

Morelia, 27 June 2007

COUNCIL RESOLUTION: 07-12

An environmental outlook: emerging trends and their potential impact upon North America

THE COUNCIL:

REAFFIRMING the objectives of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, notably to foster the protection and improvement of the environment in the territories of the Parties for the well-being of present and future generations;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the highest quality scientific information for the purposes of decision-making to the Council, whose members act as stewards of the environment within their respective territories and together as the governing body of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC);

NOTING the importance of identifying the major forces, trends and/or events that will impact the quality of the North American environment, and of our ability to protect it and achieve environmental policy objectives over the long term;

RECOGNIZING that government agencies, international and environmental organizations, and scientific and academic institutions may already be engaged in research and analysis related to this topic; and

FURTHER NOTING the utility of identifying emerging trends for the purposes of informing the CEC's next strategic plan as well as the development of the cooperative work program, including the assessment of the state-of-the-environment in North America;

HEREBY:

AUTHORIZES and DIRECTS that an amount not to exceed C\$90,000 from the CEC General Fund be allocated in financial year 2007 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, in which selected topics and their potential impact upon the environment in North America will be examined;

FURTHER DIRECTS the Secretariat to undertake the activities assigned to it as outlined in the document attached as Annex I to this Resolution;

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL:

John Baird
Government of Canada

Juan Elvira Quesada
Government of the United Mexican States

Stephen L. Johnson
Government of the United States of America

Annex 1 to Council Resolution 07-12

Commission for Environmental Cooperation An environmental outlook for North America

Summary Work Plan

Concept

The purpose of this initiative is to:

1. Review and synthesize existing and ongoing assessments of the major forces, trends and/or events that will have significant impacts—positive or negative—on the quality of the environment in North America, or our ability to protect the environment over the long term;
2. Organize an environmental outlook conference in 2008 to serve as a forum for the examination of a select number of specific environmental trends of importance to Canada, Mexico and the United States collectively;

It is assumed that the CEC Secretariat will work with a Party-designated advisory group to design the 2008 North American Environmental Outlook conference.

Costs incurred in 2007 are estimated to be approximately C\$30,000 for a preliminary review and synthesis of current environmental trend analysis in each of Canada, Mexico and the United States, as well as relevant global initiatives, and C\$60,000 to defray operational costs, including conference logistics, consultant support, travel and such meetings of the advisory group or with other experts as may be required.

It is further assumed that the 2008 conference may be co-located and held in conjunction with the 2008 CEC Council session. In addition to adding value and relevance to the Council session itself, this will help secure high-level participation of academic, nongovernmental, private sector and other possible participants. The conference itself provides a concrete focus for the engagement of key partners in the development of the CEC's longer-term agenda.

The information synthesized as a consequence of the Outlook conference is assumed to be important to the development of the CEC's cooperative work plan as well as the development of the Commission's 2010–2015 Strategic Plan.

Stages

1. Scoping and design of North American Environmental Outlook conference for 2008:
 - Review of literature/synthesis of current North American/global outlook and emerging trends analysis
 - Secretariat and advisory group design Outlook conference form and topics
2. Recruitment/selection of Outlook presentations (via calls-for-presentation, direct invitation, and partnership activity).
3. Organization, logistics, marketing of Outlook Conference
4. Operational and strategic planning activity.