#)

Cantidades en toneladas métricas



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43.004738° (Google TechHouse)

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216 RIVERVIEW ST  
PORT HURON, MICHIGAN 48060  
USA  
[The 2008 Report](#)  
Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### Facility Profile Report

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**TRI Facility Name:** SUNN PAPER INC  
**Address:** 218 RIVERVIEW ST  
 FORT WORTH, TX 76102  
**County:** TARRANT  
**Public Contact:** BRENT A. GARNSWAN  
**Phone Number:** 817 665-3157

Forms Submitted to TRI in 2004 Reporting Year

**Form 8 (Report Form):** 1  
**Form 8 (Notification Form):** 0

[Click here for TRI Reporting Forms in EPA Electronic Database](#)

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes in 2004 Reporting Year

2621 - PAPER MILLS

Reported TRI Chemical Data

(in pounds for all chemicals reported in 2004)

Total On-site Releases	12
Total Off-site Releases	40
Total Transfer Off-site for Further Waste Management	40
Total Waste Managed	60

TRI Facility Trend Graphs (click to view trend graph)

[Total On- and Off-site Releases](#)  
[Total Transfer Off-site for Further Waste Management](#)  
[Total Waste Managed](#)

TRI Chemical Trend Table (click to view trend table)

(all chemicals reported to TRI between 1992 and 2000)

Row #	Chemical	On- and Off-site Releases Trend	Transfer Off-site for Further Waste Management Trend	Quantities of TRI Chemicals in Waste Trend	EPA's WQS Substance File (Risk Information)
1	AMMONIA	0	0	0	0
2	LEAD	0	0	0	0
3	NITRIC ACID	0	0	0	0
4	SODIUM HYDROXIDE (SOLUTION)	0	0	0	0
5	SULFURIC ACID (1994 AND AFTER "ACID AEROSOLS" ONLY)	0	0	0	0

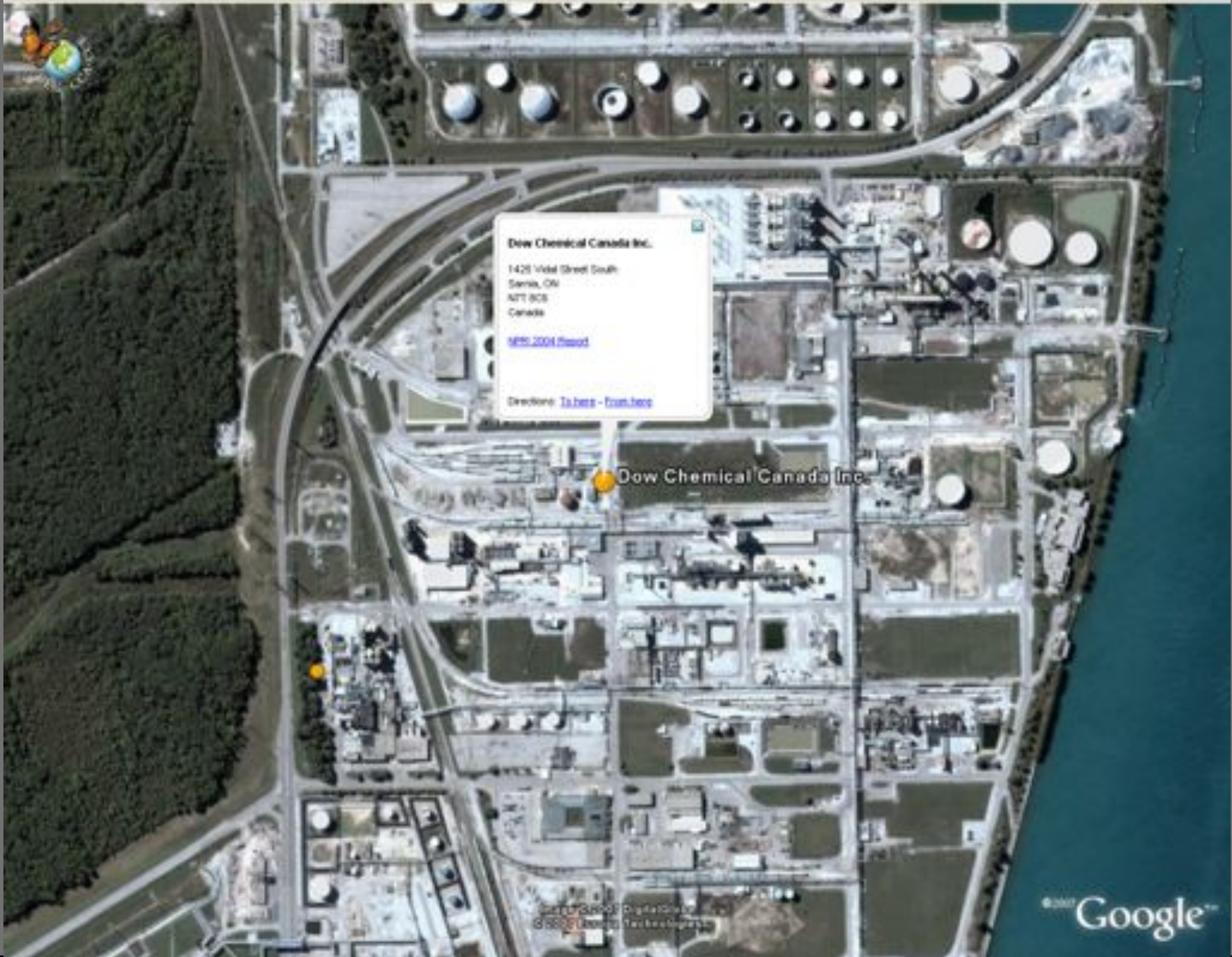
Other TRI Facility Information



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Dow Chemical Canada Inc.

1425 Wild Street South  
Sarnia, ON  
N7T 8C8  
Canada

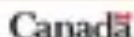
[View 2004 flood](#)

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Dow Chemical Canada Inc.



Environment Canada / Environnement Canada



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**NPRI**  
 ON-LINE DATA SEARCH

Date as of: April 24, 2007

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## 2004 Facility & Substance Information

### Dow Chemical Canada Inc.

NPRI ID: 3146  
 Dow Chemical Canada Inc. - Samia  
 1425 Vidal Street South  
 Samia, ON  
 N7T 8C6  
 canada

#### Table of Contents

- [Facility Information](#)
- [Historical Substance Reports](#)
- [Substance Report \(Excluding Criteria Air Contaminants\)](#)
- [Criteria Air Contaminant Substance Report](#)
- [Ontario O. Reg. 127/01 Substance Report](#)
- [Help document](#)

### Substance Report (Excluding Criteria Air Contaminants) ?

Sort by:

NOTE: Off-site column under Disposal in this table includes 'Off-site Disposal' and 'Off-Site Treatment Prior to Final Disposal'

CAS No	Substance Name	On-Site Releases	Disposal		Off-Site Recycling	Units
			On-Site	Off-Site		
		Onsite	Onsite	Onsite		
<a href="#">79-06-1</a>	Acrylamide	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	tonnes
<a href="#">79-10-7</a>	Acrylic acid (and its salts)	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	tonnes
<a href="#">107-13-1</a>	Acrylonitrile	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.000	tonnes
<a href="#">64-17-8</a>	Amonia (Total)	0.141	0.000	0.000	0.000	tonnes
<a href="#">1332-21-4</a>	Asbestos (friable form)	0.000	3.567	0.000	0.000	tonnes
<a href="#">141-32-2</a>	Butyl acrylate	0.021	0.000	1.414	0.000	tonnes
<a href="#">64-04-0</a>	Chromium (and its compounds)	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.340	tonnes

# What does this allow and why is this important?

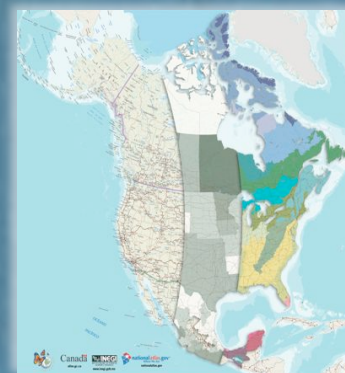
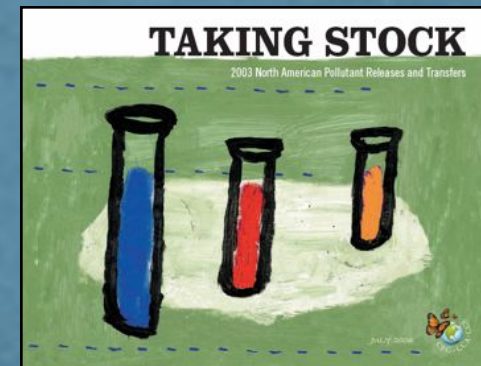
- Find PRTR facilities in places of interest, with special relevance to border regions
- Seamless access to industrial pollutant data in separate national databases
- Expands the utility of existing services
- Opportunity for improving data quality



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# *PRTRs and Mapping: an Agenda for Cooperation*

- *Taking Stock and Taking Stock Online*
- *Action Plan to Enhance the Comparability of PRTRs in North America*
- **North American Environmental Atlas**





# Mapping industrial pollutants

The IJC's new map layer for Google Earth lets users view pollution data from over 30,000 industrial facilities in North America.

With new information on chemical releases and transfers from 18 air and 18 water sources now available to the public, the IJC has created the first ever, North American-wide map that combines current and past specific industrial pollution data in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Using the Google Earth mapping service, our interactive web browser program, the online users can explore geographic data presented over satellite images and aerial photographs—the IJC's map layer plans over 30,000 North American industrial facilities, the reported releases and transfers of pollutants in tons, the time when they are first and last observed.

The mapping tool allows users to see their statistics, whether in Canada, Michigan, or Minnesota, or the industrial facilities around their hometown, and worldwide, in their colours. They can learn about the pollution profile of each facility, including when pollutants are generated and how the facility handles them. Users can also compare the pollution of facilities in their community to other facilities, nearby, and, well, across the world.

Information used in the mapping tool comes from publicly accessible "Toxic Air and Water Reports" ("TARs"), submitted voluntarily by the 18 North American countries and 18 industrial sectors. In Canada, the National Environmental Reporting and Assessment (NERA) Initiative, and the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) include current data.

Combined, the 30,000 industrial facilities in combination across the continent provide real-time pollution data and information on the management of pollutants from their own or previously transferred emissions each year (see table).

NERA provides users with a valuable resource for seeing priorities, promoting air and water improvement and existing projects. Other IJC's has been working closely with the three countries across compatibility of facilities, against the information, including both the number of facilities, and emissions, are used to help in developing new regulatory reporting rules.

Each year, using their own data as a benchmark, the IJC published being that a highly anticipated report the previous calendar "light-on-air" profile of North American industrial activities and inputs. As the first time in 10 years, the current being data will be able to feature a detailed comparison of comparative pollution data from all three countries.

The IJC's map program is one of the first projects to be produced through the IJC's North American Environmental Atlas project. It is available from the IJC web site at [www.ijc.org](http://www.ijc.org), with other map layers being available about the air, Google Earth can be downloaded free of charge from <http://earth.google.com>.



**WHITECOURT POWER PLANT**  
**PAULINE SHIP**  
 Whitecourt, Alberta  
 Canada  
[View on Earth](#)

**INDUSTRIAL SYSTEM**  
 Rochester, New York  
 United States  
[View on Earth](#)

**GENERAL MOTORS DE MEXICO S. DE RL. DE CV.**  
 Cuernavaca, Guerrero Mexico  
[View on Earth](#)

- Features of the IJC's Mapping Tool
- Identify their facilities, major ones using search functions in Google Earth. By postal code, city name, etc., or just view in using the map/layer tool.
  - Clicking on a facility displayed in Google Earth gives users an information window with the name and address of the facility, alongside a short description for details its pollution release activities in the corresponding calendar table's entry.
  - Explore multiple pollution information in combination with other map layers developed by the Google Earth community of users.

**Industrial Pollution Reporting in Tons, An Overview**

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Canada (TR)	3,200	10,000	12,000,000
US (TRI)	10,000	10,000	1,000,000
Mexico (TRI)	1,000	1,000	10,000
North American Total	10,000	10,000	1,000,000

Note: Canada and Mexico also have submitted to this report reporting of pollutants from their own plants or facilities, which brings the total number of facilities under 30,000.



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# Cooperating on Air Quality Management: the CEC's North American Air Vision

CEC Council Session  
June 26–27, 2007  
Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

# Planning for the Future

- Air is a shared resource among our countries.
- The CEC Air Working Group:
  - examined past work
  - assessed challenges and opportunities.
- This has resulting in a *vision* that provides the basis for our 2008–2009 projects and for the detailed North American air quality strategy to be completed in 2009.

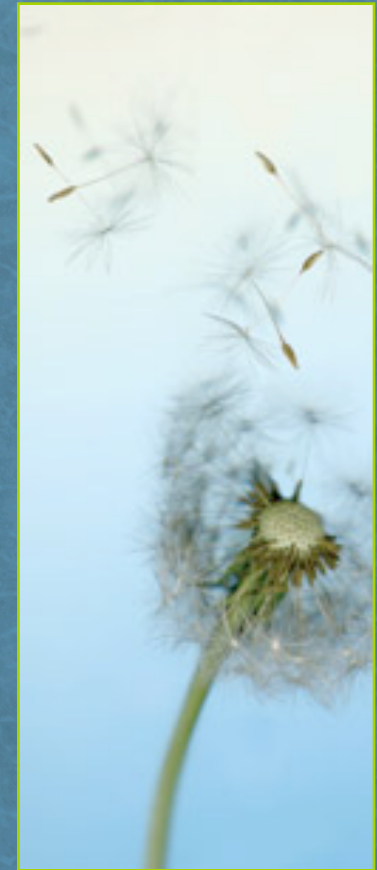


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# Developing an Air Vision-1

**The Vision stems from the Parties' recognition of the need to:**

- Establish efficient and effective North America-wide strategies to improve the quality of our shared air sheds.
- Collect/produce data, information, and analyses to identify our shared needs and priorities, and to coordinate in the reduction of air emissions.
- Inform and engage the public, industry, and other stakeholders.



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# Developing an Air Vision-2

Collaborate through the CEC and coordinate with other relevant programs to:

- Build capacity (self-sustaining inventory, monitoring and other air quality efforts).
- Achieve comparability, consistency, and high quality.
- Facilitate coordination and effectiveness of emissions reduction and air quality policies, regulations, and voluntary programs.
- Develop and map information on air quality, trends, emissions impacts, and recommended air quality management strategies at local, regional and North American air shed levels.



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# Work Envisioned under the Strategy

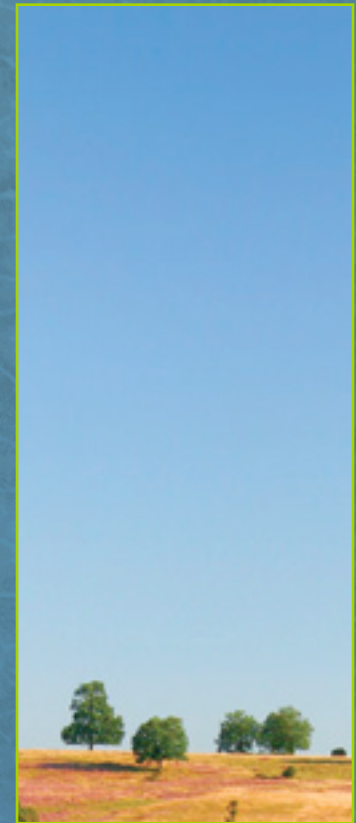
- Expand and improve current inventories, striving for comparability in methodologies and timing, and build capacity to make the work self-sustaining.
  - Build on Mexico's 2005 National Air Emissions inventory, using current and improved data.
- Expand real-time ambient air monitoring, and standardized real-time networks.
- Develop innovative mechanisms for cross-border emissions reductions from transportation:
  - Work on achieving comparable standards for fuels and vehicles.
  - Reductions in emissions from idling at border crossings.
  - Enforceable mechanism and transfer of successful procedures for ensuring that older cars exported from one country meet the standards of the importing country.



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# Benefits of Expanding Air Work

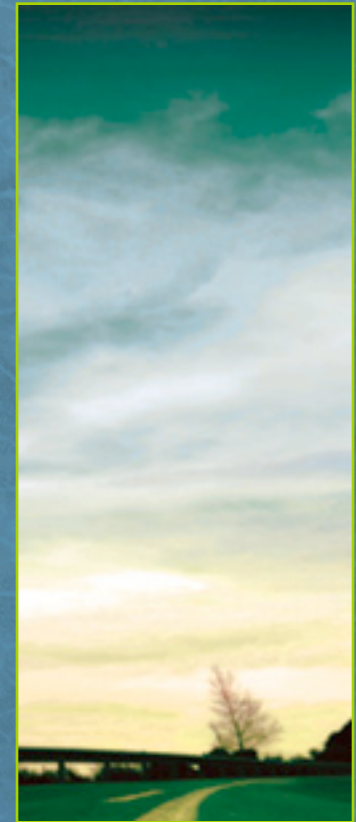
- **Inventories and Monitoring**
  - Comparability of North American data sets, methodologies, and schedules.
  - Complete and accurate baselines for air emissions.
  - Availability of shared, real-time monitoring data to inform emissions reduction decisions.
- **Cross-border vehicle emissions reductions**
  - Comparable fuel and emissions standards,
  - Border crossing reductions through innovative anti-idling projects, and
  - Control on importation of older vehicles
- **Potential for improvement of greenhouse gas inventories**
- **Potential for comparable methodologies for energy facilities**
  - Continuous monitoring
  - Subsequent emissions inventories,
  - Baseline and assessment capabilities



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# Timeline for Work

- June '07: Adopt North American Air Vision
- June '07- '09: Update inventory and build capacity for sustainable process
- January '08: Initiate monitoring work
- January '09: Submit strategy for 2010–2015
  - Build synergies with other CEC efforts:
    - North American Atlas
    - PRTR
    - State of Environment reporting
    - Environmental Monitoring & Assessment (SMOC)



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# Other Challenges & Opportunities

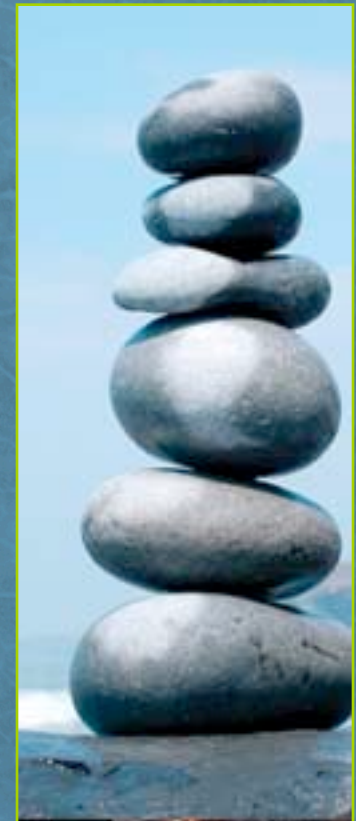
- Explore utilizing results of *North American Power Plant Emissions* report to enhance emissions reductions from those facilities
- Explore possibility of addressing related aspects of climate change, such as improving the comparability of greenhouse gas inventories, including data sets and methodologies, across North America
- Coordinate and share information with complementary air programs, (Border 2012 and the US–Canada Air Quality Committee)
- Establish protocols to share information on air-related activity in each country
- With results of the work outlined above, provide detailed information layers for the North American Environmental Atlas
- Provide for enhanced stakeholder input, public education and information dissemination



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# Conclusion

- Revitalization of air quality work by the CEC North American Air Working Group and the Secretariat is timely and important
- Planning, research, and implementation will facilitate and/or directly yield significant environmental and public health benefits
- Fostering relations and new connections with North American air quality groups/programs ensure coordinated complementary efforts
- Detailed strategy for 2010–2015 will be submitted to the Council in 2009, as we go forward with inventory and monitoring work this year and next.



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An underwater scene featuring two dolphins swimming towards the right. A large, light-colored fish with a prominent dorsal fin is swimming above them. The background is dark with some red coral on the right side.

# Vaquita Marina



# Collaborative Actions for the Recovery of the *Vaquita* and to Promote Sustainable Livelihoods

- The smallest of all cetaceans in the world, living in really hot water, and having the smallest distribution range of any marine mammal
- Status is very critical: very low abundance, extremely restricted distribution
- Its major threat comes from bycatch in fishing nets. Extinction in the near future is likely if more entanglements in fishing nets continue to occur



# Risk Factors

- In 1997 the Mexican Government created International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA):
  - ~ **Finding:** Due to its very limited distribution range, bycatch is the most important threat to the vaquita.
  - ~ **Recommendations:**
    - ~ Reduce bycatch to 0 vaquitas per year
    - ~ Eliminate gill nets from the reserve
    - ~ Enlarge the reserve to include the full distribution range of the vaquita
    - ~ Promote the use of alternative fishing gear, as well as alternative productive activities for local communities.



# Three Countries Working Together to Conserve the Vaquita

- Semarnat-Sagarpa announced a multi-stakeholder, integrated plan to conserve the vaquita and to ensure the management and sustainable use of marine resources in the upper Gulf of California.
- Following Mexico's leadership and in support of the implementation of this Plan, the CEC will act as a catalyst for concerted, sustained North American strategic action.
- Areas in need of cooperation: Enforcement, Management, Research, and Public Awareness.

# Why a Comprehensive Trinational Approach?

- ~ Biological knowledge is not enough to recover the vaquita, while ensuring healthy fishing communities.
- ~ Knowledge about social and economic stressors and opportunities is crucial in fostering sustainable activities and markets.
- ~ **Capacity building on the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources and use of more environmentally friendly fishing methods will be important in eliminating vaquita bycatch.**



# How can this be accomplished?

The CEC can potentially enhance efforts by government and other stakeholders to protect the vaquita, in particular, by:

- Focusing the trilateral attention on North American Species of Common Conservation Concern
- Catalyzing a trilateral multi-stakeholder approach
- Focusing cooperative actions on the underlying causes for bycatch mortality
- Based on those actions that require cooperation, in particular, those related to: Information for Decision-making, Capacity Building, and Trade to promote conservation



# Examples of the role of the CEC

- ~ Supporting for capacity-building (training workshops in Mexico)
- ~ Monitoring marine vital signs PCAs (upper Gulf of California)
- ~ Exploring trade opportunities for biodiversity-friendly projects
- ~ Fostering consumer-powered conservation
- ~ Facilitating cooperation on enforcement matters



CEC - CCA

# Monarch Butterfly Conservation

Presentation to the Council of Ministers



Morelia, Michoacán

27 June, 2007

Overview about the importance of CEC's work towards achieving a long term cooperative agenda for conservation of the monarch butterfly in North America. This presentation will underline the interest of the three Parties in having the CEC support existing initiatives to develop a North American Monarch Conservation Plan for this species.

## Cooperation to conserve the Monarch Butterfly, and promote sustainable local livelihoods

- ❖ The Monarch Butterfly flyway covers a wide and varied geographical range.
- ❖ Knowledge about the monarch's life stages and migratory process is crucial for the conservation of this insect.
- ❖ **Foro Regional Mariposa Monarca:** focused on conservation of forest habitats and sustainable development in the overwintering areas.
- ❖ NGOs (ALTERNARE, WWF-Mexico, Michoacán Reforestation Fund).
- ❖ Citizen science (Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, Monarch Watch, Project Monarch Health).
- ❖ Environmental Education (El Correo Real, Journey North, Monarchs in the Classroom).
- ❖ North American Monarch Conservation Action Plan.



The Monarch butterfly is a symbol of the shared responsibilities our three countries have for the conservation of biodiversity in North America

This slide will talk about the emblematic nature of the Monarch butterfly, how it unites our three countries through its wide geographical habitat range and how knowledge of its life stages and migratory process is crucial for its conservation. This slide will also touch upon ongoing multi-stakeholder initiatives such as Mexico's Foro Regional Mariposa Monarca which has historically focused on conservation of forest habitats and sustainable development in the overwintering areas, and the recent collaborative efforts to develop a North American Monarch Conservation Plan focused on habitats throughout the migration flyway.

## Beyond the Biology of the Monarch

- Biological knowledge is not enough to protect the monarch butterfly and its migratory journey.
- Knowledge about social and economic stressors and opportunities is crucial.
- Capacity building and sustainable economic practices that reduce pressure on monarch habitats must be developed to maintain a viable flyway with prospering communities.

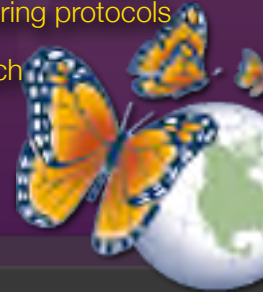


This slide will concentrate on the fact that biological knowledge is not enough to protect the monarch butterfly and its migratory phenomenon. Knowledge about social and economic stressors and opportunities is crucial. Sustainable economic practices that reduce pressure on monarch habitats must be developed to maintain a viable flyway with prosperous human communities.

## Trinational Cooperation: What is the Role of the CEC?

Assist in development of a long-term cooperative agenda for conservation of the monarch butterfly in North America through:

- Supporting of the Trilateral Monarch Butterfly Sister Protected Area Network
- Developing and supporting projects that provide information for decision making, including common monitoring protocols
- Building capacity to strengthen existing Monarch conservation initiatives, and
- Exploring trade opportunities for habitat friendly projects



This slide will address how the CEC can assist in development of a long term cooperative agenda for conservation of the monarch butterfly in North America through development and implementation of projects that provide information for decision making, build capacity to strengthen existing monarch conservation initiatives, and identify and promote market-based approaches to support conservation and sustainable use of monarch habitats.

## Needs: Information for Decision-making

Assessment and monitoring of:

- Monarch population health and status in the breeding, wintering and migrating stages
- Habitat throughout the flyway
- Stressors to habitat

With stressors properly identified and indicators established, monitoring works as an early warning system in the flyway and a measure of progress

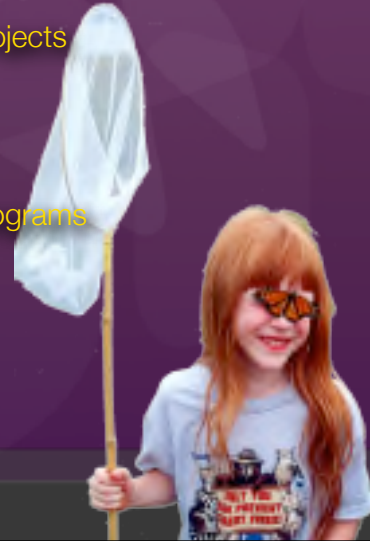


This slide will summarize some of the pressing needs for information decision makers have in order to develop an early warning system and measure progress of their individual and collective actions. Information needs for decision making include: assessment and monitoring of Monarch population health and status in the breeding, wintering and migrating stages; condition of habitats throughout the flyway, and identification and analysis of habitat stressors.

## Needs: Capacity Building

### Possible venues for collaboration:

- ⇒ training for citizen science projects
- ⇒ knowledge exchange
- ⇒ trainers training
- ⇒ campesino-to-campesino programs
- ⇒ sustainable ecotourism
- ⇒ sustainable forestry
- ⇒ sustainable agrosystems



This slide will elaborate on possible venues for collaboration including: training for citizen science projects, training for “campesino-to-campesino” projects; North American web based school-to-school monitoring/reporting initiatives; and community training on sustainable practices; knowledge exchange.

## Market mechanisms to promote sustainable livelihoods



- ⇒ Identify social and economic opportunities for a healthy flyway
- ⇒ Sustainable economic & trade activities (many need to be identified, analyzed and then promoted)
- ⇒ Survey and promotion of markets for sustainable green products and services
- ⇒ Forge strategic alliances



This slide will talk about the importance of having prosperous local communities as a key factor that will reduce pressure on the Monarch habitat. Having a clear picture of social and economic stressors and opportunities is crucial for achieving conservation of the Monarchs with equity. This slide will also show the experience the CEC has had in identifying market-based opportunities that can help reduce pressures on the habitat and at the same time represent real economic alternatives for the local communities.





# Final Results

- Healthy monarch populations and habitats throughout the North American migration flyway supported by a network of monarch sister sites (PAs, private land owners, ejidos) and prosperous local communities.
- A long term and sustained cooperative effort for continental Monarch butterfly conservation.



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# Building Capacity for Developing Green Building Rating Tools for Mexico

CEC Council Session  
26–27 June 2007  
Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

# The Current Housing Situation in Mexico

## CONAVI

Establishes and coordinates the National Program for Sustainable Housing

### Regulatory framework

### Technology research & development

### Training and promotion

- Local governments
- Home buyers
- Developers and builders
- Architects and engineers

### Financing

- Infrastructure
- Construction
- Building materials and services

Residential Building Code  
Mexican Norms  
Sustainable parameters

Green Mortgages  
Green Financing

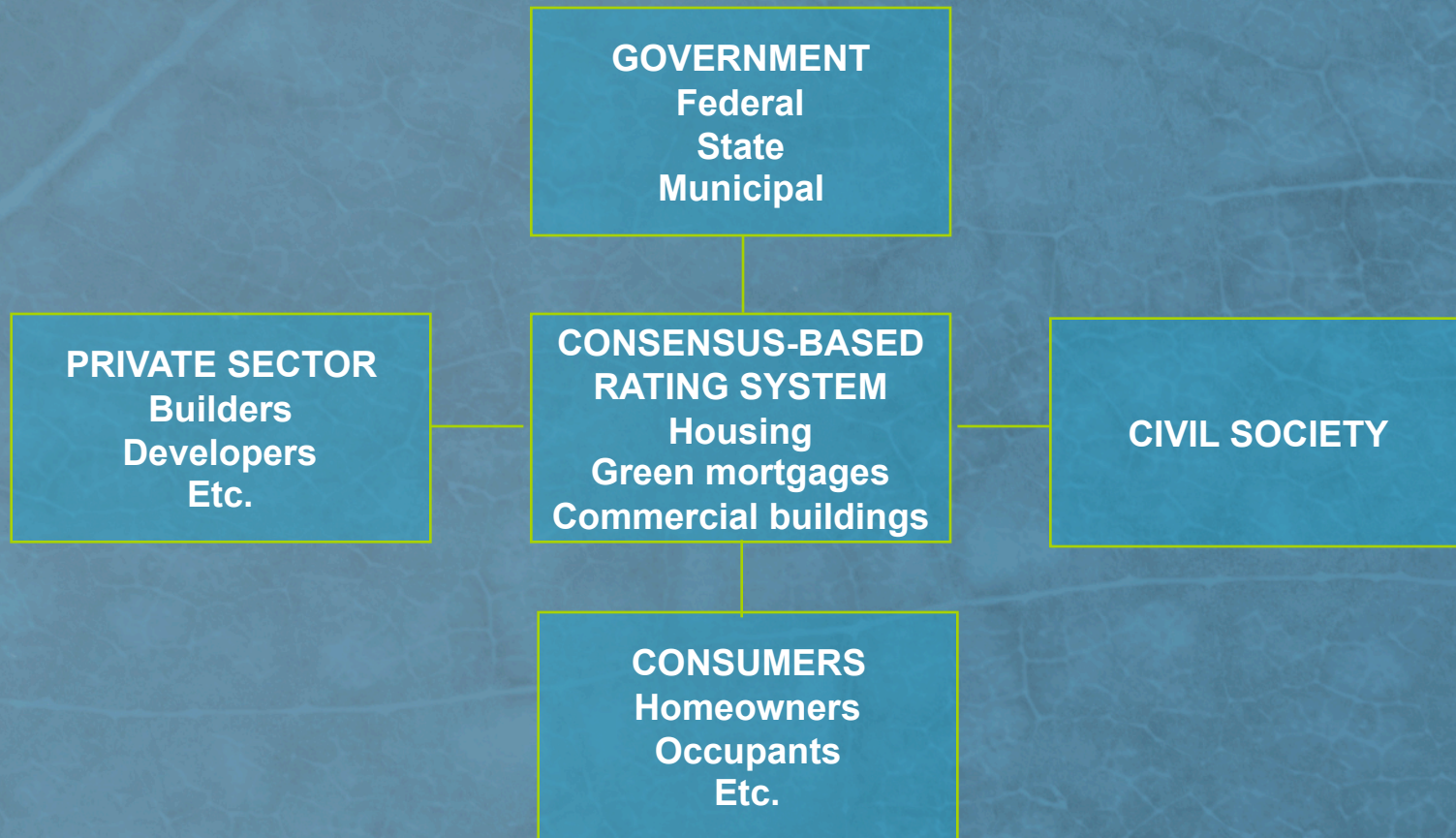
COORDINATION AND AGREEMENTS  
WITH INSTITUTIONS AND SECTORS

BUILDING MATERIALS PRODUCERS  
BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS



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# Elements of a Consensus-based Green Building Rating System



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# Sharing Experience with Green Building Rating Systems

## MAKING RATING SYSTEMS WORK:

- Benchmarks
- Consensus
- Education
- Public awareness
- Acceptance

## REVIEW OF RATING SYSTEMS:

- LEED
- Energy Star
- BREEAM
- R2000
- Golden Globes
- Other

## APPLICATION OF RATING SYSTEMS:

- Government procurement
- Codes
- Incentives
- Investment decisions
- Competition

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:

- Government
- Private sector
- Civil society



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# Opportunities for Cooperation on Green Building in North America

## *POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION*

- Trade in green building materials, equipment and services
- Joint research and performance monitoring on green building
- Exchange of ideas and information among North American municipalities
- Cooperation on education and training information to promote private and public sector knowledge of green building



# Report on the Meeting of Senior Trade and Environment Officials



# Environmental Sustainability and Competitiveness in North America:

Enhancing positive synergies between trade and environment

- Our economies are highly integrated
- Cooperation on environmental sustainability will help our firms compete in the global economy
- Current CEC projects contribute to this goal by:
  - developing market based mechanisms; for environmental conservation and protection;
  - greening supply chains to improve environmental performance;
  - encouraging “lean and clean” production partnerships in the automobile sector;
  - promoting green building practices and
  - reducing the use of toxic substances in electronic equipment production.





# Key Message: Focus Work

- Review relevance of current projects and reorient if appropriate
- Achieve on the ground results
- Target key audiences
- Collaborate with other groups (e.g. JPAC, IUCN)
- Explore opportunities to cooperate with the FTC

# Future Work

- Promote competitiveness and sustainability
- Improve relevance of the symposium results
- Develop strategies and mechanisms to address noncompliant imports entering NA borders
- Identify products and services for the market forces project
- Agreement to meet again in 2007



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## Enhancing the Relevance of the CEC

CEC Council, 14th Regular Session  
Morelia, Mexico  
June 27, 2007

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

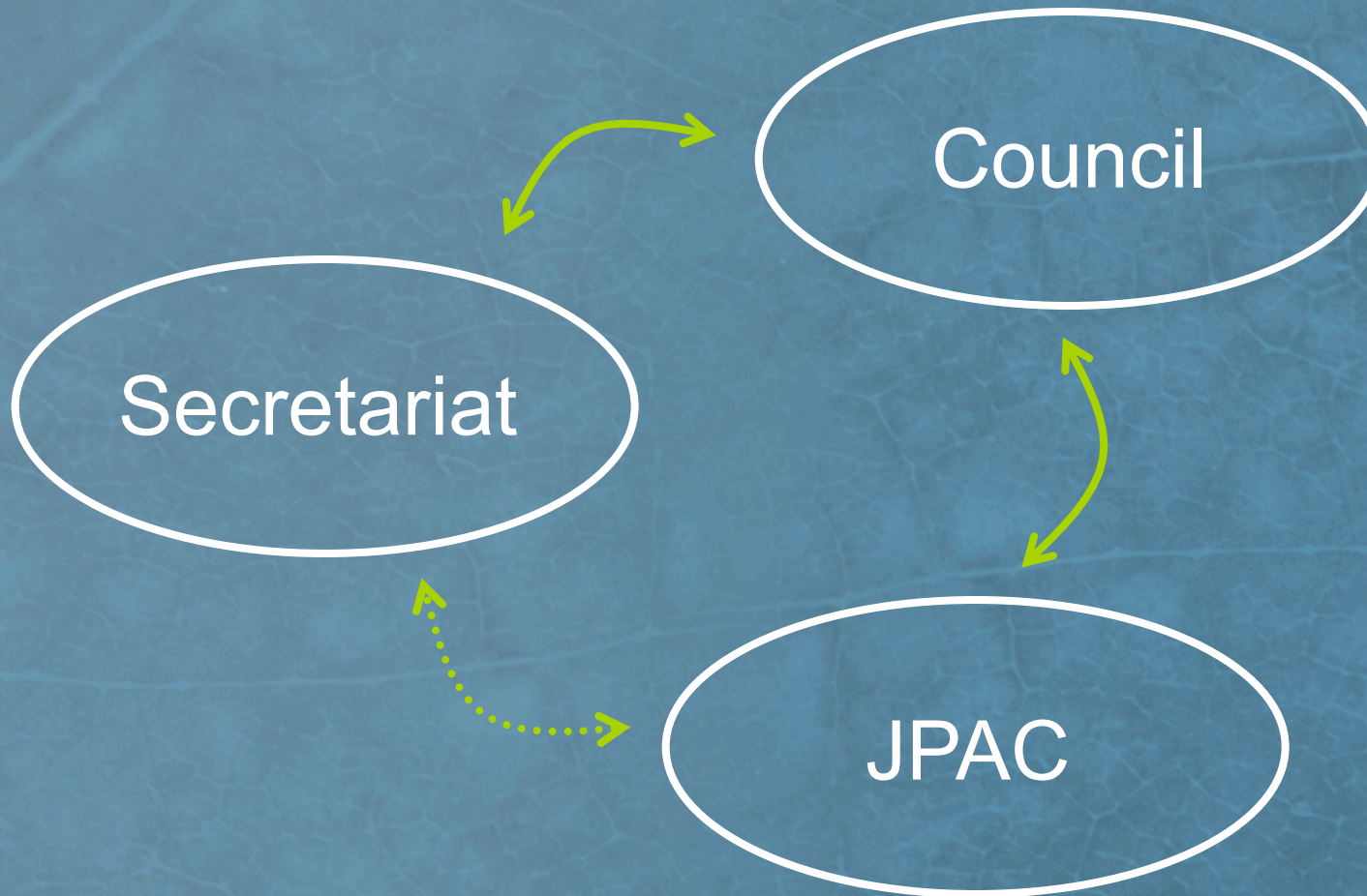
# Overview

- Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- Strategic Planning
- Information Inputs for Strategic Planning
- Enhancing the Relevance of the CEC



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# Commission for Environmental Cooperation



# Strategic Planning

- Defines vision, mission, goals
- Provides framework for planning cooperative activities
- Clarifies roles and responsibilities



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# Strategic Planning

- Current Strategic Plan
  - Information for Decision-Making
  - Capacity Building
  - Trade and Environment
- Next Strategic Plan: 2010-2015



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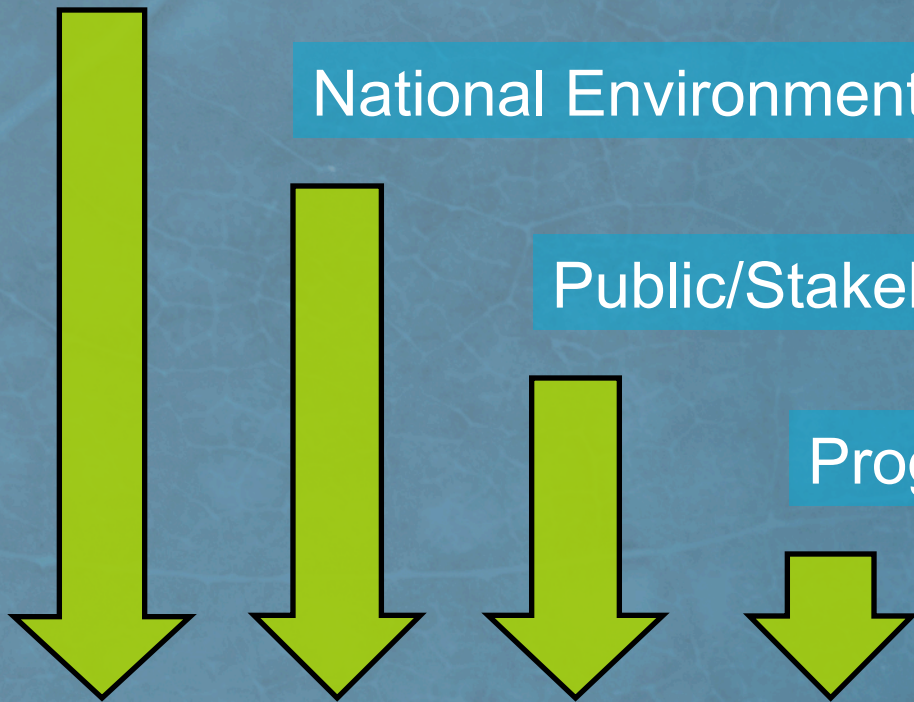
# Information Inputs

NAFTA Effects, State of Environment & Outlook

National Environmental Priorities

Public/Stakeholder Participation

Program Evaluation



2010-2015 CEC Strategic Plan



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# NAFTA, SOE & Outlook

Three separate activities, but with obvious linkages:

- **Assessment of NAFTA:** What are the environmental effects of trade in North America?
- **State of the Environment (SOE):** Based on the best information on current North American environmental conditions, what are the key challenges and opportunities for cooperation?
- **Outlook Conference:** What are the major pressures, forces and trends that will significantly impact the quality of the North American environment in the future?



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# National Environmental Priorities

We have organizational structure to provide this:

- Council
- Alternate Representatives, General Standing Committee
- National Advisory Committees, Governmental Advisory Committees



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# Public/Stakeholder Participation

We have mechanisms to provide this:

- Consultation/Transparency
- Joint Public Advisory Committee
- Citizen Submissions on Environmental Matters
- Working groups



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# Program Evaluation

By the end of the current Strategic Plan:

- Has the CEC been effective in defining and achieving its goals and objectives?
- What are the success stories from the cooperative work plan?
- What adjustments are necessary?



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# Enhancing the Relevance of the CEC

Re-orient  
**Information for decision-making**

State of the Environment  
Outlook Conference

Recommendations

Ongoing Environmental  
Assessment of NAFTA

Art. 13 reports

Working Groups

Align  
**Capacity Building to SOE**

Use market to promote  
improvements or  
mitigate adverse impacts

**Trade and Environment**



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# My Three Council Meetings

Mandate for:

- State of the Environment
- Outlook Conference

SOE: Issue Framework

Outlook Conference  
Results Framework

SOE: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation

Approval of new Strategic Plan 2010-2015

Next ED term

2007

2008

2009



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**Fourteenth Regular Session of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America**

**Summary of oral interventions made during the public portion of the meeting  
Morelia, Michoacán  
27 June 2007**

**Summary Record<sup>1</sup>**

*Sustainable Development Strategy of the First Nations Peoples of Québec and Labrador, by Raphael Picard*

The First Nations Peoples of Quebec and Labrador have been implementing “sustainable development” for hundreds of years. “The close link and respect we hold for Mother Earth is reflected in our culture, our way of life and our language,” Picard said. “The development of a sustainable development strategy by the peoples of the First Nations confirms our will to implement practices that avoid the degradation of the ecosystems and natural resources.” He called for the federal government[s] to support their efforts by involving the First Nations in every stage of the decision-making process. He emphasized that it is possible to reach sustainable development by utilizing the “traditional knowledge” that indigenous peoples have accumulated over the centuries. Lastly, he asked the Council: “Are the governments ready to involve the First Nations when developing strategies for natural resources management? Are the governments ready to involve the First Nations in their efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change?”

*Inexplicable delays in the citizen submission process, by Scott Edwards, Waterkeeper Alliance*

Mr. Edwards began his intervention by recalling that on 20 September 2004, the Waterkeeper Alliance and Canada’s Sierra Legal Defense Fund had filed a citizen submission with the CEC under Article 14 of the NAAEC. The submission alleged that the United States was failing to enforce its environmental laws, specifically the Clean Water Act, with respect to mercury emissions from the nation’s over 1,100 coal-fired power plants. The Secretariat issued a determination on 5 December 2005, recommending to the Council that a factual record be produced. Now, almost a year and a half later, the Council has still failed to vote on the Secretariat’s recommendation, Mr. Edwards stated. He quoted an article that appeared in “Inside EPA” on 5 January 2007, which cited “[r]eported efforts by the Bush Administration to block a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) panel from investigating the water impacts of EPA’s controversial clean air mercury rule.” The article also alleged efforts by the State Department and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to improperly influence the decisions of the Parties. Mr. Edwards expressed that the possible involvement of the State Department in the citizen submission process is extremely troublesome and does not bode well for the integrity of the process. Edwards urged the Council to “bring the facts to light” and follow due process in a transparent and expeditious way.

*Trade of used automobiles between the United States and Mexico and its impact on air quality in the US-Mexico border region, by Miguel Angel Regidor, Asociación Mexicana de Distribuidores de Automotores, A.C.*

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<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: although this summary was prepared with care and seeks to accurately reflect the presenter’s statements, readers should be advised that it has not been reviewed or approved by the presenters.

Mr. Regidor stated that after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came into force, the Mexican government accelerated the importation of used vehicles, ranging from 10 to 15 years old, leading to the importation of approximately 100,000 vehicles per month since August 2005, or around 1.2 million vehicles per year. These cars release extremely high emissions; according to a study conducted by *Centro Mario Molina*, they produce higher emissions than similar vehicles in Mexico City, emitting 50 percent more nitrous oxide, 50 percent more hydrocarbons and 38 percent more carbon monoxide. This has led to an evident degradation of air quality, which can readily be seen in measurements taken in other US-Mexico border cities, said Mr. Regidor. The *Asociación Mexicana de Distribuidores de Automotores* is developing a study on target automotive profiles, worldwide vehicle lifetime estimates, and antipollution measures such as catalytic converters. The study will include specific measures that can be adopted by the three countries to create standards for cross-border trade of vehicles in the NAFTA region, with the applicable parameters and timetables.

*International cooperation for clean air in North America, by Emily Moorhouse, Sierra Club Canada*

Ms. Moorhouse reminded the Council of the growing concerns from the North American public regarding air quality and the effects of climate change. “Climate change, she said, is perhaps humanity’s greatest environmental challenge, but also a great opportunity to move towards an environmentally sustainable economy.” She encouraged decision makers to use technology that reduce emissions and create stringent North American standards that are as rigorous as those in Europe, Japan or California. Ms. Moorhouse urged Canada to strengthen Canada’s greenhouse gas targets and congratulated Mexico on its efforts to deploy renewable energy and on its national strategy on climate change. She underlined the CEC’s role in helping fight climate change by evaluating policy options that maximize fuel efficiency across the continent. She also said that the CEC is well positioned to evaluate the economic impacts of unmitigated climate change. In closing, Ms. Moorhouse invited the three countries to take immediate action to curb climate change.

*Ensuring that PRTR data are presented in ways most useful to indigenous communities, by Steve Osborne, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (AITC)*

The Alaska Inter-Tribal Council (AITC) requested that a study be developed to quantify the effects of climate change in the polar regions. There are significant concerns about accumulations of contaminants in the Arctic, which are getting into food sources of Alaskan tribes. The AITC called for structuring pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) data in a meaningful educational context, integrated into subsistence risk assessment tools. Mr. Osborne also called on the Council to provide an *ex officio* seat to subsistence tribal governments in the Commission and indigenous staffing support at the Secretariat. AITC considers critical that indigenous concerns continue to be represented in activities such as North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs) and PRTRs and he reiterated the support of his organization for working collaboratively with the EPA, the CEC and other organizations to achieve positive and concrete results.

*Promoting and strengthening environmental cooperation between Canada, the United States and Mexico with respect to safety and environmental education, by Andrzej Zeromski, Departamento de Geografía, Universidad de Guadalajara*

Mr. Zeromski affirmed that, in the near future, progress to improve the quality of life of citizens of North America will be hindered by the accelerated environmental harm resulting from climate change that will impact all aspects of human activity. According to



Zeromski, the governments should focus on areas with the greatest impact on human development, such as clean water, energy, health, food production and biodiversity. He recommended a trinational management plan for their use and protection. Zeromski also spoke about the need to create a continental environmental warning system, incorporating the various national meteorological services into a single, comprehensive system to better protect the population. In addition, he stressed the importance of invigorating citizen educational programs that will encourage not only conservation but also proactive environmental action.

*Assessing environmental impacts related to the use of nanotechnology in North America, by Anne Mitchell, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP)*

Ms. Mitchell encouraged the CEC to include, as an issue of continental concern under its State of the Environment project, an assessment of environmental impacts related to the use of nanotechnology in North America. Nanotechnology involves techniques that manipulate materials on the scale of atoms and molecules. In general, Mitchell said, substances at the nano-scale are more reactive and toxic than at the micro- or macro-scale, which raises concerns that exposure to nano-materials may pose serious health risks. Ms. Mitchell stated that both scientific information and basic policy tools are lacking. She urged the Council to develop legal and regulatory frameworks and implement the precautionary approach. She also suggested that the CEC include nanotechnology in its work plan.

*The importance of trinational cooperation to conserve the vaquita marina and promote sustainable livelihoods, by Exequiel Ezcurra, San Diego Natural History Museum*

Following the extinction of the Baijii dolphin in China, Canada, Mexico and the United States have the historical responsibility of preventing the extinction of yet another species: the vaquita marina, now the most endangered marine mammal in the world. Mr. Ezcurra said that numerous efforts have been made to save the vaquita, including the creation of the *Comité internacional para la recuperación de la vaquita* (CIRVA), but these have proven insufficient, as the situation of the vaquita continues to deteriorate rapidly. Mr. Ezcurra called for immediate, concerted action to deal with the important issues surrounding the decline of the vaquita, including eliminating the use of “redes agalleras” (gill net fishing gear). “Unless the gill nets are banned, the vaquita has no real chance for survival,” he said. He underlined the gravity of the situation and closed by saying to that no one wants to bear on his shoulders the responsibility of the extinction of a species.

### **Replies from the Council members:**

**Secretary Juan R. Elvira Quesada** began by addressing the intervention on Lake Chapala. Mr. Quesada explained that the Mexican government has participated in a series of meetings with the governments of the adjoining states to develop a framework to ensure the sustainability of the Chapala basin. On the issue of used vehicles, Mr. Quesada reiterated the government’s commitment to enforce the law by working closely with the border states. He strongly agreed with Mr. Zeromski’s proposal to strengthen citizen educational programs and said that this is a priority for the Mexican president, who recently modified the national education textbooks to include such environmental issues as climate change. Secretary Quesada announced that an interagency commission was currently working on a new environmental plan for the country. He thanked the public for their statements and turned to Canada’s environment minister, John Baird.

**Canadian Environment Minister John Baird** began by acknowledging the government's responsibility toward First Nations and assured the public of the commitment of his ministry to working closely with Aboriginal peoples on sustainable development strategies. He noted that Canada is in the process of developing important measures to reduce air contaminants through clean air regulations and air quality agreements and highlighted progress in the negotiations with the United States in this regard. He reiterated Canada's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions while recognizing that further work is required with regards to coal-fired power plants. Concerning climate change, he recognized that the pattern is undeniable and that cooperative action is essential to prevent its effects on the environment. "Canada, he said, will continue to work constructively on these issues." In relation to the intervention by Mr. Exequiel Ezcurra on the conservation of the vaquita marina, Mr. Baird underlined Canada's full support, given that it is the responsibility of all citizens of North America to prevent the loss of species. The Canadian environment minister mentioned his interest in the issue of contaminant accumulation in the north, as presented by Mr. Steve Osborne of the AITC. Lastly, he commented on the importance of nanotechnology and requested a copy of the study quoted by Ms. Anne Mitchell of CIELAP.

**US EPA Administrator M. Stephen L. Johnson** thanked members of the public for their involvement and keen interest in the meeting and stated that feedback from the public was welcomed across projects. He noted the importance of informing consumers and the media as well as providing training for government officials on environmental issues. He stated that water and renewable energy were also important issues on which the United States will continue to work. He quoted this annual meeting as evidence of good interaction with the public and reminded the audience of the resolution signed at this meeting to increase support for indigenous communities. Mr. Johnson underlined the EPA's commitment to clean air and affirmed that the United States is the first country to have promulgated a regulation calling for reductions of mercury from coal-fired power plants. He also reminded everyone that the US EPA has put in place a national program to eliminate mercury-containing light switches. He noted the program will help cut mercury air emissions by up to 75 tons over the next 15 years. Administrator Johnson commented that EPA is working on a regulation to control greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and certain types of fuel. With regards to nanotechnology, Administrator Johnson recognized the need to develop approaches that allow for the use of nanotechnology while protecting the environment and pointed out the importance of working with partners from different sectors to protect the environment. He then thanked the members of the Council for the wonderful hospitality in Mexico and for the excellent working rapport he had enjoyed with them during the session.

Session adjourned.