

## Reaching Horizon 2030: an Environmental Outlook for North American Cooperation Description of the Initiative (2 February 2024)

**Budget:** (C\$) 500,000 (Including operational and administrative costs)

**Project duration:** 23 months (April 2024 to February 2026)

### 1. Context

The global community recognizes that we are in a critical decade where meeting 2030 climate change and biodiversity goals is essential to keeping global warming within 1.5°C and addressing biodiversity loss. It is important for the CEC's work to support these international goals, ensuring that North America contributes to global leadership. The initiative *Reaching Horizon 2030: an Environmental Outlook for North American Cooperation* (H-2030) will help ensure that the CEC's work supports trilateral commitments to the Parties' key climate and biodiversity targets including:

- tackling the triple planetary crisis of *climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss*;
- keeping North America on the 1.5°C pathway;
- addressing and reducing key climate pollutants;
- helping North America achieve international biodiversity conservation goals (i.e., 30x30, species at risk, financing conservation, etc.); and
- fostering North American leadership on global climate action.

The H-2030 initiative was announced at the 2023 CEC Council Session in Victoria, Canada. In the 2023 Council Statement the three Council members underlined “the importance of promoting collective action to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”

To help define how CEC action can be most strategic in addressing the triple planetary crisis and supporting international goals, the H-2030 initiative will promote CEC engagement to work with a diverse set of partners, representing the CEC's wide-based key stakeholder groups, including international and regional organizations, academia, the business community, policy institutions, think tanks, thought leaders, civil society, Indigenous peoples, youth, different levels of government and others.

This initiative is aligned with the Strategic Plan 2021–2025's cross-cutting approaches: *Innovative and Effective Solutions* and *Diverse and Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation*.

## 2. Objective and approach

The CEC's H-2030 initiative will anticipate and prepare for emerging environmental and climate challenges that North America will face from now until 2030 and beyond. Through regional expert engagement and public consultations, the initiative will identify and issue recommendations on how the CEC could contribute to addressing these challenges through its strategies, programs and partnerships. The initiative will also include a set of pilot projects in response to these recommendations.

The H-2030 initiative will be structured around the following three components, or workstreams:

**Workstream 1: Climate Change** — will help identify emerging priority mitigation and adaptation issues, strategies and actions across the region.

**Workstream 2: Pollution** — will seek guidance on identifying priority areas and technologies for emissions reduction strategies and actions across the region.

**Workstream 3: Biodiversity Loss** — will help identify focus issues for biodiversity conservation strategies (in line with the international goals) and actions across the region.

The focus on these three workstreams will help: 1) define the overall direction of the initiative; 2) define the groups of experts who should be involved; 3) give direction to these experts to better articulate their analysis; and 3) develop the main deliverables.

The following cross-cutting themes will also be integrated in each of the workstreams:

- Indigenous Knowledge (IK) /Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK): Prioritize, when appropriate, the identification of strategies and actions to ensure the inclusion of Indigenous and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and engage, and participate in the focus of each workstream.
- Environmental Justice: Identify, when appropriate, the opportunities to advance environmental justice and promote effective community engagement and inclusion in decision making in disadvantaged, Indigenous, or border communities in each of the workstream focuses.
- Subnational governance/action (including cities/urban dimensions): Ensure that identifying opportunities and emerging strategies addresses and considers, when appropriate, the need to engage subnational actors, including local communities, tribes/Indigenous communities, cities and states/provinces.
- Corporate Social Responsibility and Private Sector Engagement: Prioritize workstream considerations of the role and opportunities for the engagement of the private sector and specific private sector-related actors (regulators, associations, etc.) in order to reach 2030 targets.

### 3. Main deliverables

The H-2030 initiative will assess significant environmental challenges that can be addressed through the CEC, providing critical information and input for the development of the CEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030. The H-2030 report will also serve as a strategic guidance document and data resource for government policy makers, organizations, academia and other key actors in North America and other regions to inform research, policy and action. The following sections describe the main deliverables.

#### 3.1 A network of key environmental actors

The initiative will identify, engage with and establish a roster of diverse environmental actors (including scientists, advocates, private sector representatives, and subnational policy makers) who will bring their expertise and perspectives to help the CEC identify the key trends related to the state of the environment and environmental challenges that North America will face in the coming years, to and beyond 2030.

#### 3.2 The H-2030 Report

The collective analytical work of the experts will feed into the development of a comprehensive H-2030 report which will include: 1) an overarching assessment of key environmental issues, challenges and emerging trends to 2030 (this would build on previous CEC assessments and state of the environment reports); and 2) special sections/chapters providing strategic recommendations outlining concrete actions for the North American region to take by 2030 on three priority topics<sup>1</sup> and as well as potential pilot projects that could be launched, as follows:

- Focus on **Earth Observation Technologies and Other GIS Tools** (Workstream 1: Climate Change)  
This section of the report will identify opportunities for coordinating and collaborating regionally to take advantage of and utilize existing and emerging earth observation technologies and other GIS tools that can map and inventory key climate pollutants and their sources, extreme weather events, air quality alerts, land cover changes, extreme heat, forest fires, and other ecosystem changes, with relevant and timely data, while crossing these with available social data to identify and correlate these trends with disadvantaged communities and their specific vulnerabilities. This would support both mitigation and adaptation efforts by capitalizing on emerging observation technologies to benefit disadvantaged communities while also helping subnational governments promote more robust climate strategies and more effective adaptation and resilience.
- Focus on **Sustainable Transportation** (Workstream 2: Pollution)

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<sup>1</sup> Analyses on additional emerging priority topics could be carried out eventually (and as directed by the Parties) contingent on additional funding.

This section of the report will identify strategies and opportunities to advance cleaner, more sustainable transportation: for example, by addressing and reducing contamination along land routes and water bodies, particularly where the concentration of vehicles or vessels and the associated industries are sources of local air pollution.

- Focus on **Ecosystem Services / Sustainable Use and Management of Biodiversity** (Workstream 3: Biodiversity Loss)  
This section of the report will identify opportunities and strategies to implement actions that increase the provision of ecosystem services in the region, including opportunities for improving biodiversity management and strengthening water management across stakeholder groups in North America.

### 3.3 Pilot projects

The initiative will include the design and launch of two or three pilot projects, guided by expert input, which will serve to initiate and test new collaborative areas of work in line with the three priority topics.

### 3.4 Engagement activities and outreach resources

A series of consultations, [potentially through the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group (TEKEG)], and webinars will be organized to inform the development of the H-2030 report and disseminate its results. The initiative will also produce resources such as brochures, fact sheets and videos.

## 4. Process

The following process describes how the previous deliverables will be produced and the expected timeline (also see Annex 1 - Process Diagram).

Leading actor(s)	Process	Timeline
<b>Project development</b>		
General Standing Committee	<p><b>Action:</b> Finalize scope of initiative, list of focus issues, process and timeline</p> <p><b>Output:</b> A clear description of the initiative that includes the process, activities, timeline and budget</p>	December 2023–January 2024

(GSC) - Secretariat				
Alternate Representatives	<p><b>Action:</b> Alt Reps approval of description of the initiative</p> <p><b>Output:</b> Final description of initiative</p>	February 2024		
<b>Implementation</b>				
GSC	<p><b>Action:</b> Appointment of Steering Committee experts (ideally two country experts <u>per workstream</u> – i.e., approx. 18 experts in total)</p> <p><b>Output:</b> Final list of Steering Committee members for each workstream</p>	February 2024		
Steering Committee-Secretariat	<p><b>Action:</b> Hold separate meetings to bring onboard Steering Committee experts for each workstream (i.e., involving approx. 6 experts at a time).</p>		March–April 2024	
	<p><b>Climate Change workstream</b> Lead: Program Head(s)</p>	<p><b>Pollution workstream</b> Lead: Program Head(s)</p>		<p><b>Biodiversity workstream</b> Lead: Program Head(s)</p>
	<p>Besides separate meetings with each workstream expert, periodic collective meetings with all experts from the three workstreams will serve to coordinate and <u>integrate the cross-cutting themes</u> (described above).</p>			
Secretariat-Steering Committee-Consultant	<p><b>Project Activity 1.</b> Hiring a consultant and defining network of experts/resources (i.e., Roster of Experts and other relevant governmental and nongovernmental actors)</p> <p><b>Activity budget:</b> C\$100,000</p> <p>A consultant will be hired (following TORs agreed to by the SC) to support the entire process, including assisting with drafting/editing the H-2030 report. First, the consultant will work with the Steering Committee and Secretariat to develop the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A detailed workplan (including a timeline for meetings/JPAC consultations/webinars) to ensure relevant and timely input for the H-2030 report</li> </ul>		May-June 2024	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assembling a proposed Roster of Experts and relevant actors who could engage over 7–8 months to assist in the development of the H-2030 report (approx. 18 experts, 6 per workstream, based on criteria and representation)</li> <li>The Parties will confirm the composition of the Roster of Experts</li> </ul> <p><b>Output:</b> Roster of experts and detailed workplan for the development of the H-2030 report #</p>	
	<p><b>Activity 2.</b> A series of meetings (of the SC and Roster of experts) to provide input for the overall assessment and the three selected topics for the H-2030 report, based on guiding questions. Meetings will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experts exchanging relevant information on selected topics for H-2030 report</li> <li>Reviewing progress and challenges to meeting the region’s 2030 targets</li> <li>Recommendations for priority trilateral work in 2026–2030 to meet 2030 targets</li> <li>Experts discussing the draft H-2030 report</li> </ul> <p>The meetings (virtual and hybrid) will include breakout sessions per workstream, as well as other activities to include cross-cutting issues.</p> <p>Between the meetings, the consultant will work with the Secretariat to coordinate the work of the experts within each workstream.</p> <p>JPAC may align its fall public forum with one or more of the topics being explored under the H-2030 initiative, to engage with key actors and consult with the public on these priority issues. JPAC letters of Advice to Council could also be factored into the H-2030 report.</p> <p><b>Activity budget:</b> C\$75,000 (Note that JPAC resources will be leveraged to hold consultations with the public during JPAC fora.)</p> <p><b>Output:</b> First draft H-2030 report outline</p>	June 2024– February 2025
Secretariat- Steering	<b>Activity 3.</b> Develop draft Horizon-2030 report, based on report outline.	February - May 2025

Committee-Consultant	<p>The consultant will be expected to work with the Steering Committee and the Secretariat team to finalize the draft report.</p> <p><b>Output:</b> Draft H-2030 report to inform the development of the Strategic Plan 2026–2030 (to take place from October 2025–May 2026)</p>	
Executive Director	<p><b>Action:</b> Presentation to Council of draft H-2030 report at Council Session 2025, including two or three proposed pilot projects</p> <p>A first draft of the report, with main findings prepared by the consultant, will be presented by the outgoing Executive Director at the 2025 Council Session.</p> <p><b>Output:</b> First draft of the main findings of the H-2030 report will be presented at Council Session 2025.</p>	June 2025
Secretariat-Steering Committee-Consultant	<p><b>Activity 4.</b> Selection and launch by the Council of three pilot projects to test new trilateral work recommended under H-2030 report (ideally one per workstream and in each country; another option is two larger projects)</p> <p><b>Activity budget:</b> C\$300,000</p> <p>Three pilot projects (or two larger pilots) to test one topic under each workstream to be delivered over 18 months</p> <p><b>Output:</b> Two (C\$150,000 each) or three (C\$100,000 each) pilot projects</p>	June 2025
Secretariat-Steering Committee-Consultant	<p><b>Activity 5. Outreach:</b> Hold webinar (s) and seek other opportunities to disseminate report results</p> <p>Webinars will allow government policy makers and relevant actors in North America to promote the findings so that the document offers strategic guidance for research, targeted and concerted actions, and policy making. CEC participation in other fora can also aid in disseminating the report.</p> <p><i>Note: The three focused sections of the H-2030 report could also be disseminated according to the topics. Additional outreach resources (e.g., fact sheets, brochures, videos, etc.) will also be developed to disseminate the report's findings.</i></p>	January 2026

	<p><b>Activity budget:</b> C\$25,000</p> <p><b>Output:</b> Webinar(s) for government policy makers and other relevant actors in North America, as well as development of outreach resources.</p>	
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#### 4. Roles and responsibilities for the development and implementation of the Horizon 2030 Initiative

This section is intended to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the variety of actors who will be involved in the development and implementation of the H-2030 initiative to avoid any misunderstanding or duplication.

The **Alternate Representatives:**

- Under this initiative, their responsibilities will include:
  - Selecting the specific topics to be examined under each workstream
  - Approving the description of the initiative
  - Selecting the pilot projects<sup>2</sup>
  - Determining next steps based on the final H-2030 report
  
- The **General Standing Committee:** For this initiative, their responsibilities will include:
  - Working with the Secretariat in developing the H-2030 initiative
  - Providing regular briefings to the Alt Reps on the development of the initiative and conveying Parties’ perspectives and guidance, as needed
  - Confirming the Steering Committee members and the composition of the Roster of Experts
  
- The **Secretariat:** For this initiative, the responsibility of the Secretariat will include:
  - Working closely with the Alt Reps and the GSC throughout the development process.
  - Coordinating and providing subject and administrative expertise to the Steering Committee to implement, manage and deliver the H-2030 initiative.

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<sup>2</sup> It is proposed that the initiative should include the design and launch of selected follow-up pilot projects, to be guided by expert input that would include the promotion of best practices and priority strategies aligned with emerging H-2030 regional priorities.



- Facilitating the development of Terms of Reference for the consultant, who will be hired for the initiative (in collaboration with the Steering Committee).
- The Secretariat team will comprise the following staff:
  - The Executive Director (ED), who heads the Secretariat, will provide high-level perspective for the design and implementation of the initiative.
  - The Director, Government Relations, Strategy and Performance (GRSP), will be responsible for overseeing the H-2030 initiative on the part of the Secretariat, liaising with the Parties, the Secretariat team, and the hired consultant, to ensure a smooth, well-coordinated and timely delivery of the initiative, including a report with recommendations that are consistent with the Parties' guidance and priorities and which can serve as valuable input for the Strategic Plan 2026–2030.
  - The Lead, Planning and Performance (LPP) will act as project lead for the initiative and provide support to the Director, GRSP. The LPP will monitor implementation and flag any issues arising during it; coordinate the consultant services procurement process and oversee the consultant's work; provide updates to the Steering Committee and Roster of Experts, and seek input and provide guidance to them, as appropriate; and coordinate and facilitate virtual and in-person meetings. The LPP will also organize webinars and work with the Communications and Outreach and Partnerships Units to promote findings and seek other fora to disseminate the final report.
  - The three Program Heads will each be responsible for one workstream. Thus they will work with their workstream's Steering Committee as well as members of the Roster of Experts, whose expertise is relevant to the workstream.
  - The Head of Unit, Advisory Groups and Private Sector Engagement will work with JPAC and the TEKEG to explore aligning their activities and public consultations with this initiative, and will support the engagement of relevant private and social sector actors to provide input from the different groups that they represent.
- The **Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)**, in support of this initiative, could align its public fora with the topics being examined under the H-2030 initiative, in order to engage with key actors and consult with the public on these priority issues. JPAC Advice and recommendations stemming from these fora will then be considered for the H-2030 report.
- Project **Steering Committee (SC)** members provide expert advice to the Council, share information and knowledge to develop trilateral projects, inform on national context and developments and plan and review project deliverables.<sup>3</sup> For this initiative, the SC will be composed of policy and technical experts (ideally two country experts per workstream – i.e., approx.18 experts in total) and their responsibilities throughout the implementation will include, among others:
  - Working with the Secretariat to define the TORs for hiring a consultant
  - Assembling a proposed Roster of Experts (with the support of a consultant)

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<sup>3</sup> Information taken from CEC's *Background and Guidelines for CEC Expert Committees* introductory presentation to Design Teams and Steering Committees.

- Providing guidance on the development of each of the workstreams for the overarching assessment
- Ensuring the integration of the cross-cutting issues
- Supporting the implementation of the initiative (incl. reviewing the deliverables)
- Helping define the three potential pilot projects

The 18 steering committee members will be divided into **three groups of 6 experts** each (one group per workstream) and work to advance the development of each workstream. A few periodic collective meetings that include all 18 experts will be organized to exchange and coordinate as well as integrate the cross-cutting themes.

- A **Roster of Experts** can be tapped to provide specific expert advice on the selected topics during the implementation of the initiative. The Roster will include a diverse array of nongovernmental experts (e.g., from academia, advocacy groups, NGOs, or industry), totaling approximately 18 experts, 6 per workstream, and based on criteria and representation. The Roster will be expected to remain available for consultation and advice over a period of 7-8 months to inform and/or contribute to the development of the H-2030 report (terms of engagement to be developed).
- A **Consultant** will be hired to support and work with the Secretariat team and the appointed experts in the development of the many deliverables under this initiative (e.g., workplan, Roster of Experts, draft H-2030 report, and definition of pilot projects).

**Annex 1. Process Diagram for H-2030**

