

### 4.3.1 Sustainable Use and Conservation of Freshwater in North America

#### Project Summary

At the eighth Regular Session of Council, held in Guadalajara in June 2001, Council members agreed to initiate work in the area of sustainable watershed management in the region, including consideration of affordable water-related technologies and water pricing. During 2002, the Secretariat worked with interested stakeholders in developing possible options for the Council to consider in implementing work in this area. These options should be presented to the Council in 2003 so that they can give further direction to the Secretariat regarding the goals, objectives and next steps of this project in 2004. While finalizing these options in 2003, the Secretariat will compile a list of databases of principal governmental and international agencies involved with ground and surface water in North America and the available geospatial and mapping information on the topic.

#### Goals and Objectives

The goal of this year's work is to ensure that the Secretariat provides the Council with a paper that has received extensive stakeholder input and that outlines possible next steps for CEC work in the area of sustainable watershed management, affordable water-related technologies and water pricing. The goal is also to ensure that the Commission, the governments and the public have access to public information on a North American basis which supports this effort.

#### Rationale

The developments of an options paper with extensive stakeholder involvement is necessary to ensure that the CEC does not duplicate ongoing work elsewhere and that it adds value to other such initiatives. In addition, compiling information on ground and surface water in North America will help better inform ongoing and future CEC projects and provide access to public information on a North American basis.

#### Progress to Date

In 2002, the CEC convened a workshop, with leading water policy experts from government, academia, industry and nongovernmental organizations attending, to identify key policy options for sustainable watershed management, including consideration of affordable technologies and pricing. In addition, JPAC held a public workshop on freshwater issues in North America in order to comment on the draft options paper and to provide advice to the Council on the development of these options and on a long-term vision of the role of the CEC in this area.

#### Actions 2003

##### Overview

<b>2003</b>	<b>Estimated Resources Required (C\$)</b>
<b>Action 1: Sustainable Use and Conservation of Freshwater in North America</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Activity 1: Compile a list of databases of principal governmental and international agencies involved with ground and surface water in North America and the available geospatial and mapping information on the subject.</li></ul>	25,000
<b>Total Resources Required</b>	<b>25,000</b>

#### Expected Results

Future work will be based on those options that Council identifies for continuing CEC efforts in this area.