

**THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)**

**28 June 2006
Washington, DC, United States**

SUMMARY RECORD

The Council held its thirteenth Regular Session on 28 June 2006, in Washington, DC, United States. Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, chaired the meeting, José Luis Luege Tamargo, Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, and Rona Ambrose, Canadian Minister of the Environment, represented Mexico and Canada, respectively. William Kennedy, CEC Executive Director, represented the Secretariat. Nathalie Daoust, Council Secretary, acted as secretary for the session. Other delegates and special invitees were also in attendance (see Annex A).

Item 1 Official opening of the 13th Regular Session of the Council

Administrator Stephen L. Johnson officially opened the session and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to the CEC and its mission. He mentioned the Council's approval of the 2006–2008 Operational Plan as well as the efforts put in place by the CEC to ensure quality and sound science in all CEC information products, which will in turn help the CEC produce even more effective environmental results in the coming years. In closing, he reaffirmed the intent of the three countries to work together to build a cleaner and more sustainable environment for future generations.

On behalf of Mexico, Secretary Luege greeted his counterparts and the meeting participants. He began by pointing out that the CEC represented for Mexico the main instrument for environmental protection in North America and stressed that the creation of the CEC was a great achievement. He added that, regardless of their different economic and social realities, the environment had been a unifying theme and had stimulated cooperation among the three countries. He also acknowledged the contribution of civil society, the scientific community, academia and the private sector. Referring to the in-camera session, he mentioned that the Council would be hearing about progress in implementing the CEC Strategic Plan and would be defining actions required to ensure the CEC becomes the most efficient mechanism to protect the environment in North America. Finally, he reaffirmed the commitment of the three countries to support the CEC and to allow it to be a solid and revitalized institution.

Minister Ambrose, on behalf of Canada, thanked the host and greeted everyone in attendance. She also welcomed the two Canadian provincial representatives. She pointed to this meeting as an opportunity to bring the perspective of the new Canadian government and to understand and prioritize issues and challenges common to the three countries. She stressed the importance of building effective cooperation between the three countries through the CEC and underlined how this meeting offered a unique opportunity to involve the provinces of Quebec and Alberta,

environmental leaders in Canada. She said that the CEC had helped build a community of practice on many issues and referred to the large number of stakeholders who have participated in the decision-making process through the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC). Referring to her mandate as minister of the environment, she underlined her commitment towards a cleaner and healthier environment and stressed that her government was also committed to real action in that area. She indicated the CEC was one of the instruments at hand to fulfill her mandate and reaffirmed Canada's commitment to work with the United States and Mexico through the CEC. Finally, she indicated that the way forward was to build effective mechanisms for multilateral and bilateral environmental cooperation. In closing, she expressed appreciation for the tireless work carried out by William Kennedy as CEC's executive director for the past three years.

Claude Béchard, Quebec's Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, greeted the gathering and expressed the common goal of achieving economic integration while respecting the three pillars of sustainable development: economy, environment and society. He referred to concrete actions undertaken by the government of Quebec in the last year, which follow CEC priorities and support sustainable development. He mentioned that Quebec adopted in April 2006 the *Loi sur le développement durable* (Law on sustainable development), which requires government actions to take into account environment protection, economic efficiency and citizens' well-being. He also made a reference to Quebec's 2006–2012 Action Plan for Climate Change, which defines twenty-four actions to be undertaken to reduce or avoid the emission of greenhouse gases, or adapt to climate change. In that respect, he indicated he looked forward to the Secretariat's report on green buildings in North America. He also mentioned Quebec's Strategy on Energy, which focuses on renewable energy, and indicated that he looked forward to hearing about the workshop held the day before on this topic. He also mentioned Quebec's intention to cooperate regionally and internationally on issues such as the improvement of air quality, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and invasive alien species. Finally, he thanked Minister Ambrose for the invitation to participate in this Council Session.

Gary Mar, Alberta's Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, extended greetings to the participants and commented that a shared value at this meeting was that the quality of life was indivisible from the natural environment. As representative of the Alberta government, he conveyed the message that his province was proud to work with the government of Canada and other provinces to fulfill its obligations within the North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) and to support CEC priorities. He mentioned that Alberta was looking toward expanding its role as a secure supplier of energy to North America and pointed to the efforts carried out by his government to protect the environment. He pointed to legislative actions and programs related to climate change as well as to research on clean coal, cleaner oil sands development, and carbon dioxide sequestration. As a result, he indicated that 90 percent of the power bought by Alberta was clean. He noted the same leadership from the governments of Canada, United States and Mexico and stressed the value of sharing this leadership through the CEC. Finally, he pointed to the challenge of balancing our preferred standard of living with our quality of life through fostering a vigorous economy, ensuring a culture of human dignity and acceptance and a healthy environment.

Carlos Sandoval, chair of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC), welcomed everyone on

behalf of JPAC. He began by reporting on JPAC activities since June 2005 and mentioned its active involvement in promoting CEC's priorities. He pointed to the successful JPAC meeting in Vancouver where, in cooperation with the Globe Foundation, JPAC conducted a workshop on greening supply chains and Mexico's experience was shared with larger companies and small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) in the three countries. He also reported on the workshop held the day before on renewable energy, where more than 100 experts from the academic and private sectors, as well as NGOs, had joined together to propose and share ideas for CEC activities in this area.

Carlos Sandoval also underlined JPAC's commitment to promoting environmental protection and to providing informed advice to Council on issues of interest. In this regard, he mentioned that Council was seeking JPAC's advice on the involvement of indigenous communities in CEC activities and that JPAC would be responding with great interest. He also reiterated JPAC's commitment to assist the CEC as it implements its work program, such as the collaboration between JPAC and the Secretariat on the topic of green building in North America. Finally, he reiterated JPAC's engagement in seeking better ways to play an active role in promoting cooperation on environmental issues and achieving results.

Turning to William Kennedy and referring to CEC's many accomplishments and great strides over the past three years, Administrator Johnson acknowledged the executive director's excellent leadership. Recognizing this as Mr. Kennedy's last meeting, he asked everyone to give the executive director a round of applause in recognition for his outstanding leadership. He then invited him to give his report on CEC accomplishments since the last Council Session.

William Kennedy began by thanking Administrator Johnson and welcoming everyone to the Council session. He also acknowledged the presence of Quebec's Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks and the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations from Alberta. He noted that both provinces were signatories to the Canadian Intergovernmental Agreement on the NAAEC and indicated it had been a pleasure for him to work closely with both provinces over the last year. Before presenting an overview of specific accomplishments of the CEC in the past year, he acknowledged the contribution and the continued engagement of key stakeholders in North America. Turning to the accomplishments, he mentioned the first-ever report on children's health and environment indicators in North America, which presented 13 indicators under three thematic areas: asthma and respiratory disease, effects of exposure to lead and other toxic substances, and waterborne diseases. He pointed out that the report found that North American children remained at risk from environmental exposures and that children's health studies must begin to address data gaps identified in the report. He also drew attention to the publication of the report on toxic chemicals and children's health and the environment, which focuses on the industrial chemical releases that can adversely affect children's health. He indicated that the report used a toxicity-weighting methodology to describe the relative hazard of industrial chemical releases, and that it found that lead, mercury, PCBs, dioxins and furans, phthalates and manganese are substances of either significant or emerging concern.

He then turned to the development of the North American Atlas, the first comprehensive and online digital map of the North American continent which comprises environmental information and is

updated as the information is available. He added that the CEC and its partners—the Atlas of Canada, Mexico’s *Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geográfica e Informática*, and the National Atlas of the United States—had made available in March 2006 a new data layer with information on hydrological basins, or watersheds, for the continent. Referring to biodiversity conservation, he mentioned the launching of six North American Conservation Action Plans in November [2005] for the leatherback turtle, humpback whale, pink-footed shearwater, black-tailed prairie dog, ferruginous hawk, and burrowing owl. In relation to the engagement of the private sector in CEC activities, he pointed to the projects assisting multinational corporations in fostering eco-efficiency and enhancing the environmental performance of small and medium-size supply firms in the Mexico City region. He then provided an update on the next Article 13 report on the opportunities and challenges of green building in North America. He announced the formation of the advisory group and indicated he anticipated that the report, to be completed in 2007, would encourage growth of the practice of green building in North America.

Referring to the citizen submissions process, William Kennedy mentioned the publication this year of the eleventh factual record, which concerns the practice of illegal logging in the Sierra Tarahumara of western Chihuahua and responds to allegations that Mexico had failed to effectively enforce its environmental law regarding natural resource extraction. Finally, he reported that Mexico was in the final stages of preparing the first public release, in July 2006, of data from its industrial emissions and transfer register. The *Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes* (RETC) will provide information on the releases of 104 chemicals to the air, land and water from 10,000 federally-regulated facilities. He emphasized that this represented a pivotal step for Mexico and a major step forward for North America, filling a key gap in our understanding of the total, continent-wide volume of the release and transfer of certain toxic chemicals. He added that this accomplishment underlined the importance and promise of ongoing international cooperation through the CEC. In closing, he thanked the public and the Parties for the crucial role they play in the work of the CEC and for their scrutiny and advice, which is integral to CEC’s progress. (The complementary slide presentation can be found in Annex B.)

Item 2 Opening of the Council’s in-camera session and adoption of the agenda (including intervention by the Executive Director)

As chair, Administrator Johnson opened the in-camera session and extended special welcoming remarks to his counterparts from Mexico and Canada, thanking them for their participation and leadership. He indicated that the purpose of the session was to explore CEC’s environmental results. The Council Agenda was adopted by the Council as drafted. Administrator Johnson then turned to William Kennedy and commended his management of the CEC over the past three years. He stressed that the executive director’s report clearly showed that the CEC had seen meaningful environmental successes and developed vital partnership during his tenure. In addition, he pointed to William Kennedy’s leadership during the challenging but important strategic planning process where strategic priorities had been realigned and management had been improved. He then invited him to address the Council on issues of interest (*as per Rule 5.3 of Council Rules of Procedure*). (The Council Agenda can be found in Annex C.)

William Kennedy expanded on a few items touched upon earlier during the opening session. He

began by reporting on the preparation of the Article 13 report on green building and conveying that the Secretariat had assembled an excellent group of advisors—architects, engineers, developers, real-estate financiers, energy conservation specialists, and policy experts as well as government representatives. The advisory group’s first meeting had taken place in Montreal, on 13 June 2006, during which the members had compiled a list of discussion papers, as well as the key issues which needed to be examined. He added that the report held the promise of being very useful to the Parties as well as other decision makers, and of providing recommendations that should accelerate the adoption of green building throughout North America.

Referring to the upcoming publication of Mexico’s RETC, he congratulated Secretary Luege and his officials at Semarnat. He reiterated that this was an important milestone, a significant accomplishment, and marked a turning point by allowing the first truly comparative and continent-wide assessment of releases and transfers of toxic chemicals. With this important contribution from Mexico, North America is a world-leader in this field of environmental reporting. Concerning the involvement of the private sector in CEC activities, he reminded the Council that he had made it a personal goal during his tenure and had spoken to numerous business people committed to environmental change. They had convinced him that improving environmental performance succeeded only when there was complete support from the highest levels of management. He told the Council members that they represented the pinnacle of environmental authority in North America and that they needed to demonstrate leadership in order to drive change and allow the CEC to be relevant at a continental level. He encouraged the Council to safeguard significant continental responses to challenges and issues through the CEC by looking at opportunities for cooperative action.

In closing, he thanked Administrator Johnson for his kind words and said that the past three years had been interesting and rewarding. He also thanked the Council for the honor of being appointed as the first executive director from the United States and thanked JPAC members for their good rapport and support. Finally, he thanked his colleagues at the Secretariat and acknowledged their contribution to CEC accomplishments over the last three years.

Item 3 Achieving concrete results under the 2005–2010 Strategic Plan

The chair introduced this item by providing background to the 2005–2010 Strategic Plan adopted during the Twelfth Regular session of Council in Quebec City. He mentioned that the Council Session provided an opportunity to highlight progress under each of the three CEC priorities.

Item 3.1 Information for decision-making

Item 3.1.1 Mapping North American environmental issues

Doug Wright, CEC Director of Programs, presented progress achieved by the three countries’ Atlas agencies in adding data layers to the North American Atlas framework. He acknowledged the work of the government experts in the three countries who have contributed to the preparation of the maps, and the support provided by Dr. Ian Crain to the CEC’s work. He noted that this work could be considered a keystone project under the CEC’s Strategic Plan. He pointed to the maps as providing the quality information for decision-making requested by the Council. He described the digital base map, which comprises geographical information across North America and allows the

application of layers of environment data, thus promoting the improvement of comparability and compatibility of environmental information. He pointed to the map as presenting a seamless view of North America, showing both natural and jurisdictional features. He explained that the map and the Atlas, as the latter develops, will enable decision-makers to visualize and answer questions concerning the state of the environment as well as emerging North American environmental issues. In the process, the Atlas will assist decision-makers define cooperative actions for addressing common concerns. He then presented the base layers of the digital base map, including transportation infrastructure, drainage basins, and ecoregions, as well as examples of how data collected through CEC initiatives has been or could be applied to the atlas. In conclusion, he observed that the map had already served as a useful tool in the implementation of the current work program by adding coherence and bringing together the data collected in different projects. Similarly, the Atlas could become a critical tool for assisting the Council in setting priorities, planning actions and programming CEC's work. (The complementary slide presentation can be found in Annex D)

Item 3.1.2 Tracking releases and transfers in North America

Ana María Contreras of Semarnat presented Mexico's *Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes* (RETC), a public database where industrial releases and transfers of 104 pollutants of importance to Mexico are now being reported on an annual basis. She stressed that the registry represented a significant progress towards transparency and the public's right-to-know, similar to the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) in Canada and the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) in the United States. She added that the information collected would contribute to improving environmental management, helping industries reduce their emissions while increasing their productivity. She then acknowledged that the RETC had been the result of numerous negotiations with stakeholders and thanked the United States and Canada for their assistance and for sharing their experience with TRI and NPRI. She also thanked the CEC Secretariat for organizing meetings and workshops and assisting with the preparation of reports. She mentioned that the fundamental change in Mexico's environmental legislation since 2001 in establishing the mandatory reporting of 104 chemical substances had also contributed to the implementation of the RETC. Among the 104 substances being reported, 50 substances can be compared between the three countries. However, in order to facilitate the comparability of data between the three countries, she conveyed that Mexico believed the information should be disaggregated and that industrial sectors and subsectors should be identified. Finally, she provided a detailed report on Mexico's experience compiling the 2005 registry and she announced the publication of the first-ever RETC data in July 2006. (The complementary slide presentation can be found in Annex E.)

Administrator Johnson congratulated Secretary Luege for this accomplishment and invited him to make comments on the presentations.

Secretary Luege congratulated the presenters and commented that the Atlas could be utilized as a major planning tool by governments. He suggested that one additional layer could reflect forest inventory, as this would provide information on biomass capacity as well as bio-energy, which in turn could be used as a source of alternative energy, helping to address future energy needs in North America. Turning to Mexico's RETC, he said that Mexico is also in the process of compiling its

next national report which will be published in October and will put Mexico in the forefront in terms of registries of releases and transfers.

Minister Ambrose commended Mexico for its accomplishment with Mexico's RETC, adding that Canada was also carrying out efforts to strengthen its own inventory. She stressed that all three countries needed to work together in this area. Regarding the Atlas, she expressed enthusiastic support for the project because it represents not only a strong public policy tool but also a strong public relations tool in conveying that there are no boundaries when it comes to environmental issues. She indicated that Canada was very supportive of amplifying the current mapping efforts, including in the area of aquifer mapping.

Administrator Johnson echoed congratulations for the Atlas. He indicated that the United States supported strengthening the Atlas. He also congratulated Secretary Luege for Mexico's RETC and indicated he looked forward to seeing the PRTR data incorporated into the Atlas.

Item 3.2 Capacity building

Administrator Johnson introduced this item and invited speakers to make their presentations while reminding them to be brief.

Item 3.2.1 Enhancing private sector environmental performance in Mexico

On behalf of Ignacio Loyola, Mexico's Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (Profepa), Juan Elvira Quezada made a presentation on the success of the greening supply chains project being implemented in Mexico. He introduced the project's purpose, which is to increase the industries' environmental performance and make the Mexican enterprises more competitive through eco-efficiency. He also explained that this project involved providing technical and financial assistance to small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) in greening their supply chains. He described the project as involving 28 national and international companies and their suppliers, active in 20 different fields. He stressed that the project was very flexible and could be applied to 98 percent of the industrial sector. He then presented data that illustrated the success and value of the initiative, showing that the 8 million pesos invested are projected to result in savings of more than 14 million pesos, and represented a more efficient and effective approach than any technical support provided by Profepa in the past. In view of these projected results, he affirmed Mexico's interest in seeing this project more broadly replicated within the country and conveyed the keen interest of the private sector in continuing its participation and expanding the efforts to other sectors. (The complementary slide presentation can be found in Annex F.)

The chair thanked Mr. Elvira and introduced the next item on the expansion of the partnership with the private sector pursuant to the Council's commitment during the 2005 Council Session. He invited both Charles Auer, director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics at EPA, and Steve Hellem, executive director for the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment, to present the efforts to develop a partnership with the automotive sector in North America to green supply chains.

Item 3.2.2 Supporting automotive sector environmental performance in North America

Mr. Auer remarked that the project contributed to developing a CEC culture where the engagement with the private sector was actively sought to capitalize on synergies and maximize results. He added that this type of collaborative approach should be sought for every project that offered the opportunity. Turning to the project specifically, he described it as demonstrating the value of public and private sector partnership to improve environmental performance through greening the manufacturing process. He indicated that the project builds on the current initiative in Mexico and seeks to obtain support from large companies to influence and mentor their supply chains to improve business and environmental performance. He added that it will be initiated in the United States through the Suppliers Partnership for the environment and will be expanded to the North American region in support of the CEC capacity building priority via a particular focus on SMEs in Mexico. He commented that in the North American context, this initiative could also be used as a cost-effective way to increase environmental compliance.

Mr. Hellem then spoke about the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment, including how the sharing of environmental best practices was taking place with the EPA. He thanked the CEC Council and the executive director for the opportunity to embark on this initiative and indicated that the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment looked forward to working with the CEC in designing a plan which will meet the objectives set by the Council.

Administrator Johnson thanked the presenters for introducing this excellent project and turned to Ernesto Enkerlin for a presentation on the next item.

Item 3.2.3 Developing capacity to conserve species and spaces of common concern

Ernesto Enkerlin, chair of the Biodiversity Conservation Working Group (BCWG), thanked the Council for their support and for the work carried out and the progress achieved by the CEC in the last twelve years in the area of biodiversity conservation. He referred to the CEC Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan which sets out a course to cooperate on the conservation of species and spaces as well as face common threats. He reported that, following the Puebla Declaration, the BCWG had endeavored to orientate its work toward the CEC priorities but that his presentation would focus mainly on capacity building. He acknowledged the collaboration between the CEC and the *Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas* (CONANP) which had been a key player in the implementation of the projects. He indicated that through the North American conservation actions plans (NACAPs), the BCWG had sought to define the best and most effective way to protect six species of importance on a continental basis. He reported on a number of workshops which were held to inspire conservation leadership in North America and referred to a two-week-long capacity building workshop held more recently in Mexico with the participation of more than forty instructors from the United States, Canada and Mexico who were trained on topics ranging from economic valuing of biodiversity to wildlife certification and regulations. (The complementary slide presentation can be found in Annex G.)

The chair invited his counterparts to comment on the presentations.

Minister Ambrose began by commending the effort in developing the public and private partnership with the automotive sector. She said she believed that such an initiative was important in North America, particularly in view of the pollution inventory. She noted that in Canada transportation was the highest cause of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and indicated that Canada was adopting policies in relation to this. She also pointed to the partnerships between the government and the private sector on environmental issues. She commented that the private sector was a willing partner and that governments should seize the opportunity to create policy frameworks that will encourage private sector participation.

Referring to biodiversity conservation, she noted this was a very important issue for Canada, particularly as it related to species and habitat conservation, and that the expansion of national parks was being contemplated by her government. She pointed to a recent announcement regarding the partnership between the government of Canada and private citizens to conserve biodiversity through the stewardship of private land and the donation of private properties for conservation. She added that many avenues needed to be explored to engage nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), industry and private citizens, and stressed that governments needed to offer policy tools to encourage their involvement. She invited the Quebec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks to make a few comments.

Minister B  chard referred to the partnership with the automotive industry, saying that the California standard needed to be pursued through a collaborative effort and that the same norms should be applied for the automotive industry throughout the region. He mentioned that consistency was needed both on the part of the industry and also from the government. Regarding the conservation of biodiversity, he echoed Minister Ambrose's comments that private citizens were the best-positioned resource to be tapped for the protection of species and habitat.

Secretary Luege underscored that the capacity building component of CEC's work program had largely benefited Mexico until now. Regarding the partnership with the automotive sector, he pointed to the certification program in Mexico, called *Industria Limpia*, which currently applies to the entire automotive sector and which has promoted environmental excellence. He reiterated Mexico's commitment to working with Canada and the United States to conserve the habitat that will protect the species of North America.

Administrator Johnson echoed the comments of Minister Ambrose and Secretary Luege. He indicated that partnerships were essential to achieve environmental results and that President Bush had put in place a cooperative conservation program through partnerships to protect biodiversity. He reported that public and private partnerships yielded better environmental results at a lower cost.

Item 3.3 Trade and environment

Item 3.3.1 Guidelines for risk assessment on invasive alien species and their pathways

Richard Orr, US Department of Interior's Assistant Director for International Policy and Prevention National Invasive Species, was invited to present an overview of the Risk Analysis project, and highlight success in defining the aquatic invasive species risk assessment process, the development of trinational guidelines and the selection of two invasive species and a pathway of common

concern. He began by stating that invasive alien species were one of the major environmental and economic threats to North America. He stressed that such species constituted important trade and environmental issues because countries cannot adequately protect themselves against them under the WTO sanitary regulations and this could impact trade on commodities and their conveyances. He said that serious gaps in the protection of invasive alien species were not being addressed under current agreements; however, maximum progress could be achieved with minimal CEC resources if priorities and goals were carefully considered. He described the goals of the project aimed at protecting the North American environment from the harmful effects of invasive alien species and reported on workshops held and progress made under this initiative. He acknowledged the contribution of the BCWG toward this initiative and reported that, in order to obtain maximum results, it had jointly been agreed that pathway assessment efforts would need to focus on two species of fish: *snakeheads* and *suckermouth catfish*. Finally, he shared the findings of the assessment for both species as well as potential future activities, including the assessment for terrestrial animals. (The complementary slide presentation can be found in Annex H.)

Item 3.3.2 Promoting the North American renewable energy market

José Ramón Ardavin Ituarte, Semarnat's Deputy Secretary for Environmental Promotion and Regulations, was invited to present progress on promoting the North American renewable energy market. He began by pointing out the importance of promoting renewable energy and commented that the benefits to be derived from renewable energy were significant, and not exclusively environmental, given that the demand for electricity by 2010 was projected to increase by 15 percent, thus generating a much greater production of greenhouse gas emissions. He provided statistics on air emissions produced by conventional energy sources and stated that climate change, acid rain and smog might inevitably force the substitution of a portion of the conventional energy sources. In order to respond to growing concerns such as energy security, volatility in fuel prices and trust in the network, the sources of electricity needed to be diversified. He presented the work carried out by the Renewable Energy Experts Committee (REEC), which defines the different benefits to be derived from increased use of renewable energy versus fossil fuels. He highlighted concrete results to date, including the production of reports, the compilation of case studies, and the mapping of renewable energy activities in North America. He then pointed to the in-progress CEC report, *Fostering Renewable Energy in North America*, which presents elements of energy supply and demand, progress in public policy and recommendations on follow-up activities to support the renewable energy market in North America. (The complementary slide presentation can be found in Annex I.)

Minister Ambrose commented on the two presentations and agreed that the impact of invasive alien species was significant for the economy. She suggested that the current CEC project be expanded to include terrestrial invasive species, since the resulting risk assessment would be important not only for the environment but also for the industry.

Regarding renewable energy, she indicated this was a very timely issue. As a result, this would offer an opportunity to look at these issues not only from an economic but also from an environment point of view, and the policy tools and frameworks to be developed would yield maximum environmental benefit.

Quebec Minister B  chard pointed to the efforts put in place by the province of Qu  bec to promote the use of wind power, particularly for its technological potential but also for its environmental benefit. He mentioned that in the coming years wind power will be developing and benefiting regions which are currently facing economic difficulties.

Secretary Luege commented on the aquatic invasive species and asserted Semarnat's commitment to work together with the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture toward this initiative. He commented on differences between phytosanitary regulations among the three countries and proposed that the CEC analyze the issue. On the topic of renewable energy, he suggested the development of a long-term trilateral plan and commented that bio-fuel technology would be transforming the trading system, particularly the trade of corn in the United States and Mexico, which will be used to produce ethanol. He proposed the analysis of this issue as well. He then turned to Ernesto Enkerlin, who wished to make a short announcement.

Ernesto Enkerlin announced that 100 copies of the ecoregion maps of North America that included level 3 biodiversity data from Mexico were being made available. He acknowledged the contribution of EPA, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the *Instituto Nacional de Ecolog  a* (INE), the Atlas Canada, and the *Comisi  n Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad* (Conabio) in the preparation of the maps.

Administrator Johnson asked Mr. Orr for the current estimate of the economic impact of invasive alien species. Mr. Orr responded that the amount varied depending on the analyses and that the impact was difficult to estimate in a monetary form, but that most analyses oscillated around US\$30 billion/year.

Turning to the promotion of renewable energy, Administrator Johnson commented that President Bush was pursuing the aggressive target of reducing the dependence on foreign oil by 75 percent by 2020. In this regard, he mentioned the new US energy law that incorporates the Renewable Fuels Standard, which will add 7.5 billion gallons per year of renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel to the nation's energy supply by 2012. He added that meeting these targets was, in addition to an environmental matter, a matter of energy and economic security for the three countries.

Item 4 Sound management of chemicals – North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs) and future directions

Anne O'Toole, the Canadian chair of the SMOC working group, presented recent SMOC successes as well as opportunities for the CEC to act strategically as a catalyst for cooperation in addressing environmental and eco-health issues of trilateral concern. She presented for the Council's approval the renewed strategy for addressing the sound management of chemicals that was developed by the SMOC working group in consultation with stakeholders in the three countries. She indicated that the new strategy was aligned with national approaches on sound management of chemicals and was building on the work carried out at the CEC in the past. She explained that under the new strategy the mandate of the working group remained the same but the NARAP model, on a substance-by-substance approach, would not be pursued over the long-term. She added that a key element of the

renewed approach was to look at more strategic approaches to target key industry sectors which are intensive in chemical use and groupings of chemicals. She shared that the SMOC working group was interested in updating the role of the industry and civil society as well as engaging more partners and stakeholders in more voluntary challenge programs. She pointed out that the work on sound management of chemicals was linked to the three CEC priorities and that the SMOC working group would seek to develop cross linkages with other CEC projects, such as the North American Atlas and greening supply chains project, to build on synergies. In addition, she commented that efforts would be carried out to align the CEC SMOC work with global efforts in this area. Finally, she presented the next steps to implement the renewed approach to chemicals management, including workshops, future SMOC projects, and partnership with international financial institutions. (The complementary slide presentation can be found in Annex J.)

Item 5 Ministers' comment period

Under this item, the Council members were given an opportunity to comment on the SMOC presentation.

Secretary Luege commented that SMOC was a very important issue to be considered and a long-term approach was required. He mentioned that Mexico was engaged in all the global efforts in this area and suggested that the SMOC working group place particular emphasis on the ozone layer, given it should be the highest priority for North America.

Minister Ambrose congratulated the CEC for its work under SMOC, saying that the issue of toxics and chemicals represented one of her personal priorities as environment minister. She pointed out that research and science were underlining the importance of this issue, given its potential impact on the health of citizens. Adding that one of the obstacles was the compatibility of the information in the three countries, she expressed support for the work of the CEC in this area which will help governments make informed decisions.

Administrator Johnson also expressed strong support for the CEC's work on the sound management of chemicals. He took the opportunity to highlight his personal priority, which is to ensure that decisions made by governments are based on sound science. He pointed to the CEC Quality Assurance Policy and Procedures document, which will help to ensure that CEC products are based on sound science. He indicated the United States' general support of this valuable document and thanked the expert group for preparing it.

Item 6 Concluding remarks

The chair invited his counterparts to join him in signing the ministerial statement and the Council resolution on the Sound Management of Chemicals. Prior to signing the documents, the Council members exchanged gifts and made a few remarks.

Administrator Johnson expressed the honor and privilege of hosting his colleagues from Canada and Mexico to discuss the important work of the CEC. He reiterated the commitment of the three countries in delivering to their citizens a cleaner and safer environment. He also assured with

confidence that the three countries were committed to cooperation and partnerships and that they shared the notion that “pollution knows no boundaries” as well as the imperative to improve the environment by cooperating through the CEC. He then expressed special thanks to his colleagues for their leadership and friendship and to the government teams and the Secretariat.

Minister Ambrose thanked Administrator Johnson for his hospitality and Secretary Luege for the fruitful discussions. She also thanked the presenters for the information they had shared which will assist the governments in making the right decisions for the environment and economy.

Secretary Luege underlined the effort carried out by the project leaders and commented positively on the progress achieved since Puebla. He thanked the host for the hospitality and good organization, and conveyed that this was a unique opportunity to discuss and share ideas. He then announced that the next Council Session to be hosted by Mexico in 2007 will be held in Cancún. He warmly invited his counterparts to join him next year for the event.

The Ministers proceeded to sign the ministerial statement and the resolution regarding advancing the work under SMOC.

Item 7 Joint meeting with JPAC

The US Alternate representative, Judith E. Ayres, acted as chair for this portion of the meeting on behalf of Administrator Johnson, who had to leave. Following introductions by the JPAC members, Carlos Sandoval, JPAC chair, was invited to make opening remarks and introduce the proposed topics for discussion.

Carlos Sandoval thanked the Council members for their willingness to meet with JPAC and hear about their activities. He then conveyed JPAC’s keen interest in providing advice to the Council on building environmental management capacity for indigenous communities and mentioned that Irene Henriques would be making a short presentation on this topic. Referring to the increased involvement of the private sector in JPAC activities, he pointed to the recent JPAC meeting in Vancouver, which coincided with a conference targeted to the private sector. He also conveyed that JPAC was seeking to broaden public participation at JPAC meetings for the purpose of facilitating the creation of international networks on environmental issues. He then turned to Irene Henriques and asked her to make her presentation.

Irene Henriques reiterated that JPAC was delighted to be invited to provide advice to the Council on building environmental management capacity among indigenous communities of North America. She indicated that JPAC had developed a plan in 2004 for securing the long-term involvement of indigenous communities in CEC activities and proposed to build on this plan as JPAC prepares the advice. She highlighted that the 2004 plan suggested that indigenous communities guide the development of the project and that the institutional capacity of the CEC to respond to the needs of indigenous communities be increased. In this regard, she pointed to two specific recommendations concerning the consistent nomination of indigenous communities to JPAC and advisory committees. She reported on progress in this area and JPAC’s hope that it will continue, as there is currently no indigenous person on JPAC. She mentioned that the second

recommendation referred to the creation of a permanent position for an indigenous person at the Secretariat who will be responsible for developing capacity building and guiding policy for indigenous communities. She expressed JPAC's hope that the renewed interest of the Council would facilitate the fulfillment of the recommendation. She expressed conviction that the CEC could build environmental capacity for indigenous communities, provide outreach and encourage the engagement of indigenous communities in CEC activities.

Ms. Henriques then shared the following suggestions which were received from the public on this topic: 1) the location and content are critical to bring indigenous communities together; therefore, meetings or symposia on this topic should be held in indigenous communities; 2) a two-pronged approach should be pursued, not only CEC engaging indigenous communities but also indigenous communities engaging CEC to provide traditional knowledge. Finally, she conveyed JPAC's recommendations that informal networks of indigenous communities be established in the three countries to stimulate the exchange of information and that this initiative not be viewed as a one-time proposal but rather as a continuing dialogue that will evolve across time. In closing, she reiterated JPAC's willingness to assist the Council in this endeavor.

The chair thanked Irene Henriques for her presentation and invited other JPAC members to make interventions.

Carlos Sandoval explained that each JPAC member had been allocated time to speak to Council, following which JPAC would look forward to comments from the Council members, as this was an opportunity for JPAC to cooperate better with and be more useful to the Council.

Eduardo Rincón Mejía congratulated the CEC for its interest in alternative energy sources and reported on the public workshop on renewable energy. He commented that long-term overarching objectives and mid-term objectives, including the revision of the North American energy system, needed be defined. He pointed to the enormous renewable energy sources in North America as well as to the technologies that are ready to be used. He noted the importance of working collaboratively to eliminate any obstacles and provide reliable information to the public to facilitate the transition to renewable energy use.

Patricia McDonald thanked the Council members for their time and welcomed Minister Ambrose to the CEC. She spoke about the relationship between the Council and JPAC, which she had experienced at times as uncomfortable, more prescribed than productive, overly formal, and more adversarial than cooperative. She echoed Carlos Sandoval's comment that JPAC needed to define how to be of assistance to the Council in fulfilling its mission. Finally, she recognized, on behalf of JPAC, the outstanding work of William Kennedy as CEC's executive director.

Minister Ambrose apologized for having to leave to catch a plane. Before doing so, she conveyed her belief that the CEC was at a juncture and that the the Council meeting had convinced her of the need to cooperate with her partners on environmental issues because of the shared goals and challenges.

Nelly Correa echoed Patricia McDonald's comments and welcomed a more active interaction

between JPAC and the Council. She also thanked William Kennedy for his accomplishments. She reported that JPAC had agreed to focus their next advice to the Council on the topic of biodiversity conservation and would work closely with the Secretariat in its preparation. On behalf of JPAC, she conveyed the importance of integrating the support of other institutions to achieve the integral management of priority species and habitats. Finally, she stressed the importance for the CEC to reinforce the trade and environment linkage and encourage the new Council members to seize the opportunity and strengthen their relationship with their trade counterparts.

Ralph Marquez expressed pleasure in working with the CEC as a new JPAC member. He mentioned his ten-year experience working on border issues in Texas and establishing strong ties with the government of Mexico. He indicated he looked forward to working with the three countries on CEC issues and shared that his main goal was to support all CEC efforts towards efficiency and effectiveness.

Dinkerai Desai commented on the topic of renewable energy and expressed support for a comprehensive energy program and a long-term policy for renewable energy in North America that would consider a variety of energy sources and make use of the latest technology to achieve energy efficiency in a sustainable manner.

Jane Gardner reiterated, on behalf of the United States' JPAC members, requested to meet privately with Administrator Johnson. She also spoke in favor of the CEC increasing its partnership with the industrial sector and shared her positive experience at General Electric in working with the government on various issues.

Jean-Guy Dépôt shared his personal goal which is to improve, by 2008, the quality of the environment for future generations and asked the Council to consider establishing a program to eliminate the sale of two-stroke engines which are highly polluting, emitting some 225 times more carbon monoxide and 1000 times more non-combusted hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides than current model cars. Since the United States has now banned the sale of all-terrain vehicles with two-stroke engines, there seems to be a practice of dumping them on the Canadian market.

Gordon Lambert highlighted the positive response from the diverse group of stakeholders who participated in JPAC's workshop on renewable energy and commented that renewable energy represented a unifying theme and a powerful opportunity for a North American approach to creating a sustainable future that achieves environmental benefits and supports a strong economy. He also noted the importance of creating frameworks that support investment opportunities for renewable energy and, as an example, mentioned how Suncor had found value in investing \$2 million towards the development of windmill power and ethanol production in Canada. He reminded the listeners that engaging capital and talent from the business community would yield results. In pursuit of this endeavor, he indicated that the CEC and JPAC could play a role in broadening and deepening the movement of the three countries toward renewable energy. He also suggested that the CEC play a role in harmonizing the efforts on policy development in this area, given the importance of putting in place policy measures that create a comprehensive energy system. He indicated that North American governments should take guidance from the mature regulatory environment currently in place for fossil fuels.

Carlos Sandoval gave a few closing remarks and explained that JPAC's interest in developing its Strategic Plan was not to exceed its mandate within the CEC. He indicated that JPAC was willing to revise the language in the document accordingly. He reported on a productive meeting between the JPAC and the three national advisory committees where increased collaboration and avoiding duplication of efforts had been discussed. Finally, he welcomed the Council members to participate in the JPAC meeting in Cancún in October and announced that a JPAC meeting would also be held in September in Montreal to discuss next year's proposed work program. He then turned to the Council for comments and ideas to work better collaboratively.

In response to JPAC's interventions, Secretary Luege thanked all members for their remarks and expressed that this meeting was truly an opportunity to support the Council and that discussions on respective policies and the exchange of information were very enriching. He reported on meetings he had held this year with the Mexican NAC and offered to hold a similar one with the Mexican JPAC members.

Regarding indigenous communities involvement in CEC activities, he commented that in Mexico biodiversity conservation has been successful due to the involvement of indigenous communities and that this remained a priority for the government. As for renewable energy, he underlined the urgency of the matter in Mexico. He said that in 20 to 30 years Mexico will have exploited all its fossil fuel capacities and that Mexico was lagging behind its partners in its planning partly due to land property rights in Mexico. He indicated, however, that Mexico was looking to speeding up its advancements. In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, he reported that Mexico was proposing to amend its laws and to harmonize the norms, incorporating fiscal measures for light consuming vehicles as well as fees for highly-polluting vehicles. He also mentioned that public transportation was being sought as a way forward in this area as well as the use of electric vehicles.

The Canadian Alternate Representative spoke on the topic of renewable energy and indicated that Minister Ambrose would look forward to receiving JPAC's advice based on the discussions held during the workshop. With respect to indigenous communities' involvement, he explained that the issues needed to be discussed with other departments that work on indigenous issues. Turning to JPAC's Strategic Plan, he expressed support for JPAC's effort to plan future work and assured Canadian JPAC members that he would seek to arrange a meeting with Minister Ambrose to discuss the engagement of JPAC in supporting both domestic and continental priorities.

The US representative thanked JPAC for their service and commitment. She mentioned that the presence of JPAC within the CEC served as a model for governance on which other institutions had commented positively. Finally, she acknowledged and recognized the value of everyone's comments and stressed the importance for the CEC to be results-oriented, just like EPA needed to be, due to the scarcity of resources. She conveyed that the United States greatly valued the work carried out on children's health and that they were looking forward to promoting the engagement of indigenous communities.

Secretary Luege recognized William Kennedy's leadership over the last three years. He then explained the process carried out by Mexico for the selection of the next executive director. He

reported that the applications through Semarnat's web site had been successful and that seventy-two people with good credentials had applied, from which five applicants had been selected for interviews by an independent selection committee. He assured JPAC that the selection process was transparent and simple and thanked them for their support.

The session was adjourned and participants were reminded to re-convene at 2:30 pm for the Council's public meeting.

Item 8 Council public meeting

Following introductory remarks on the conduct of the session by the JPAC chair, Carlos Sandoval, Eduardo Rincón reported on the results of the public workshop on "Renewable Energy Alternatives: Bio-fuels, Solar Energy and Wind Power" held the previous day. A representative from the public reported on the results of the networking session held the previous day. These reports were followed by statements by pre-selected presenters. A summary of all interventions made during the public portion of the session can be found in Annex K.

Annex A - Liste des participants – List of Participants - Lista de participantes

**XIIIe Session ordinaire du Conseil, 27-28 juin 2006 – Washington DC
Decimotercera Sesión Ordinaria del Consejo, 27-28 de junio de 2006 – Washington DC
Thirteenth Regular Session of the Council, 27-28 June 2006 – Washington DC**

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Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America



13th Regular Session of Council
Executive Director
William V. Kennedy

Accomplishments

2005- 2006:

- *Children's Health and Environmental Indicators*
- *Toxic Chemicals and Children's Health in North America*
- Monitoring maternal blood



Accomplishments 2005- 2006:

- North American Atlas
watersheds layer
- Conservation of Species
NACAPs



Accomplishments 2005- 2006:

- *Greening Supply Chains
- Mexico*
- *Green Buildings in North America:
Opportunities and Challenges*
- *Tarahumara Factual Record*



Accomplishments

2005- 2006:

- *RETC – Mexico's PRTR*



Looking Forward

- JPAC
- Renewable Energy
- CEC Operational Plan 2006-2008



CEC - a unique Organization

Take ownership of our continental agenda

Commission for Environmental Cooperation
of North America



Annex C

THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE CEC COUNCIL
To be held on 27 – 28 June 2006, Washington, D.C.

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

TUESDAY, 27 JUNE

19:00–21:00 Welcoming Reception (*National Museum of the American Indian*)

- Welcoming remarks by Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency (5 min.)
- Welcoming remarks by José Luis Luege Tamargo, Mexican Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources (5 min.)
- Welcoming remarks by Rona Ambrose, Canadian Environment Minister (5 min.)
- Welcoming remarks by Claude Béchar, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, Quebec (2 min.)
- Welcoming remarks by Gary Mar, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Alberta (2 min.)

WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE

7:30–8:30 Ministers' Breakfast (EPA Headquarters, 3rd Floor, Arial Rios Building North)

*Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium
1301 Constitution Avenue
Washington DC*

9:00–9:35 Official opening of the 13th regular session of the Council (public)

- Item 1 Opening remarks by Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency (5 min.)
- Remarks by José Luis Luege Tamargo, Mexican Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources (5 min.)
 - Remarks by Rona Ambrose, Canadian Environment Minister (5 min.)
 - Remarks by Claude Béchar, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, Quebec (2 min.)
 - Remarks by Gary Mar, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Alberta (2 min.)
 - Remarks by Carlos Sandoval, JPAC Chair (5 min.)
 - Report by William Kennedy, CEC Executive Director, on accomplishments of the CEC (10 min.)

9:35-9:45 Break

9:45-12:00 Council in-camera (2 hrs 15 min.)

- 9:45-10:00 Item 2 Opening of the Council's in-camera session and adoption of the agenda (including intervention by the Executive Director)

- 10:00-11:30 Item 3 Achieving concrete results under the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan
- | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00-10:30 | Item 3.1 | Information for decision-making |
| 10:30-11:00 | Item 3.2 | Capacity building |
| 11:00-11:30 | Item 3.3 | Trade and environment |

11:30-11:45 Item 4 Sound management of chemicals – Future directions (15 min.)

11:45-12:00 Item 5 Ministers' comment period (15 min.)

12:00-12:15 Break

12:15-13:15 Item 6 Joint meeting with JPAC (1 hour)

Item 6 Joint meeting with JPAC

13:15-13:30 Council in-camera (15 min.) (with JPAC)

13:15-13:30 Item 7 Photo opportunity and concluding remarks (15 min.)

13:30-14:30 Break

14:30-16:00 Council public meeting (1 h 30)

Item 8 Council Public meeting

- Introduction on the conduct of the session by Carlos Sandoval, JPAC Chair (5 min.)
- Reports on the JPAC's public workshop (2 pres. X 5 min. = 10 min.)
- Statements by pre-selected presenters (9 pres. X 5 min. = 45 min.)
- Comments by Council members (30 minutes)

OBJECTIVE OF MEETING:

- Review progress on directions and decisions from the 2006 Council Session and the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan
- Discuss key projects contained in the 2006-2008 Operational Plan, and provide direction for the development of the 2007-2009 Operational Plan

TUESDAY, 27 JUNE

Welcoming reception

The three Council members and two Canadian provincial Ministers will extend welcoming remarks to the public and delegates to the thirteenth regular session of the CEC Council. The CEC Executive Director will act as master of ceremony for the occasion.

WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE

Item 1 Official opening of the 13th regular session of the Council

The CEC Executive Director will invite the US Council member, to officially open the session. He will then invite the Mexican and Canadian Council members to address the public, followed by the Environment Minister of Quebec and a representative from the Alberta Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations, and the JPAC Chair. The US Council member will then invite the CEC Executive Director to give his report on CEC accomplishments since the last Council Session.

Session document(s):

- a) Final program of public events

C/06-00/PROG/

Item 2 Opening of the Council's in-camera session and adoption of the agenda (including intervention by the Executive Director)

The Council shall adopt the agenda based on the provisional annotated agenda (*Rule 9.6 of Council Rules of Procedure*). The Executive Director will briefly address the Council on issues of interest including the Article 13 Report on Green Buildings (*Rule 5.3 of Council Rules of Procedure*).

Session Document(s) :

- a) Provisional annotated agenda
b) General program for the Session and side events
c) Executive Director's Report on CEC Activities

C/06-00/AGEN/01/rev.7

C/06-00/PROG/01/rev.4

Item 3 Achieving concrete results under the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan

During its Twelfth Regular Session in June 2005 in Quebec City, the Council adopted the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan which focuses the work of the CEC on three priority areas: information for decision-making, capacity building, and trade and environment. The Council Session provides an opportunity to highlight progress against these priorities.

Session Document(s):

- a) Strategic Plan 2005-2010
b) 2006-2008 Operational Plan

Item 3.1 Information for decision-making

Item 3.1.1 Mapping North American environmental issues

CONTEXT:

The purpose of this project is to establish a consistent base for presenting and analyzing CEC information from a *North American* geospatial perspective.

Doug Wright, CEC Director of programs, will make a presentation which will illustrate the progress made thus far by the three countries' Atlas agencies in adding data layers to the North American Atlas framework. It will also demonstrate the utility of the Atlas for analyzing environmental information to support decision-making by reflecting—on the Atlas framework—one or more example North American environmental datasets whose quality, availability and comparability continue to be improved through the CEC's program work. The presenter(s) will briefly describe opportunities for assessing trends in various types of environmental information, such as chemical releases, air quality, areas of conservation concern and the progression of alien invasive species. It will be apparent that while country-by-country or other jurisdictional displays of environmental information are useful, such information expressed in terms of the geography of the North American environment is also valuable to decision-makers and may be of particular benefit to Council in setting priorities and in communicating progress in the CEC's work.

The presentation will conclude with a description of the work planned over the course of the next few years, and the anticipated results.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Council could discuss their needs and priorities for adding additional information to the North American Environmental Atlas.

Session Document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on Mapping North American Environmental Issues

Item 3.1.2 Tracking releases and transfers in North America

CONTEXT:

After many years of development, Mexico has put in place the mandatory *Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes (RETC)* and for the first time will publish data in 2006. This long-term effort follows the commitment of Council, in June 1997 (CR 97-04) to *enhance the comparability of North American PRTRs*. Felipe Adrian Vazquez Galvez, Semarnat's Deputy Secretary for Environmental Protection Management, will make the announcement and illustrate how the inclusion of Mexican data will greatly enhance the ability to assess, on a regional basis, information on the sources, quantities, and handling of pollutant releases and transfers.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The Council could acknowledge Mexico's progress in implementing its RETC

Session Document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on Mexico's *RETC*

Item 3.2 Capacity building

This agenda addresses three projects. The first one concerns *Improving Private and Public Sector Environmental Performance*, a project being implemented in Mexico. The second one refers to a newly adopted initiative to expand partnerships with the private sector and other stakeholders entitled *CEC Partnership with the North American automotive industry*; and the third one refers to the Ecosystems Managers Training program.

Item 3.2.1 Enhancing private sector environmental performance in Mexico

CONTEXT:

This project was launched in 2005 and aims to profile the potential for larger companies to influence and mentor their "supply chain" companies to improve their competitiveness and environmental performance. The initiative has targeted the pharmaceutical, chemical and electronics sectors in Mexico and has resulted in significant economic savings for participating companies and important environmental benefits for society.

The presentation will be made by Ignacio Loyola, Profepa's Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection, and will offer perspectives on the success of the project to date and, given the catalytic nature of the CEC, will illustrate its potential for expansion to other sectors in all three countries. A Mexican government representative could be invited to present the potential and effectiveness of the project as a complementary and cost-effective approach to command and control measures. A representative of one of the four large companies currently participating in the project could also be invited to provide his observations concerning economic savings for companies, increased value and competitiveness in production chains, and attest for the recognition to be derived from environmental improvement efforts.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The Council could direct the CEC to explore cooperation linkages with similar programs in North America

Session Document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on greening supply chains
- b) Progress report on greening supply chains

3.2.2 Supporting automotive sector environmental performance in North America

CONTEXT:

This partnership builds upon the CEC's initial work on greening supply chains, Canada's current green supply chain initiative, and the U.S.' Green Suppliers Network. This effort will focus on multinational automotive companies with supply chains that cross North American borders targeting their potential to influence their "supply chain" to improve business and environmental performance through such measures as pollution prevention, improved on-site chemicals management, implementation of waste exchange schemes, adoption of best practices, reducing the use of toxic and/or non-renewable materials, enhancing energy efficiency, and promoting consistent work practices and procedures to reduce environmental impacts. Given that the necessary commitment from this industrial sector is essential to the implementation of the project, the CEC Council may consider giving recognition to companies who improve their business and environmental performance through participation in this program.

Charles Auer, Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics at EPA will be invited to make a short presentation on the initiative, and Steve Hellem, Executive Director of the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment will also be invited to make a short intervention highlighting the economic benefits for companies and the recognition to be derived from environmental improvement efforts.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The Council could express support for this initiative

Session Document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on partnership with the North American automotive industry
- b) Council resolution 06-06 re: partnership with the automotive industry
- c) Project description

Item 3.2.3 Developing capacity to conserve species and spaces of common concern

CONTEXT:

The purpose of this project is to put in place a process to strengthen the capacities of diverse players working at the local level to enhance the protection of migratory species and their habitat. In the year 2005 the CEC in cooperation with wildlife officials and experts from the three countries, supported the decentralization process of the Mexican government in the area of wildlife conservation and management, the CEC partnered with the *Dirección General de Vida Silvestre* to train state and local wildlife officials from six border states government agencies.

Ernesto Enkerlin Hoeflich, Chair of the Biodiversity Conservation Working Group (BCWG), will present this initiative where more than forty instructors from the United States, Canada and Mexico (USGS, USFWS, Texas Fish and Game, New Mexico Fish and Game, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, INE, SEMARNAT, CONANP, CONABIO, and from several Universities and NGOs), trained during a two-week-long course, thirty-five "students" from the six northern states, on topics ranging from economic valuing of

biodiversity, to wildlife certification and regulations. Plans are to integrate this training initiative more closely with the project “Strengthening Wildlife Enforcement”.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

The Council could express continued support for this initiative

Session Document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on developing capacity to conserve species and spaces of common concern

Item 3.3 Trade and environment

A short presentation will be made by both a US and a Mexican government representative and will reference the CEC Strategic plan on Trade and Environment and describe results of two projects: *Guidelines for Risk Assessment on Invasive Alien Species and Their Pathways* and *Promoting the North American Renewable Energy Market*.

Item 3.3.1 Guidelines for risk assessment on invasive alien species and their pathways

CONTEXT:

The CEC's Biodiversity Conservation Working Group (BCWG) identified the threat of IAS as a significant concern for the Parties. It included IAS in its 2003 Biodiversity Strategic Plan as one of the 29 Priority Areas for Action. As a result, the CEC is conducting work in this area through the project *Guidelines for Risk Assessment on Invasive Alien Species and Their Pathways*. This project seeks to protect North America's marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems from the harmful effects of invasive alien species (IAS) by developing a common, science-based approach to prevention through the development of risk assessment guidelines applicable to both pathways of introduction and high-risk species.

Cooperation with civil society groups and the general public can assist governments in their efforts to identify ecosystems where IAS are present; and to design mitigation measures and policy responses. The CEC can play an important role in coordinating information sharing among civil society groups and governments at all levels. More thorough and accurate analysis of the environmental and economic damages caused by IAS could also help the Parties prioritize efforts to combat IAS.

The presentation will be given by Richard Orr, US Department of Interior's Assistant Director for International Policy and Prevention National Invasive Species, and will provide an overview of the Risk Analysis project, highlighting success in defining the aquatic invasive species risk assessment process, the development of trilateral guidelines and the selection of two invasive species and a pathway of common concern. The presentation could also conclude by a short overview of preliminary findings from the risk assessments.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The Council could express continued support for the field testing of the risk assessment methodology
- The Council could direct the CEC to extend this methodology to terrestrial invasive wildlife

Session Document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on the guidelines for risk assessment on invasive alien species and their pathways

Item 3.3.2 Promoting the North American renewable energy market

CONTEXT:

The purpose of the CEC Renewable Energy project is to enhance the development of the North American renewable energy market to attain environmental, social, and energy benefits that renewable energy provides. The Project aims to enhance North American trade in renewable energy as a “green product,” improve regional and national coordination, and promote policy. Through targeted actions, the Parties and the CEC can address some of the informational and transactional barriers that add to the cost of renewable energy and assist policymakers as they implement policies to promote renewable energy. The Parties have directed the Secretariat to create a North America Renewable Energy Experts' Committee (REEC) to advise the CEC on its work on renewable energy. José Ramón Ardavin Ituarte, Semarnat's Deputy Secretary for Environmental Promotion and Regulations, will present the White Paper on Fostering Renewable Energy in North America, created with

advice from the REEC. It contains recommendations for the Parties and the CEC on how to foster renewable electricity in North America.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The Council could commend the efforts of the REEC
- The CEC could reaffirm its support for the CEC's work on renewable energy by providing specific direction to the CEC for the next Operational Plan based on the recommendations contained in the White Paper.

Session Document(s):

- a) Draft presentation on promoting the North American renewable energy
- b) White paper on Fostering Renewable Energy in North America

Item 4 Sound management of chemicals – North American regional action plans (NARAPs) and future directions

CONTEXT:

The SMOC working group has developed a strategy entitled *CEC SMOC Program Working Group Future Directions Strategy until 2020 under the Puebla Priority Areas*, which brings a new approach for sound management of chemicals work in North America. It addresses issues of mutual concern, supports the CEC's priorities, and advances the Parties' international objectives, including the development and implementation of strategies for catalyzing cooperation in an inclusive, participatory, and transparent manner.

The presentation by the Canadian Chair of the SMOC working group, Anne O'Toole, will begin by describing successes under the NARAP on Mercury and the closure of the NARAPs on PCBs and DDT. It will also outline the activities that have led to the development of the final NARAP on Lindane and other Hexachlorocyclohexane Isomers. The presentation will describe how the CEC's Sound Management of Chemicals (SMOC) program will evolve in parallel with national priorities and re-align to link with the global context. The proposed presentation will also highlight opportunities for the CEC to act strategically as a catalyst for cooperation in addressing environmental and eco-health issues of tri-lateral concern.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The Council could adopt the NARAP on Lindane and Other Hexachlorocyclohexane Isomers and instruct the CEC to implement the actions assigned in the action plan, taking into consideration the Parties' resources, capacity building requirements, and ability to enhance capacity through various funding sources.
- The Council could endorse the *CEC SMOC Working Group Strategy until 2020 under the Puebla Priority Areas*
- The Council could adopt a resolution directing the CEC to move towards the realization of the proposed new strategy for the sound management of chemicals in North America.

Session Document(s):

- a) NARAP on Lindane and other Hexachlorocyclohexane Isomers
- b) Council Resolution re: Adopting the North American Regional Action Plan (NARAP) on Lindane and Other Hexachlorocyclohexane Isomers
- c) Letter of Transmittal to the Council from the SMOC Working Group Chair regarding NARAP acceptance
- d) Letter of Transmittal to the Council from the SMOC Working Group Chair regarding PCB NARAP closure
- e) *PCB Implementation Task Force Final Evaluation Report*
- f) Letter of Transmittal to the Council from the SMOC Working Group Chair regarding DDT NARAP closure
- g) *North American Regional Action Plan on DDT Status and Closure Report*
- h) Presentation on "*North American Sound Management of Chemicals Strategy*"
- d) CEC SMOC Working Group Strategy until 2020 under the Puebla Priority Areas
- e) Summary of Public Comments on "*CEC SMOC Working Group Strategy until 2020 under the Puebla Priority Areas*"
- f) Council Resolution re: Advancing the work of Resolution 95-05, Sound Management of Chemicals

Item 5 Ministers' comment period

Under this item, the Council will be provided an opportunity to comment on SMOC and give general comments on the CEC's work program.

Item 6 Joint meeting with JPAC

Under this item, the Council will meet with JPAC. Following welcoming remarks by the US Council member, JPAC will be invited to exchange views with Council members on any issue of interest. The JPAC chair may wish to present a brief report on the public workshop held the previous day and introduce Council to the conduct of the public meeting.

The Council could ask the JPAC to provide advice on capacity building for indigenous peoples and direct the Secretariat to work with the Parties and JPAC to design this activity in the 2007 Operational Plan.

Session Document(s):

- a) JPAC Activity Report (since June 2005)
- b) Letter to JPAC Chair from the Alternate Representatives re: capacity building for indigenous peoples

Item 7 Photo Opportunity and concluding remarks

Under this item, Council members will be invited to sign the Council resolutions adopted during their session as well as the Ministerial statement. For this portion, a CEC and media photographers will be authorized access into the room in order to take pictures.

As part of his concluding remarks, the Chair of the session may wish to make final announcements, acknowledge the contribution of participants and observe on the general conduct of the in-camera session. He is also expected to invite his counterparts to make final statements. As host of the next Regular session of the Council, the Mexican Council member may wish to announce the proposed date and venue for the next regular session of the Council to be held in June 2007.

Session Document(s):

- a) Draft Council Resolution re: Funding of the Commission for
Environmental Cooperation for the Financial Year 2007 C/06-00/RES/01
- b) Draft Ministerial Statement C/06-00/COMM/

Item 8 Council public meeting

In accordance with Rule 4.1 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Council shall hold a public meeting in the course of all annual regular sessions. The JPAC Chair will provide an introduction on the conduct of the session, which he is expected to facilitate. The meeting will include the following presentations: i) a report on the JPAC public workshop held the previous day on renewable energy alternatives; ii) oral statements by pre-selected participants; and a report on the results of the networking session held the previous day by a representative of the public.

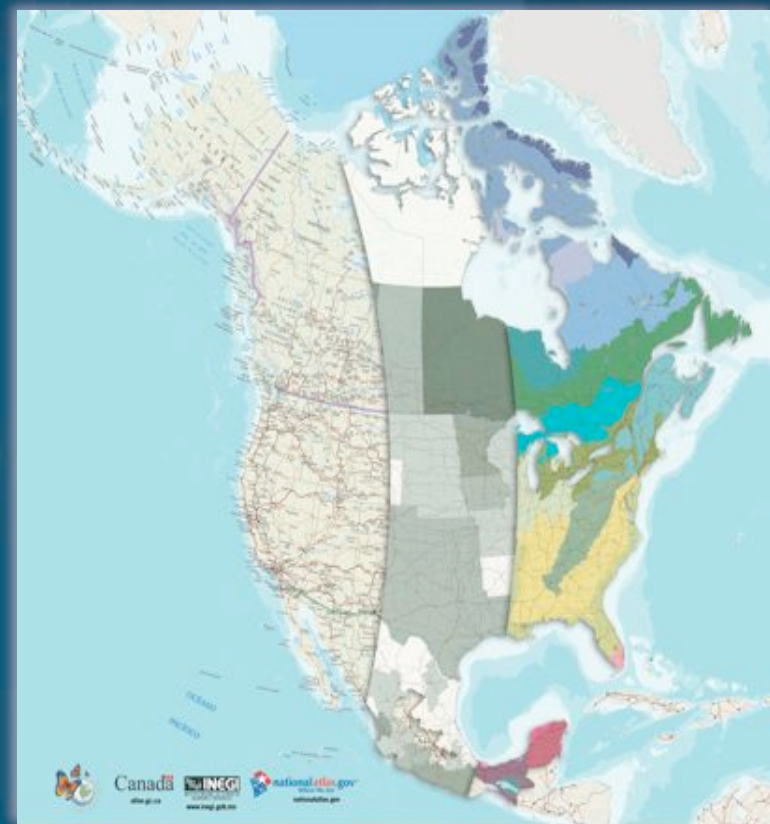
The above presentations will be followed by comments and concluding remarks from the Council members.

Session Document(s):

- a) Format of public session C/06-00/PLAN/
- b) List of registered speakers and summaries of interventions
- c) List of registered participants



Information for Decision-Making: *The North American Environmental Atlas*



13th Regular Session of Council
Washington, D.C.¹
28 June 2006



The North American Perspective

NAAEC: “foster the protection and improvement of the environment in the territories of the Parties for the well-being of present and future generations.”

CEC Strategic Plan: “strengthen the capacity of North American decision-makers to understand continental environmental issues of common concern.”



The North American Environmental Atlas

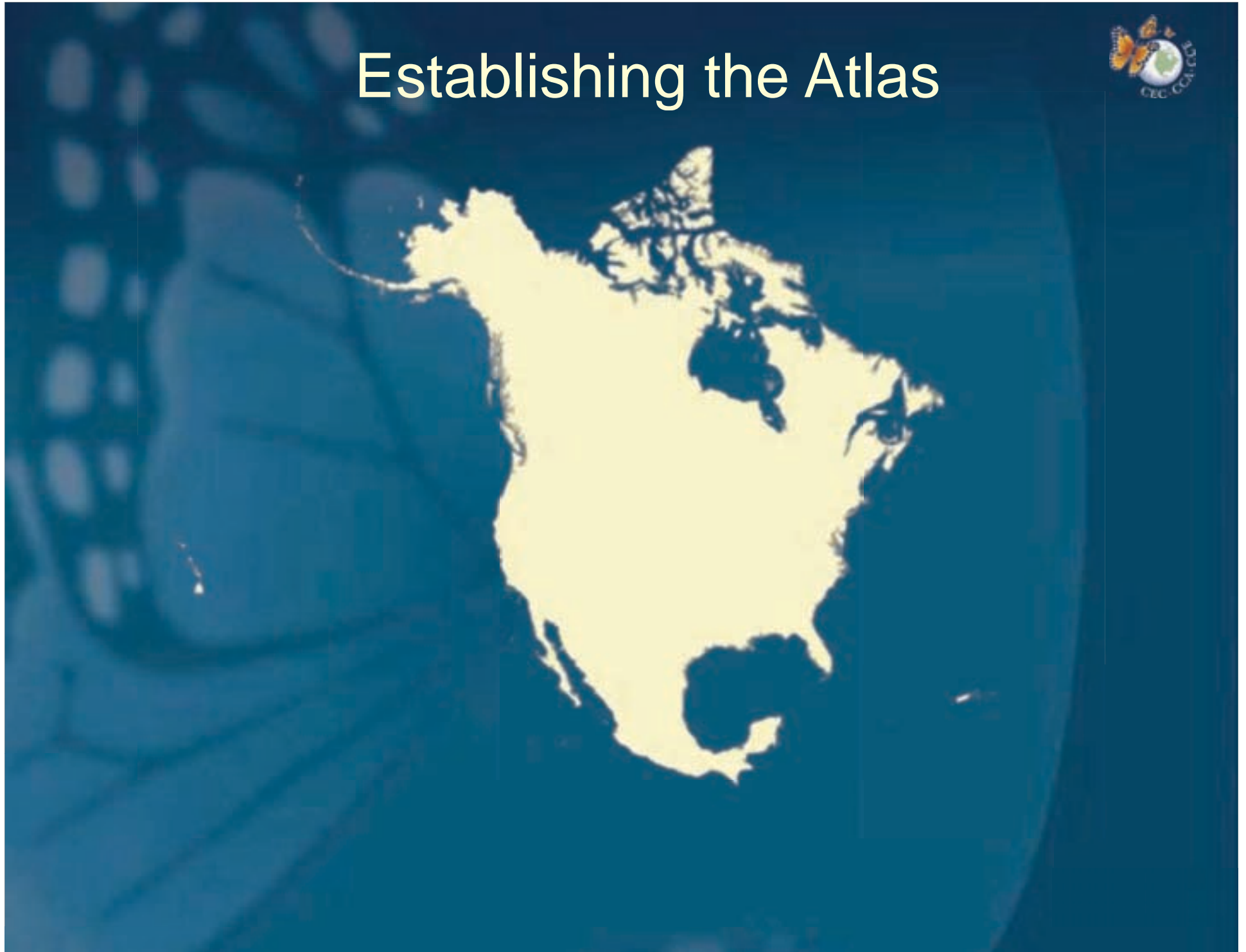
- digital map of geographic information
- layers of environmental data
- comparability and compatibility of information across North America
- seamless North American view
- natural and jurisdictional spaces



A tool for decision making

- What is happening to the NA environment and *where*?
- What are the consequences?
- What is being done and how effective is it?
- Where are we heading?
- What *cooperative* actions could be taken?

Establishing the Atlas



Establishing the Atlas



States and
Provinces



Establishing the Atlas



Railways



Establishing the Atlas



Major
Highways



Establishing the Atlas



Populated
Places



Establishing the Atlas



Lakes



Establishing the Atlas



Bathymetry

Establishing the Atlas

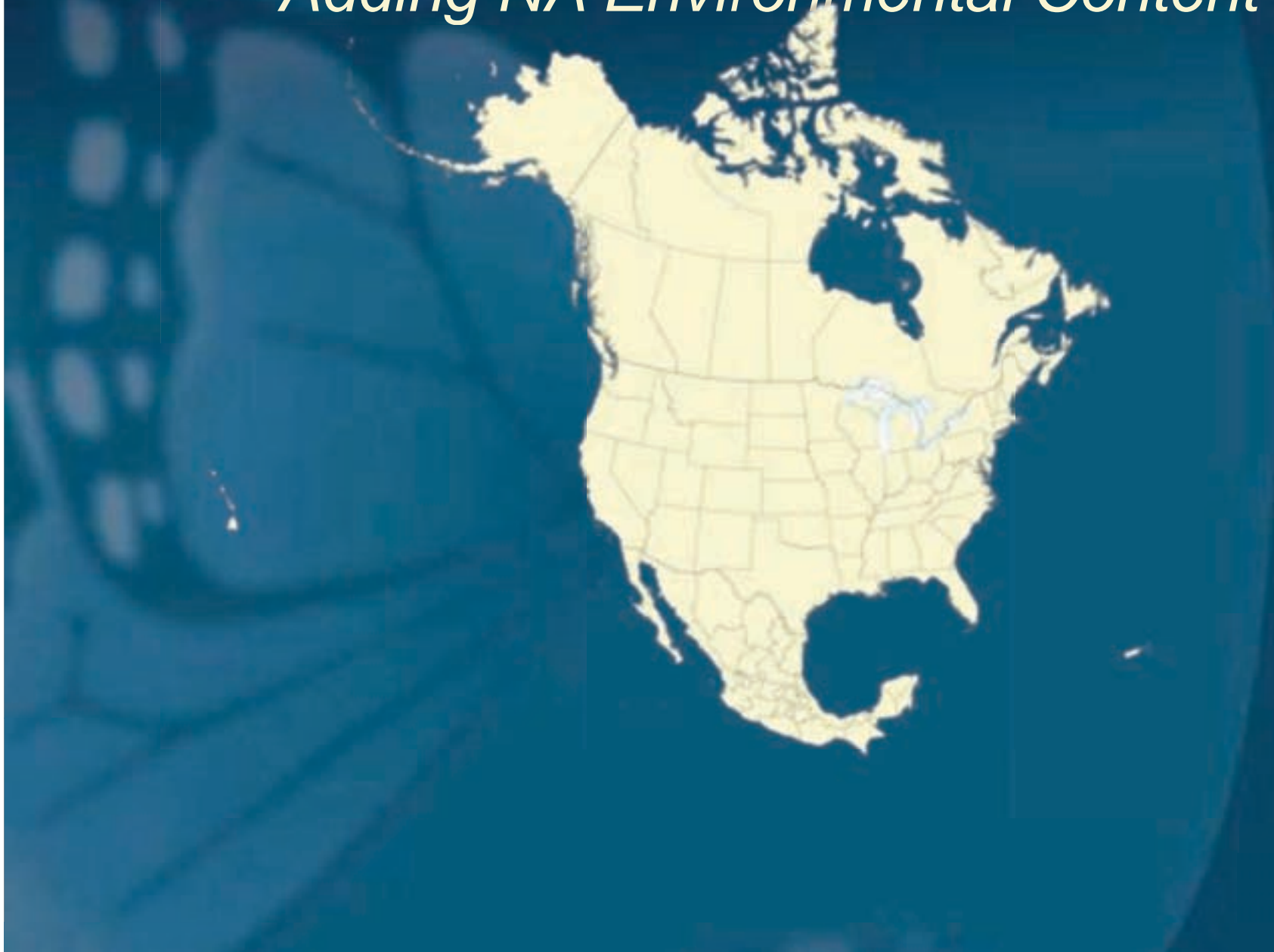


Rivers



Developing the Atlas

Adding NA Environmental Content



Developing the Atlas



Level 1 Drainage Basins



	Arctic Ocean
	Atlantic Ocean
	Gulf of Mexico
	Hudson Bay
	Pacific Ocean
	Caribbean Sea
	Internal Drainage

Developing the Atlas



Level 2 Drainage Basins



	Arctic Seaboard
	Mackenzie River
	Atlantic Seaboard
	St. Lawrence River
	Gulf of Mexico Seaboard
	Mississippi River
	Missouri River
	Ohio River
	Arkansas River
	Rio Grande
	Hudson Bay Seaboard
	Nelson River
	Pacific Seaboard
	Yukon River
	Columbia River
	Colorado River
	Caribbean Sea
	Internal Drainage

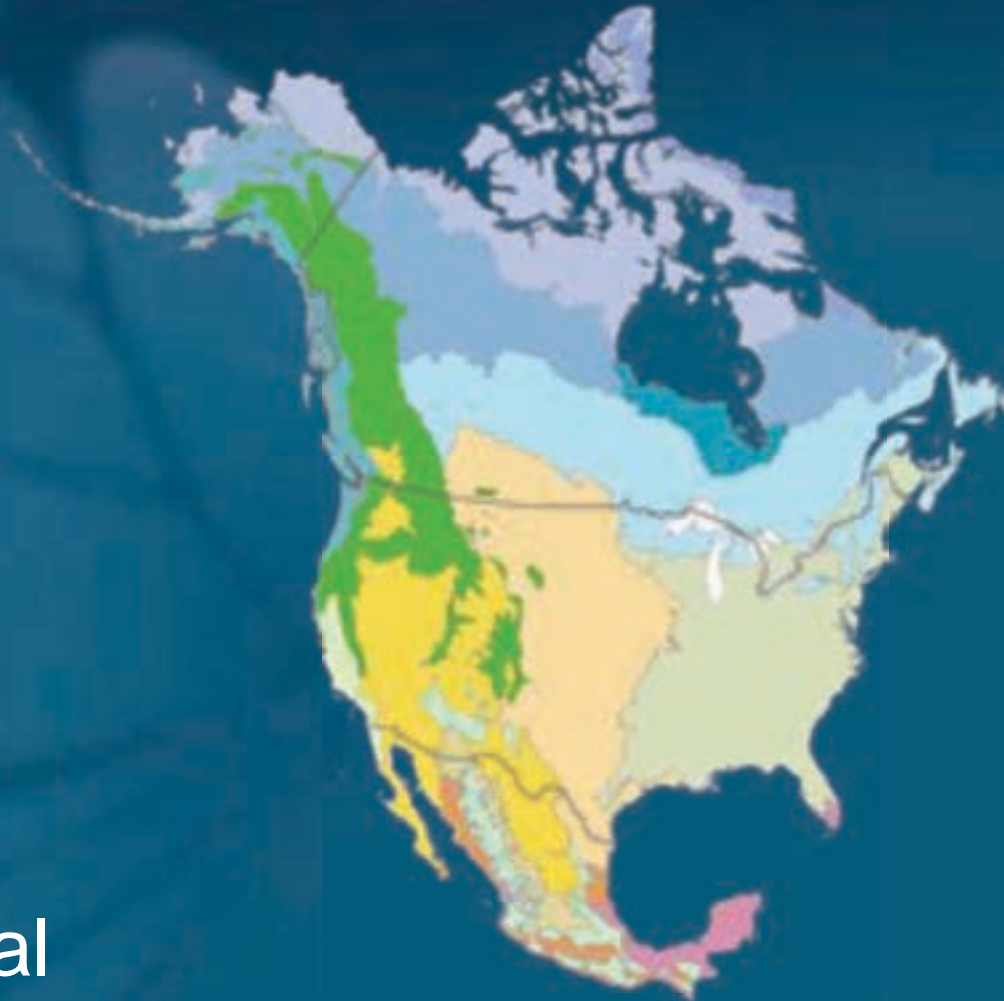


Level 2 Drainage Basins

Developing the Atlas



Level 1
Terrestrial
Eco-regions



Developing the Atlas



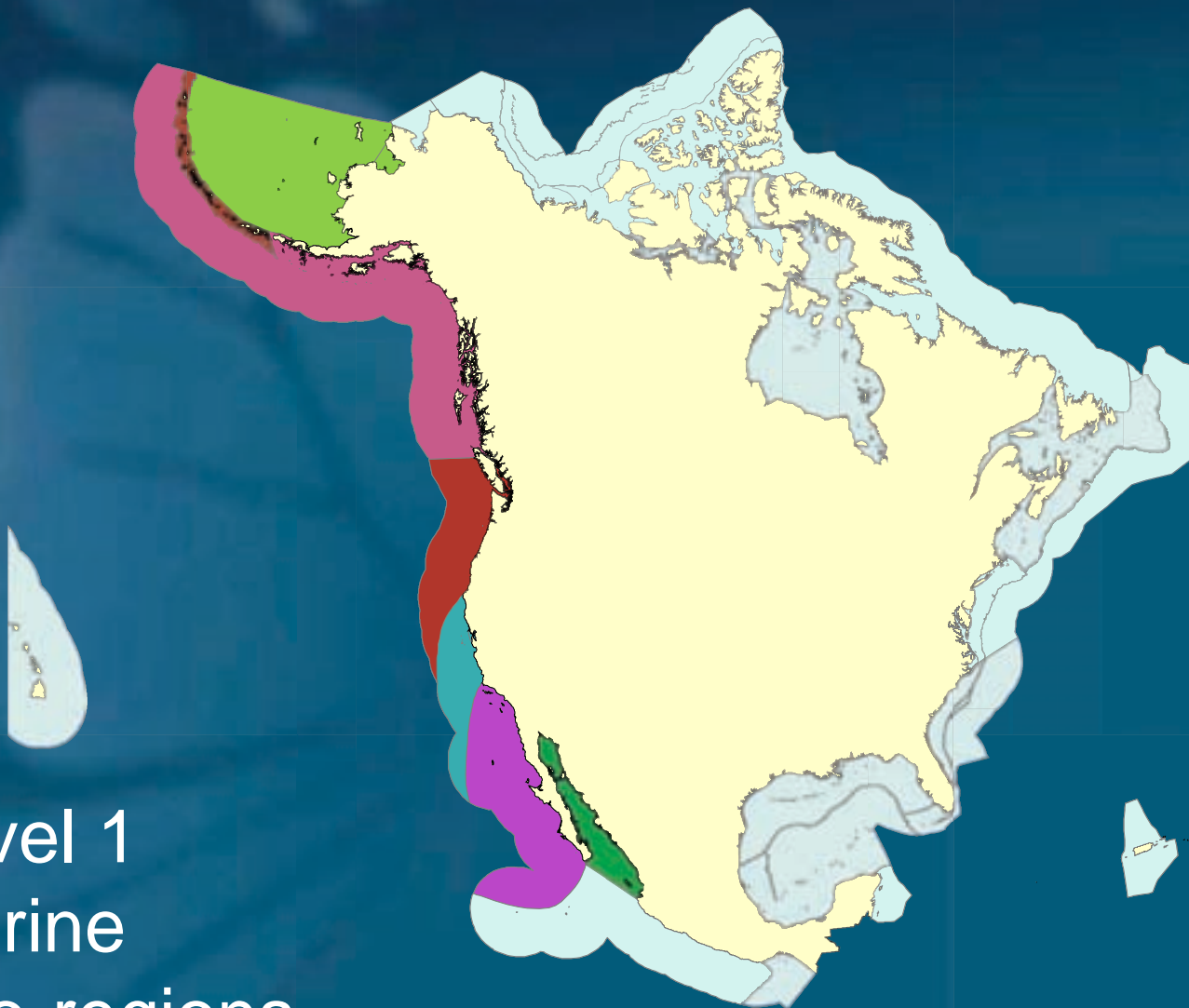
Level 2
Terrestrial
Eco-regions



Developing the Atlas



Level 1
Marine
Eco-regions



Potential for Decision Making

Examples

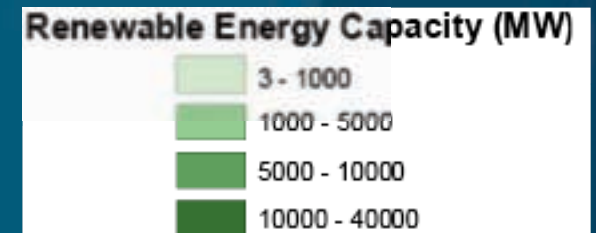


- Renewable energy capacity
- Power plant emissions
- PRTR data
- Marine air emissions

Potential for Decision Making



Renewable
Energy Capacity
Across North
America



Potential for Decision Making

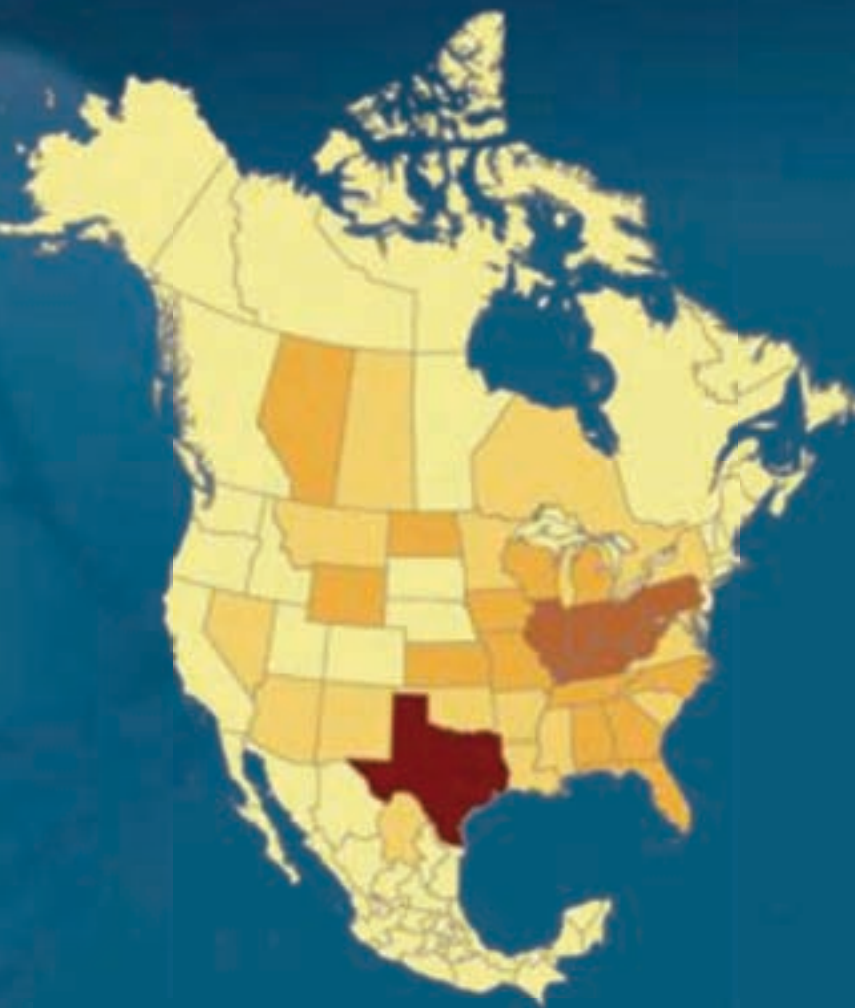


North American
Power Plants



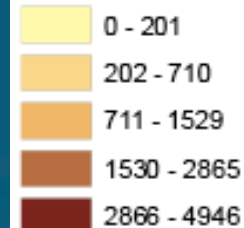


Jurisdictional View: Mercury Emissions from Power Plants



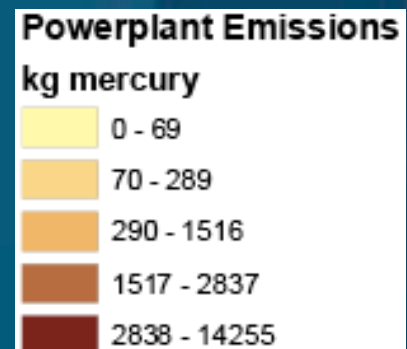
Powerplant Emissions

kg mercury





Ecoregional View: Mercury Emissions from Power Plants



Potential for Decision Making



PRTR: Facilities
with Copper
Releases










PRTR: Facilities with Copper Releases to Water





Jurisdictional View: Total Copper Releases to Water








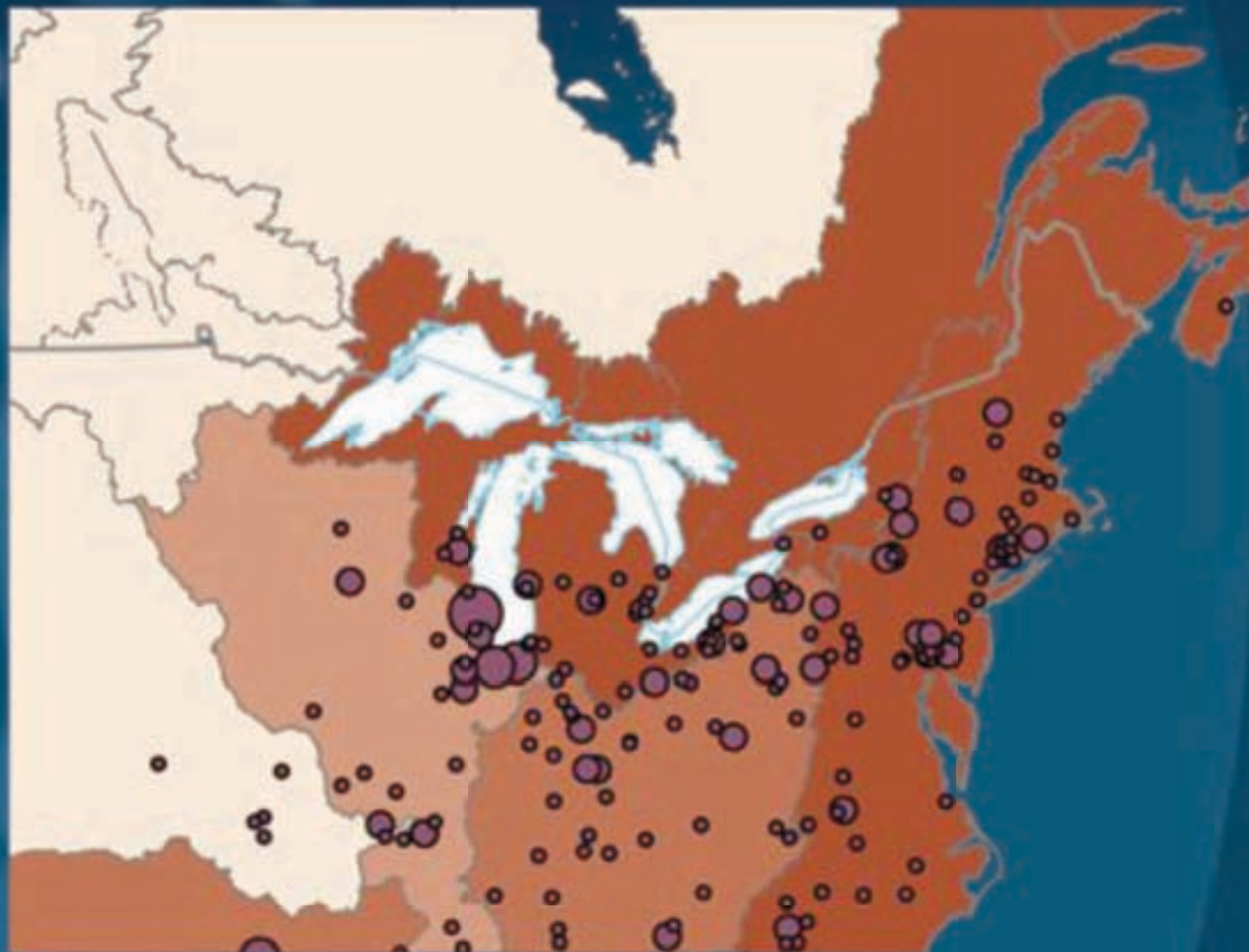
Copper Releases to Water	
kg copper	
	0 - 29
	30 - 244
	245 - 540
	541 - 1371
	1372 - 2429



Watershed View: Total Copper Releases to Water



Copper Releases to Water	
kg copper	
	0 - 23
	24 - 328
	329 - 682
	683 - 1296
	1297 - 5189

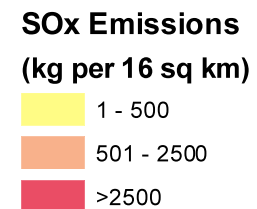
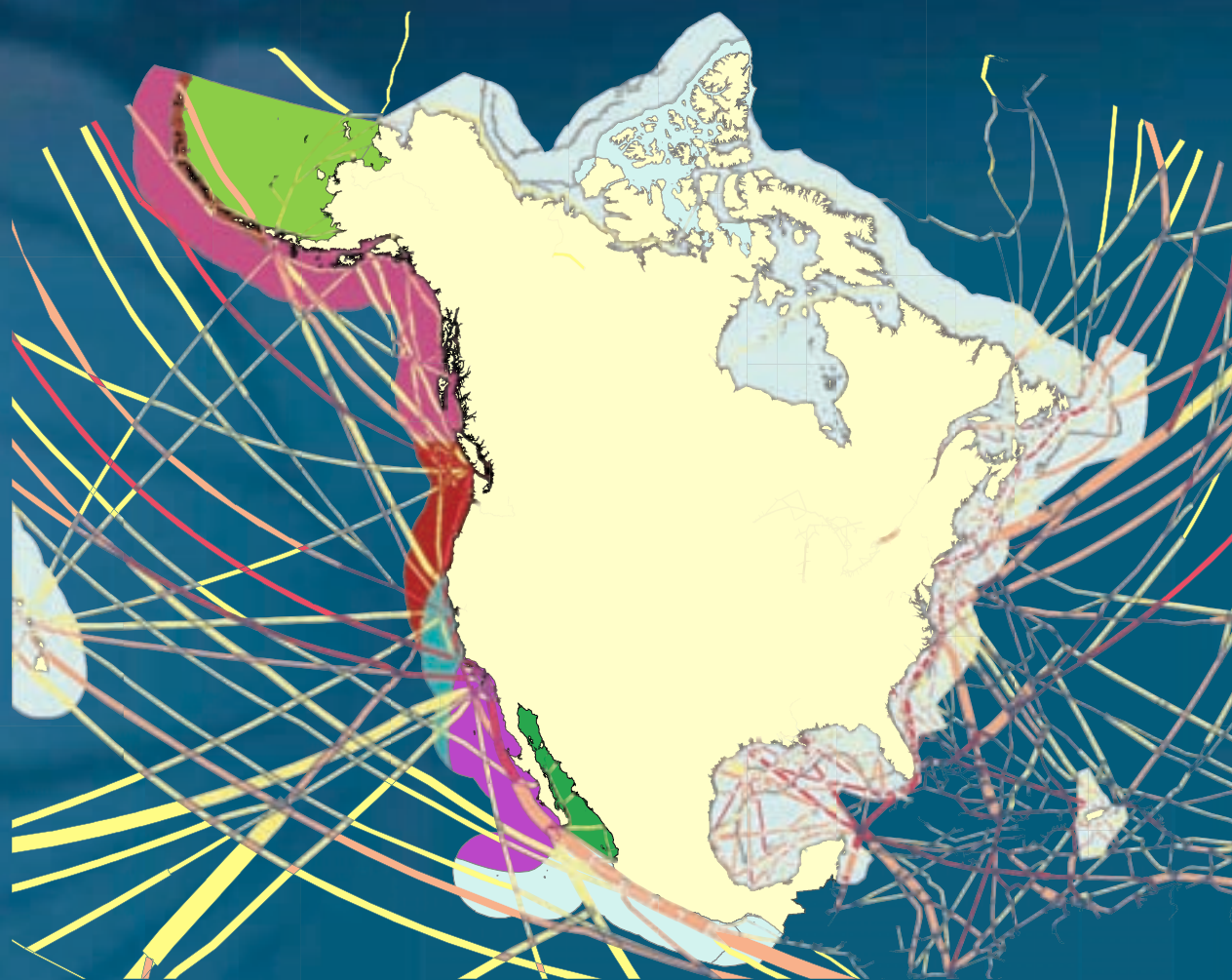


Potential for Decision-Making

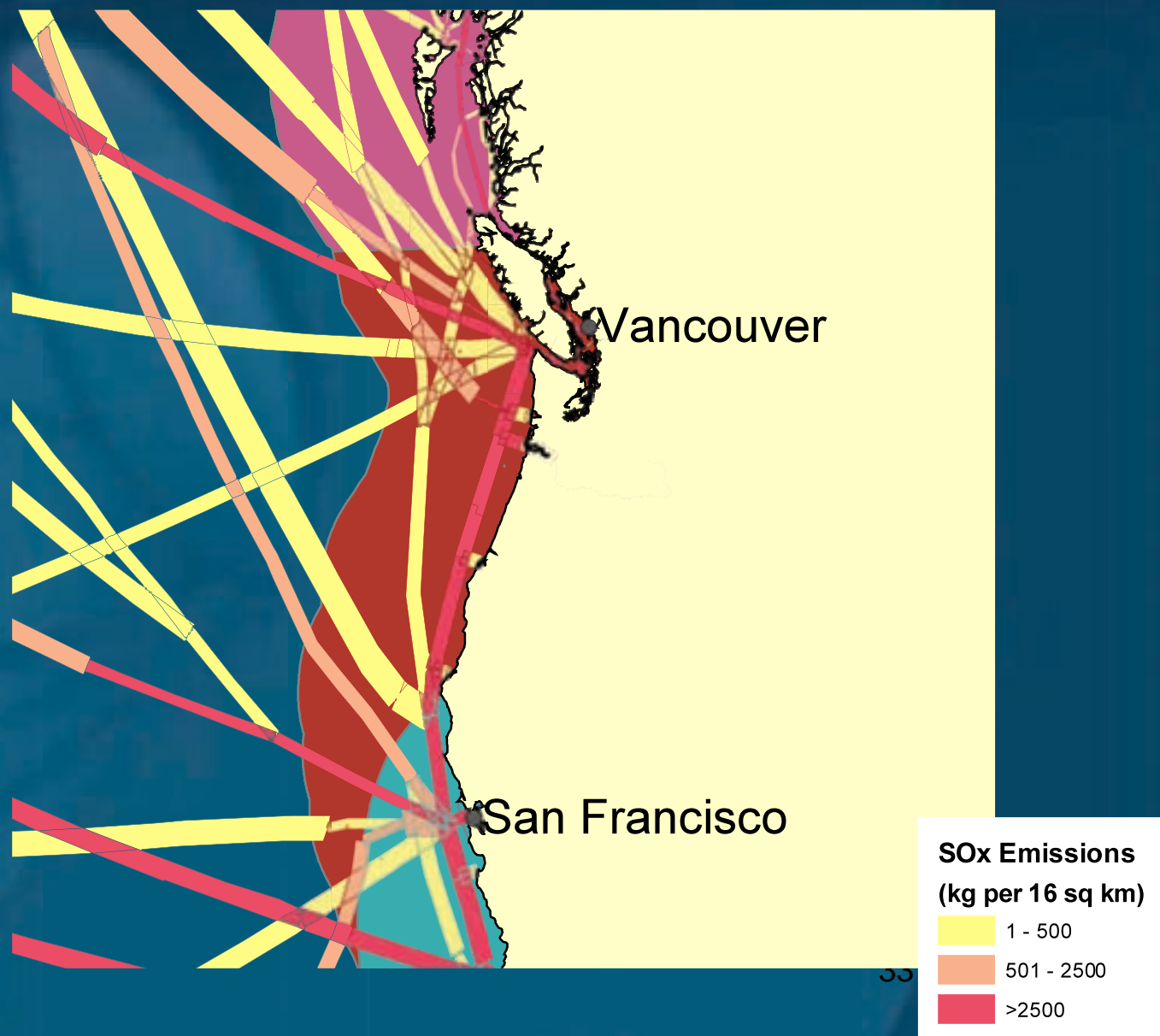
Cross-cutting issues



Marine Eco-regions

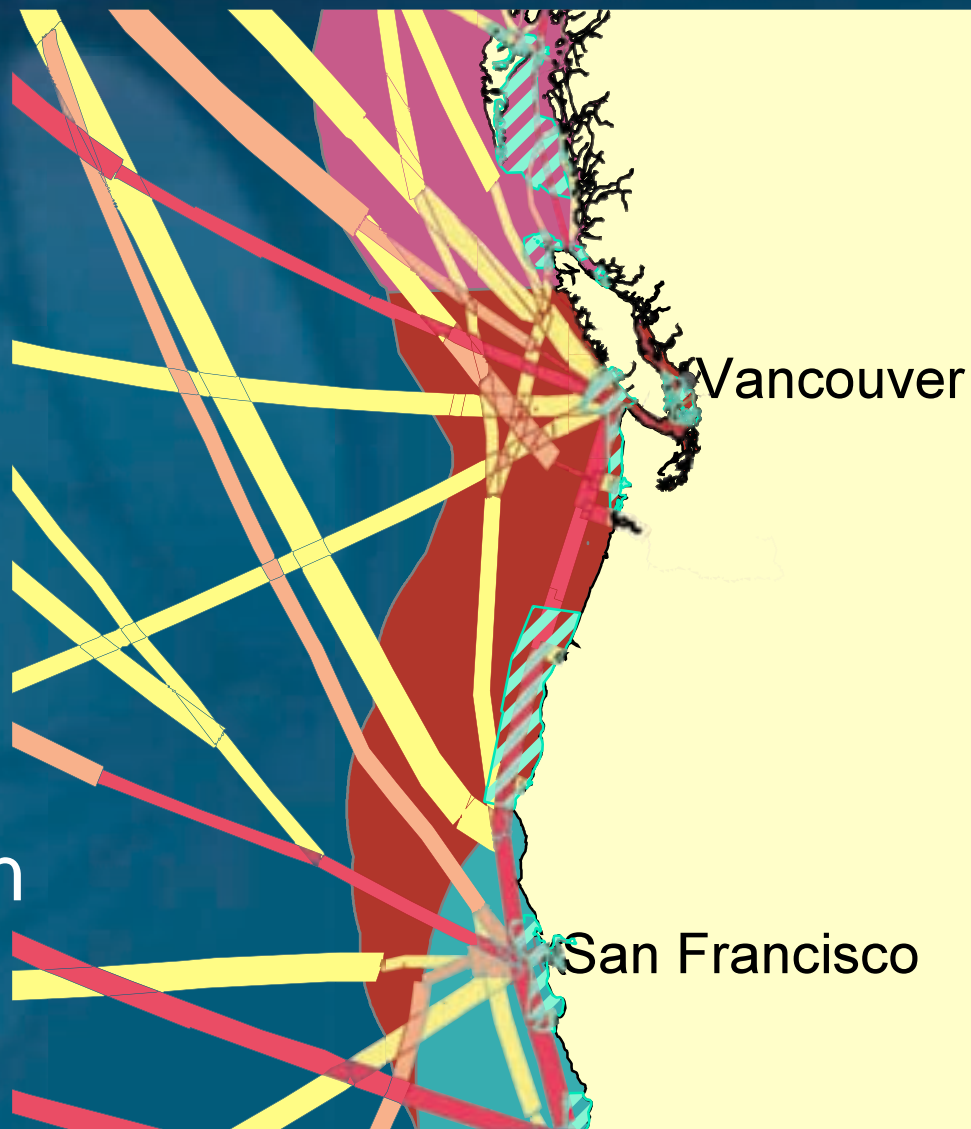


SO₂ Emissions from Shipping





Baja to Bering Priority Conservation Areas





Conclusions:

The Atlas ...

- Is essential for identifying and addressing *North American* environmental problems
- Helps identify *shared* environmental issues and *where* they occur
- Supports *priority* setting and reporting
- Promotes *coherence* in the cooperative program
- Facilitates *stakeholder* involvement
- Drives data *comparability* and compatibility

Common Base for Users

Multiple



- Council
- Governments: national, regional and local
- General Public
- NGO's
- Indigenous Peoples
- Scientific and Academic Communities
- International Organizations (e.g. UNEP)



The Future

- Adding map layers:
 - Population density
 - Demographic information
 - Continent-wide PRTR data
 - Environmental Monitoring and Assessment data
- Analysing priority opportunities and concerns:
 - Opportunities as they emerge from the cooperative program
 - Early warning, crisis issues
- Reporting on progress



Pollutants release and transfer register

Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes (RETC)



Ana Maria Contreras Vigil

June 2006

¿What is the RETC?

The RETC is a reporting system, under which toxics releases are described to the government by law and are publicly available.

RETC tracks releases and transfers for 104 chemicals to air, water, ground and underground.

Publication of the Information

Name: TEXTILES MODERNOS S.A. DE C.V.

Location: Carranza 25, Toluca, Edo. Méx.

Report year: 2004

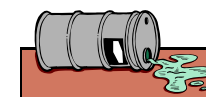
Air Releases
3 tons/year benzene



Haz waste transfers
3 tons/year chromo



Ground releases
3 tons/year Biphenyl



Water releases
10 tons/year de chloroform

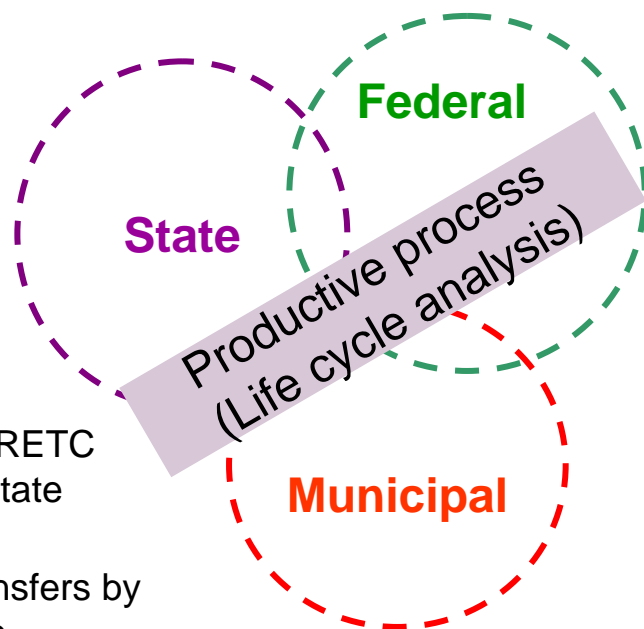


RETC National integration



State

- ❖ Criteria Pollutants and RETC chemicals to Air from State industrial sectors
- ❖ RETC Substances Transfers by Special handling Waste Generators



Federal

- ❖ Criteria Pollutants and RETC chemicals to Air from 11 industrial sectors
- ❖ RETC chemicals to national watershed
- ❖ RETC Substances Transfers by Hazardous Waste Generators

Municipal

- ❖ Criteria Pollutants and RETC chemicals to Air from services
- ❖ RETC chemicals to local sewage

Substances list

MEXICAN REGULATION

- Substances listed on NORMS (air, water and waste)
- Risk Assessment list substances
- Toxic substances (Health Department)

Other Substance
classified by:
Persistence
Bioaccumulation
Toxicity

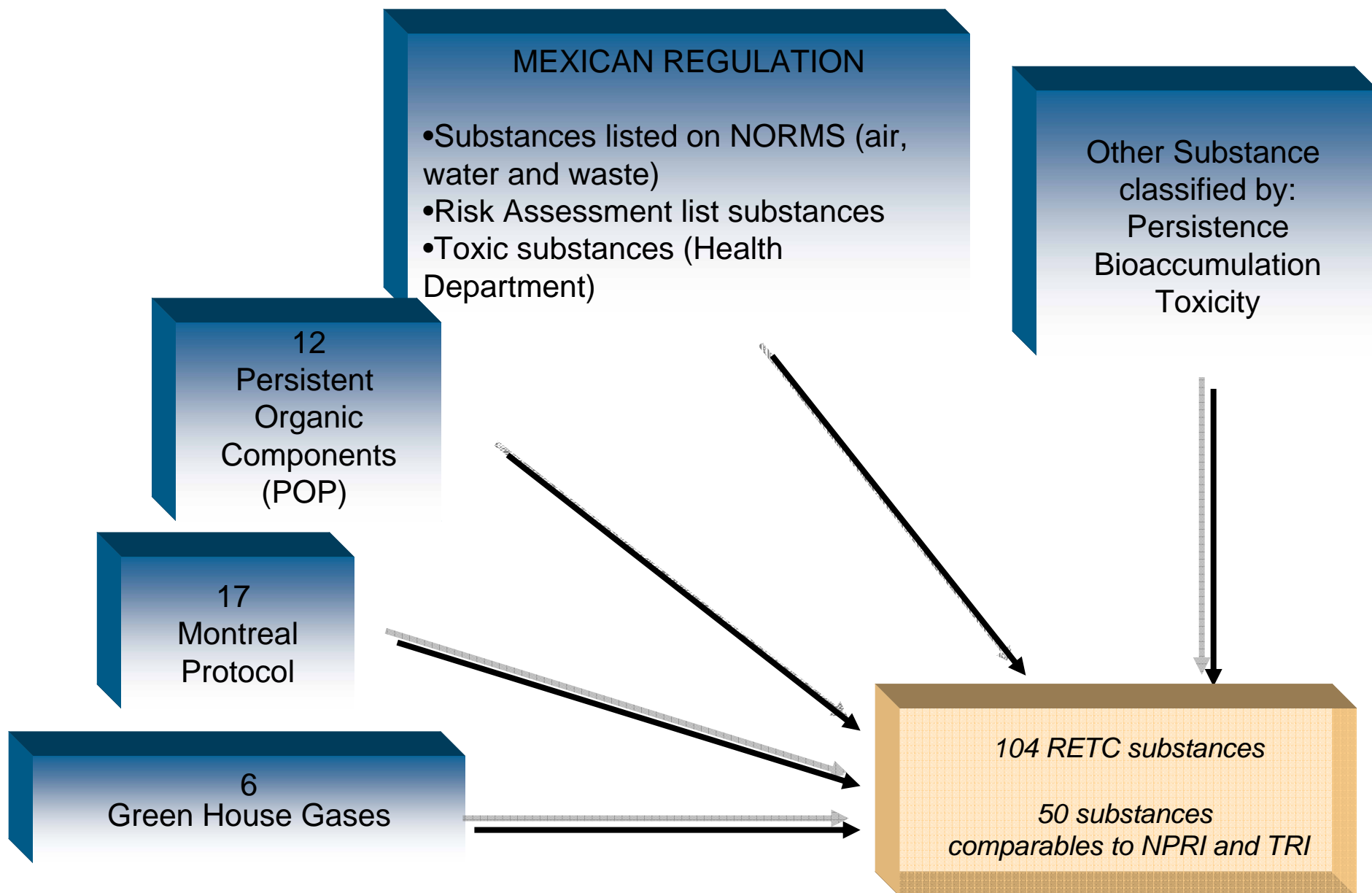
12
Persistent
Organic
Components
(POP)

17
Montreal
Protocol

6
Green House
Gases

104 *RETC* substances

50 substances
comparables to NPRI and TRI





- ❖ Capacity building in Mexico was a key element for RETC implementation
- ❖ Experiences sharing from US and Canada related their programs:
 - NPRI/ EC, 2002, 2004
 - TRI/EPA, 2002, 2003
- ❖ Conduct studies to assess releases and transfer of RETC, NPRI/TRI substances in México.
- ❖ Financial Support for the first RETC National workshop



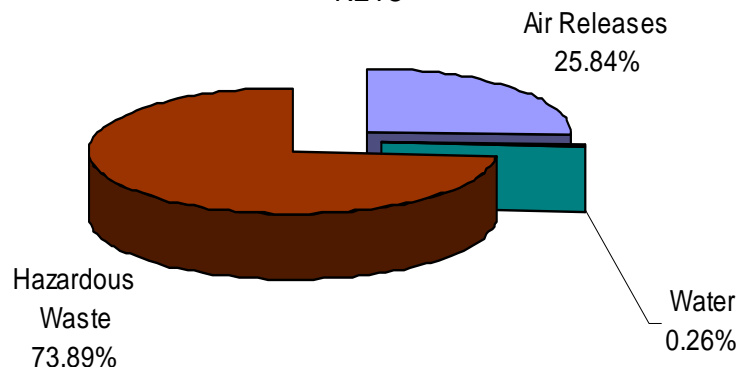
- ❖ Mandatory register establishing similar media receptor bodies and kind of transfers.
- ❖ Identification of industries and industrial sectors
- ❖ Chemical substances list and threshold
- ❖ General elements of comparability included in the electronic format
 - Accidental spills
 - Identification of final destinations of RETC substances transfers
 - Pollution prevention register
 - Process changes tracking

Actions accomplished

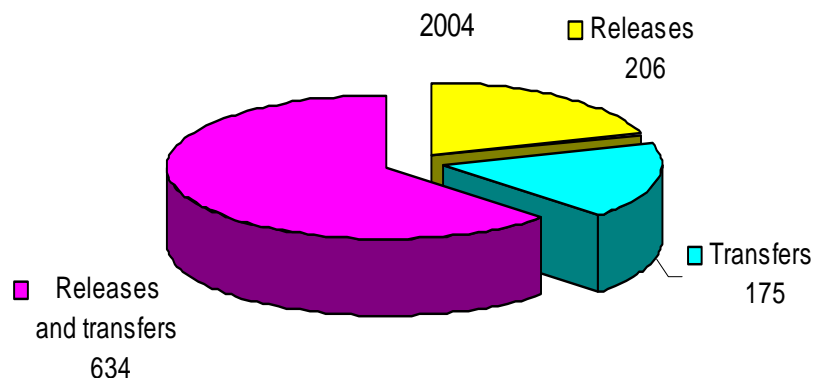
DECEMBER 2001	Modification to the Mexican Environmental Protection Law (Art. 109 bis).
JUNE 2004	RETC regulation publication.
JANUARY 2005	Application of an electronic format of the Annual Operation Report, National wide.
MARCH 2005	Preliminary list of 104 RETC substances.
NOVEMBER 2005	Addition of reports to the electronic format such as Haz waste generation and Emissions Inventory (NEI).
2005	Generation of educational material.
2004 and 2005	Provide training to around 7000 facilities, 30 industrial organizations and 4 workshops for States and Municipalities.
2005	Conduct Studies for the use of the substances in Mexico



DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES REPORTS INTEGRATED TO
RETC



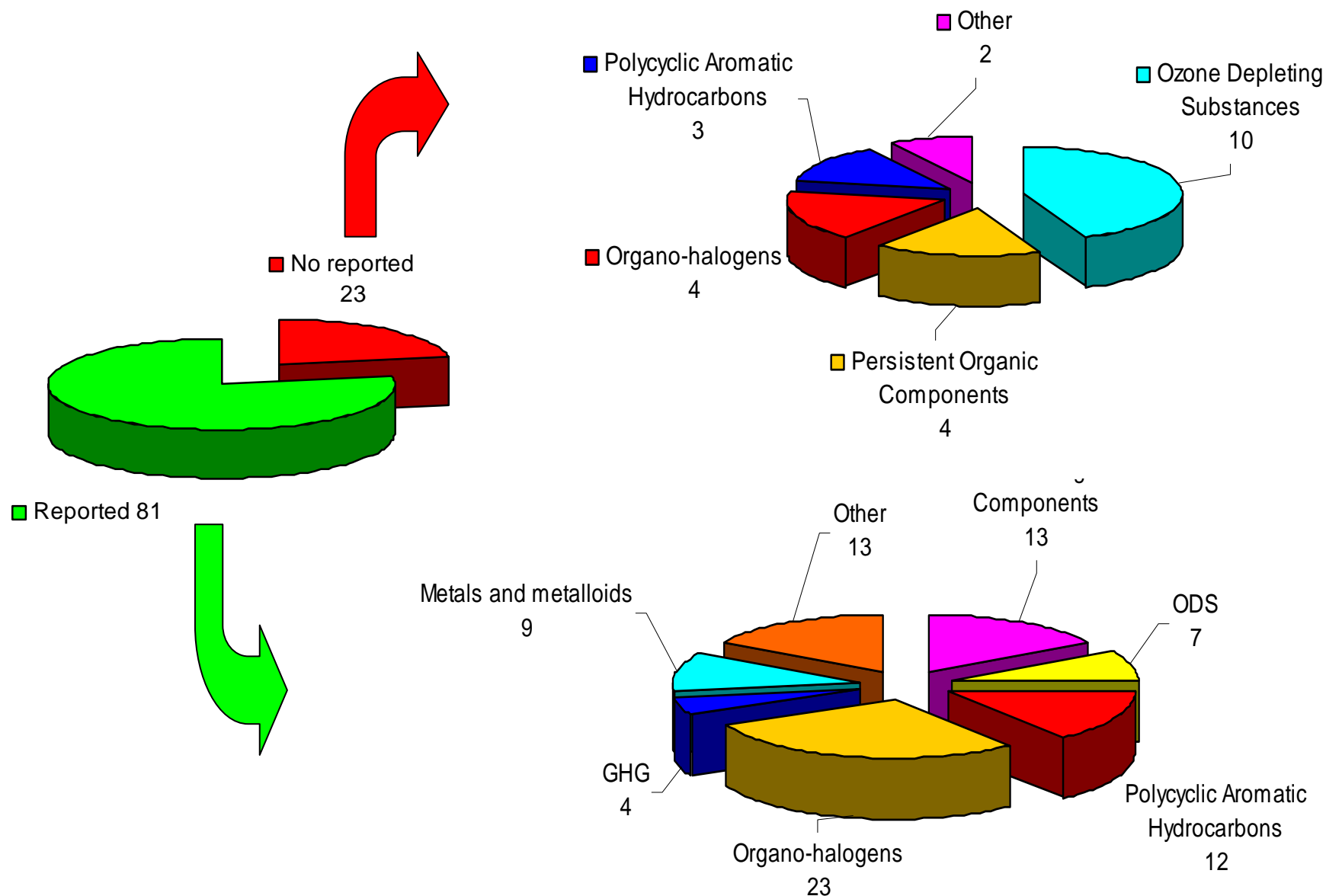
DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES THAT REPORT RELEASES AND/OR
TRANSFERS



2005

- 11,000 report received
- 9500 integrated to database
- 2600 reported air releases
- 25 reported water releases
- 7800 reported hazardous waste
- 1015 reported RETC Substances

RETC Substances reported



Further Steps



- Publication of RETC Preliminary first report. JULY 2006
- Improve RETC web page and searching tools.
- To establish agreements with the States and municipalities for the usage of the electronic report format.
- To promote homologation among States.
- Present the NORM draft document to the Mexico Advisory Committee for the list of RETC substances.
- Conduct diffusion campaigns to encourage the usage of RETC information within Industry, Research institutions and Government.
- Improve Systematization for data integration and database update.
- 5th National RETC workshop will take place in Durango on July 13th.

Participants



- Presencia Ciudadana
- Colectivo Ecologista Jalisco
- La Neta
- CONCAMIN
- CONCANACO
- COPARMEX
- CANIFARMA (Cámara Nacional de la Industria Farmacéutica)
- CNIH (Cámara Nacional de la Industria Hulera)
- CAMIMEX (Cámara Minera de México)
- CANACEM (Cámara Nacional de la Industria del Cemento)
- CANAFEM (Cámara Nacional de Fabricantes de Envases Metálicos)
- CANACINTRA (Cámara Nacional de la Industria de la Transformación)
- Cámara de la Industria de Aceites, Grasas, Jabones y Detergentes
- CNICER (Cámara Nacional de la Industria Cerillera)
- CANACERO (Cámara Nacional de la industria del Hierro y del Acero)
- Asociación Mexicana de la Industria Fitosanitaria
- Asociación Mexicana de la Industria de Motocicletas A. C.
- INICIATIVA GEMI
- AIEM (Asociación de industriales del Estado de México)
- AIEMAC (Asociación de industriales del Estado de Michoacán A. C.)
- Corportativo de Seguridad Industrial y Protección Ambiental de PEMEX
- Lex Corp Abogados
- Gómez Arnaíz ABOGADOS
- Carvajal y Asociados
- Gerencia de Protección Ambiental CFE
- Cámara Nacional de la Industria de Transformación del estado de Nuevo León
- Federación Mexicana de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental
- Asociación de la Industria Química
- Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Cal
- Colegio de Ingenieros Ambientales
- Colegio de Ingenieros Químicos

Thanks to all of them!



ESTABLECIMIENTO
Emisiones de Sustancias
Datos Generales de los Establecimientos
Tendencias de Emisiones
Transferencias de Sustancias
Generación de Residuos Peligrosos
Tendencias de Generación de Residuos Peligrosos
Transferencia
ESTADO
SECTOR
SUSTANCIA
DIRECTORIO

- Searching criteria
 - o Company
 - o State
 - o Industrial Sector
 - o Substance
- Air Substances release
- RETC Substances
- Releases tendencies
- Hazardous Waste tendencies

www.semarnat.gob.mx

Greening Supply Chains



Project Objectives

To improve competitiveness of value chains and of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) that supply large companies, by implementing a mechanism for business environmental management with a focus on eco-efficiency.



Features of the project



- Capacity building in SMEs
- Training and technical assistance
 - Learning by doing (companies develop their own projects)
 - Supplemented with Internet
- Financial assistance – Fiprev (when necessary)
- Incubation in large corporations
- Cost to the CEC: 134,000 USD



Participants – Suppliers (2005)

- 28 suppliers (24 finished the program)
 - 5 Colgate-Palmolive
 - 7 Bristol-Myers Squibb
 - 9 Janssen-Cilag
 - 7 Clarion
- Between 5 and 675 employees
- 66 persons involved



Identified Benefits

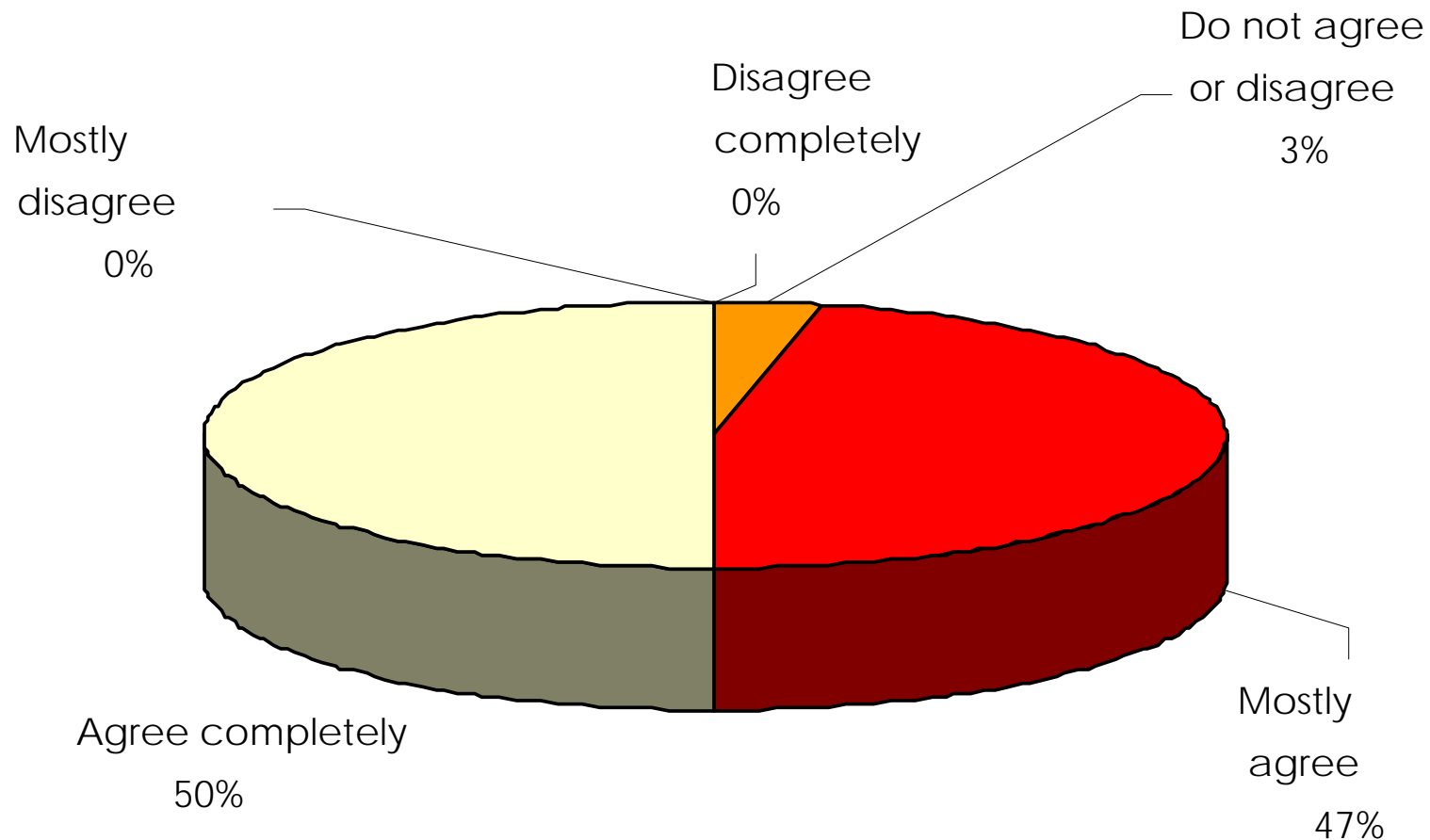


- Investments of P\$8,281,739
- Total savings of P\$14,445,683
- Average savings / company: P\$535,025
- Savings identified at P\$2,388 per hour / person involved
- Average recuperation / investment: 7 months
- 6 new supplier-supplier and client-supplier business relationships
- 1.46 million kWh / year
- 415 tonnes of paper / cardboard a year
- Water for 210 persons on a constant basis (15,307 m³ / year)
- 3 hectares of forest / year (444 m³ of wood)

Capacity building survey



Can you develop eco-efficiency projects in your company?



Conclusions



- The mechanism has been successful in:
 - *Improving the competitiveness of participating companies*
 - *Improving environmental performance*
 - *Building capacities in SMEs*
- It is more effective and efficient with medium-size companies.
- It is less costly than other traditional schemes for technical assistance.
- The project has potential for growth.

Conclusions



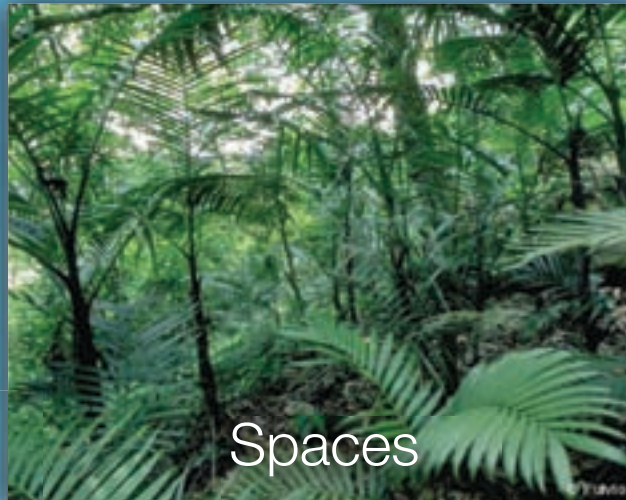
- The Supply Chain Project is consistent with the purpose of Profepa's National Environmental Audit Program that aims to improve environmental performance in enterprises.
- Profepa certification of all participating companies will be pursued.



Developing capacity to conserve species and
spaces of common concern

Implementing the Puebla Pillars

Strategic Plan for North American Cooperation in the Conservation of Biodiversity



Developing Capacity to conserve Species, Spaces and address threats

Capacity building to conserve Species of common concern:

The North American Conservation Action Plans



NACAPs



Capacity building to protect Spaces:

The Baja to Bering Marine Protected Areas Network

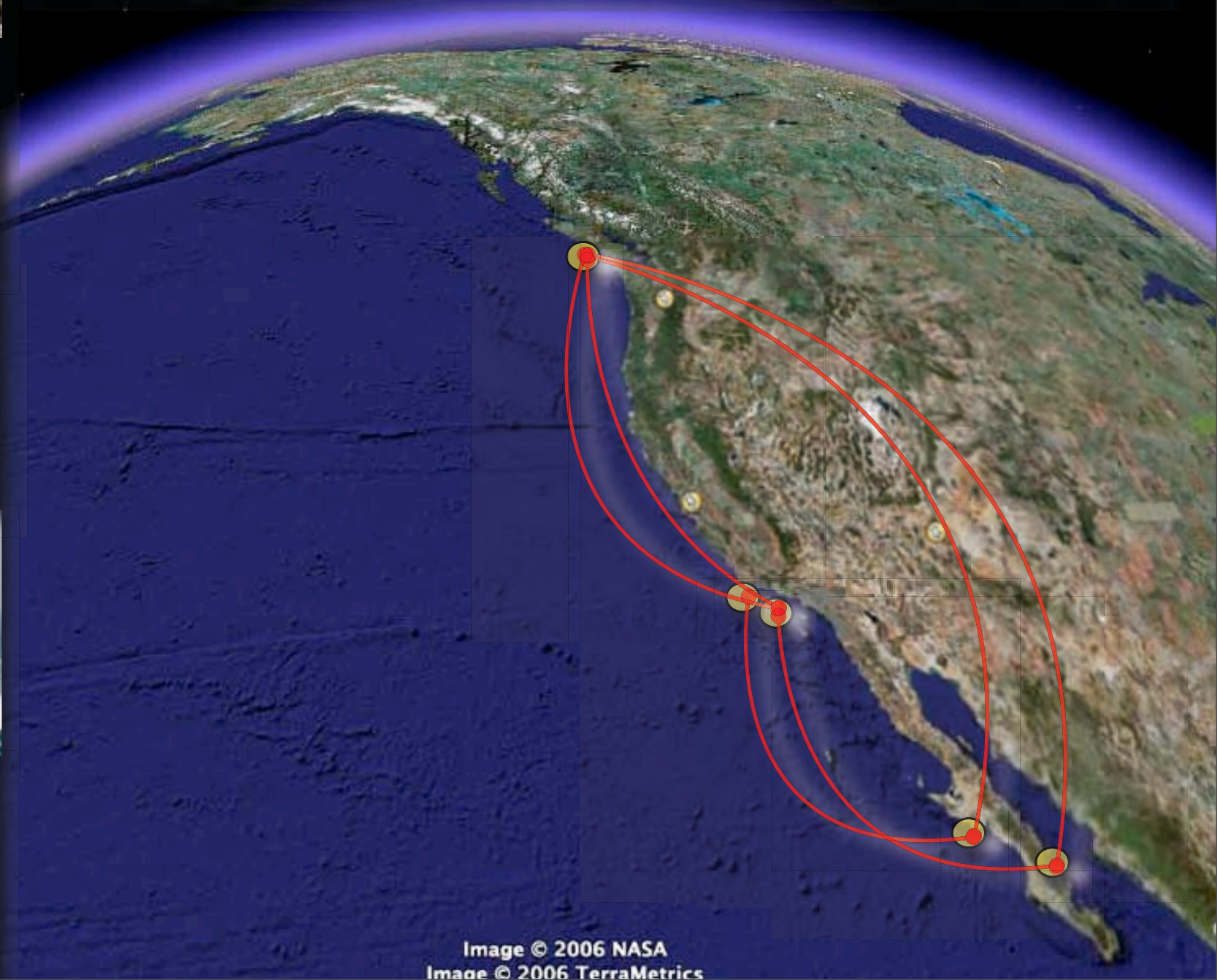


Image © 2006 NASA
Image © 2006 TerraMetrics

Capacity Building

Alliance between CEC's BCWG & the Trilateral Committee

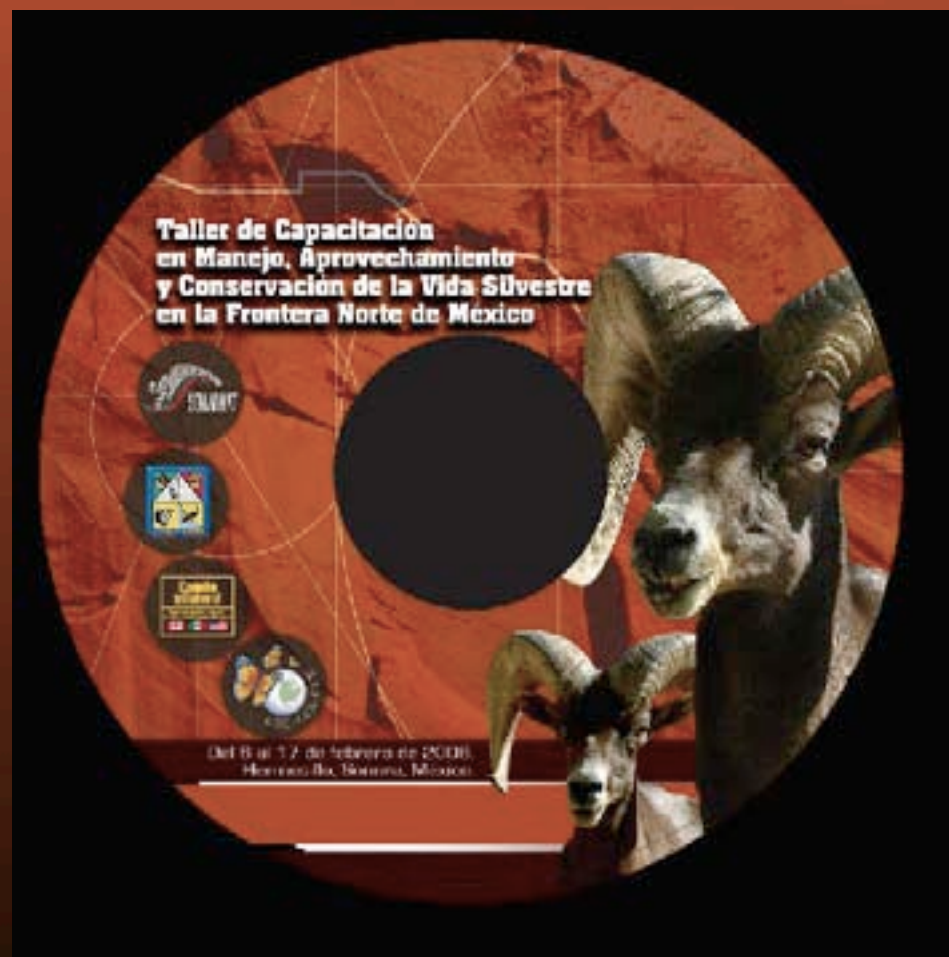
Support the decentralization of wildlife management authority to 6 Mexican Border State Government Agencies:

Training in:

- On fundamentals of conservation biology,
- Techniques and tools for wildlife management including addressing threats such as Invasive species,
- Existing legal national and international framework for wildlife and ecosystem conservation and sustainable use.

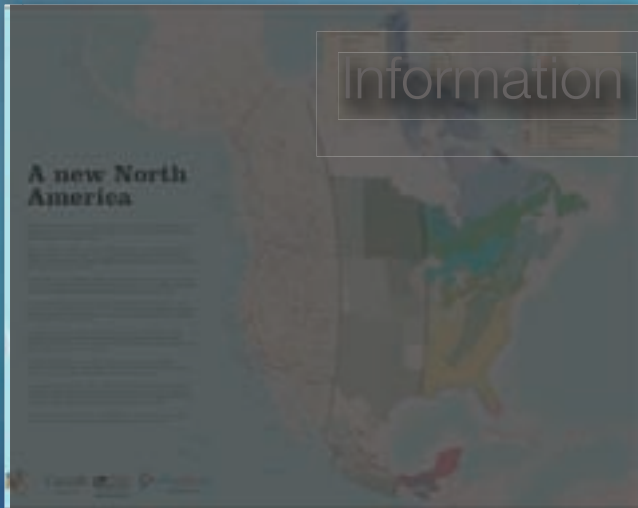
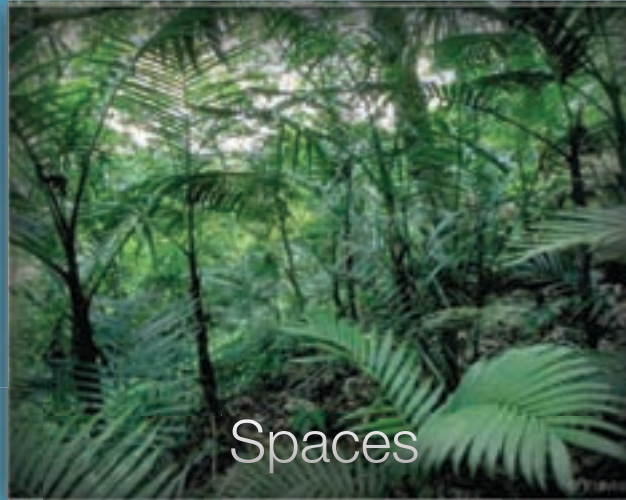
80 hours each workshop
> 35 trainers MX, CAN, US
31 agencies (universities,
Federal and State
Government agencies,
independent)

53 State Government officers
With a science degree
(biologists, veterinarians,
agronomy engineering)
Previously working on
agronomy, environment or NPAs



Implementing the Puebla Pillars

Strategic Plan for North American Cooperation in the Conservation of Biodiversity



Developing Capacity to conserve Species and Spaces of common concern

Trade and Environment Pillar

Guidelines for Risk Assessment on Invasive Alien Species and Their Pathways

CEC Council
June 28, 2006, Washington, DC



Why is this Project Important?

- Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are one of the major environmental and economic threats to North America.
- Countries may protect themselves from IAS under the SPS (WTO); thus, IAS can and do impact the trade of commodities and conveyances.
- Serious gaps in protection from IAS still exist in North America that are not addressed in existing agreements or other trilateral cooperation.
- Maximum progress can be made with minimum resources under the CEC, if priorities and goals are carefully considered.



What are the Goals?

- Address the protection of North America's ecosystems from the harmful effects of IAS.
- Assist in the development of a North American approach to prevent the introduction of selected IAS that would harm natural resources.



CEC Risk Assessment Development & Gap Identification

National Expert Workshop -- Mexico City – 2005

Invasive Species Tri-national Risk Assessment Development Meeting – Merida – 1/2006

Loricariid (sucker-mouth catfish) Workshop – Gainesville – 5/2006

Two basic needs had to be met before work could begin:

- (1) Develop a draft risk assessment process in line with current international trade standards -- completed and ready for testing**
- (2) Identify where the CEC should focus for maximum results -- Agreement to complete two assessments (snakeheads and sucker-mouth catfish). Feed into additional pathway assessment for aquarium freshwater fish trade. Future assessment needs identified but addressing them will be resource dependent.**





SNAKEHEADS

- Freshwater, air-breathing, predatory fish.
- 26 species native to Asia, 3 species native to Africa.
- All three countries are at risk.
- Already three separate populations established in the U.S.
- Were imported into the U.S.
- Are imported into Canada.
- Currently, no known importations into Mexico.



SUCKER-MOUTH CATFISH

- Common 'bread & butter' aquarium fish in all three countries.
- Most importations are from Southeastern Asia, some from South America.
- Cultured in Florida and Mexico for the aquarium industry.
- Currently unable to establish a population in Canada.
- Established populations in Mexico and the southeastern U.S.
- Caused the collapse of the valuable tilapia fishery in the Infiernillo Reservoir in Mexico.
- Burrow into banks to lay their eggs and are causing serious bank destabilization in the U.S. and Mexico.



Risk Assessment Partners

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Bioconservación AC

Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación

Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad

COMPROAQUA

Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

National Invasive Species Council

National Marine Fisheries Service

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Geological Survey

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Entrix Inc.



CEC's Operational Plan Project Activities for 2006

**Test and Evaluate Risk Analysis
Guidelines for Pathways and Species.**

**Develop a distributed information
system.**





Trade and Environment Pillar

Fostering Renewable Energy in North America

June 28, 2006 Washington, DC
Council, 2006



Why is this Important?

Environmental benefits

- Electricity demand: ↑ 15% by 2010;
↑ 33% by 2020 (from 2000)
- Increased demand requires increased production; leading to increased pollution and GHG
- Opportunity to avoid some of these emissions by increasing the share of renewables



Why is this Important?

Non-environmental benefits

- Diversification of electricity sources
- Alleviation of supply and security concerns
- Reduced price volatility
- Increased reliability of the grid for some on-site generation



What is the Goal?

- Promote renewables
- Address informational and transactional barriers
- Enhance NA trade
- Improve regional and national coordination



CEC 2006 deliverables

Under REEC advice

- **Reports**

- Existing RE mapping and gaps in NA
- Best practices for financing small-scale RE projects
- Report on key drivers for fostering renewable electricity

- **Database/tools**

- Existing RE laws and policies by state and province
- Web-based tool to calculate avoided emissions from RE
- NA one-stop on solar, wind and biomass information

- **Networks**

- Solar, biomass, wind



- **Fact sheet**

- Procurement of RE





REEC Activities: Ongoing and Proposed

Address Financial Barriers

-  • Develop practical guides to select, finance, and install small renewables projects
-  • Demonstrate benefits of renewables as a hedge against fuel costs fluctuation

Address knowledge/Information Barriers

-  • Update and expand the North American Renewable Energy Database
- Document key market drivers for renewable thermal applications and renewable fuels
-  • Develop recognition programs for commercial, industrial, and institutional purchasers of renewable electricity





REEC Activities: Ongoing and Proposed (continued)

Address Regulatory/Technology Barriers

-  • Compile and share best practices for integration of renewable energy into the grid
- Facilitate deployment of RE technologies

Foster NA Market for Renewables

-  • Support development of a NA market for renewables and RE certificates
-  • Advance federal government renewable electricity procurement



Path Forward

- Acknowledge importance of renewables to greening trade
- Council receives report on *Fostering Renewable Electricity Markets in North America*
- Council agrees that CEC renewable energy activities continue



An aerial photograph of a coastal area, likely in the Pacific Northwest, showing a large green island or headland with a complex network of waterways and smaller islands. The surrounding water is a deep blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Commission for
Environmental
Cooperation

North American
Sound
Management of
Chemicals
Strategy

Chemicals Management in North America

- Chemical industry is important in Canada, Mexico, United States
- Sound management of chemicals is critical to health, environment, global competitiveness
- Key opportunities exist for leadership in chemicals management

CEC provides a valuable forum for chemicals management in North America.



CEC Sound Management of Chemicals Agenda 1995–2005

- Aligning North American priorities for chemicals management
- Implementing North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs) as top priorities
 - chlordane, DDT, PCBs, mercury, environmental monitoring and assessment
- Helping the three countries to advance international objectives



Proposal for a Renewed Approach (2006–2020)

- Re-aligning with Puebla Declaration and existing domestic and international activities
 - Focus on sectors and compatible efforts
- Actively involving stakeholders as partners
- Leveraging our resources
- Helping Parties advance international objectives (SAICM, WSSD 2020 Goals)
- Cross-linking with other CEC programs



Path Forward

- Council endorsement of renewed approach
- Initial activities under new approach:
 - Development of proposals to meet Mexican monitoring and assessment needs
 - Pilot projects in strategic sectors
 - Support for regulatory/non-regulatory initiatives
 - Stakeholder workshop for further issue identification



**Thirteenth Regular Session of the Council of the Commission for Environmental
Cooperation of North America
Summary of oral interventions made during the public portion of the meeting**

Washington, DC, 28 June 2006

DISCLAIMER: Although this summary was prepared with care and seeks to accurately reflect the presenter's statements, readers should be advised that it has not been reviewed nor approved by the presenters and therefore may not accurately reflect their statements.

The session was chaired by Carlos Sandoval, JPAC chair, who explained the format of the Council's public session. He introduced each of the members of the panel, including David McGovern, José Manuel Bulás Montoro and Jerry Clifford, Alternate Representatives for Canada, Mexico and the United States, respectively, and thanked William Kennedy, Executive Director of the CEC. Mr. Sandoval explained that the objective of this session was to allow the Alternate Representatives to hear a number of proposals from previously selected participants and to present to the Council representatives the most relevant issues resulting from the JPAC meeting held the day before.

I. Report by the JPAC to the Council Representatives on the keynote presentations made during its Renewable Energy Workshop

Mr. Sandoval opened the floor to Eduardo Rincón, JPAC member, who explained that the JPAC workshop focused on renewable energy (RE), which included biofuels, solar energy and wind power. He summarized the main issues presented by each of the keynote speakers, as follows:

According to **Mr. Odon de Buen, president, *Energía, Tecnología y Educación, S.C.***, pointed out a general lack of interest in renewable energy alternatives, citing Mexico as an example, where 75 percent of the energy comes from nonrenewable fossil fuels. Regarding the use of biomass, Mr. de Buen considers the main barrier could be cultural and that solar energy offers great potential, especially in Mexico.

Ms. Carmen Becerril, director of corporate development of *Acciona Energía*, expressed that the current energy system is unsustainable, leaving thousands without access, especially in remote communities. There needs to be a long-term commitment from government and society-at-large to invest in RE for the benefit of future generations.

Dr. Martin J. Pasqualetti, professor, Arizona State University, affirmed that wind power could make major contributions to solving the energy problem, and it is increasingly popular for its environmental benefits, relatively low impacts and costs. The technology is improving—windmills can be installed and removed without major negative long-term impacts.

Mrs. Barbara Bramble, senior advisor, National Wildlife Federation, spoke about the use of biofuels as an alternative to energy production. According to the NWF the pursuit

of RE has got to take into consideration improving the health of people and the ecosystems.

Mr. Jim Presswood, NRDC energy advocate, proposed the use of biofuels and biodegradable plastics to reduce pollution and tackle global warming. He spoke about such environmental concerns as the melting of the polar icecap. He also advocated new alternatives like ethanol for vehicle consumption.

Mr. Matt Clouse proposed voluntary green markets, and the use of federal clean energy funds to prevent greenhouse emissions.

II. Presentations to the Council representatives by selected rapporteurs, summarizing the results of the break-out sessions of the JPAC Renewable Energy Workshop

Mr. Sandoval introduced Mr. Martín Mendoza, executive of the Industry Chamber for the Renovation of Nuevo León, to present the outcomes of the workshop.

Mr. Martín Mendoza thanked the Alternate Representatives and the members of JPAC for having selected him to present on their behalf. Mr. Mendoza reminded the audience that the spirit of NAFTA and the CEC is the cooperation among the three countries to increase economic and environmental benefits, and these benefits cannot be achieved in isolation because sustainable development requires economic growth and care for the environment. The central topic for the workshop was Renewable Energy, and it was considered not only as a priority for guaranteeing an energy supply for the majority of the population, but also because of the environmental impacts that petroleum-based economies have on the environment, particularly on global warming. In addition, he asserted that renewable energies are compatible with efforts for the protection of the environment. In this context, the issue of RE has been of high priority for JPAC because it represents an alternative with great potential for economic development and the protection of the environment.

Mr. Mendoza extended the following recommendations to the Council:

The three North American countries should:

- Aim at having standardized criteria for the establishment of RE policies.
- Have open and inclusive processes for the development of RE policies.
- Promote RE projects as part of a comprehensive national policy that favors energy efficiency.
- Clearly define national positions with regards to the Kyoto Protocol and the use of nuclear energy.
- Create links between national energy and economic development policies; take into consideration parallel issues like poverty and access for those in remote communities.
- Promote local community involvement for the development of RE projects.
- Establish common strategies to carry out RE policies.
- Set clear objectives, goals and indicators to be able to measure the environmental benefits of RE programs and projects

- Take into consideration that RE is not subject to international price regulations.

Mr. Mendoza underlined the importance of strengthening collaboration ties between the CEC and those sectors that can positively influence change, such as the industry and the private sector. In addition, he stressed the need to give continuity to the work of the JPAC and the national committees.

III. Individual interventions by pre-registered speakers and members of the public to the Council Representatives

Maureen Carter-Whitney, research director, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, thanked the CEC for the opportunity to speak before the Council Representatives and expressed her disappointment of the absence of the Council members. In her presentation, she urged the CEC to broaden SMOC's work to address two categories of emerging contaminants: 1) pharmaceutical, personal care products and other endocrine-disrupting substances; and 2) nanotechnology and biotechnology.

She explained that pharmaceutical, personal care products and other endocrine-disrupting substances are defined as "chemical substances that alter the physiological state of living organisms." Their use has increased significantly, not only in human medicine but also in veterinary medicine and aquaculture. These emerging contaminants are discharged or discarded into wastewater; many are removed by wastewater treatment but others are persistent, even surviving water purification treatment.

Pharmaceuticals such as antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance. Personal care products like shampoos and soaps can have another set of impacts due to the endocrine-disrupting substances they contain. There is a vital need for more research to better understand their health effects in humans and other large mammals. With regard to materials created through innovations such as nanotechnology and biotechnology, these introduce the potential for the release of contaminants into the environment. Nanotechnology involves techniques that manipulate materials on the scale of atoms and molecules. However, at the nano-scale the building blocks that make up all materials have very different properties. In general, substances at the nano-scale are more reactive and toxic than at the micro- or macro-scale. Tissue damage to lungs, brains and hearts has been found in animal species exposed to nano-materials, and there are concerns that nano-scale particles may be able to penetrate barriers in the body that exclude larger particles. A 2004 report stated that almost nothing is known about the behavior of nano-particles in the environment and recommended that environmental releases of manufactured nano-particles be avoided as far as possible until more is known. Ms. Carter-Whitney stated that, as with pharmaceuticals, more research is needed on nanotechnology and encouraged the CEC to address these concerns in future SMOC work when identifying issues and setting priorities in relation to chemicals of common concern.

Mr. Scott Edwards, legal director of the Waterkeeper Alliance, thanked the CEC for the opportunity to address Article 14 submission issues before the Council but expressed

his sincere disappointment for their absence, saying that it gives the appearance that the meeting is not important enough for them to attend. Mr. Edwards presented a brief background of the organization, which comprises more than 155 local waterkeepers, baykeepers, riverkeepers, lakekeepers and others around the world, with programs in Africa, South and Central America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Waterkeepers are joined by their common interest in protecting the world's water and their belief that effective environmental protection is best achieved by active citizen involvement.

While the Alliance typically has taken advantage of the citizen suit provisions of US environmental protection and under Canada's comparable provisions, they have, in the past few years, presented three submissions under Article 14. The first, concerning harmful emissions from Ontario's coal-fired power plants, resulted in written assurances by the Ontario government that these facilities would be phased out by 2007. Recently, Ontario has announced its intention to renege on that promise and the Alliance will take action to revive this submission.

The second submission addressed toxic chemicals—including PCBs—leaching from a landfill at the Technoparc site in Montreal. This submission has resulted in the ongoing preparation of a factual record and hopefully the City of Montreal will properly remediate the site.

The third and most recent submission was filed in September 2004. In it, the Alliance alleges a systemic failure by the US government to address the release of almost 50 tons per year of mercury from the country's 1100 coal-fired power plants. The Alliance believes that EPA's refusal to address such issues properly is in violation of several provisions of the Clean Water Act and represents a failure by the agency to fulfill its obligation to protect the US citizens from the devastating effects of mercury contamination. Mr. Edwards said that almost seven months ago the CEC recommended to the Council that a factual record be prepared to address this alleged enforcement failure and that unfortunately to date the Council has failed to act on the Secretariat's recommendation and the submission has apparently reached an unjustifiable roadblock.

The Alliance takes the CEC submission process very seriously and has provided carefully researched and compiled appendices of supporting material. Mercury contamination is one of the paramount environmental issues facing North America today. Mr. Edwards stated that EPA's own researchers have suggested that up to 630,000 children are born in the United States each year with unsafe levels of mercury in their blood. Nevertheless, EPA still refuses to require coal-fired power plants to implement readily available control technologies that would result in a 90-percent reduction in mercury emissions as the Clean Air Act clearly demands.

The Waterkeeper Alliance still awaits the Council's decision, almost two years after the initial submission. Mr. Edwards emphasized the Waterkeepers' concern that this process has been delayed so long and stressed the fact that everyone who creates these submissions works long hours with scant resources, because they believe that such submissions represent a sincere effort to remedy immediate, pressing concerns.

Waterkeepers have placed their trust in the CEC that their issues will be addressed in an impartial and timely fashion in recognition of the importance of the issues they raise. Mr. Edwards fears that such inactivity on the Council's part sends a clear signal to the environmental community and other concerned citizens that the Council does not value the citizen submission process. He added that the Ministers' decision not to attend this session further reinforces this signal and called their absence disgraceful. Mr. Edwards urged the Council to adopt a rule to include clear deadlines for the Council to respond to the Secretariat's recommendations. Such deadlines will help ensure that submissions are duly and fairly considered.

Mr. Alejandro Sosa, of the *Iniciativa GEMI México*, focused on increased collaboration between the private sector and the work of the CEC. According to *Iniciativa GEMI*, the best approach to look into the future is to work on it; 12 years after the creation of the CEC there have been significant steps forward on environmental issues as well as a better understanding amongst the countries. During this process, *Iniciativa GEMI* considers that the key has been the cooperation that has resulted in concrete progress in a time of increasing globalization. North America, he said, has become a trading block that has to increase its economic growth to face other competing economies like those of China and India. For this reason, GEMI welcomed CEC's recent commitment to open up more collaborative channels with the private sector, as GEMI believes this is the driving force for the countries' economies. The private sector is steadily looking for competitiveness and efficiency, and more than ever for better environmental performance. Mr. Sosa then proposed the following projects that, according to *Iniciativa GEMI*, are in line with common trilateral interests that lend themselves to strategic win-win situations:

1. Quality of the information for decision making

- a. Strengthen the RETC— strengthening and ensuring the reliability of its data collection mechanism in Mexico, the *Cedula de Operación Anual* (COA)
- b. Exchange information and lessons learned for cost-effective environmental policy
- c. Climate change

2. Environment and Trade

- a. Diagnosis to improve competitiveness among member countries
- b. Harmonization of the classification and labeling of chemicals (Global Harmonized System, GHS REACH)

3. Capacity Building

- a. Establish environmental benchmarking and promote exchanges of best practices
- b. Promote capacity building in corporate responsibility and environmental leadership

Lastly, Mr. Sosa expressed his support for the openness and transparency of the selection process for the next executive director of the CEC that is being led by Semarnat.

Ms. Emilie Moorhouse, atmosphere and energy campaigner of the Sierra Club of Canada, thanked the panel for the opportunity to address the thirteenth Regular Session of the Council and acknowledged that meetings such as this are an important and rare opportunity for members of environmental organizations to communicate directly with the three ministers of the environment, which is why she finds their absence all the more disappointing. She recommended that in future meetings of the CEC, public presentations be scheduled at the beginning of the meetings to ensure that they are given in front of the Ministers.

She presented a brief background on the Sierra Club of Canada, an independent national organization with members and offices across Canada, and began her presentation on the interrelated problems of clean air and climate change. Ms. Moorhouse explained that people across North America are increasingly suffering from respiratory diseases due to air pollution. According to Sierra Club of Canada, to date, governments have avoided dealing with pollution, often placing industrial economic interests above public health and the environment. The result of this approach is evident in the increased asthma rates and premature deaths due to smog. Ms. Moorhouse called for immediate action, stating that the planet is warming and this will make the situation worse.

She mentioned that in Canada and the United States, governments have attempted to separate air pollution and climate change and called this disconnect unfortunate, because the cause, fossil fuel combustion, and therefore the solutions, are the same. Adding that a recent study released by the European Environment Agency shows that integrating action on climate change with action for clean air would deliver considerable ancillary benefits in air pollution abatement, Ms. Moorhouse went on to explain that the report's findings clearly showed that without an integrated approach to tackling climate change and air pollution, there would be a higher number of premature deaths due to smog. She urged the council members to take these findings into account when crafting solutions for clean air and congratulated the government of Quebec on the recent announcement of its climate change plan.

Ms. Moorhouse considers it of particular importance that the CEC assist in creating a North American standard to reduce car pollution and that the Commission, together with the three federal governments, should stand up to the car industry, which strongly opposes any such regulation. She also mentioned as desirable a regulation requiring an improvement in average fuel economy to at least 40 miles per gallon and that such a level is technically and economically feasible. She then posed the question: so why are we waiting?

Ms. Moorhouse mentioned that recently in Canada, the Kyoto Protocol and especially the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) have been under increased criticism, mostly from the new federal government, and that this looks as if Canada's new government doesn't understand the true value of assisting developing countries to reduce emissions increases. Ms. Moorhouse said that she had hoped that during this meeting, Mexico could explain to our Honorable Minister of Environment the advantages of the CDM under the Kyoto Protocol. Sierra Club of Canada views CDM as a great opportunity for increased

cooperation between Canada, Mexico and the United States for installing Canadian and US green technologies and for promoting clean development in Mexico.

In her closing statement, she said the Sierra Club of Canada urges the United States to join Mexico and Canada in ratifying the Kyoto protocol, explaining the importance of the US contribution for achieving success in the global fight against climate change.

Barbara J. Bramble, senior program advisor for international affairs for the **National Wildlife Federation**, began by reflecting that this meeting was supposed to be a meeting of the Council, not of the Alternate Representatives, stating that there may be occasions when this is unavoidable, but it looks like this year the Council members are trying to set a precedent by their absence and to lower the profile of the CEC even further. She added that interested public representatives, especially from Canada and Mexico, made a great effort to be at the meeting and find it unacceptable that the public officials don't show up for the meeting with the public.

She then proceeded to commend the CEC and JPAC for their excellent work, each in their separate roles, on renewable energy. Ms. Bramble explained that there might be different reasons as to why people are so interested in RE, it could be because of national security, or the high price of oil and gas, but for most of the NGOs the primary purpose is to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and to tackle the threat of global warming.

The threat of global warming is important both for its impacts on people and on ecosystems. Therefore, pursuing RE must be improving the health of people and ecosystems, or at least not to make them worse. The Federation has been focusing on biofuels from a dual perspective of both, promoting these industries and helping ensure that this is done in a sustainable way. For this reason, the National Wildlife Federation has been looking at principles and criteria that would identify the most sustainable options for RE, those that really do reduce greenhouse gasses, those that include the social concerns—particularly of low income and indigenous peoples, and those that protect water supplies and protect biodiversity. Based on these principles, Ms. Bramble presented three main recommendations for continued CEC work on renewable energy. The first, she explained, has to do with the excellent mapping exercises that have started: the atlas, the watersheds, and RE mapping. She recommended combining them and continuing to add extra layers, e.g., protected areas, Important Bird Areas (IBAs), and other pristine areas that shouldn't be open for agriculture or other such activities. The second recommendation would be a new role for the CEC as convener of full, multi-stakeholder dialogue on RE and the criteria described above. The third recommendation would be to include in the mandate of the CEC's RE Experts Committee the question of identifying and promoting the sustainable criteria for production of biofuels for transportation. Ms. Bramble thanked William V. Kennedy for the work that the CEC has performed for North America.

Ing. Guillermo Barroso, from **Pronatura**, began by thanking the Alternate Representatives for their time and kindly requested that they inform the Council members about the presentations that were made and then to report back to the public on the

Council's responses. He, too, expressed his disappointment for the absence of the Council members.

Mexico, he said, is a country of contrasts that offers myriad opportunities and challenges for creating scenarios bringing together nature and development for the benefit of future generations. Poverty and the degradation of the environment are inextricably linked—for people living in poverty the present is more pressing than the future. For them to be able to supply their most basic needs, such as food, the priority is to obtain income and resources in the short term, even if intensive extraction practices lead to resources becoming exhaust in the mid term, and with this decreasing their prospects of improvement in the future. This behavior does not come from their desire to exploit resources in an irresponsible way or to become rich, but from a true need for survival. The damage to our biological diversity, more than a problem, is a moral tragedy of tremendous scope and historical significance that entails the loss of the public's strategic natural riches and places us in a vicious cycle that affects most those who are closest to the natural resources.

Right now many communities suffer a nearly total lack of capital, tools and knowledge to make adequate use of their natural resources. This vicious cycle of unsustainable practices is not unique to Mexico; it is present in almost any developing country. Paradoxically, malnutrition, an important poverty indicator, is higher in areas where biodiversity is the richest. In Mexico, we can observe that the marginality indexes correlate exactly with those of biological richness—e.g., the poorest states are the richest in biodiversity. Mr. Barroso explained that 80 percent of the forests and jungle in Mexico are ejidos—communal properties with the highest levels of poverty and marginality and this has a direct impact on social phenomena like emigration, land-use change, lack of identity, and even, in some cases, drug trafficking. That's why it's important that the fight against poverty and nature conservation go hand-in-hand. The fact that the ejidos and other forms of communal lands are owned by people who average 60 years of age, or more, makes it difficult to implement new and better means to make use of the environment in a sustainable fashion.

Mr. Barroso pointed out that there is no magic bullet for solving these problems. Notwithstanding, there are market mechanisms that allow internalizing the costs of fighting against poverty while sustainably managing our natural wealth. This approach requires, among other things, for us to put into practice innovative models that join environmental protection with positive effects on the poor, with schemes that foster social development—for example, encouraging ecotourism, green certification, diversification of cattle and crop practices; promoting green markets to position local products that benefit their producers directly, thus breaking the chain of intermediaries; strengthening local organizational efforts by providing capacity building and training, and advice in sustainable entrepreneurship.

In this context, Mr. Barroso extended the following recommendations to the CEC:

- Replicate successful practices that link markets with sustainable production, including sustainable fisheries and certification for sea products.

- Include within the North American Conservation Action Plans (NACAPs) as a priority action, the combating of poverty through capacity building and training in market mechanisms that foster the sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Take advantage of successful experiences and lessons learned in administration of natural resources and provide training for decision makers and public officials at the various levels in the three countries.

In his opening remarks, **Mr. Randy Christensen, staff lawyer** for the **Sierra Legal Defense Fund (SLDF)**, reminded the audience that the CEC was created to address the concerns of the citizens of North America that NAFTA would come in effect at the expense of the environment. The CEC and the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation represent promises NAFTA won't take place to the detriment of our environment. He acknowledged the CEC has provided many benefits to the citizens of North America, from the work on Marine Protected Areas, to biodiversity, to pollutants releases, the work on RE and the citizen submission process, which is key to keeping the promises to the North American public. Mr. Christensen said that although the CEC has established a long track record of positive contributions to environmental governance, it has not yet reached its true potential, citing the absence of the ministers as proof. SLDF considers that the work of the CEC does not begin to address what could be accomplished and believes that the CEC has languished further because of inadequate funding. Mr. Christensen also expressed his concern regarding the delays on Council votes that many submissions incur. Specifically, he mentioned that the Tarahumara submission waited for five months for a vote on the publication of the factual record, the decision to produce a factual record on Quebec's automobiles has been pending for thirteen months, and the Lake Chapala submission waited for thirteen months as well, while for the Ontario Coal-fired Power Plants submission, the decision has been pending for seven months. SLDF is very concerned that a vote on the Ontario Logging submission that has been presented to the Council will not be taken within the deadline established in the agreement.

SLDF has stressed the fact that in 2004 the CEC commissioned a report from the Ten-year Review and Assessment Committee (TRAC), which addressed the issue of funding. The TRAC accepted the policy of keeping CEC's funding at its current level in real terms but recommended looking for new ways to supplement the Commission's revenues. It also affirmed the CEC as the institution of choice to deal with environmental matters in North America, and it asked Council to respect the purpose and intent of the citizen submission process.

Mr. Christensen submitted the following requests:

- Ensure that the vote on the Ontario Coal-fired Power Plants submission happens within the deadline established by the agreement.
- The Parties should take steps to implement the TRAC recommendations.
- The Parties should find a way to ensure that the CEC plays a role in the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) negotiations.

Gail Dugas, from the **Canadian Council on Social Development** (CCSD), which is the oldest Canadian social research organization and the Canadian partner on the CEC's trilateral children's health project for the past couple of years. She pointed out that the aim of this project has been to build an accessible knowledge base on issues facing the children of this continent through indicators that track the wellbeing of children and their families. Ms. Dugas talked about the importance of the CEC children's health initiative, quoting it as one of the very few examples that deal with the issue at a trilateral level. She explained that in Canada one in eight children suffer from asthma and that in Mexico, asthma is the most common cause for hospitalization of children under four years of age. Asthma prevents them from reaching their full potential and places a heavy burden on their families, their communities, and on the quality of their lives. She went on to say that these challenges require leadership that is collaborative—placing the CEC in a unique position to make a difference at a continental level. Ms. Dugas urged the CEC to continue its assessment of environmental impacts on our most vulnerable citizens, by addressing critical challenges like the data gaps, collecting usable, compatible and comparable, trackable information, as these tools are integral for risk assessment and critical for a strategic approach to policies. This takes time but is money well spent, she said, and then proceeded to submit the following requests:

- As leaders of this continental integration, the Parties should provide accountable leadership by putting monitoring tools in place.
- A more effective dissemination effort should be made for the children's report to be more widely known. This is valuable information that needs to be widely disseminated and constantly updated. Don't wait until people come to your web site; reach out to greater audiences.
- Take action to promote greater trilateral data comparability and address the data gaps, which perplexes many great minds.

Lastly, Ms. Dugas urged the CEC to build capacity in all three countries to improve the lives of the children of North America and encouraged the Alternate Representatives to convey this message to the Council members.

Mr. Tom Nathan, from the **National Environmental Trust**, spoke about the impact of the proposed changes to the US Toxics Release Inventory on data comparability for the PRTR process in the three countries and their impact on the CEC's *Taking Stock* process. Having worked with PRTR issues for 15 years and familiar with the systems in all three countries, Mr. Nathan helped write the first *Taking Stock* report and was also involved in the implementation process of the RETC. Both the Mexican RETC and the Canadian NPRI are annual reporting systems by law. EPA's proposal to change the US Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) to biennial reporting would definitively have a negative impact on comparability. It has taken a lot of hard work to get Mexico's RETC program underway, which is going to rely heavily on the NPRI and TRI data to assess quality; if TRI data are collected only every other year, this is going to hurt Mexico's process. Mr. Nathan explained that a biennial TRI would become the lowest denominator in North America rather than the oldest and the best. If we have a TRI that's biennial, that means the *Taking Stock* report would also have to be biennial as well: it would take six years to

obtain meaningful trends in North America since you need at least three data points to obtain trends.

In addition to biennial reporting, EPA has also proposed other changes that are intended to reduce the reporting burden on facilities; but the *Taking Stock* report has shown that those small facilities, the ones most affected by these changes in reporting less data, are the ones increasing their releases and transfers by the largest percentages year after year. The *Taking Stock* report has shown that these facilities are not practicing pollution prevention or waste management and allowing them to avoid TRI reporting will not improve the situation. He encouraged the CEC and the Alternate Representatives to convey this message to the Council, especially to Administrator Johnson, and let him know that citizens of North America hope that TRI will continue to generate the useful and reasonably complete data that the public and the governments need for pollution prevention and emissions reduction.

Maria Teresa Cortés García Lozano, representing *Colectivo Ecologista Jalisco*, a civil association born in 1986 in Guadalajara, Jalisco, that has worked in collaboration with the CEC on several initiatives, also addressed the impacts of the RETC in Mexico and proposed changes to the US Toxics Release Inventory. She submitted the following requests to the CEC Council:

- a) Instruct the Secretariat to develop a factual record concerning the Chapala Lake II citizen submission, which has been pending resolution since 18 May 2005.
- b) Make a special effort to maintain the budget allocated for the CEC and avoid delays in the approval of funds for programs, as this automatically creates an obstacle in implementing the activities and delivery of results on time.
- c) Reinstate the budget for the children's health initiative, currently suspended.
- d) Guarantee an open and transparent process for the selection of the new CEC executive director by:
 - a. Avoiding giving special preference to any candidate, as could be the case for those government officials currently on the list of candidates;
 - b. Publicly announcing the selection criteria and make this information available on the Semarnat web site, as well as the *curriculum vitae* of the candidates, to demonstrate that whoever obtains the position has the proven experience, knowledge and qualifications that the job requires. *Colectivo Ecologista* suggested that the Parties should consider the possibility that a third party takes charge of the selection process to prevent a possible conflict of interest from within Semarnat.
 - c. Announce the next steps to the selection process without delay.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Cortes expressed her disappointment for the absence of the Council members at the public session for two consecutive years, the only such meeting where the public gets the opportunity to speak to the highest-level government representatives about environmental issues of common interest to the three countries. She hoped this absence was an exception and does not become the norm.

The chair, **Carlos Sandoval**, thanked the presenters and opened the microphone to the interventions from the Alternate Representatives, beginning with **Mr. Jerry Clifford, Alternate Representative for the United States**. Mr. Clifford expressed his appreciation for those who attended the different sessions and apologized on behalf of Administrator Johnson, who was called to attend an unexpected meeting called by the White House. Mr. Clifford proceeded to address concerns raised by Randy Christensen regarding the TRAC report, saying that the Parties are methodically going through recommendations outlined in the report. However, it is impossible to tackle all of them at the same time, he said, so the Parties have chosen to take on those that align the institution around key priority areas, those defined in the Puebla Declaration, and work hard to make progress with regard to efficiency and management protocols that lead to high-quality documents based on sound science.

One of the key recommendations of the TRAC report was to focus the CEC's work, but implementing the recommendation has proven much more difficult than anticipated. Mr. Clifford said that significant progress has been made by taking a work program that had spread thin, focusing it well under: (1) Capacity Building, especially in Mexico where the need is the greatest; (2) Information Sharing for Decision-making, which was designed to address many of the remarks made earlier concerning data comparability; and (3) Environment and Trade, which was at the basis for creating the CEC in the first place. He said that the United States is proud of the progress made on the integration of the information—whether it is related to children's health, to air quality or to the PRTR or the RETC, the intent of the Information pillar is to ensure that as each of the Parties develops information on whatever environmental subject, that information is developed in a manner that will allow for greater integration of data across North America, so that we can in fact compare data whether they were collected as part of a CEC project or by the respective Parties. The North American Atlas is one example of this kind of work and we will continue to add layers to it as one of the commenters suggested, making sure that the information is ready for use not only by the parties but also by the public.

Mr. Clifford referred to the comments concerning speeding up the Parties' deliberations on Article 14/15 decisions and acknowledged that many of these have taken too long. He reaffirmed to the audience the US commitment to a better job with respect to the timing of these submissions. He also mentioned that he would like to clarify the confusion around the 60-day requirement with respect to the factual records. This requirement applies to voting on the release of a factual record once it has been developed. He recognized there have been times where the Parties have missed that deadline but he added that there is not a time limit requirement to vote on whether the Parties should produce a factual record; the coal-fired plant, for example, falls into that category, but the Parties are working hard to deliver their decision and hope to do so in the near future.

Mr. Clifford reminded the audience that the Parties are going through a time of transition in leadership, from the United States to Mexico, and are working diligently to have a new executive director on board by the end of August. As soon as the new person comes into office, the Parties will charge him with the direction the Parties expect the CEC to follow—making sure that the recommendations put forward during this Council Session

are factored in. In his closing remarks, Mr. Clifford thanked Carlos Sandoval as JPAC chair and William V. Kennedy for his service in having taken the CEC through very challenging times, in helping generating a new vision for the CEC, and helping to strengthen the core of the institution.

David McGovern, Alternate Representative for Canada, opened his remarks to the public by addressing the presentation given by Maureen Carter Whitney on broadening SMOC work by including two new categories, pharmaceuticals and materials produced through innovative technologies. Mr. McGovern announced that earlier the Parties had adopted a resolution that directed SMOC to realize a strategy laying out concrete actions that address issues of common concern. This strategy is meant to be developed in an open, transparent, participatory and inclusive manner. To support this point, he reminded the audience that a public session was held in Canada in spring 2006. Part of the strategy to broaden SMOC's work is looking at leveraging funds and actively including industry and business representatives, academic institutions, and trade unions. The resolution also calls for building on the successful completion of existing NARAPs, on PCBs, chlordane and DDT, and address NARAPs that are already in the cue. With CEC's limited resources, the priority is to complete work that is already in the pipeline, although there will be an open process for the development of future NARAPs.

Mr. McGovern then addressed Emilie Moorhouse's presentation on clean air, saying he appreciated Ms. Moorhouse's "refreshing" view that climate change and clean air are inextricably linked. Furthermore, he stated that one of the priorities Minister Ambrose wants to undertake is the development of a Clean Air Act for Canada that includes components to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He also mentioned that he had taken note of the use of the Clean Development mechanism, one of the three market mechanisms that are contained in the Kyoto Protocol and that he will report back on this to Minister Ambrose.

Mr. McGovern then talked about some of the concerns raised by Mr. Randy Christensen on the inadequate funding of the CEC. Mr. McGovern emphasized that the three million dollars per year that Canada contributes to the CEC is its single-largest contribution to any international environmental organization, including UNEP and the OECD. Canada has fulfilled its commitment for the past twelve years, making the same contribution each year. In an effort to put the funding issue into perspective, Mr. McGovern explained how the Ministry of the Environment has gone through five major reallocation exercises over that same period of time, which has forced it to constantly change allocations to different priorities. He also emphasized that more money is not always the solution: we need to learn to do a better job with what is available.

Regarding the concern raised by Randy Christensen on the Ontario Logging submission, Mr. McGovern reaffirmed Canada's intention to deliver its response within the 60-day deadline. In relation to Mr. Christensen's comments about the Security and Prosperity Act and the CEC, Mr. McGovern clarified the distinctions between them, stating that the CEC was established through an agreement while the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) is mandated by the leaders of the three countries. The leaders are looking at the

environment exclusively from a security and prosperity perspective; there are 11 tables on the prosperity side and a similar number for security. Mr. McGovern made clear that Canada doesn't see any inconsistency in trying to addressing key environmental matters through any of these two trilateral instances.

Mr. Jose Manuel Bulas, Alternate Representative for Mexico, thanked Carlos Sandoval for the opportunity to participate at the Public Session of the Council meeting, and indicated that he supports the need to find a mechanism to accommodate these sessions into the very tight agenda of the Ministers. He also reminded the audience that there have been three changes of Ministers in the past three years, presenting significant challenges; he conveyed Mexico's commitment to make every effort for the Ministers to be present to meet with the public at the next Council session.

He spoke about the cycle that began in Puebla, continued in Quebec and ended in Washington to give new direction to the CEC under the three Puebla pillars. In Washington, the governments had the opportunity to review the twelve projects together with others that are already underway, some of them well advanced, which will guide CEC's work. The TRAC report provided significant guidance under four different themes, and Mexico strongly believes that actions have been taken to tackle the main recommendations put forward in the TRAC report. He went further to say that in some cases, 70 to 80 percent of the recommendations have already been fulfilled.

Mr. Bulas reiterated the importance of the participation of the private sector and the industry together with the CEC, JPAC and the governments to provide solutions on the issue of poverty in areas of high biodiversity. Concerning the issue of Renewable Energy, Mr. Bulas, confirmed that Mexico has initiated a process through the Congress to carry out an ambitious reform on energy and the environment under the leadership of the new president, who will take office in November 2006. In this regard, Mr. Bulas said, the CEC can play a very important role because of the progress made on its work on RE; Mexico plans to rely heavily on CEC's vision. With regards to the SPP, he mentioned that Mexico agrees with Canada's point of view that the governments are responsible for finding new ways of creating synergies among multiple international organizations and commitments such as the SPP. He took the opportunity to remind the audience that, together with the CEC, two other institutions were born related to the NAFTA: the Border Environment Cooperation Commission and the North American Development Bank (NADB). After three years of intense negotiations, the boards of directors of these organizations met this year for the first time (on 21 June 2006). During this meeting projects were approved on issues like water, air and children's health with a total budget of 600 million dollars. He acknowledged that this achievement was in large part thanks to EPA and Jerry Clifford's leadership in obtaining US\$50 million from NADB that will be allocated to projects in Mexico's border states.

Concerning the selection process for the new executive director, Mr. Bulas explained that the next steps include interviews with the candidates, following which the Council will be able to select its new executive director.

During his closing remarks, he thanked the United States as hosts of this thirteenth Council Session and Carlos Sandoval for the rich and constructive discussions held with JPAC. He then invited the audience to attend next year's Council Session in Mexico.

Before closing the session, **Mr. Carlos Sandoval** kindly requested the Alternate Representatives to convey the public's interest in meeting with them to the Ministers during the public session and thanked the officials present for their time and for listening attentively to what was presented. Mr. Sandoval thanked the Ministers, the Alternate Representatives, the JPAC members and the public for a very productive meeting. He made special mention of the fact that the NAC representatives from Canada, Mexico and the United States had met to discuss the possibilities for joint collaboration and how to better interact with JPAC, to take into consideration the TRAC report, and other items. The JPAC agreed to two additional meetings to increase collaboration and gain a more comprehensive understanding of the current projects that the CEC has undertaken in order to fulfill its mandate as liaison between the public and the CEC.

He thanked Jerry Clifford and Administrator Johnson for their warm welcome and the reception at the National Museum of the American Indian. Mr. Sandoval thanked Rona Ambrose for her interest and dedication to environmental issues and also Mr. José Manuel Bulas and Secretary Luege for their commitment and leadership. He extended his congratulations to William V. Kennedy and his team for their work during the past three years, and to Marcela Orozco and Jocelyne Morin for their hard work with the JPAC. Finally he thanked the public for their sustained interest and effort to come to these meetings, including former members of JPAC.

Mr. Jerry Clifford took the microphone for the last time to pass the leadership to Mexico and adjourned the session.