

Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Activity Report to the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) since July 2015

This table is intended to provide Council with an overview of JPAC activities since the July 2015 Regular Session of Council to assist discussions during the annual joint Council/JPAC sessions in 2016.

Please note that JPAC activities have been undertaken in accordance with Article 16(4) of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), which states that JPAC "may provide advice to Council on any matter within the scope of this agreement [...] and on the implementation and further elaboration of this agreement, and may perform such other functions as the Council may direct"; and with Article 16(5), which provides that JPAC "may provide relevant technical, scientific or other information to the Secretariat, including for purposes of developing a factual record under Article 15. The Secretariat shall forward to the Council copies of any such information."

Please note the internal Council policy for producing responses to JPAC advice states that a response should be sent out "within eight weeks of receiving the advice."

JPAC Activity and Context	Description	Status or Result
JULY 2015		
Joint Public Advisory	The public forum brought together regional leaders, nongovernmental	As a result of the meeting, the JPAC members agreed to
Committee Regular Session	organizations, academic experts and members of the public; to discuss	provide the Council with an Advice:
15-02	how green infrastructure and land-use planning have been used throughout	
"Water and Climate Change:	North America to manage the effects of changing stormwater patterns in	Advice to Council No: 15-04
Adaptation through Green	urban and rural settings.	Re: Outputs from JPAC Workshops in Boston (July 2015),
Infrastructure"		"Water and Climate Change: Adaptation through Green
14–15 July 2015	In particular, participants addressed the co-benefits of proposed	Infrastructure"
Boston, MA, USA	approaches for human health, particularly related to sewage treatment,	(Distributed on 23 November 2015)
	restoration of water quality, access to clean water, heat island reduction, as	
	well as for biodiversity conservation and greenhouse gas reduction.	
	AUGUST 2015	
Letter to Council	The JPAC letter addressed to Secretary Guerra inquired on the status of	
Letter to Secretary Guerra	the selection process for the next CEC executive director and offered	
(Distributed on 17 August	JPAC's support.	
2015)		
SEPTEMBER 2015		
Letter to Council	Given that Mexico had announced the appointment of Secretary	Council announced the appointment of César Rafael Chávez as
Letter to Secretary Pacchiano	Pacchiano, the JPAC letter inquired on the status of the selection process	executive director of the Commission for Environmental
(Distributed on 8 September	for the next CEC executive director, and reiterated JPAC's support.	Cooperation of North America. His three-year mandate would
2015)		commence on 16 January 2016.

	OCTOBER 2015		
In response to: Advice to Council No: 15-01 Re: JPAC-led Public Consultation on the 2015– 2016 Operational Plan (Distributed on 4 May 2015)	Having conducted a public consultation on the proposed projects under the CEC 2015–2016 Operational Plan, JPAC members submitted a series of recommendations and observations for Council's consideration, which included: • General comments on the cooperative work proposed • Specific comments on several of the project proposals	Response from Council to JPAC Advice 15-01 Re: JPAC-led Public Consultation on the 2015-2016 Operational Plan (Received on 2 October 2015) The Council responded and addressed the recommendations included in the Advice. Council's response further expanded on the initiatives proposed under each of the projects that were referenced in the Advice and acknowledged the importance of stakeholder engagement in the work of the CEC.	
In response to: Advice to Council No: 15-03 Re: Advice and recommendations from the JPAC Workshop (April 2015) in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, on "Green Growth and Sustainable Competitiveness in North America" (Distributed on 25 May 2015)	As a result of the discussions that were held during the JPAC meeting that took place in Monterrey, Mexico, JPAC members agreed to provide an Advice to Council, which included recommendations from invited experts and members of the public.	Response from Council to JPAC Advice 15-03 Re: Advice and recommendations from the JPAC Workshop (April 2015) in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, on "Green Growth and Sustainable Competitiveness in North America" (Received on 15 October 2015) The Council responded to the Advice and concurred on the importance of: The effective management of water resources in the context of hydro-climatic change Best practices in land use, restoration and management in relation to water Developing strategic partnerships with key stakeholders and the value of disseminating knowledge, among others	
US NAC and GAC Meeting Conference call 23 October 2015	Representing JPAC Chair Gustavo Alanís-Ortega, Robert Varney provided a report on JPAC activities since the last US NAC and GAC meeting, which included: • JPAC Regular Session 15-01 and 15-02 • JPAC Working Sessions • JPAC Advice to Council 15-01, 15-02 and 15-03 • JPAC Letters to Council • Session 15-03 with the Parties' alternate representatives • Election of the JPAC Chair for 2016 and new JPAC members appointments	Ongoing	

Joint Meeting with the Mexican Alternate Representative, GSC, JPAC Chair and Mexican TEK Experts 28 October 2015 Mexico City, Mexico	 The objective of the meeting was to: Present the structure and operations of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to the Mexican TEK Roster of Experts. Identify opportunities for collaboration with the JPAC. Provide an overview of the projects under the 2015–2016 CEC Operational Plan. 	The meeting provided an opportunity to obtain more information on their backgrounds, in order to establish areas in which they could potentially contribute in future CEC activities.
	NOVEMBER 2015	<u>'</u>
JPAC Private Working Meeting Strategic Planning Session 5–6 November 2015 Montreal, QC, Canada	 The main objective of the meeting was to discuss: Projects under the 2015–2016 Operational Plan Next steps regarding collaboration between JPAC members and the TEK Roster of Experts JPAC administrative matters, including the election of the JPAC Chair for 2016 The meeting included the following specific activities: Detailed presentation and discussion on upcoming tasks/activities under each of the new projects Overview of CEC and JPAC budgets for 2016 Meeting with CEC Communications and Information Services on a JPAC communications plan/strategy for 2016 Presentation of the new CEC website by the Web Development and Information Services Team Status update on the Submission on Enforcement Matters Process Election of the JPAC Chair for 2016 (Canada) Overview of the JPAC Performance Measures Discussion on JPAC's Regular Sessions for 2016 Discussion on engaging the TEK Roster of Experts 	As a result of the meeting, the members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice: Advice to Council 15-05 Re: Outputs from JPAC Planning Meeting in Montreal (November 2015) (Distributed on 8 December 2015)
Letter to the Executive Director 5 November 2015	The JPAC letter to outgoing Executive Director Irasema Coronado recognized her work during her three-year tenure.	Distributed on 5 November 2015
Letter to Council JPAC Chair for 2016 (Distributed on 10 November 2015)	The JPAC Chair for 2015, Gustavo Alanís-Ortega, officially informed the Council that Lindsay Brumwell, from Canada, had been elected as the JPAC Chair for 2016, and would begin her mandate on 1 January 2016.	Distributed on 10 November 2015

Advice to Council 15-04 Re: Outputs from JPAC Workshops in Boston (July 2015), "Water and Climate Change: Adaptation through Green Infrastructure" (Distributed on 23 November 2015)	 JPAC Advice to Council 15-04 outlined a series of observations and recommendations based on input provided by invited experts and participants who attended the meeting in Boston. These included, among others: JPAC believes that Council can and should identify, through the North American Environmental Atlas, vulnerable areas that could benefit from the use of green infrastructure, as well as identify the types of green infrastructure that can contribute to resilient communities, based on specific local needs and capacities. The Council could also support mechanisms to identify and disseminate experiences and success stories, such as those currently in place by the city of Boston, within their governments and among their constituents at a regional, national, and local level. The JPAC members also recommended that Council ensure that cooperative efforts in North America prioritize the needs of marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities, including tribal and indigenous communities. They also highlighted the need for climate change adaptive approaches that are both transversal and integral at multiple levels of government. 	A response from the Council was received on 4 April 2016 (please refer to description in the April section below)
	DECEMBER 2015	
Advice to Council 15-05 Re: Outputs from JPAC Planning Meeting in Montreal (November 2015) (Distributed on 8 December 2015)	 JPAC Advice to Council 15-05 outlined the following observations and recommendations based on the outcome of the JPAC planning meeting that was held in November 2015: The Secretariat should continue refining the impact assessment of CEC's work, by including realistic indicators of impact and, where possible, assessing the qualitative aspects of CEC's work. JPAC members reiterated that the CEC should be returned to full funding as soon as possible, as a way to leverage CEC's regional work on the Parties' national priorities. The Council should direct the Secretariat to communicate the CEC's model of regional cooperation on the environment, by engaging with relevant regional and international agencies and organizations, as well as direct their respective agencies, ministries, and secretariats to showcase the CEC and its programs when relevant to their own initiatives. The JPAC commended the Council for the creation of the TEK Roster of Experts. 	A response from the Council was received on 9 June 2016 (please refer to description in the June section below)

Letter to Council Pending Canadian and Mexican appointments (Distributed on 9 December 2015)	The JPAC letter addressed to the Council, enquired about the pending Canadian and Mexican appointments to the committee, emphasizing on the importance of having a full membership, particularly in light of the changes and opportunities for the Commission in 2016. It also provided an opportunity to welcome and congratulate the recently appointed Council members, Ms. McKenna and Mr. Pacchiano Alamán.	No response to date
Joint Meeting Alternate Representatives, Secretariat and JPAC Conference call regarding engagement of TEK Roster of Experts 18 December 2015	The conference call had as a main objective to exchange views on how to foster the engagement, participation and involvement of the TEK Roster of Experts in CEC activities, in accordance with their mandate to "provide advice to Council in conjunction with JPAC, per JPAC Rule of Procedure 5.1, to identify opportunities to apply TEK to the CEC's operations and policy recommendations."	 The Parties agreed on the following: To schedule a workshop with TEK experts as soon as possible, to discuss their involvement in the CEC, clarify outstanding procedural/technical issues, and to define a deliverable for the Council Session. The in-person meeting would involve TEK experts, Alternate Representatives, JPAC and the Secretariat. The GSC was tasked to work with the Secretariat to develop a list of issues to be addressed at the workshop. The Parties, JPAC and Secretariat agreed to endeavor to respond to some of the potential questions beforehand in order to ensure the meeting is productive.
	JANUARY 2016	
JPAC Conference Call 15 January 2016	 The main objective for the conference call was to: Further refine the JPAC activities for 2016. Discuss a proposed framework to integrate the TEK Roster of Experts in CEC's activities. Exchange views on a proposed letter addressed to the North American energy ministers on the MoU on North American climate change and clean energy 	 The JPAC members agreed on the following: The JPAC TEK subcommittee would participate in a meeting with the TEK Roster of Experts in Mexico, in order to discuss and promote their active participation in CEC activities. They also agreed to hold their second regular session of the year in Ottawa in September 2016, focusing on clean energy & climate change. To draft a letter to the Ministers of Energy, congratulating them for their efforts regarding a North American MoU on climate change and clean energy.
Letter to Alternative Representatives Re: Joint meeting with the TEK Roster of Experts	The purpose of the JPAC letter was to follow up on the December 2015 conference call. It provided additional thoughts and suggestions on how best to engage the TEK Roster of Experts, during the proposed joint face-to-face session between JPAC members, TEK Experts, the Parties and Secretariat staff. Among these were:	The meeting took place in Mexico in March 2016 (please refer to description in the March section below)

(Distributed on 27 January 2016)	 To learn more about the specific strengths of the TEK Experts and their experience in sharing TEK with other groups To draw upon their knowledge of TEK and thoughts on how it can be incorporated into a work program at a trilateral level Together, review current Terms of Operation and determine processes for how the Experts can provide value to, and support the CEC and 	
	JPAC on including TEK, where appropriate	
	MARCH 2016	
Letter to North American Ministers of energy MoU on North American climate change and clean energy (Distributed on 9 March 2016)	The JPAC letter, addressed to the Mexican and US Ministers of Energy, and to the Canadian Minister of Natural Resources, expressed congratulations on signing the historic memorandum of understanding (MOU) on North American climate change and clean energy. It also encouraged the three Ministers regard the CEC as a resource that can play a role in achieving this new agreement. The JPAC members also extended to all three Ministers an invitation to attend one of their upcoming sessions this year.	A response from Canada's Minister of Natural Resources was received on 4 May 2016. (please refer to description in the May section below)
Joint Meeting of the Parties, JPAC, and TEK Roster of Experts 14–15 March 2016 Mexico City, Mexico	This joint meeting served as an open forum to promote the active participation of the Roster of TEK Experts in CEC activities. It also provided an opportunity to identify and develop a TEK-related deliverable for the 2016 Council Session.	As a result of the meeting, the JPAC members agreed to provide the Council with a joint JPAC/TEK Advice. Advice to Council 16-01 Re: JPAC Advice and Recommendation Regarding the Meaningful Engagement of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Roster of Experts in the work of the CEC (Distributed on 27 May 2016)
Session 16-01 of the Alternate Representatives Conference Call 18 March 2016	The JPAC Chair, Lindsay Brumwell, participated in a conference call with the Alternate Representatives, which focused on the following items: • The upcoming 2016 CEC Council Session in Tuxtla Gutiérrez • The upcoming face-to-face Alt Reps meeting in Cuernavaca, Mexico • Update on the March 2016 TEK workshop in Mexico	 The Mexican Alternate Representative chaired the conference call and provided the following updates: Proposed themes for the Council Session in Tuxtla Gutiérrez were: "Youth" as the substantial theme and "Sustainable communities and ecosystems" as the crosscutting theme. Upcoming Alt Reps face-to-face meeting: The Executive Director to provide a status update on OP2015-16 project implementation; progress towards meeting the objectives of the SP 2015–2020; update on NAPECA projects and

		budget status report. The Alternate Representatives agreed to hold a face-to-face session in Mexico sometime in April: Session 16-02 of the Alternate Representatives (please refer to description in the April section below)
	APRIL 2016	T
In response to: Advice to Council 15-04 Re: Outputs from JPAC Workshops in Boston (July 2015), "Water and Climate Change: Adaptation through Green Infrastructure" (Distributed on 23 November 2015)	JPAC Advice to Council 15-04 outlined a series of observations and recommendations based on input provided by invited experts and participants who attended the meeting. (pleaser refer to description under the November section)	 Response from Council to JPAC Advice 15-04 Re: Outputs from JPAC Workshops in Boston (July 2015), "Water and Climate Change: Adaptation through Green Infrastructure" (Received on 4 April 2016) The response from Council to the JPAC Advice, included the following comments: Council acknowledged the importance of addressing the nexus between climate change and other important issues such as water quantity and quality. The Council noted that by having climate change mitigation and adaptation, green growth and sustainable communities and ecosystems as the main priority areas for the 2015–2020 SP, they indicated their commitment to collaborate in identifying areas that could benefit from green infrastructure. Regarding the impact of climate change on tribal and indigenous communities, they pointed to the establishment of the TEK Roster of Experts, as the means to ensure that TEK provides a critical and integral contribution to environmental decision-making at the CEC.
US NAC and GAC Meeting 20–21 April 2016 Washington, DC, United States	 The JPAC Chair, Lindsay Brumwell, provided a report on JPAC activities since the last US NAC and GAC meeting, which included: The JPAC Planning Session in Montreal in November 2015 and Conference call with the TEK Roster of Experts JPAC Advice to Council 15-04 and 15-05 Session 15-04 of the Alternate Representatives JPAC Letter to the North American Energy Ministers 	Ongoing

Session 16-02 of the Alternate Representatives 27–28 April 2016 Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico	 Joint Meeting of the JPAC, TEK Roster and Parties; Council Response to JPAC Advice 15-04 The upcoming JPAC Regular Session 16-01 The JPAC Chair, Lindsay Brumwell, participated in the face-to-face meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which had as a main objective to discuss the following: The 2016 CEC Council Session Stocktaking towards Council: Outreach and Communications Plan, Implementation of the Operational Plan and Strategic Plan, and NAPECA progress The results of the TEK workshop held in March 2016 JPAC Report on Current and Future Activities 	 The JPAC Report included: A conversation on pending appointments to JPAC along with a quick recap on 2015 JPAC meetings An overview of upcoming JPAC events for 2016, including the public forum in Chiapas on "Climate Change and Biodiversity," a second Session in Ottawa on "Clean Energy and Climate Change," and a possible third session in Los Angeles on "Green Ports" Administrative JPAC matters: Budget and Advices
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In response to: Letter to North American Ministers of Energy MoU on North American climate change and clean energy (Distributed on 9 March 2016)	The JPAC letter, addressed to the Mexican and US Ministers of Energy, and to the Canadian Minister of Natural Resources, expressed congratulations on signing the historic memorandum of understanding (MOU) on North American climate change and clean energy. It also encouraged the three Ministers to look at the CEC as a resource that can play a role in achieving this new agreement. The JPAC members also extended an invitation to all three Ministers, to attend one of their upcoming sessions this year.	Response from Canada's Minister of Natural Resources JPAC Letter Re: MoU on North American climate change and clean energy. (Received on 4 May 2016) The letter from the Honourable Jim Carr, Canadian Minister of Natural Resources, recognized that Canada, the United States, and Mexico could benefit by learning from the long history of research partnerships and public consultations that the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, and the Joint Public Advisory Committee, have engaged in over the past 22 years. The letter also expressed appreciation for the invitation to attend an upcoming JPAC meeting, and included the contact information of the Director General of the Energy Policy Branch, in order to follow-up.
Advice to Council 16-01 Re: JPAC Advice and Recommendation Regarding the Meaningful Engagement	The JPAC members submitted a series of recommendations, which were prepared in collaboration with the Roster of Experts on TEK, on a path forward in order to engage them in the work of the CEC. They included: • Principles which emerged from the meeting in Mexico City	A response from the Council was received on 26 August 2016 (please refer to description in the August section below)

of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Roster of Experts in the work of the CEC (Distributed on 31 May 2016)	 Guidance on TEK Roster of Experts Engagement and Communications A proposal on a North American TEK Inventory/Atlas 	
	JUNE 2016	
In response to: Advice to Council 15-02 Re: JPAC Advice and Recommendations Regarding Submissions on Enforcement Matters (Distributed 13 May 2015)	With the overall commitment of assuring the strength, integrity, and credibility of the Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM) process, JPAC members provided Council with advice and recommendations on the following: • Pending Proceedings • Information Gathering • Limiting the Scope of Factual Records • Requests for Response from Council	Response from Council to JPAC Advice 15-02 Re: JPAC Advice and Recommendations Regarding Submissions on Enforcement Matters (Received on 9 June 2016) The Council recognized the importance of the issues that were raised in the JPAC Advice. They also noted their shared commitment on ensuring the strength, integrity and credibility of the SEM process, and welcomed the opportunity to consider and discuss the matters that were raised, during the upcoming Council Session, as well as at some other point throughout this year.
In response to: Advice to Council 15-05 Re: Outputs from JPAC Planning Meeting in Montreal (November 2015) (Distributed on 8 December 2015)	 JPAC Advice to Council 15-05 outlined the following observations and recommendations based on the outcome of the JPAC planning meeting that was held in November 2015: The Secretariat should continue refining the impact assessment of CEC's work, by including realistic indicators of impact and, where possible, assessing the qualitative aspects of CEC's work. JPAC members reiterated that the CEC should be returned to full funding as soon as possible, as a way to leverage CEC's regional work on the Parties' national priorities. The Council should direct the Secretariat to communicate the CEC's model of regional cooperation on the environment, by engaging with relevant regional and international agencies and organizations, as well as direct their respective agencies, ministries, and secretariats to showcase the CEC and its programs when relevant to their own initiatives. The JPAC commended the Council for the creation of the TEK Roster of Experts. 	Response from Council to JPAC Advice 15-05 Re: Outputs from JPAC Planning Meeting in Montreal (November 2015) (Received on 9 June 2016) The Council acknowledged the importance of having the CEC programs meet the strategic priorities that were set in the five-year Strategic Plan, and requested as part of an extensive revision of the governance of the CEC in 2010, that the Secretariat implement a performance measurement framework, which will be reported by the newly appointed Executive Director as part of his mandate. Regarding the financial contributions by the three CEC countries, the Council applauded JPAC in its efforts in finding creative ways to realize savings in its operations, which is in line with the added fiscal scrutiny each of the Parties has undergone over the past several years. With regards to raising the CEC's public profile, the Council noted they have tasked the Secretariat with increasing its visibility through the

		implementation of a communications and outreach strategy. Regarding engagement of regional and international agencies with the same environmental goals, they welcomed any concrete suggestions by JPAC to strengthen the connection. Lastly, they expressed appreciation for reaching out to the TEK experts, and for JPAC's interest in fostering increased participation of indigenous communities in the work of the CEC.
	AUGUST 2016	
Letter to Alternate Representatives Re: Upcoming JPAC events in 2016 (Distributed on 24 August 2016)	The purpose of the JPAC letter to the Alternate Representatives was to follow up on the discussions that were held during their session in Cuernavaca last April. The JPAC Chair provided the themes and descriptive paragraphs for their upcoming public meetings, in order to give the opportunity to all three governments to send in advance, questions or comments on what they want to learn from NA stakeholders and invited experts. The themes for their 2016 sessions are: • Biodiversity and Climate Change • Clean Energy Cooperation in North America: Needs and Solutions • Greening North America's Trade	No response to date
In response to: Advice to Council 16-01 Re: JPAC Advice and Recommendation Regarding the Meaningful Engagement of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Roster of Experts in the work of the CEC (Distributed on 31 May 2016)	The JPAC members submitted a series of recommendations, which were prepared in collaboration with the Roster of Experts on TEK, on a path forward in order to engage them in the work of the CEC. They included: • Principles which emerged from the meeting in Mexico City • Guidance on TEK Roster of Experts Engagement and Communications • A proposal on a North American TEK Inventory/Atlas	Response from Council to JPAC Advice 16-01 Re: JPAC Advice and Recommendation Regarding the Meaningful Engagement of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Roster of Experts in the work of the CEC (Received on 26 August 2016) The Council's response to the Advice included the following directives: Government officials to review and revise the Terms of Operation for the TEK Roster of Experts to better align them with the expectations of the CEC's bodies. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the JPAC and TEK Roster of Experts, to develop the following three documents: TEK Statement of Principles to guide the work of the CEC, as well as to guide the CEC's relationship with and engagement of the TEK Roster of Experts

TEK Guidance document outlining opportunities to engage and communicate local and Indigenous People's ecological knowledge in the work of the CEC
 A North American TEK Inventory/Atlas that would identify and map TEK knowledge within North America (location of TEK experts and their expertise)