



The Commission for Environmental Cooperation

When Canada, Mexico and the United States established the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), they also agreed on an environmental side accord, the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). The NAAEC was created principally out of concern over the potential environmental consequences of increased trade liberalization, but also the long-standing recognition of the need to address environmental issues in the North American region from a continental perspective.

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established to steward the implementation of the NAAEC through cooperative actions by the three Parties to the Agreement. The Council of the CEC, the governing body of the international organization, is composed of the environment ministers (or equivalent) of each country. It meets at least once a year to review and direct the program activities of the Commission and to receive public input and advice from the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and other stakeholders. The Secretariat of the CEC, located in Montreal, Canada, provides technical and operational support to the Council.



The Analytic Framework for Assessing the Environmental Effects of NAFTA may be found on the CEC web site at www.cec.org

For more information
on the symposium, or to submit papers,
please contact:

Scott Vaughan
Head, Environment, Economy and Trade
393 rue St. Jacques ouest, Suite 200
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1N9
Tel: (514) 350-4302
Fax: (514) 350-4314
E-mail: svaughan@ccemtl.org

Trade and Environment

Call for Papers for the first
North American Symposium
on Understanding the
Linkages between
Trade and Environment

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation announces a call for papers for the first North American Symposium on Understanding the Linkages between Trade and Environment, to be held in October 2000.

The purpose of this symposium is to bring together the leading institutions and organizations in North America to discuss the linkages between environment and trade in the NAFTA context and, in particular, to encourage further analysis in light of the methodology developed by the CEC in the Analytic Framework for Assessing the Environmental Effects of NAFTA. The overall goal of this symposium is to advance the understanding of linkages between environment, economy, and trade, in order to strengthen environmental protection in the region. Enhancing our understanding of environment and trade linkages will enable the NAFTA partners to optimize the environmental benefits of free trade and mitigate any negative impacts. Results from the symposium will also point out promising areas for further study.

Papers will be considered for presentation in several areas, including:

1. Applications of the CEC's Analytic Framework for Assessing the Environmental Effects of NAFTA to particular sectors of the North American economy, or to particular issues of environmental significance in North America;
2. Development and application of the framework to particular issues associated with NAFTA on a region-wide basis, such as the patterns of environmental regulation and enforcement and associated shifts in transborder investment;
3. The development of links between NAFTA-associated trade and investment on the one hand and environmental performance on the other;
4. Applications using quantitative economic and ecological models, such as computable general equilibrium, partial equilibrium and econometric models, and those that integrate trade and environmental variables;
5. Application and analytical development of key components of the framework, such as the transborder diffusion of environmental technology, and the performance of NAFTA's trade and environment-related institutions;
6. Comparisons of the CEC's framework with those developed for use in other regions;
7. Comparisons of the environmental impact of the NAFTA-based North American regime for trade and environment and experience with those of other regional and global regimes.

The overall goal of this symposium is to advance the understanding of linkages between environment, economy, and trade, in order to strengthen environmental protection in the region.

The CEC is soliciting abstracts (maximum 300 words) that include a general description of the issue the paper will address and summarize its treatment in the study. Proposed abstracts, accompanied by a brief professional biography of the author, should be submitted to the CEC Environment, Economy and Trade Program by **31 January 2000**. These abstracts will be reviewed and papers will be selected for presentation based on their scientific merit, their relevance to the application and development of the framework, and their ability to deal with critical areas of environment-trade linkages in North America. Successful applicants will be notified by **6 March 2000**.

Completed papers should be no more than 50 pages in length, be accompanied by an executive summary, and may be submitted in English, French or Spanish. All selected papers will be peer reviewed, the results of which will be made available to the authors for their use in revision. Final copies of all papers will be submitted to the CEC Secretariat at the symposium for publication in the symposium proceedings.

The Analytic Framework

Article 10 (6)(d) of the NAAEC directs the CEC to consider, on an ongoing basis, the environmental effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). For this purpose, the CEC developed a methodology, the Analytic Framework for Assessing the Environmental Effects of NAFTA, designed to help improve understanding of the connections between trade and the environment, anticipate important environmental impacts in the context of trade liberalization, and develop policy tools to mitigate negative impacts and maximize positive ones.

The framework examines six hypotheses

in its approach to assessing NAFTA-related environmental effects:

1. Does NAFTA reinforce existing patterns of comparative advantage and specialization to the benefit of efficiency?
2. Does NAFTA trade liberalization lead to a regulatory/migratory 'race-to-the-bottom'?
3. Does NAFTA give rise to competitive pressures for capital and technological modernization?
4. Do liberalized rules under NAFTA serve to increase use of environmentally-friendly products?
5. Does NAFTA lead to upward convergence of environmental practice and regulation through activities of the private sector?
6. Does NAFTA lead to upward convergence of environmental practice and regulation through activities of the various levels of government and, if so, how?