



Public Call for Papers

Researchers from academia, governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and/or members of civil society are invited to submit proposals for symposium research papers addressing the following major guiding questions:

1. To what extent has liberalization of the services sector under NAFTA changed environmental conditions, or policy, within investment-receiving NAFTA countries?
2. What types of policies and regulations have or have not succeeded in alleviating negative environmental impacts, or enhancing positive impacts, from the liberalization of trade in services?
3. To what extent have NAFTA rules and institutions supported or impeded the pursuit of policies to affect environmental impacts due to the liberalization of trade in services?

Proposals should focus on effects within the North American countries—Canada, Mexico and the United States of America—with special attention to shared, transboundary, regional and/or global environmental impacts of the NAFTA services sector(s) and the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation.

Financial support of up to \$12,000 per selected paper is available on an as-needed basis. Additional funds could be available to support co-authorship across NAFTA countries. For transparency purposes, papers will be chosen by the CEC Fourth Symposium Advisory Group listed in Annex 1. Authors will be expected, and financially supported by the CEC, to present their research papers at the fourth North American Symposium on Assessing the Environmental Effects of Trade, to be held in the spring/summer of 2008. The papers chosen will be edited and published as symposium proceedings (see the proceedings of the 2005 symposium at <<http://www.cec.org/symposium/>>).

After more than ten years of theoretical and empirical assessment work at the CEC, it has become clear that neither the dire pre-NAFTA predictions of *a race to the bottom* nor the promise of automatic environmental improvements have been realized. However, we still know very little about the linkages, positive or negative, between increased trade liberalization in the services sector and environmental impacts. Furthermore, we do not know whether capital investment in services-related infrastructure, technological improvements, and regulatory responses are sufficient to offset any increased pressure on infrastructure and the environment of the three countries by the growth in our economies.

Paper topics may address any service sector. In order to further illustrate the scope of topics for this call for papers, the Advisory Group considers that the following questions or issues would be of interest:

- a) To what extent or under what conditions has the cross-border provision of services in NAFTA countries enhanced, or deteriorated, the environmental conditions in NAFTA countries?
- b) To what extent have particular government policies, including reform in regulations affecting the provision of particular services, led to changes in environmental performance by foreign services providers?
- c) To what extent have the NAFTA provisions trade in services enhanced or diminished the NAFTA governments' ability to regulate in order to protect their domestic environment or undertake regional environmental cooperation initiatives?
- d) What kind of domestic regulatory or administrative framework compatible with NAFTA could be established in NAFTA countries to ensure that any positive environmental impacts of services trade liberalization under NAFTA are maximized or adverse impacts minimized or mitigated?
- e) What experience from other countries or regions might usefully inform policy-making on services trade liberalization in the NAFTA region?
- f) What sorts of methodological tools might be created or tested to better assess the environmental impacts of services trade liberalization?
- g) To what extent, if any, have NAFTA countries adopted differing domestic regulatory approaches to address the environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of services trade liberalization? What were these approaches?
- h) Issues/areas that have had limited focus to date, and/or that fill data gaps, in the services trade liberalization research
- i) The relationship between trade in services and the dissemination of technology in NAFTA countries; and its impacts on the environment.

The CEC will only consider proposals that test hypotheses using robust empirical or legal analyses, or that employ new methodologies seeking to answer questions in the defined thematic areas. These studies should attempt to endogenize existing domestic laws and policies and NAFTA and NAAEC rules. To the extent possible, they should be inclusive and yet be made regionally and locally meaningful by taking into account national and trilateral economic and/or legal and environmental linkages. This might include combining general equilibrium and partial equilibrium models or other methodologies (such as environmental impact or strategic environmental assessment approaches) or accounting for more than one type of pollutants or natural resources to pick up displacement from one to other pollutants. The focus should not be only the flow of emissions but also the flow of natural resources used. The impacts, both positive and negative, of increased services trade liberalization should focus not only on any immediate environmental impacts but also on the ability to enact national environmental policies to mediate any potential impacts. Additionally, attention may be given to any role that NAAEC has played in formulating responsive environmental policies.

While the emphasis should be on environmental considerations, other issues related to sustainable development may be considered, including economic, social, and cultural impacts, whether on a regional, national, or sub national/community level. Collaboration among experts in the three countries is encouraged to broaden the scope of the comparison and analysis.

In the course of developing its Analytic Framework (1999) and as borne out by the research presented at its first trade and environment symposium, the CEC has found that there is no single methodological approach that best captures the diverse direct and indirect environmental effects of trade. Accordingly, analysts are encouraged to use a “menu” of approaches and tools and to compare results arising from different approaches, including:

- OECD methodology on assessing environmental effects of liberalizing trade in services developed by the Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTF). It can be found on the web at <[http://www.ois.oecd.org/olis/2000doc.nsf/LinkTo/com-td-env\(2000\)123-final](http://www.ois.oecd.org/olis/2000doc.nsf/LinkTo/com-td-env(2000)123-final)>.
- the CEC Analytic Framework for Assessing the Environmental Effects of NAFTA,¹ or other methodologies, including CEC approaches for examining present and future environmental trends developed under the guidance of the Critical and Emerging Trends Advisory Group;
- environmental review methodologies developed and utilized by any of the three NAFTA countries for negotiations on free trade;
- quantitative economic or ecological models;
- analysis in support of “environment first” or ecosystem-based approaches to impact assessments (such as those developed by UNEP), the use of ecosystem health, spatial analysis, environmental indicators or other techniques that provide insight into the effects of trade on the integrity of major ecosystems, including important habitat areas, biodiversity hotspots, airsheds, grasslands, wetlands; and
- collaboration and network-building among research consortia from Canada, Mexico and the United States, in which community-based cooperation, NGO coalitions, or other forms of international cooperation form the basis of research.

Proposals should address the questions above, not exceed 300 words and should include a general description of the issues the paper will address, specific hypotheses to be tested, how they relate to trade, and a thorough description of methodologies and data sources, as well as a short rationale. The final papers should contain policy implications and a “so-what” section after the conclusion. Proposals should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vita of the author(s). Proposals are welcomed from authors both within and outside North America, though the former will be given priority. Submissions are welcome in English, French or Spanish. Submissions should be sent by e-mail with the subject heading “CEC Symposium 2008 Paper” to Chantal Line Carpentier <clcarpentier@cec.org> with copies to Catherine Mercier <cmercier@cec.org> and Esther Maria Carrillo <emcarrillo@cec.org> no later than **Thursday, 1 February 2007**. Abstracts submitted will be reviewed on their merits and all applicants will be notified by April 2007, as to the status of their submissions. All papers must adhere to CEC editing styles, as set forth in the CEC Style Guide (see <www.cec.org/symposium/>), and be completed by October 2007.

The CEC is an international organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, commonly referred to as the environmental side agreement to NAFTA. Among other mandates, the CEC is charged with conducting ongoing assessments of the environmental impacts of trade liberalization in the NAFTA countries.

¹ CEC 1999. *Final Analytic Framework for Assessing the Environmental Effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement* <http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=79>.

ANNEX 1

List of Advisory Group Members

Gustavo Alanis Ortega

President
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental
(Cemda)

José Luis Alberro

Director
Law and Economics Consulting Group (LECG)

Dale Andrew

Head, Trade Policy Linkages Division OECD
Trade Directorate

Ellen Burack

Executive Director
Strategic Analysis and Research
Environment Canada

Olga Briseño Senosiain

Director
Under Secretariat for Environmental
Advancement and Standards,
Semarnat

Brian Copeland

Professor
Department of Economics
University of British Columbia

Aaron Cosbey

Associate and Senior Advisor
Climate Change, Trade, Investment
International Institute for Sustainable
Development

Gabriel Duque

Andean Development Corp (CAF) Venezuela

Grant Ferrier

President
Environmental Business International, Inc

Margo Gallagher

Trade Policy Advisor
Foreign Affairs and International Trade

David Hartridge

Director, Senior WTO Counselor
White & Case

Roland Hosein

Vice President of Environment and Health
GE Canada

Robert Howse

Professor of Law
University of Michigan Law School

Julie Lennox

Program Officer
ECLAC Subregional Headquarters, Mexico
Cepal

Mark Linscott

Assistant Trade Representative
United States Trade Representative

Cassio Luiselli Fernandez

Director
Department of International Studies
Tecnológico de Monterrey

Aaditya Mattoo

Lead Economist
Development Research Group
World Bank

Vicente Paolo B. Yu III

Programme Coordinator
Global Governance for Development Program
South Centre (Geneva)

ANNEX 2

CEC Analytic Framework

For four years the CEC and the NAFTA Parties concentrated on methodologies on how to ask the right questions about environmental assessments. The Analytic Framework published was the product of many hands and a lot of commitment. Copies of the Analytic Framework are available in English, French and Spanish on the home page of the CEC, at http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=79. It is worth stressing that the process of building the Framework was as important as releasing the document itself, for studies in this difficult area require transparency and public input.

The point of departure for the Framework is the presentation of a series of hypotheses regarding the assumed environmental effects of trade liberalization. These hypotheses are:

1. Does NAFTA reinforce existing patterns of comparative advantage and specialization to the benefit of efficiency?
2. Does NAFTA trade liberalization lead to a regulatory/migratory “race-to-the-bottom”?
3. Does NAFTA give rise to competitive pressures for capital and technological modernization?
4. Do liberalized rules under NAFTA serve to increase the use of environmentally friendly products?
5. Does NAFTA lead to upward convergence of environmental practice and regulation through activities of the private sector?
6. Does NAFTA lead to upward convergence of environmental practice and regulation through activities of the various levels of government, and if so, how?

ANNEX 3

CEC Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review

In addition to the Analytic Framework, an annotated bibliography of the reports generated or supported by the CEC thus far, which do not necessarily focus on investment and environment and/or growth and the environment in the context of trade liberalization, is available at http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1569 to facilitate a review of the literature.

Also of interest is a literature review on trade and environment linkages in North America conducted for the CEC: http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1563. The literature review is organized as follows: Part I: The effects of trade on environmental quality; Part II: The effects of trade on environmental policy; Part III: Institutional and policy responses to the trade and environment problem.

An annotated bibliography of the existing theoretical and empirical papers on the liberalization of the services sector and its environmental impacts has also been compiled and is available at <http://www.cec.org/symposium>.