

2019 Annual Report at a Glance

PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was created in 1994 by the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), concluded by Canada, Mexico and the United States as a side-agreement to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The CEC's mission is to facilitate collaboration among the three countries and encourage public participation to foster conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment.

The bodies comprising the CEC are the Council, the Secretariat, and the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC). The Council is composed of cabinet-level environmental officials from each of the NAAEC Parties. It governs the CEC, defines the strategic priorities for the CEC's collaborative work, and approves the overall program and budget. The CEC Secretariat is headquartered in Montreal and is headed by an executive director who oversees the implementation of a cooperative work program on various North American environmental matters, and the processing of public submissions on enforcement matters (SEM). A fifteen-member JPAC acts as an advisory body to the Council on any matter within the scope of the NAAEC. More information can be found at: <www.cec.org>.

This annual report fulfills Article 12(1) of the NAAEC, which directs the Secretariat to prepare an annual report that includes the activities and expenses of the Commission during the previous year and the actions taken by each Party in connection with its obligations under this Agreement, including data on the Party's environmental enforcement activities.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marking the 25th anniversary of the CEC, the Council held its twenty-sixth regular session in Mexico City, Mexico, on 24-25 June 2019, with this year's focus on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency. The Council explored synergies and opportunities between domestic and regional efforts with activities in civil society and the private sector to achieve positive results in addressing marine litter and food loss and waste and their environmental, ecosystem, climate and economic impacts. The CEC Council announced the successful completion of the 2017–2018 Operational Plan and endorsed the new work program for the coming biennium. It also announced completion of the third Youth Innovation Challenge, a youth contest seeking innovative solutions for green growth. This year's prizes were awarded to three innovative enterprises involved, respectively, in transforming waste into masonry blocks and furniture pieces; turning organic waste into quality animal feed; and using robots to deliver ultraviolet light as an alternative to pesticides in strawberry farms.

On 10 December 2019, the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States concluded the protocol amending the USMCA/CUSMA, which included provisions aimed at strengthening enforcement of environmental laws in North America. The Parties also concluded a new Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) that includes extensive provisions aimed at strengthening cooperation. On 19 December, the United States also adopted domestic implementing legislation to establish domestic compliance mechanisms. Once ratified, the trade agreement treaty and the ECA will, respectively, replace NAFTA and the NAAEC and serve as the new framework agreement for the continuation of the CEC. Entry into force is expected in summer 2020.

2. COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTS

2.1. Canada

Between January 2019 and March 2020, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) continued to advance Canada's environmental priorities by tackling pollution and waste in our air, water, and soil, protecting Canadians from threats posed by the environment, encouraging the transition to a clean growth economy, and protecting our unique biodiversity and wildlife. These efforts have been undertaken in support of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, in partnership with provincial and territorial governments, and expressed through our leadership on the international stage. A number of these achievements are highlighted below:

Climate Change and Clean Growth

Climate change is one of the most important issues of our time. On December 9, 2016, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments adopted the [Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change](#) (PCF), Canada's plan to take ambitious action to fight climate change. In 2019, the Government of Canada announced a commitment to exceed Canada's 2030 emissions reduction target, and begin work towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, including setting legally-binding, five-year emissions-reduction milestones. In order to reach these ambitious targets, the Government of Canada committed to new measures, including a commitment to plant two billion trees to help sequester carbon emissions; retrofitting 1.5 million homes to improve energy efficiency and save Canadians money on their monthly energy bills. Canada continues to work with international partners to reinforce global climate efforts, including by advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Canada and the UK continue to lead the [Powering Past Coal Alliance](#) (PPCA) whose membership has increased, as of June 2020, to over 100 countries, regions, cities, businesses, and organizations, all committed to phasing out unabated coal power. Since 2015, Canada supports the acceleration of global clean energy innovation through its participation in Mission Innovation and has committed to double public investment in clean energy research, development and demonstration (RD&D). Canada is on track toward meeting its 2020 goal. Since 2016, Canada has co-chaired the [Global Methane Initiative](#), and in 2019, we accepted the Global Methane Challenge to complement current efforts to reduce emissions from this potent GHG. As an active participant in the [Montreal Protocol](#) and donor to its Multilateral Fund, Canada continued to advocate for and support the global implementation of the Kigali Amendment on the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons, which came into force on January 1, 2019.

Pricing Carbon Pollution

Pricing carbon pollution is widely recognized as the most efficient way to reduce GHG emissions, while also driving clean growth. A price on carbon pollution is one of the key policies to help Canada reach its target under the Paris Agreement of reducing GHG emissions to 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. In October 2016, the Government of Canada introduced the [Pan-Canadian Approach to Pricing Carbon Pollution](#). The Pan-Canadian Approach ensures that pricing systems across Canada are consistent and apply to a common and broad set of sources to ensure effectiveness. This includes a common price level, which started at CAD\$20 per tonne of CO₂ equivalent in 2019 and rising by \$10 per tonne annually to \$50 per tonne in 2022. The price level in 2020 is currently \$30 per tonne. This approach also recognizes the provinces and territories that have been early leaders in addressing climate change. A review of carbon pricing in Canada will be undertaken in 2022.

Plastics Pollution and Waste Management

Canada is committed to reducing plastic waste and pollution through a comprehensive approach that addresses the entire plastics value chain. This includes complementary actions by all levels of government, industry, and civil society to help move Canada toward its zero plastic waste vision.

The Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories to implement the [Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste](#) and Phase 1 Action Plan. The Strategy provides a framework to better prevent, reduce, reuse, recover, capture and clean up plastic waste.

During its 2018 G7 presidency, Canada launched the [Ocean Plastics Charter](#), which takes a comprehensive lifecycle approach to preventing marine plastic pollution and lays the groundwork to ensure that plastics are designed for reuse and recycling, in order to protect the environment and keep a valuable resource in the economy. As of June 2020, the Charter has been endorsed by 26 governments, and 69 businesses and organizations. In support of Charter objectives, Canada also committed \$100 million to support developing countries to tackle plastic pollution.

Biodiversity and Conservation

Canada has made significant progress on biodiversity and conservation, including on the establishment of protected and conserved areas and the protection of species at risk. Between 2017 and January 2020, the area of land and freshwater protected and conserved in Canada increased from 10.5 percent to 12.1 percent. This progress is roughly equivalent to protecting a land area the size of Great Britain, and was supported in part by [Canada's Nature Legacy](#), an historic \$1.3 billion investment in nature conservation. Progress has also been made on conserving Canada's marine territory. On August 1, 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada had surpassed its marine conservation target of 10 percent protection of marine and coastal areas, with the establishment of Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area off Canada's Arctic coast. Later in 2019, the Government of Canada committed to increasing the amount of nature

conserved in Canada to 25 percent of lands and oceans by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030 through networks of protected and conserved areas. Regarding species at risk, the Government of Canada began work in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to implement the [Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation](#) in Canada, which will shift from a single-species approach to conservation to one that focuses on multiple species and ecosystems. The Government of Canada continued implementation of the *Species at Risk Act*, including reducing the backlog of species eligible for listing, and publishing recovery documents for species at risk in order to guide future recovery actions for listed species.

Water Resources

ECCC monitors, assesses and reports on Canada's water quality and quantity from various sources including: municipal wastewater, mining, and pulp and paper facilities. To improve the public's access to water quality data, as recommended in a 2017 evaluation of ECCC's Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystems Health Program, the department developed and started the implementation of a plan to make all raw data available within 30 days of its collection, and to improve the timeliness of the release of analyzed data. In addition to these efforts, ECCC continued to deliver on its commitments under the *Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health* and the *Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*. In 2019, Canada hosted the Meetings of the Scientific Groups of the London Protocol and London Convention in Vancouver. These are the technical bodies that support these two global marine pollution prevention treaties and address disposal at sea, site monitoring and related issues such as other forms of marine pollution including marine plastics. Canada chaired these meetings, with the assistance of Chile as vice chair. At the end of the meetings, Canada completed its role as chairman and Chile was elected chair for the next meeting of the Scientific Groups.

Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples

The Government of Canada's efforts to protect the environment and address climate change complement and reinforce its commitment to renew its relationship with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. As such, collaboration and engagement with Indigenous Peoples is a cross-cutting initiative for ECCC, and the Government of Canada as a whole.

This commitment includes collaborating with Indigenous partners on climate change actions through structured, collaborative approaches based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership, consistent with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). Recognizing that Indigenous Peoples are often leaders in conservation, have long been stewards of the land, and have established rights related to wildlife and land, Canada is committed to advancing collaboration and partnerships in its various areas of environmental activity. The Government of Canada also initiated a program in 2018/19 to work with Indigenous Peoples across the country to build a network of Indigenous Guardians with up to \$6 million per year in funding over four years. The [Indigenous Guardians Program](#) provides training and career opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to work as equal partners with governments and industry on the protection and management of land and resources in their territories. In addition, a commitment of up to \$2 million annually has been made to develop capacity for community-based environmental monitoring in the oil sands region that is designed and led by Indigenous communities.

Implementation of new *Impact Assessment Act*

On August 28, 2019, the *Impact Assessment Act* came into force, repealing and replacing the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* and establishing the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Regulations under the *Impact Assessment Act* define the types of projects subject to the legislation and that may require an impact assessment, the information to be provided in project descriptions, Agency deliverables provided to proponents, circumstances of when the Agency may suspend the legislated timelines, and what costs can be recovered from proponents.

2019-2022 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy

Since the *Federal Sustainable Development Act* came into being in 2008, ECCC has developed, with input from participating federal organizations, four [Federal Sustainable Development Strategies](#) (2010-2013; 2013-2016; 2016-2019; and 2019-2022). The current 2019-2022 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) was tabled on June 19, 2019. It highlights the federal government's vision and plan for a more sustainable Canada by setting out environmentally focused federal goals, targets, and supporting actions for meeting each target. Forty-three federal departments and agencies (27 mandatory departments and 16 voluntary departments) contribute to meeting the targets and goals of the 2019-2022 FSDS. The 2019-2022 FSDS is also one of the elements of Canada's response to the UN 2030 Agenda as it supports the environmentally related aspects of 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

2.2. Mexico

Acting in the context of Mexico's political transition, from December 2018 to August 2019, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat) laid the foundations for developing a comprehensive environmental transition agenda to guide the country's environmental policy in the face of today's challenges. The primary purpose of this agenda: to address the State's obligation to ensure a healthy environment conducive to the welfare of citizens.

Under this new environmental and ecological transition policy, Semarnat has carried out actions and efforts, outlined below, consistent with its obligations under NAEEC, in close collaboration with decentralized and autonomous agencies, such as the National Water Commission (Conagua), the National Commission for Protected Natural Areas (Conanp), the National Ecology and Climate Change Institute (INECC), the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Conabio), the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (Profepa) and the Agency for Security, Energy and the Environment (ASEA).

The Conservation, Protection, Rehabilitation and Use of Ecosystems and Ecosystems Biodiversity

For Semarnat, the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and use of ecosystems is a priority. A priority because the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, in accordance with the principle of "conserve while producing and produce while conserving," is beneficial to the general welfare. The objective, then, is to conserve and protect ecosystems by acknowledging them as the primary source of many goods and services indispensable for the welfare of society, even as we simultaneously endeavor to put them to productive use and create opportunities for enhancing the welfare of communities whose livelihoods depend on them. To achieve these ends, certain pre-conditions are indispensable, including recognition of the specific character of different

ecosystems, effective dialogue on the best available scientific and traditional forms of knowledge, and broader social participation.

In this connection, between December 2018 and June 2019, management programs came into effect in three national parks: El Sabinal (in Nuevo León), Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla (in the state of Mexico) and the La Frailescana Natural Resources Protected Area (in Chiapas). As a result, a total of 129 management programs are in operation in the same number of Protected Natural Areas (ANPs). These ANPs cover a total area of 84.7 million hectares and represent 97% of the 133 ANPs required to develop a management program. As of June 2019, assessments have been made of the management effectiveness of 88.37% of the ANPs (114 out of 129), which have a management program, staff and budget.

Regarding wetlands conservation, in March 2019, the National Wetlands Committee (*Comité Nacional de Humedales*) held its 16th Ordinary Session, with the participation of 15 federal government institutions, nine civil society organizations (CSOs) and four educational institutions. The document *Recomendaciones para el fortalecimiento del manejo de los humedales en México* (Recommendations on strengthening wetlands management in Mexico) was presented during this meeting.

In the interest of developing the country's endowment in forest resources, the federal government promoted a strategy of social empowerment to incorporate or reincorporate forested areas into economic use via the exploitation of forest resources in areas with potential in terms of timber and non-timber products. Thus, in the first six months of 2019, support was provided to 417 projects to assist forest producers in elaborating management programs and technical studies on the exploitation of timber and non-timber resources in areas to be incorporated or reincorporated into economic use and forestry production. The area in question covered 444,616.4 hectares, i.e., 101.7% of the annual goal of 437,000 hectares.

The Conservation for Sustainable Development Program (*Programa de Conservación para el Desarrollo Sostenible—Procodes*) promotes the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources where this supports the development of sustainable economic activities. Procodes also supports rehabilitation and conservation projects for productive purposes.

In addition, efforts were made to build capacities re sustainable natural resources exploitation, in communities located in ANPs. Thus, from January to June 2019, Conanp disbursed 42.7 million pesos, via Procodes, to support 7,388 persons (49.7% of whom were women and 41.5% indigenous), in 342 communities, located in 160 municipalities, in 26 different states.

During the first quarter of 2019, preliminary actions were carried out to ensure implementation of various initiatives, including rehabilitation projects in beaches, mangroves and dunes, polluting waste management, garbage separation and recycling in tourist sites, clean-up of coral reefs impacted by fishing activities, mangroves reforestation, the control and eradication of invasive exotic species, breakwaters construction for wetlands restoration, reintroduction of native species in environmentally degraded areas, etc.

In the context of conservation actions for priority species, 100 community committees and private landowners participated in the rehabilitation of 260 thousand hectares.

Climate Change

With the aim of contributing to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the hydrocarbons sector, ASEA is developing a Climate Change Strategy for a transition towards a low emissions energy sector. This strategy envisages designing appropriate incentives to encourage businesses to adopt measures and technologies that reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions.

On 5 February 2019, the DOF (Mexico's Official Gazette) published the results and 28 recommendations of the Strategic Assessment of Subnational Advances in National Climate Change Policy (*Evaluación Estratégica del Avance Subnacional de la Política Nacional de Cambio Climático*), which focused on improving policies on key climate change mitigation and adaptation issues and influencing the three levels of government active in the National Climate Change System (SINACC) to ensure compliance with the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

Pursuant to the obligations undertaken in the Paris Agreement, a System for Open Information and Actions (*Sistema de Información y Acciones para la Transparencia—SIAT-NDC*) is now under development. The intent of this system, a component of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), is to ensure open access to information on the status of national and subnational climate change activities. In addition, efforts are being made to update the 2020-2024 Special Climate Change Program (PECC), Mexico's National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and its Nationally Determined Contributions.

Integrated and Sustainable Water Management

On 1 July 2019, a decree entrenching the human right to water was published in *El Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Mexico's Official Gazette). In response to this decree, which established the modalities for granting concession and assignment titles for domestic and urban public use, The National Water Commission (Conagua) held working meetings with all government ministries in June and July 2019 to promote multisectoral coordination on the human rights to water and sanitation, and also in relation to the National Water Program (PNH). The PNH is the country's guiding document on water policy for the 2019-2024 period. Its principal objective is to progressively ensure the human rights to water and sanitation, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

In elaborating the PNH, Conagua organized 46 consultation meetings with the active participation of water users, representatives of different stakeholders—the urban public, agricultural, industrial and fisheries sectors, academe, environmental groups, indigenous peoples—and the federal, state and municipal governments. Consultations were also specifically held with the National Association of Water and Sanitation Companies (ANEAS), the National Association of Irrigation Users (*Asociación Nacional de Usuarios de Riego, A. C.*) and multilateral organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy, among others.

The Drinking Water, Drainage and Treatment Program (*Programa de Agua Potable, Drenaje y Tratamiento—Proagua*) has enhanced the integrated and sustainable management of water resources, thereby guaranteeing the public's water supply and access to sewerage and sanitation services. In 2015, one-third of the nation's Indigenous population lacked access to basic drinking water and sanitation services. Gradual progress has been made in remedying this situation. Thus, by the end of 2018, drinking water and sanitation coverage attained 97% in urban areas, and 85% and 74%, respectively, in rural areas.

In the interests of comprehensive water basins land management, premised on the sustainable use and conservation of forest and water resources, Conagua and Conafor (the National Forestry Commission) developed a cooperation agreement, with matching funds, to promote, implement, and broaden the coverage of local payment mechanisms for environmental services in priority water basins.

Administration of Environmental Justice

From December 2018 to June 2019, Profepa received 3,312 complaints through its Environmental Complaints System (*Sistema de Atención a las Denuncias Ambientales*), 1,617 (48.82%) of which have been processed and closed. Moreover, in 2019, 4,700 citizen petitions were processed

between January and June and recorded on Profepa's online platform: <<http://sirau.semarnat.gob.mx/>>.

From December 2018 to June 2019, Profepa conducted 2,846 inspections to monitor compliance with statutory requirements applicable to natural resources preservation and protection, of which 1,188 were forestry related, 820 concerned environmental impact, 568 wildlife, 237 the Federal Terrestrial Maritime Zone (ZOFEMAT) and 33 marine resources.

Similarly, 2,069 surveillance patrols were conducted to detect the commission of environmental and property crimes; 900 of said patrols concerned marine resources, 341 forestry resources, 370 wildlife, 281 environmental impact and 177 the ZOFEMAT. These patrols resulted in the precautionary seizure of 3,384 cubic meters of wood, 341 items of equipment and tools, 228 tons of charcoal and 130 vehicles, as well as the impounding of 52 specimens of wildlife, 388 specimens of wild flora and 11,549 wildlife products.

Profepa also implemented an intensive standing program to combat illegal logging in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, which includes the following actions: verification of compliance with legal requirements throughout the forestry supply chain via the constant presence of its inspectors, supported by law enforcement authorities; enhanced community policing; increased forestry inspection patrolling and policing operations; and instituting crosscutting activities to ensure comprehensive management of the Reserve. Profepa's actions have contributed to the preservation of monarch butterfly habitat and migration routes.

Comprehensive Waste Management

In accordance with the provisions of the General Law on Comprehensive Waste Management and Prevention (*Ley General para la Prevención y Gestión Integral de los Residuos—LGPGIR*), efforts were made to coordinate the elaboration of the 2019 Basic Assessment of Comprehensive Waste Management, with the object of updating information on waste management in Mexico and thereby facilitate the design of the 2019-2024 Environmental Sectoral Program, as well as the 2019-2024 National Program for Comprehensive Waste Prevention and Management.

In February 2019, INECC published *Elementos para Desarrollar una Estrategia Integral para la Gestión Responsable de Plaguicidas en México* (Elements for the Development of a Comprehensive Strategy for Responsible Pesticide Management in Mexico), a document which recommends specific measures in pro of effective comprehensive interventions for reducing the risks associated with pesticides throughout their life cycle. Its intended readership includes decision-makers at all three levels of government, as well as the relevant sectoral actors.

2.3. United States

Enforcement of Environmental Laws

In 2019, EPA worked in collaboration with state and tribal programs with a focus on impactful actions that meaningfully increase compliance with environmental laws. As a result of this focus, EPA's enforcement and compliance assurance actions resulted in actions such as the following:

- Voluntary disclosure and certified correction of violations at over 1900 facilities in FY 2019, an estimated 20 percent increase compared to FY 2018.
- Investment of over \$4.4 billion in actions and equipment that achieve compliance with the law and control pollution, an increase of over \$400 million from FY 2018.
- \$471.8 million in combined Federal administrative and judicial civil penalties and criminal fines.

- Commitments to reduce, treat, or eliminate 347.2 million pounds of pollution (air, toxics, and water), the highest value in the past four years.
- Commitments for \$570.4 million on new site cleanup work, \$283 million in reimbursement of EPA's costs, and more than \$108 million in oversight billed, totaling \$961 million, an increase of over \$349 million from FY 2018.

The Department of State held more than 15 meetings of an informal U.S. government interagency working group (IAWG) to monitor violence against environmental defenders in 2019. The group engaged stakeholders and reviewed United Nations, NGO, and U.S. government reporting about violence against environmental defenders to best inform U.S. policy. Two non-governmental organizations briefed the IAWG on NGO concerns about violence against environmental defenders in Mexico. In addition, IAWG case files were updated in 2019 describing public participation concerns in several mining, oil refinery, gas pipeline, hydroelectric, and transportation projects.

Air Quality

EPA finalized the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule – replacing the Clean Power Plan with a rule that restores the rule of law and empowers states to continue to reduce emissions while providing affordable and reliable energy for all Americans. EPA projects that ACE will result in annual net benefits of \$120 million to \$730 million.

The Department of Transportation's (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA finalized part of the proposed Safer, Affordable, Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule by issuing the "One National Program Rule," which will enable the federal government to provide nationwide uniform fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission standards for automobiles and light duty trucks.

Providing Clean and Safe Water

EPA and the U.S. Department of the Army announced the repeal of a 2015 Rule that expanded the definition of "waters of the United States." The repeal action recodified the longstanding and familiar regulatory text that existed prior to the 2015 Rule.

EPA invited 38 new projects in 18 states to apply for Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans totaling \$6 billion dollars to help finance over \$12 billion dollars in water infrastructure investments and create up to 200,000 jobs.

EPA also released the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Action Plan. This is the most comprehensive cross-agency action plan for emerging chemicals of concern ever undertaken by the agency and commits EPA to take important steps that will improve how they research, monitor, detect, and address PFAS.

Advancing the U.S. Recycling System

In November 2019, EPA convened a second Recycling Summit on America Recycles Day to address the major challenges facing the U.S. recycling system. The Summit engaged executives and leaders from across the recycling value chain to build on their success over the last year and commit to continuing to work together through implementation of a national framework to advance recycling in the U.S. This event builds from the first an America Recycles Day Summit in 2018, which convened senior-level executives and encouraged them to join EPA in signing the America Recycles Pledge. All 45 signing organizations, including EPA, committed to working together during 2019 to identify specific actions to take in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the U.S. recycling system. Through stakeholder engagement efforts and feedback, EPA identified four action areas and formed workgroups to continue work on them:

Promoting Education and Outreach, Enhancing Materials Management Infrastructure, Strengthening Secondary Material Markets, and Enhancing Measurement. In July 2019, the Agency posted a status report of the progress on the EPA

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/americanrecycles/status-report-framework-advancing-us-recycling-system>.

Marine Protected Areas

NOAA worked to strengthen adaptation capacity in marine protected areas (MPAs), including through participation in the National Adaptation Forum held in April 2019. NOAA organized sessions and shared information on the role of MPAs in biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation.

Resilience to Extreme Events

In 2019, NOAA operationalized a new Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, GOES-17, which will serve as NOAA's primary geostationary satellite for detecting and monitoring Pacific storm systems, fog, wildfires, and other weather phenomena that affect the western United States, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Fisheries

The U.S. Department of Commerce fully implemented the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) with the stay being lifted and Shrimp and Abalone fully included with the eleven other species in the program. SIMP established permitting, reporting, and recordkeeping procedures relating to the importation of certain fish and fish products identified as being at particular risk of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing or seafood fraud. The information to be reported and retained under this rule will enable authorities to trace each import shipment back to the initial harvest event(s) and help them verify that the fish or fish products were lawfully acquired. The rule will also decrease the incidence of seafood fraud by requiring the reporting of this information to the U.S. Government at import and requiring retention of documentation so that the information reported (e.g., regarding species and harvest location) can be verified.

In 2019, the Department of State continued implementation of a 2-year project launched in 2018, implemented by The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with NOAA, to improve science-based management and governance of data- and capacity-limited fisheries in Mexico. This project will strengthen capacity for the scientific assessment of fisheries and promote the integration of stock assessment science into policy.

Biodiversity and Conservation

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) continued its work with Mexican NGO partners to conserve some of the country's most emblematic species, including monarch butterflies, jaguars, scarlet macaws, coral reefs, and tropical forest ecosystems. Through its grant making program for Mexico, the FWS worked with partners to address the detrimental effects of land use change, overexploitation of natural resources, human-wildlife conflict, and illegal wildlife trade, while emphasizing the importance of long-term collaborations with local communities living around natural protected areas. Funding provided improved the livelihoods and welfare of rural communities across Mexico; reduced hostilities and established a poaching-free zone for jaguars in the border area; reforested more than 300 hectares of tropical rain forest using traditional ecological knowledge techniques; and bolstered Mexican youth involvement towards species conservation.

Collaboration on CITES included exchanges of information, strengthened regional implementation and scientifically based decision making, to protect endangered species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade. Ecosystem-related

collaboration advanced an ecosystem-based approach to conservation, focusing on opportunities for transboundary cooperation in the planning and management of terrestrial and marine protected areas as well as wetlands and grassland conservation. Law Enforcement-related efforts included the coordination of several aspects of wildlife law enforcement, acting as a mechanism for technical and information exchange with other organizations. Migratory Birds-related activities enhanced collaboration for the conservation of North American migratory birds to ensure the health and sustainability of shared bird populations while contributing to the conservation of biodiversity. Work focused on species conservation promoted cooperative, comprehensive strategies and implemented actions to conserve native wild plants and animals of concern as well as control of invasive species across the continent.

Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples

Government Agencies have a strong track record of providing grants to assist tribes in developing environmental programs.

In 2019, the EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) provided more than \$63 million to approximately 525 tribal governments and intertribal consortia. Funding provided under GAP is for planning, developing or establishing tribal capacity to implement EPA administered programs and implementing tribal solid and hazardous waste programs.

In addition, EPA has completed more than 490 EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs). The purpose of ETEPs is to increase shared governance through joint planning that informs decisions on financial and technical assistance for environmental programs.

3. REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS ON ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

Articles 14 and 15 of the NAAEC provide for a mechanism whereby any resident of North America, or nongovernmental organization established therein, can file a submission asserting that a Party to the Agreement is failing to effectively enforce its environmental law. From the 1994 entry into force of the NAAEC until the end of 2019, 98 submissions have been filed with the Secretariat: 32 concerning Canada, 51 concerning Mexico, 13 concerning the United States, and two concerning both Canada and the United States. The Secretariat has published 23 factual records.

In 2019, the CEC received four new submissions and continued to process submissions previously received. The Secretariat concluded action on two submissions. For five other submissions, the Secretariat requested responses from the concerned government Party. In one of those cases, the Secretariat reviewed the response of the Party concerned and determined not to recommend the preparation of a factual record. In response to another of these previously received submissions, the Secretariat prepared and submitted to Council a draft factual record (*Alberta Tailings Ponds II*), and will proceed to incorporate the Parties' comments into a final version for Council's vote on the public release of the factual record.

The four new submissions related to the following assertions: Mexico's failure to effectively enforce its environmental laws with respect to radiation among residents of Los Altares, Hermosillo, Mexico; Mexico's failure to effectively enforce its environmental laws with respect to the City Park project in the city of Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico; both the United States and Canada's failure to effectively enforce the International Boundary Waters Treaty with respect to water pollution in Lake Memphremagog, a cross-border lake in both Quebec and Vermont; the United States' failure to effectively enforce its environmental laws with respect to the lethal take

of protected barred owls for scientific research without the actual study or use of the taken specimens or species.

In addition, the SEM and Legal Unit of the CEC Secretariat participated in the CEC Council and JPAC events in Mexico City (June); the Sustainability Network's Environmental Toolkit event in Toronto (October), the JPAC Session in Puerto Rico and outreach at the University of Puerto Rico Law School (October). Other outreach events included a webinar for Tec de Monterrey, Mexico, and presentations at the CEC's Montreal office to students from Mexico and McGill University.

More information can be found at <<http://www.cec.org/submissions>>.

4. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS UNDER CEC'S OPERATIONAL PLANS (1 JANUARY—31 DECEMBER 2019)

4.1. Cooperative Activities

The CEC's cooperative work program carries out trilateral projects and initiatives addressing the CEC Council's priorities described in the Strategic Plan 2015–2020: 1) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; 2) Green Growth; and 3) Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems.

The present report includes activities under the cooperative agenda; mechanisms implemented by the CEC to enable public stakeholder engagement, including the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA), the CEC's SEM process, its Youth Initiative, and the JPAC. This report also describes ongoing initiatives and tools that are part of the CEC's cooperative work: the North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Initiative, comprising the Taking Stock Online database and search tools and *Taking Stock* report series; the North American Environmental Atlas; and the North American Land Change Monitoring System.

The CEC's work involves the significant participation of subject matter experts from diverse government agencies of the three countries (e.g., Energy, Health, Transportation, Customs, Wildlife, National Parks, Fisheries/Oceans), as well as experts from academia, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector.

4.1.1. *Monitoring Health Impacts from Extreme Heat Events*

This project built upon work done under OP 2015–2016, and engaged three additional state and provincial health agencies in British Columbia, Canada; Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, and Pinal County, Arizona, United States, serving hundreds of communities, to enhance their capacity to anticipate and prevent negative health outcomes from extreme heat events. As part of the project, the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control developed a model that uses historical and real-time data to predict the expected health effects to be expected from extreme heat events; the State of Chihuahua developed a real-time heat-alert system, based on health reports, as well as an interface to collect data on heat-related illnesses from private clinics in the municipality of Juárez; Pinal County conducted analyses of historical data on heat-related illnesses to identify vulnerable populations and improve emergency response during extreme heat events.

All activities for this project were concluded in June 2019.

4.1.2. Using Volunteer Observer Networks to Monitor Precipitation and Wildfires

The availability of critical data for improving predictions of extreme events, such as droughts, floods, and wildfires, and our responses for alerting citizens to such life-threatening situations in a timely manner, is lacking in some regions of North America. This project assesses the feasibility for establishing and expanding citizen science observer networks to complement federal and subnational observational capacities and improve decision-making and preparedness.

The project involves conducting an assessment of the feasibility of expanding the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) volunteer observer network and the Smoke Sense citizen science project in areas of North America where gaps exist in monitoring precipitation and wildfires, with the aim of helping decision-makers better prepare for and respond to extreme events such as drought, floods, and wildfires. CoCoRaHS currently operates in the United States and parts of Canada, while Smoke Sense operates only in the United States.

In September, the CEC held the first trilateral meeting to assess information needs and gaps relative to precipitation and wildfire monitoring and determine the potential role of citizen science and volunteer observation networks in addressing data needs.

4.1.3. Costing Floods and Extreme Events

Understanding the economic costs of floods and other extreme weather and climatic events is central to addressing impacts, allocating adequate resources for monitoring and preparedness, and building resilient communities. At present, methods for estimating the costs of flood damage vary significantly across North America. The objective of this project is to develop a standardized methodology for assessing the cost of severe floods in North America to address the great variation that exists in the methods used in each country to estimate the costs of flood damages.

A workshop was held in September with government experts, researchers and key stakeholders from Canada, Mexico and the United States, to review current methodologies used in each country for costing floods, and identify best options for a standardized methodology for the region. Based on the workshop discussions, a draft standardized North American flood costing method has been developed.

4.1.4. Improving the Effectiveness of Early Warning Systems for Drought

The economic, environmental, and social impacts on communities from drought and its attendant hazards—including wildfires, floods, and landslides—are significant. While regionally-integrated drought monitoring and early warning systems can help decision-makers mitigate negative impacts, there is uncertainty among local planners, emergency managers, and others about which early warning indicators and planning tools are most appropriate to support drought management. The project aims to improve the effectiveness of early warning systems for drought in North America, through:

- development of a set of guidelines on the use of locally relevant indicators in North American climate regions;
- development of recommendations for local communities on how to access and use drought products and tools, and how to incorporate drought into multi-hazard risk management;

- assessment of the North American Drought Monitor (NADM), as well as user needs, to inform improvements to the program, including better user access and development of new user-oriented tools, with emphasis on transboundary regions across North America.

4.1.5. Using Remote Sensing to Prepare for and Respond to Extreme Events

Remote sensing applications for early warning systems and climate change monitoring play a significant role in disaster management. A number of applications exist, but providing relevant and timely geospatial information to first responders remains a challenge because of a lack of infrastructure allowing them to connect to these technologies. The objective of this project is to improve the capacity of emergency managers, first responders, and decision-makers to use real-time satellite imagery to complement existing tools and practices for preparedness and response to extreme events in disaster-prone regions.

Following trilateral meetings to exchange information amongst project partners relative to best available options for early warning systems for droughts, floods and wildfires, the CEC's first workshop on early warning systems (EWS) for droughts, floods and wildfires took place in Mexico City, on 13-15 November. This workshop provided an opportunity for emergency managers and local planners in Mexico to:

- survey current, state-of-the-art early warning systems and first-response mechanisms for wildfire, drought, and flood;
- share knowledge and discuss current technologies and possibilities for synergies;
- identify components, elements and functions that could be adapted to the conditions of the three countries in order to improve existing EWS.

4.1.6. Reducing Emissions from Maritime Transportation

Annex VI of the International Maritime Organization's International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (Marpol Convention) mandated national creation of Emission Control Areas (ECA) for ship emissions and this project, which ended in June 2019, proposed the establishment of an ECA in Mexico, similar to those in effect in Canada and the United States. The proposed ECA was finalized and is under review by the Mexican government prior to its submission to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Its establishment will allow for a common approach to controlling emissions from ships throughout North America.

4.1.7. Improving Black Carbon Inventory Data for Small-Scale Biomass Combustion

The burning of biomass (wood and other organic matter) for heating, cooking and other purposes produces emissions that have impacts on air quality, human health, and our climate. This project ended in June and comprised separate efforts in each country, with the objective of addressing distinct national black carbon emissions inventory data gaps and needs. Survey and data collection efforts were completed in the three countries and documented results were provided to the respective government agencies in order to improve the accuracy of black carbon and PM_{2.5} emissions inventories relative to small-scale biomass fuel combustion.

4.1.8. Measurement and Mitigation of Food Loss and Waste

By exploring opportunities to achieve food waste reduction and recovery, this project enhanced the capacity in North America for reducing the disposal of food waste in landfills. The CEC built upon foundational research in this project to address and further two main components of the

food waste problem: measurement of food loss and waste among food supply chain operators and developing educational resources to engage youth and youth organizations in reducing food waste.

To assist in the development of tools for food waste measurement, the project established a group of experts, including North American and international practitioners from across the food supply chain.

In March, the CEC launched the Practical Guide, “Why and How to Measure Food Loss and Waste,” and the technical report, “Quantifying Food Loss and Waste and its Impacts.” In addition, two case studies conducted in partnership with Toks Restaurants Group (Mexico) and with Beau’s Natural Brewing Co. (Canada) were launched to help promote adoption of the CEC Practical Guide by other operators in the food supply chain.

Likewise, the “Food Matters Action Kit” was given a broad launch in all three countries, offering a tool for educators and youth organizations to engage the youngest ones across North America in preventing, reducing, and recycling food waste.

Efforts under this project were reorganized and launched in the 2019–2020 Operational Plan (see 4.1.9 below).

4.1.9. Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste

CEC work in 2017–2018 produced knowledge and resources to support a consistent regional approach to measuring food loss and waste and developing youth education tools. In 2019–2020, the project will engage the user community (businesses operating in the food sector) to peer review the Practical Guide, to refine it and ensure it meets users’ needs, as well as to further promote the Food Matters Action Kit /youth organizations). This includes working with industry associations to develop case studies that will foster broader adoption and use of the Practical Guide, and pursuing a North America-wide marketing campaign to build awareness among youth and encourage them to take action.

4.1.10. EcoInnovation Network

This project is a new initiative that aims to facilitate the creation, enhancement, and networking of innovation centers within academic institutions across North America which will help cultivate youth and build community leadership in innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth. Through the EcoInnovation Network, innovation centers will have access to educational resources, develop supportive relationships, and enhance their capacities. In 2019, the CEC launched the EcoInnovation Network, including its website. The CEC is currently developing a Partnership and Funding Strategy, promoting collaborative events among its members, and providing training opportunities.

4.1.11. Modernizing the Data Exchange System for Hazardous Waste Transfers

Pursuant to relevant regulations, Canada, Mexico and the United States control the import and export of hazardous wastes by exchanging notice and consent prior to shipping these wastes across their borders. This project is designed to update the Notice and Consent Electronic Data Exchange (NCEDE) system, which has the goal of protecting the North American environment by facilitating the seamless exchange of notifications relative to cross-border movements of hazardous waste and responding quickly to updates in regulations.

4.1.12. ISO 50001 and Superior Energy Performance

This project positions the ISO 50001 standard and the Superior Energy Performance program® (SEP) as a cost-effective mechanism for the industrial and commercial sectors in North America to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. In 2019, the CEC provided training to an additional eleven facilities from the North American automotive manufacturing supply chain. The CEC also provided the Certified Practitioner in Energy Management System training to strengthen the North American workforce in supporting energy management.

4.1.13. Conservation of Selected CITES Species

Since 2015 the CEC has actively worked to support sustainable trade of species listed in the CITES Appendix II through the development and implementation of Action Plans to achieve legal, sustainable and traceable production and trade of four groups of North American species: sharks, turtles/tortoises, tarantulas, and timber. The CEC provided species identification training and supported a multi-stakeholder workshop to address priority actions included in the Action Plans for each species group.

4.1.14. Science for Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation

Building on past and recent initiatives and addressing the need for trilateral scientific efforts, this project advanced research and monitoring actions in four priority areas—nectar resources and migratory paths, natal origins, climate change, and overwintering density—to inform conservation of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by strengthening trilateral cooperation and knowledge. The project also launched the Trilateral Monarch Knowledge Network (TMKN), an open-access database that assembles observations of monarch butterflies and of milkweeds throughout the range of monarchs in North America.

In January, government experts, researchers and key stakeholders from Canada, Mexico and the United States held a meeting to share novel research and scientific findings on the monarch butterfly, establish further collaborations for data-sharing, and identify trilateral research and monitoring priorities to support monarch butterfly and pollinator research in North America.

4.1.15. Strengthening Regional Pollinator Conservation to Secure Local Benefits

Pollinators support the reproduction of the majority of wild plants and 75 percent of crop species and are crucial to food security, human well-being, and natural ecosystems. However, the number of pollinators has declined due to habitat loss and degradation, intensive agricultural management, widespread use of agrochemicals, pathogens, invasive species and climate change—resulting in the need for conservation actions and the engagement of stakeholders in different sectors. This project aims to develop the first North American Pollinator Conservation Framework, with recommendations for decision making, leveraging existing pollinator conservation efforts across the region, and promoting stakeholder engagement through increased awareness of the ecological and socio-economic benefits of pollinators for local communities.

4.1.16. Strengthening Adaptive Capacity of Marine Protected Areas

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are key to maintaining ocean resilience when they are adaptively managed to respond to threats such as ocean warming, species shifts, and disastrous events. Building on previous work that produced a tool to help Marine Protected Areas (MPA) practitioners identify vulnerabilities of coastal ecosystems—the Rapid Vulnerability Assessment Tool (RVAT)—,this project developed under the 2017-2018 Operational Plan a coastal impact mitigation and adaptation online toolkit to provide MPA managers and communities with easily

accessible knowledge and information on adaptation measures for use in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to changes in the coastal and marine environments. The toolkit, which was launched in July, was co-developed with future users.

Leveraging this work, the project now builds the capacity of MPA practitioners to manage the effects of climate change and helps them to integrate Blue Carbon and Disaster Risk Reduction in MPA planning and management, allowing MPAs to contribute to healthier, more resilient marine ecosystems.

4.1.17. Building Community Solutions to Marine Litter

Marine litter is a global problem that affects ecosystems and our economies. A major source of marine litter is common trash from consumer goods discarded in coastal and inland locations. Under the 2017–2018 Operational Plan this project aimed to prevent and reduce this land-based marine litter, by piloting community-based processes in two transboundary watersheds, the Tijuana River and Salish Sea, to help identify and implement accessible solutions to local marine litter. These efforts were reorganized and served as a basis to continue marine litter work under the 2019-2020 Operational Plan. The idea is to support marine litter mitigation efforts across North America by increasing the capacity of decision-makers and organizations to replicate successful multi-stakeholder approaches in their communities and watersheds. It is also intended to increase awareness in inland communities of the connections between consumer behavior upstream, and marine litter prevention downstream.

4.1.18. Conserving Shorebirds through Community Engagement

This project built capacity in communities along migration routes to conserve habitat and develop ecotourism linked to bird migration cycles (such as bird watching and festivals). Incorporating the efforts of researchers and local partners, this project informed and harnessed local action in support of habitat conservation and sustainable economic benefits for local communities.

4.2. Tools and Resources

4.2.1. Tracking Pollutant Releases and Transfers in North America

The North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Initiative, a core activity of the CEC for over 20 years, involves the compilation, presentation, and analysis of data and information through the CEC's *Taking Stock* report and online, searchable database. This ongoing initiative provides enhanced access to and comparability of North American PRTR data and information for policy-makers and experts. Through this initiative, the CEC collaborates with the North American PRTR programs to enhance the quality and completeness of PRTR data and information.

4.2.2. North American Land Change Monitoring System

The North American Land Change Monitoring System (NALCMS) is an ongoing collaborative initiative between Canada, Mexico and the United States to monitor land cover and its changes over time, which is available online at the CEC website.

4.2.3. North American Environmental Atlas

The CEC's North American Environmental Atlas is an interactive mapping tool to research, analyze, and aid the management of environmental issues in Canada, Mexico and the United

States. It assembles seamless, accurate cartographic data, including maps, documentation, and interactive map layers that are used by decision makers, land managers, nongovernmental conservation organizations, scientific researchers and international organizations.

4.2.4. North American Portal on Climate Pollutants

This tool comprises a web platform designed to produce reports on greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutant emissions inventory data from Canada, Mexico and the United States. The tool provides comparable and easily accessible data for researchers and policy-makers.

4.3. Public Participation, Stakeholder Engagement, and Community Action

4.3.1. Joint Public Advisory Committee

As one of the three main bodies that comprise the CEC, the JPAC is composed of fifteen citizens—five from each country—and its main role is to advise the Council on any matter within the scope of the NAAEC. In accordance with their mandate, JPAC members provided Advice to the Council throughout 2019.

Following CEC practice, the 2019 Council Session in Mexico City was preceded by a one-day public forum hosted by the JPAC. The JPAC forum centered on how strategic partnerships, collaborative networks, and socio-technological innovation for early preparedness and effective response are being utilized by a number of communities confronted with, or at risk of, extreme weather events. As a result of the dialogue with participants and invited experts, the JPAC issued Advice 19-01, recommending that the Council order the completion of an extreme weather and climate-related disaster action plan for the region, provide sufficient resources for the Secretariat to create an interactive, online climate change education portal building climate and environmental literacy across society, and complete a disaster resilience governance report card that assesses and compares the strengths and weaknesses of Canadian, Mexican and US legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks.

Having received charge questions from the Council to inform discussions on the development of CEC's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, the JPAC issued Advice 19-02 that highlighted climate change, water security, biodiversity (including marine and terrestrial habitats), waste, and the circular economy, as the main environmental issues and challenges facing North America over the next five years. This Advice also included opportunities for the CEC to address these issues/challenges and opportunities for enhancing the role of the JPAC under the next strategic plan.

Building on its previous session in Mexico City, JPAC's session in San Juan, Puerto Rico, focused on community-based approaches to disaster resilience and featured the lived experiences of people from cities, remote coastal communities, and Indigenous nations, who have faced climate emergencies and captured their efforts to build disaster resilience. The forum highlighted the nexus between environmental sustainability and citizen-led efforts in responding to the impacts of climate emergencies. As a result of the dialogue with participants and invited experts, the JPAC issued Advice 19-03, recommending that Council identify, fund, and announce community-based renewable energy generation projects and to initiate a special investigation to understand the relationship between cultural resilience and community-based disaster preparedness, among others.

More information can be found at <<http://www.cec.org/jpac>>.

4.3.2. Traditional Ecological Knowledge

The Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG) was established by the Council in 2015 to provide advice and recommendations on opportunities to integrate that knowledge into the CEC's work. Throughout 2019, members of the TEKEG participated actively in the JPAC and Council sessions that were held in Mexico City, as well as the JPAC public forum in San Juan, Puerto Rico. During the sessions in Mexico City, they expressed appreciation for the inclusion of Indigenous peoples and their world view in the CEC's trilateral environmental agenda. They stressed the need for the CEC to adopt a principled approach and develop a global model that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. They noted that the TEKEG must, by design, assist the CEC in its work to improve conditions in vulnerable communities and advance local solutions. They also stressed that in advancing self-determination of Indigenous peoples, we ensure future access to TEK, from which we can all benefit. Recommendations resulting from their participation in the JPAC meeting that was held in Puerto Rico included: 1) Community resilience is about responding to the destruction of Mother Earth and the presence and engagement of Indigenous peoples can be important in addressing preparation for and response to extreme natural disasters; 2) Food and water security are key aspects of disaster resiliency. Traditional methods and community-based solutions are best addressed at the local level; and 3) Communities must be pro-actively trained and supported to develop infrastructure to allow for the availability of needed information, emergency medical care, and emergency water management, and addressing immediate food security issues and forest fire management. Indigenous peoples and communities want to rely upon but also adapt their traditional knowledge and ways to advance self-sustaining economies.

4.3.3. Supporting Youth Engagement and Leadership

Youth are significantly affected by North America's performance on sustainable development and job creation, and they are also drivers of social and environmental innovation, as well as future decision makers. In May, the CEC announced the winners of the third Youth Innovation Challenge, where nearly 150 ideas were evaluated. Nine semifinalists were selected by the Challenge's Evaluation Panel and three winners selected by CEC Council.

Through the EcoInnovation Network activities, Youth Ambassadors were proposed by founding members to help identify youth-led initiatives, opportunities and activities that can be supported by the Network. These Youth Ambassadors are young leaders and outstanding students, with expertise and interest on entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainability, and will be actively participating in EcoInnovation Network activities.

4.3.4. North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action

In order to promote shared responsibility and stewardship for the environment, the Council established the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA).

In November, following the application and selection process coordinated by the Secretariat, the CEC Council announced eleven recipients, chosen by the NAPECA selection committee from over 200 proposals to the grant program, which included community organizations across North America. Work on the selected projects began in November.

The selected projects meet the Council's strategic objectives for this program to support model environmental initiatives that will help build long-term partnerships and promote a shared responsibility and stewardship for the environment. Each selected project includes active

community involvement, an emphasis on promoting partnerships, a sound implementation plan, and measurable objectives that can be achieved within the project life cycle.

To learn more about NAPECA, visit www.cec.org/napeca.

4.4. 2019 Budget

**Commission for Environmental Cooperation
2019 Budget
(all figures in Canadian dollars)**

REVENUES	2019	%
Parties' Contributions (Contributions 2019 US\$7,650,000, exchange rate at US\$1.34/C\$)	10,234,935	
Surplus Funds from Previous Years	1,806,165	
TOTAL REVENUES	12,041,100	(note 1)
EXPENSES	2019 preliminary budget	%
<u>DELIVERABLES</u>		
Cooperative Projects	1,919,000	
North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA)	1,500,000	
Submissions on Enforcement Matters (Articles 14 & 15)	150,000	
Communications and Outreach	160,000	
Independent Reports (Article 13)	0	
Tracking Pollutant Releases and Transfers in North America (PRTR)	65,000	
Performance Measurement and Reporting	50,000	
CEC Interactive Platforms	75,000	
	3,919,000	33%
<u>INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE</u>		
Council Support	270,000	
JPAC Support	270,000	
TEK Roster Support	30,000	
Managing CEC Environmental Information	50,000	
Strategic and Transition Planning	100,000	
Institutional Transition	1,806,165	
	2,526,165	21%
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT</u>		
Salaries, Benefits and Professional Development	2,760,000	
Operating Expenses	610,000	
External Administrative Support	280,000	
Relocation/Orientation, Recruitment	150,000	
Executive Director's Office	50,000	
	3,850,000	32%
Contingency Fund	1,745,935	14%
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,041,100	100%

Note 1: Revenues budget based on Resolution 19-01. US\$9,000,000 at the Bank of Canada rate in effect on 15 December 2018.

5. ANNEX I – 2019 COUNCIL STATEMENT, MEXICO CITY

Mexico City, Mexico, 25 June 2019—For the past twenty-five years, the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States, in collaboration with civil society across North America, have worked together through the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to advance our shared environmental priorities. Created in 1994 by the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), the CEC has been an innovative and successful forum for trilateral cooperation, involving governments, local and Indigenous communities, academia, the private sector, and youth, to conserve, protect, and enhance the North American environment in the context of expanded trade.

From Oklahoma City to Mexico City

On this 25th anniversary, we are implementing the initiatives on extreme weather and climate events and innovation hubs that we announced at our 2018 Council Session in Oklahoma City. These projects aim to improve our preparedness, response, and resilience to extreme weather and climate events through enhanced capacity for monitoring droughts, wildfires and smoke; remote sensing of fires; and assessing the costs of floods. We also launched the North American EcoInnovation Network to provide the necessary knowledge, resources, and tools to cultivate youth and community leadership in innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. Today, our public forum provided us a rich dialogue with experts from government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector, as well as members of the public, on “Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency.” We explored synergies and opportunities between our domestic and regional efforts with activities in civil society and the private sector to achieve positive results in addressing marine litter and food loss and waste and their environmental, ecosystem, climate and economic impacts.

CEC Operational Plan 2019–2020

We are pleased to successfully complete our 2017–2018 Operational Plan and announce our new plan for the next biennium. Over the last two years we have developed trilateral approaches to reduce marine litter in shared watersheds, piloting these efforts in the US-Canada border Salish Sea and US-Mexico border Tijuana River watersheds. We also provided tools to manufacturing supply chains in the chemicals and automotive sectors to manage energy use and reduce costs and all emissions, including greenhouse gases, to improve competitiveness and public health. We developed voluntary guidelines and tools for our food supply chain and consumers to measure and minimize food waste to maximize potential economic, sustainability, and climate benefits. Building on these successes, our new Operational Plan continues to strengthen our capacities in these key areas, as well as in those of hazardous waste management and transfers, marine protected areas, pollinators and ecosystems, weather and climate resiliency, and traditional ecological knowledge. Our regional work on marine litter and extreme events produces valuable information that is also supportive of efforts in other fora, such as the G20.

Youth Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Partnerships for Green Growth

We completed the third edition of the Youth Innovation Challenge, promoting youth entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development. We are proud to support the winning projects, focused on transforming waste into sustainable materials to replace masonry blocks and furniture pieces, turning organic waste into quality animal feed, and using robots to deliver ultraviolet light as an alternative to pesticides in strawberry farms.

Stakeholder engagement and community action

We acknowledge the valuable contributions made by the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and its continued engagement with civil society to inform our work on building communities that are more resilient to extreme weather and climate events. We are also continuing to empower civil society and local and Indigenous communities to act on sustainability issues, by devoting resources to another round of the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) for local community action projects.

Our stakeholders continue to engage through the Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM) mechanism, with five submissions filed over the last year to promote the effective enforcement of environmental laws and regulations in our three countries.

Looking forward

As we conclude the 25th anniversary meeting of the Council, we are proud that the CEC was the first trilateral forum for promoting a regional collaborative approach to environmental protection in North America. As we look to the future and to the modernization of our continued cooperation, we share a vision for this forum to continue advancing trade and environment priorities, including environmental and ecosystem protection, and innovation and partnerships for sustainable growth. In closing, we thank César Rafael Chávez for his valuable contribution and commitment in leading the CEC Secretariat these last three years.

We look forward to meeting next year in Canada.