

## JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JPAC) 2023 ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

### CONTEXT

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) is one of three constituent bodies of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), along with the Council and the Secretariat. JPAC is composed of nine volunteer citizens, three from each country, appointed by their respective governments.

**IN ACCORDANCE** with Article 6(6) of the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA) among the federal governments of Canada, the United Mexican States, and the United States of America, which states that the “Joint Public Advisory Committee shall, in consultation with the Council, develop an annual plan of activities,” this annual plan is developed, taking into account the six pillars in the [CEC’s Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#) and the CEC cooperative work program.

### JPAC 2023 PRIORITIES

JPAC is committed to supporting the CEC’s mission of facilitating effective cooperation and public participation to conserve, protect and enhance the North American environment. As such, JPAC will continue to support the CEC’s efforts to have a diversity of public participation in its various activities and cooperative work program, especially through the organization of events and public consultations, among others. The CEC’s Strategic Plan 2021–2025, the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA), and Chapter 24 of the United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement establish broad areas of cooperation in the North American region. Based on these, and with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Indigenous perspectives as cross-cutting themes, JPAC will focus its efforts in **2023** on the following:

#### **Increased collaboration with the other CEC constituent bodies and the TEK Expert Group (TEKEG)**

- Continue to build on recent efforts to increase dialogue with the Council and Alternate Representatives from Canada, Mexico and the United States, through informal meetings and communications.
- Continue to seek opportunities to increase collaboration with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG) through videoconferences, meetings and joint events.
- Continue to support the TEKEG and the CEC’s efforts to increase the integration of TEK and Indigenous perspectives in CEC programs and activities.
- Continue to support the CEC and build upon recent successes to increase public participation and the dissemination of the work of JPAC and the CEC, including enhanced collaboration

with relevant stakeholders, such as academia, research centers, nongovernmental organizations, etc.

- Continue to support the Parties' efforts in ensuring that CEC officials, JPAC members and other experts are granted comparable privileges and immunities across the three countries.
- Continue to support the CEC's efforts to increase the engagement and involvement of youth and Environmental Justice communities in CEC programs and activities.

### **Implementation of the JPAC-led initiative: Advancing Responsible Consumption of Forest Products**

- Develop final project description.
- Initiate project implementation.

### **Climate Crisis**

Continue to build upon efforts to increase knowledge sharing, public dialogue, and public engagement in North America on climate change mitigation and adaptation through JPAC events by addressing such topics as:

- TEK and Indigenous perspectives;
- environmental justice;
- GHG emissions reduction pathways of trilateral interest and impact (e.g., the role of ports in climate change mitigation, mitigation of methane emissions, cross-boundary transmission lines, transboundary emissions, tariffs, and social costs).

### **Water**

- Build upon the success of the JPAC 2021 transboundary water webinar to increase knowledge-sharing and public dialogue through JPAC events by addressing such water-related topics as:
  - transboundary water management practices;
  - state-of-the-art sustainable water practices in key economic sectors (e.g., agriculture, municipal, forestry, industry, mining, energy), including transboundary environmental impacts;
  - best practices and standards for water efficiency in the public and private sectors, including solid waste and wastewater-recycling infrastructure and water treatment;
  - sustainable water management practices and tools for human and ecosystem resilience (mitigation and adaptation) in response to climate change.
- Support the TEKEG, as appropriate, in the implementation of the project *Indigenous approaches to freshwater management in North America*.

### **Trade and Environment**

- Organize a virtual round table to identify opportunities:
  - to advance environmental progress in new areas, such as green energy and hydrogen fuel production to support transition toward a more sustainable society;
  - to make trade in North America greener and more inclusive by supporting producers of sustainable goods and creating the conditions and incentives for greater environmental collaboration and protection across the three countries;

- to promote sustainable production in different sectors (e.g., agriculture).

Throughout all activities, JPAC will seek to integrate Indigenous perspectives into its work and events, while being respectful of relationships with Indigenous communities. This will include the integration of TEK, when appropriate, based on free, prior, informed, and culturally appropriate consent.

**Perform such other functions as the Council may direct**

- In accordance with Article 6(4) of the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA), JPAC may pursue additional activities during the calendar year.

**PROPOSED CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
<b>30 January 2023</b>	Meeting to review the submissions received for the EJ4Climate Grant	* Participation of the JPAC Chair
<b>7-8 March 2023</b>	Joint JPAC-TEKEG meeting in Montreal (7 March & 8 March-AM)	Including field trip to Indigenous community near Montreal
	JPAC working meeting in Montreal (8 March-PM)	
<b>23 March</b>	Alt Rep meeting (virtual) *	* Participation of the JPAC Chair
<b>3 or 4 May (TBC)</b>	Alt Rep in-person meeting in Canada *	* Participation of the JPAC Chair
<b>May 2023</b>	Pre-Council Session Workshop/Webinar (TBC) <i>(Exact theme TBD)</i>	
<b>27-28-29 June 2023</b>	Joint JPAC/TEKEG in-person meeting (27 June-PM)	Location: Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
	JPAC Public Forum (hybrid) <i>(Exact theme TBD)</i> (28 June)	
	In-camera and Council Sessions (29 June)	
<b>Fall 2023</b>	Participation in the TEKEG-led trilateral workshop (Mexico), organized as part of the project on <b>Indigenous Approaches to Freshwater Management in North America</b> (Activity 3)	

<b>Fall 2023</b>	JPAC Regular Session 23-02 in Mexico ( <i>Exact location and theme TBD</i> )	
<b>Fall 2023</b>	Joint meeting with CEC Alt Reps in the margins of JPAC Regular Session 23-02 in Mexico (TBC)	
<b>Fall/Winter 2023</b>	1 virtual round table on trade and environment	
<b>Winter 2023</b>	Joint JPAC/TEKEG videoconference	