

**Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Activity Report
to the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
since June 2020**

This table is intended to provide Council with an overview of JPAC activities since the June 2020 Regular Session of Council, to assist discussions during the annual joint Council/JPAC sessions in 2021.

Please note that JPAC activities have been undertaken in accordance with Article 6(4) of the Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA), which states that JPAC “may provide advice to the Council on matters within the scope of this agreement and may perform such other functions as the Council may direct.”

JPAC Activity and Context	Description	Status or Result
JUNE 2020		
Joint Public Advisory Committee Regular Session 20-01 “The USMCA and the Environment: A Renewed Commitment for North America” 26 June 2020 Online Event	The public forum provided a platform for exchanging diverse public perspectives on the new trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States, and regarding the future of environmental cooperation for the region.	The JPAC Chair presented the outcomes from the Public Forum to the Council during the in-camera session.
SEPTEMBER 2020		
Session 20-05 of the Alternate Representatives 2 September 2020 Videoconference	JPAC Chair Robert Varney participated in the meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which centered on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC’s 2021 Budget • CEC’s 2021-2022 Operational Plan • CEC Headquarters Agreement/ Privileges and Immunities • CEC branding refresh 	The JPAC Chair provided suggestions on a path forward regarding the delays with the Operational Plan, including reaching agreement on high priority projects that are of trilateral interest, while discussing other elements of the OP. He also expressed support for finalizing Council resolution on the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) and the importance of reaching complete consensus regarding the decision on CEC rebranding.
JPAC Working Session 9 September 2020 Videoconference	During this session, JPAC members discussed current and upcoming activities. The meeting centered on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC updates • CEC 2021-2022 Operational Plan • CEC and JPAC budgets • JPAC schedule for the next quarter 	The JPAC Chair reported on his participation in the Alt Rep meeting of 2 September 2021, including his interventions on the CEC 2021-2022 Operational Plan, the CEC’s 2021 Budget, the HQA/Privileges and Immunities and the CEC brand refresh. JPAC members discussed the possibility of writing a letter to the Council on these topics. They also suggested recommending partnerships with other organizations,

		including the private sector, to match funding as per the new ECA, and work on more impactful projects.
<p>In response to: Advice to Council No: 19-03 Re: JPAC Expert Forum on Community-based Approaches to Disaster Resilience <i>(Distributed on 20 December 2019)</i></p>	<p>Noting that the JPAC expert forum in Puerto Rico highlighted examples of community resilience throughout North America, JPAC Advice to Council 19-03 outlined a series of recommendations to the Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should endorse JPAC’s public meeting formula and apply it to Council sessions. • By June 2020, the Council should identify, fund and announce three community-based renewable energy generation projects, one in each jurisdiction—Canada, Mexico and the United States. • By June 2020, the Council should establish a working group to assess the feasibility of government-sponsored and private insurance programs to support communities recovering from natural disasters. • By December 2020, the Council should initiate a special investigation to understand the relationship between cultural resilience and community-based disaster preparedness. 	<p>Response from Council to JPAC Advice 19-03 Re: Advice to Council 19-03 <i>(Received on 23 September 2020)</i></p> <p>The Council responded by recognizing the challenges communities face in responding to extreme weather events and highlighted recent initiatives aiming to improve communities’ capacities to respond to such events and improving energy security. The Council will also consider how to integrate elements of the JPAC public meeting formula into the upcoming Council public sessions as conditions allow. While the Council recognized the value of public-private partnerships in supporting communities in their recovery from natural disasters, they indicated not supporting the establishment of a new working group. The Council further encouraged JPAC to confer with the TEKEG on ways to address the relationship between cultural resilience and community-based disaster preparedness in the upcoming operational plan. Finally, the Council also thanked JPAC for leading by example during the pandemic crisis by moving forward virtually.</p>
<p>In response to: Advice to Council No: 20-01 Re: Public Consultation on the draft CEC Strategic Plan 2021-2025 <i>(Distributed on 30 April 2020)</i></p>	<p>Noting the initial recommendations in JPAC Advice 19-02, as well as JPAC’s participation in the CEC brainstorming session of January 2020 and the more than 80 comments received during the online public consultation; JPAC’s Advice to Council outlined a series of recommendations for each strategic priority and cross-cutting theme, and included all the public feedback that had been received.</p>	<p>Response from Council to JPAC Advice 20-01 Re: Advice to Council 20-01 <i>(Received on 23 September 2020)</i></p> <p>The Council expressed its appreciation to JPAC for having successfully adapted to the challenges presented by the ongoing public health crisis, and continuing to ensure adequate public consultation on the draft strategic plan through the adoption of virtual means. They further highlighted the valuable input provided by JPAC and the public in the development of the Strategic Plan.</p>
OCTOBER 2020		
<p>JPAC Working Session 26 October 2020 Videoconference</p>	<p>During this session, JPAC members discussed current and upcoming activities. The meeting centered on:</p>	<p>The Secretariat provided information on the CEC budget surplus scenarios and on the development of the 2021-2022 Operational Plan. JPAC members agreed to send a letter to the</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC budget surplus • JPAC membership under the new ECA • CEC updates from the Secretariat 	Council with recommendations regarding the budget surplus. Feedback included expanding current initiatives when appropriate, and developing new ones aligned with the ECA and 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The Secretariat also provided updates on SEM and the status of privileges and immunities for the CEC in Mexico. JPAC members also decided to hold monthly meetings to continue their activities.
NOVEMBER 2020		
JPAC Working Session 19 November 2020 Videoconference	During this session, JPAC members discussed current and upcoming activities. The meeting centered on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC surplus funds • Revision of the JPAC Rules of Procedure • CEC updates from the Secretariat 	JPAC members discussed and updated the JPAC letter to the Council regarding potential uses of surplus funds. JPAC members highlighted the importance of being aligned with the new ECA and 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, as well as the issue of threats and physical violence toward environmental defenders in Mexico. A subcommittee was created to review and provide feedback on the new JPAC rules of procedure, and JPAC members also suggested drafting a letter highlighting the continental opportunities for the CEC and JPAC, in consideration of the current governmental momentum toward climate change.
JANUARY 2021		
JPAC Working Session 15 January 2021 Videoconference	During this session, the newly appointed JPAC members from Mexico were introduced. The meeting centered on the election of the new JPAC Chair (Mexico) and on providing updates on the CEC projects and initiatives.	JPAC members elected Pedro Moctezuma as the Chair for 2021. Members also provided feedback on the new branding of the CEC.
Session 21-01 of the Alternate Representatives 22 January 2021 Videoconference	JPAC Chair Pedro Moctezuma Barragán participated in the meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which centered on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Mexico’s Alternate Representative and newly elected JPAC Chair • Report from 2020 JPAC Chair • New US priorities and Path to the Council Session • Next Operational Plan • Council-Supported TEK initiative • CEC re-branding • SEM issues 	The new JPAC Chair, Pedro Moctezuma, introduced himself and expressed his enthusiasm for being part of the CEC and to assume his role as JPAC Chair. Outgoing JPAC Chair Robert Varney briefed the council on JPAC’s successful transition to hybrid meetings, resulting in increased attendance and participation; and highlighted the November 2020 Letter to Council regarding the CEC budget, its Operational Plan, and new Strategic Plan.

FEBRUARY 2021		
<p>JPAC Working Session 11 February 2021 Videoconference</p>	<p>During this session, JPAC members discussed current and upcoming activities. The meeting centered on the CEC updates on upcoming initiatives and projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC presentation on current initiatives, by the Heads of the Ecosystems, Environmental Quality, and Green Growth Units • The 2021 Youth Innovation Challenge (YIC) • The next NAPECA cycle • Communications 	<p>The Secretariat provided an overview of the CEC’s current initiatives and highlighted the importance of the work carried out by the organization, especially in light of the new ECA. The Secretariat also highlighted the important role that JPAC members play in disseminating CEC work, and in helping the CEC find potential opportunities for collaboration and partnerships. JPAC members highlighted the international initiative for protecting 30% of land and water by 2030, and asked if the CEC was involved, especially considering the aspect of Indigenous land management.</p>
<p>Letter to Alternate Representatives “CEC Budget and Operational Plan” 24 November 2020</p>	<p>The JPAC members provided advice and guiding principles with regard to the CEC budget and upcoming Operational Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties' contributions • Budget considerations • Moving forward with high priority projects under the next Operational Plan • Pursuing opportunities to leverage and combine resources with external organizations 	<p>Response from Council to JPAC letter on budget surplus Re: JPAC Letter on the CEC Budget and Operational Plan (Received on 12 February 2021)</p> <p>The Council indicated looking forward to its continued collaboration with JPAC under the recently adopted free trade agreement for North America and Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (ECA). The members also highlighted that the resources allocated under the current budget for JPAC activities were proportionally higher than in previous years and that they were pleased that the budget reflected several of the JPAC’s recent recommendations by enhancing the amount of resources allocated to different initiatives. The Council informed JPAC that the Parties had agreed to develop five high-priority kickoff projects despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and took note of the recommendation to address the safety of environmental defenders through the strategic priority of Effective Enforcement of Environmental Laws.</p>
MARCH 2021		
<p>JPAC Working Session 15 March 2021 Videoconference</p>	<p>During this session, JPAC members discussed current and upcoming activities. The meeting centered on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status update on the development of the 2021 Operational Plan • Council Session, Youth Innovation Challenge (YIC) and NAPECA updates • Development of the JPAC plan of activities for 2021 	<p>The Secretariat provided information on the 2021 Operational Plan and the five kick-off projects, the upcoming Council Session, YIC, and NAPECA grants. A JPAC subcommittee (1 member per country) was established to work on the JPAC 2021 Annual Plan of Activities, which will have as a foundation the CEC Strategic Plan. They also agreed to meet</p>

		in the coming weeks to receive an update from the Secretariat on the SEM process.
APRIL 2021		
Session 21-02 of the Alternate Representatives 12 April 2021 Videoconference	JPAC Chair Pedro Moctezuma Barragán participated in the meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which centered on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Council Session • CEC Cooperative Work Program • CEC budget • TEKEG membership terms 	The JPAC Chair provided an update on the development of the 2021 JPAC Annual Plan of Activities, including some of the potential public forums being considered for the fall. The topics that are being contemplated will be in line with the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, and the subcommittee will further develop all activities.
MAY 2021		
Session 21-03 of the Alternate Representatives 17 May 2021 Videoconference	JPAC Chair Pedro Moctezuma Barragán participated in the meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which centered on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Council Session • Youth Innovation Challenge • NAPECA • Council-supported initiatives • New grant program • CEC's 2021 OP and Cooperative Work Program 	The JPAC Chair informed the Council that its public forum, on the margins of the Council Session, would be focusing on a theme related to climate change. He also took the opportunity to mention that the JPAC would be holding a joint meeting with the TEK Expert Group, on 25 May, to brief each other on upcoming activities.
Joint JPAC-TEKEG meeting 25 May 2021 Videoconference	JPAC and TEKEG members met to share upcoming activities of both groups. The meeting topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC updates • Updates on upcoming JPAC activities • Overview of the Council-supported TEK Initiative 	The JPAC Chair and TEKEG facilitator provided updates on previous and upcoming initiatives, including on the Council-supported TEK project, which is currently under development. JPAC members offered to provide their support, as needed, and unanimously agreed to increase the communication channels between both groups, moving forward. Finally, both committees agreed on the importance of creating an Indigenous staff position within the CEC Secretariat.
JUNE 2021		
JPAC-led Online Public Consultation on the CEC's five new trilateral projects 27 May–17 June 2021	JPAC called on the public to provide comments on the CEC five new trilateral projects being proposed as part of the next Operational Plan. Participants were asked to provide feedback on the new projects, considering the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what ways do you think this project can be strengthened? 	As a result of this online public consultation, JPAC members agreed to provide the Council with an Advice: <p>Advice to Council No: 21-01 “JPAC Advice to Council 21-01: Public Consultation on the five new trilateral projects” <i>(Distributed on 13 July 2021)</i></p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. In your opinion, what should be taken into consideration during the implementation of this project, based on CEC priorities? (e.g., public engagement, training, awareness tools, etc.) 3. Are there any organizations or institutions with whom you think we should engage during the implementation of the project? If so, please share. 4. Do you see your organization or institution playing a role in this project? If so, how? If not, why not? If appropriate, please provide the name of your organization and contact information. 5. Are there any other future opportunities for trilateral cooperation that the CEC should be considering? 	
JPAC Working Session 23 June 2021 Videoconference	<p>During this session, JPAC members discussed current and upcoming activities. The meeting centered on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC updates • 2021 JPAC Public Forum • Results from the JPAC-led public consultation and draft advice 	<p>The Secretariat provided updates on recent and upcoming CEC activities, and JPAC members discussed the main theme and format for their upcoming public forum, to take place in the margins of the 2021 Council Session. The Secretariat also provided a quick overview of the results from the public consultation on the five new trilateral projects and presented a first draft of the JPAC Advice to Council.</p>
JULY 2021		
Session 21-04 of the Alternate Representatives 12 July 2021 Videoconference	<p>JPAC Chair Pedro Moctezuma Barragán participated in the meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which centered on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Session 2021 • CEC financial discussion • CEC's Cooperative Work Program • CEC salary scale • Legal matters and SEM 	<p>The JPAC Chair provided an overview of the JPAC-led Public Consultation on the CEC's five new trilateral projects and an update on the JPAC Public Forum, scheduled to take place on 9 September 2021. He concluded by expressing JPAC's strong interest and support for the TEK initiative, which had been discussed at length during their joint meeting with the TEKEG (25 May 2021).</p>
JPAC Working Session 29 July 2021 Videoconference	<p>During this session, JPAC members discussed current and upcoming activities. The meeting centered on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on the 2021 JPAC Public Forum and Council Session • JPAC webinar in mid-October 2021 (tbc) • SEM update 	<p>The Secretariat provided updates on the planning efforts for the 2021 JPAC Public Forum and the Council Session. JPAC members provided feedback on the program of public events and on the potential speakers. A subcommittee was created to organize a potential webinar to take place in October. The Director of Legal Affairs and Submissions on Enforcement Matters (SEM) provided an update of SEM activities and on the status of the CEC in Mexico. JPAC members suggested organizing another joint meeting with the TEKEG to be held on the margins of the JPAC and Council Sessions.</p>

AUGUST 2021

Session 21-05 of the Alternate Representatives
16 August 2021
Videoconference

JPAC Chair Pedro Moctezuma Barragán participated in the meeting of the Alternate Representatives, which centered on:

- Council Session 2021
- CEC's Cooperative Work Program
- Approval of revised TEKEG Terms of Operation

The JPAC Chair provided an overview of the JPAC forum planned for 9 September, under the title "Leaving no one behind: working together for more equitable solutions to climate change impacts."