

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Meeting of the North American PRTR  
Consultative Group

Montréal, Québec  
Dec. 3 - 4, 2007

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# Presentation Outline

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- PRTR Project overview and update
  - Highlights of *Taking Stock 2004*
- Status of action items from the 2006 Consultative Group meeting
- Related CEC activities: North American Air Quality Program



# PRTR PROJECT: OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

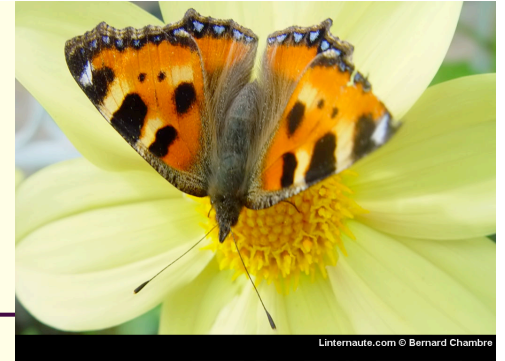
# PRTR Project Objectives

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- Track and publish information on the amounts, sources & management of toxics across North America (annual *Taking Stock* report)
- Increase the public's right to know about how chemicals are managed in their communities
- Enhance comparability and data quality among North American PRTRs
- Foster reductions in pollution

# Goals of the Consultative Group Meeting

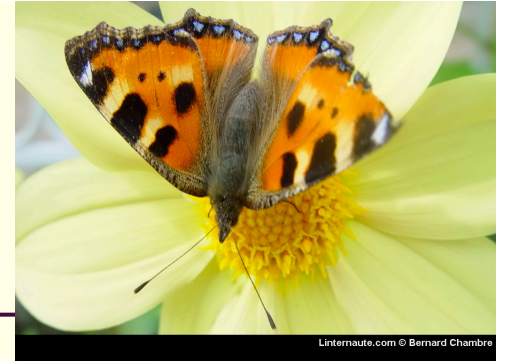
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- Establish partnerships across North America
- Share experiences relating to:
  - Reporting to PRTRs
  - Pollution prevention (P2) activities
  - Public outreach and use of PRTR data
- Raise awareness among stakeholders
- Make decisions for the *Taking Stock* report/website

# PRTR Project Highlights - 2007

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*Taking Stock 2004* report:

- first-time inclusion of Mexican RETC data
- shorter report, enhancements to *TS Online*

Exploring potential of mapping PRTR data

Collaboration with indigenous communities

Trilateral collaboration on data quality issues

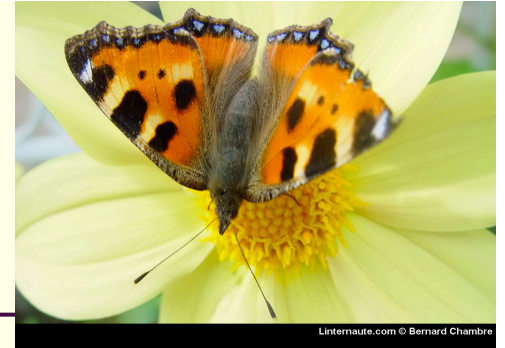


*TAKING STOCK 2004*

# *Taking Stock 2004*

## *Highlights*

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### MATCHED DATA SETS (Canada, US, Mexico, 2004)

- Bilateral analysis: 204 chemicals, 23,000 facilities, 25 sectors common to NPRI and TRI
- Trilateral analysis: 56 chemicals, 10,000 facilities, 9 sectors common to NPRI, TRI and RETC

### TRENDS (Canada-US for 1998-2004)

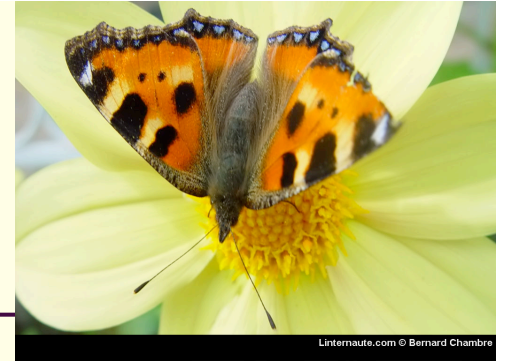
CHEMICALS OF SPECIAL INTEREST: Carcinogens, Reproduct./Develop'l, TEPs, GHGs, CACs

POLLUTION PREVENTION TRENDS (3-year)

SPECIAL FEATURE: Transfers to Recycling...



# Feature chapter on Transfers to Recycling



We asked: Where transfers originated and were sent, what chemicals were sent for recycling, and what economic, regulatory, and corporate policy factors influence a facility's decision to recycle.

## Main Findings:

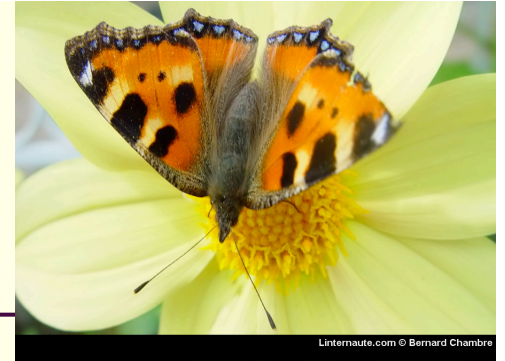
- Transfers to recycling made up 1/3 of total releases and transfers reported in Canada and the United States in 2004
- 2/3 of transfers were copper, zinc, & lead (& their cmpds)
- The primary metals and fabricated metals sectors made up 62% of all transfers to recycling in 2004
- A facility's decision to recycle depends on prices of disposal & recycling, regulations, and prices for scrap metals.



## Status of Action Items from the 2006 Consultative Group Meeting

# Action Items from San Diego

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## Ongoing engagement of indigenous groups:

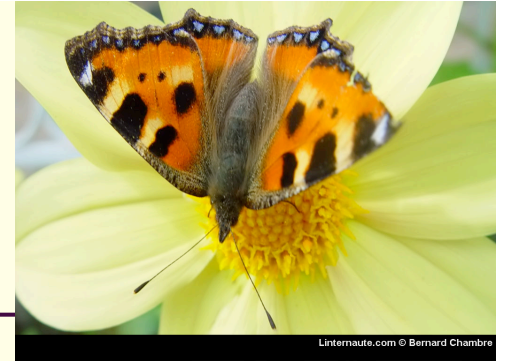
- Case study publication and dissemination
- Meetings with indigenous representatives to discuss environmental/health issues, networking, outreach

## Ongoing incorporation of recommendations for *TS*:

- Continue providing Canada-US analyses, create a shorter report with more context, improved maps
- Provide additional NA analyses, maps
- Expand and improve website and Query Builder
- Feature chapter for *TS 2005*: [Petroleum Industry](#)

# PRTR Project Future Activities

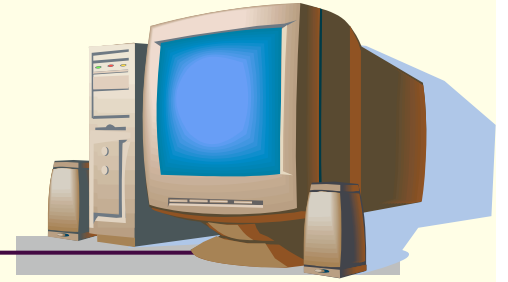
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- Training and ongoing support for RETC implementation in Mexico (capacity-building)
- Trilateral collaboration on data comparability and quality (possibility of sector workshops)
- Shorter *Taking Stock* reports, enhanced website with related information, facilitate access to data
- Continued engagement of the PRTR Consultative Group

## *Taking Stock Online*

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Users can generate their own queries of the matched data sets used in the *Taking Stock* report, by going to *TS Online* at:

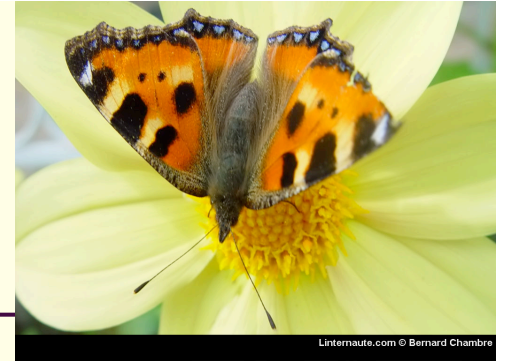
[www.cec.org/takingstock](http://www.cec.org/takingstock)



Related CEC Activities:  
N.A. Air Quality Program

# N.A. Air Quality Program Background

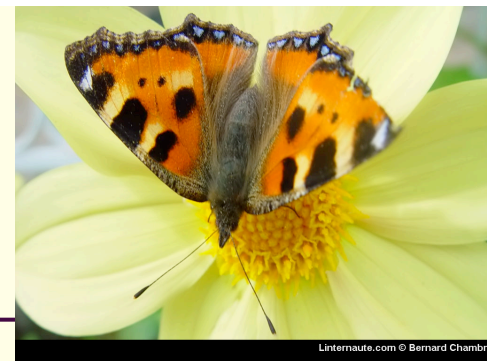
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- In 2001, the CEC Council agreed to work towards comparability of air emissions inventory information in North America
- CEC supported the development of the 1999 national criteria air emissions inventory in Mexico (2006 release)
- In 2005, CEC released a report on air emissions from NA power plants, analyzing 2002 data on emissions of four pollutants (sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and carbon dioxide)

# N.A. Air Quality Management Vision

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In 2007, the Parties convened the North American Air Working Group (NAAWG) to review current air quality work and formulate a vision for enhancing North American Air Quality Management for 2010-2015.

## Vision:

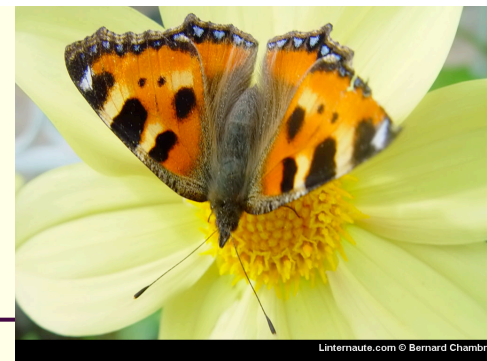
*Provide a more complete North American picture of air quality and air emissions to support decision-making on air quality management.*

To make this vision a reality, a project was outlined...



# Enhancing North American Quality Management

Air



For 2008-2010, the main tasks will include:

1. Conduct an assessment of the state of the three countries' emissions inventories and monitoring systems; and make recommendations for achieving comparability in NA air quality management
2. Update components of the Mexican National Emissions Inventory and build capacity based on comparison with US and Canadian systems
3. The NAAWG and Secretariat will draft the initial North American Air Quality Strategy for 2010-2015.

## *Get Involved!*

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