Organized crime is estimated to earn millions of US dollars worldwide from illegal activities, including hazardous-waste dumping, illegal trafficking in protected wildlife, and smuggling of such restricted or banned materials as ozone-depleting substances. Curb- ing this illegal traffic in wildlife and environmentally regulated materials in our more dynamic and integrated global economy remains as serious a challenge as ever for our enforcement agencies.

To aid in combating this challenge, the CEC provides a forum for Canada, Mexico, and the United States to share information and expertise in cooperative efforts to curb illegal international trade in wildlife and environmentally regulated materials. Under this umbrella, areas of mutual interest include trade in illegal or restricted materials, engines that do not meet required emission standards (e.g., motorcycle engines), and illegal traffic in protected species of wild flora and fauna.

As part of the North American Working Group on Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Cooperation (EWG), enforcement agencies will implement proactive approaches aimed at anticipating, disrupting, dismantling and deterring illegal trade in a more efficient and targeted manner.

EWG members will jointly embark on the following activities:

- Information collection among countries including processing and sharing of data on illegal trade to target environmental and wildlife compliance and enforcement activity;
- Assessments of threats, risks and preparation of products to support decision-making as well as dissemination of appropriate information to the North American public; and
- Building strong partnerships with law-abiding parties.

The CEC provides a trinational forum for Canada, Mexico, and the United States to share information and expertise in cooperative efforts to curb illegal international trade in wildlife and environmentally regulated materials.
Our collaborative approach will also provide an opportunity for participating North American agencies to assess progress and adjust actions on an ongoing basis, with the added value of sharing expertise and building capacity in cutting-edge techniques, such as crime-scene forensic analysis and covert-computer investigative techniques to identify offenders.

**Accomplishments**

Recent accomplishments of the EWG include: online training courses for environmental and customs officials on ozone-depleting substances and on hazardous wastes and hazardous recyclable materials, the delivery of an accredited course on wildlife forensics, and a series of seminars spaced over three years for training the judiciary in Mexico on adjudicating cases involving aspects of environmental criminality (published as *Environmental Legislation in North America*, UNAM and CEC 2011).

For more information on these initiatives, go to: [www.cec.org/enforcement](http://www.cec.org/enforcement).

**Partners**  Members of the EWG are senior officials from the enforcement arms of Environment Canada, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (Office of the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection) in Mexico.

**About the CEC**

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was established by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the environmental side agreement to NAFTA. An intergovernmental organization, the CEC is composed of a Council of cabinet-level environmental officials from the three countries, a Joint Public Advisory Committee and a Secretariat that provides operational support for cooperative work between the three countries. The organization brings together citizens and experts from governments, nongovernmental organizations, scientists, researchers and businesses to seek solutions to protect North America’s shared environment while supporting sustainable economic development.

Effective compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws in the region is foremost among the commitments made by Canada, Mexico and the United States under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation.

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For the complete project descriptions, see: [www.cec.org/projects](http://www.cec.org/projects).