

An aerial photograph of a coastal region, likely in the Pacific Northwest, showing a large body of water in shades of blue and green, with a prominent green island or headland in the center. The terrain is rugged and forested. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Acting on the CEC's new priorities

Presentation to the Joint Public
Advisory Committee

October 27, 2004

10 years of achievement

- The CEC is 10 years old.
- It can point to several notable achievements. For example:
 - Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC)**
 - Taking Stock Report**
 - Biodiversity Strategy, etc.**
- Now we need to consider the challenges of the next decade. And we need to reflect on how to improve the impact of its initiatives.



The Mission of the CEC

The current Mission still reflects the CEC's role and purpose accurately :

“ The CEC facilitates cooperation and public participation to foster conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment for the benefit of present and future generations, in the context of increasing economic, trade and social links among Canada, Mexico and the United States.”



TRAC and others recommend some changes

- **TRAC and others recommend that the CEC work program be more focused and objective-driven**
- **The CEC embarked on a planning process to define where and how it can make a difference**
- **The result: a more focused and results-oriented work program for the next 5 years**
- **Input from the public is essential: what should be the focus of the CEC in the next 5 years? What are your views on what has been discussed so far?**



The Puebla Declaration sets the vision ...

Signed in June 2004, it sets out the Vision of the CEC:

... as a catalyst for action by the Parties and others to ensure our air is cleaner, our water purer, and our plant and animal species better conserved and protected;

... as a forum through which we can discuss and facilitate regional action on our common global commitments;

... to be known for concrete results and for quality information and analysis, which have policy-relevance to the three countries.



... and defines three new priorities

The 3 priorities for the cooperative program:

- **Information for decision-making**
- **Capacity-building**
- **Trade and the environment**

The Parties are now defining goals, objectives and results for each of these priorities



Priority 1: Information for decision-making

Proposed goal:

To identify, integrate, communicate, and support the development of authoritative and effective information on issues of common concern regarding environmental management, trends and progress in North America in order to facilitate local, national and regional action.

Proposed objectives:

1. Build and ensure CEC Secretariat and member capacity to provide and use, at all levels of society, information needed to understand North American environmental issues of common concern.

{capacity building}



Priority 1: Information (cont'd)

Proposed objectives:

2. Establish and maintain the systems design elements of an environmental and information and knowledge framework for North America that identifies and integrates, in a coherent and compatible manner, both data specification and information management systems. **{systems design}**
3. Identify, establish and maintain the information needed to describe the state of the North American environment, to identify emerging trends and issues, and to guide decisions relevant to the shared environmental interests of the parties. **{substance of framework}**
4. Make information from the framework accessible and easily available to citizens and governments of the three parties through information and knowledge products and services, in order to facilitate local, national and regional action. **{communication}**



Priority 2: Capacity-building

Proposed goal:

The CEC will assist governments, the private sector and civil society in the 3 countries to gradually strengthen their institutional capacity for sound environmental management across North America, with a special emphasis on Mexico.

Proposed objectives:

1. Facilitate identification, with a particular focus on Mexico, of institutional needs, priorities and opportunities for comprehensive environmental management systems.
2. Help institutionalize education and training to foster new and improved environmental expertise.
3. Help in enforcing laws and regulations through the promotion of integrated environmental management of specific geographic area.



Priority 3: Trade and the environment

Proposed goal:

Promote policies and actions that provide mutual benefits for the environment, trade and the economy.

Proposed objectives:

- 1. Promote cooperation to facilitate increased trade in environmentally preferable goods and services to support environmental protection and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by, inter alia, making better use of market-based approaches, analyzing the benefits of removing trade barriers, and sharing market potential information.**
- 2. Promote North American collaboration to identify, anticipate and address environmental concerns with a view to achieving mutual benefits for the environment, trade and the economy.**
- 3. Promote greater institutional coordination including between the CEC and the NAFTA FTC under the 10(6) Working Group, to develop further understanding of trade and environment linkages and promote policy coherence, both at the domestic and regional levels in North America.**



Making the transition

- **2005 will be a transition year for the CEC between the *current work program* and the *new priorities***
- **Need to review current activities for their “fit” with the new priorities: Which to keep, which to phase out, over what timeframe?**
- **Other CEC activities remain (e.g., submission on enforcement matters, article 13 reports)**



Process

- **4 Alt. Rep meetings between September and December to define all the elements (goals, objectives, activities) of the new work program**
- **3 trilateral expert groups flesh out those elements in each priority area**
- **Input from JPAC, NACs, GAC, public**



Next steps (cont'd)

- **We are working on the selection of criteria to define activities/actions.**
- **Will soon start discussions on new initiatives: transition—moving from the old to the new work program—will be a struggle.**
- **Decision-making on projects will need to be coherent and disciplined.**



Conclusion

- **We are engaged in a process to make the CEC cooperative program more focused, results-oriented and effective**
- **We continue to be committed to the CEC as the main tool for trilateral environmental cooperation**
- **We welcome your comments and views by November 12 on:**
 - 1) **Where can the CEC have the greatest impact in the next 5 years?**
 - 2) **What should be its priorities?**

